

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2023

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 May 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's Memorandum of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016).

Objectives and activities

To advance in life and help children who have a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), or are in the process of being assessed for such a diagnosis, by:

- a. Providing support and activities which develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society;
- b. Providing parent training in Applied Behavioural Analysis to aid their understanding of the traits of Autism, and provide skills to support them in addressing the behavioural challenges common in children with autism;
- c. Providing training workshops on specific issues, advocacy and general support for parents of children affected by ASD;
- d. Providing short breaks for families affected by ASD, including recreational opportunities to aid integration and social inclusion during out of school hours and school holidays.

The operations of STARS Autism Project and its governance have been in line with the statutory guidance from the Commission.

Achievements and performance

The charity continued to provide its primary services during the year, in line with its public benefit statement. These were:

- Provision of Saturday Club events
- Provision of Summer scheme
- Fundraising and donations

Financial review

The charity had no income in the year from fees or for its activities or donations, and had costs of £3,695. The charity continues to have a reserves at the year end and has no funds in deficit.

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six month's expenditure. The trustees considers that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

STARS activities are due to resume in the second quarter of 2024 using the facilities in the Marian Hall which is due to reopen at the end of May 2024 under a new management structure.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2023

Structure, governance and management

STARS Autism Project is constituted as a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital. It is governed by a Memorandum of Association which has been submitted to the Charities Commission for Northern Ireland and was registered in 2018 under that Memorandum of Association.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

P Cranny

Dr S Gribben

C McKay

T Molloy

There is no external body with the power to appoint trustees or directors of the charity.

None of the trustees have any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.


P Cranny

Trustee

Dated: 18 April 2024