

## Autism Network NI

### **Trustee Report for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019**

The Trustees submit this annual report, and independently examined financial statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. The trustees have complied with recommended Practice in preparing the Reporting and Financial statements of the Charity.

### **Review of Activity during the Reporting year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019**

This Trustees Report contains details of the Charity has done and what we have achieved; including the impact and Public Benefit requirement; and have paid due to the guidance produced by the Commission, and to ensure Compliance. We have had an exceptionally busy year; as we have provided a large number of services; some unique; to ensure effective Public Benefit.

### **Principal Activities**

The main activities undertaken is to give the Charities Beneficiaries an efficient means of communication during the year; these being children, young people and Adults; who have been Diagnosed, or about to be Diagnosed with Autism, and have additional difficulties. We have a Simple self-Referral system, which is just contact us direct. We also receive Referrals from a range of directions trust's etc. We run a help line Monday to Thursday for Advice and Information to assist. (Some 634 Calls). We also have a Facebook page which reached 4,800 individuals. 3021 Likes, 3,900 Views, 3,028 Posts and 1,307 e-mails. We provide advice and Information on Education, Statementing, Benefits, Social Services etc; plus Court Advocacy (22).

We have trained Advocates, whereby we undertake Court, Police; and Tribunal work on behalf of those on the Autistic Spectrum; as they have lifelong Communication Disabilities; and Require Support.

To ensure mitigation of any harm to any of our members 6 of our staffs have already undertaken, Training in Autism, First Aid, and Child Protection.

### **Achievements**

As a major difficulty in Autism is Communication, and Social Difficulties; we run Social Groups for children young people and Adults. (Newtownabbey 18 nights, Lisburn 7 nights, Carrick 7, and Craigavon 11 nights). These Groups are vital as individuals are normally isolated from Society. This allows our members to be able to overcome that feeling of Isolation, and take part in safe and enjoyable social events. They also can interact with others who understand them. They are also supervised to ensure no harm is caused. We also attended 29 Advocacy appointments; plus 4 Tribunals and 3 staff Training events.

Also we took part in Dept. of Health/Public Health Agency meetings 18/19

### **Financial Review**

During this period from 1<sup>ST</sup> April 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 the Charity has maintained a good financial position, in annual turnover, and with an increase in reserves held. The Trustees have reviewed the reserves of the Charity, and concluded that we are in a good position for the incoming year. Meaning we can continue with the high level of services we provide.