

Challenging Times

Autism Berkshire is the leading autism charity in the county, with substantial experience of delivering high-quality services for autistic people of all ages and their families.

2020 marks 30 years since a group of parents of children with autism and challenging behaviours formed the Berkshire Autistic Society.

Plans were in hand to celebrate this milestone in the charity's history, but the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown which began at the end of the 12-month period covered by this review brought preparations for anniversary celebrations to a sudden halt, along with many other activities. Work to adapt as many services as possible for online delivery was in hand as we moved into the 2020-21 period.

Among the events affected by the lockdown was the second All About Autism conference, due to take place in Slough at the end of March 2020, following the success

of the initial event held on World Autism Awareness Day the previous April – Mairi Evans, the clinical director for Children, Young People and Families at Berkshire Healthcare NHS Trust, is pictured above making a presentation at the 2019 event.

All the support and advice, workshops and courses we provide, our social and leisure activities and our work to raise awareness and understanding of autism in the sider community are driven by a single aim – to make a positive difference to the lives of autistic children, young people and adults in Berkshire and their families.

Please read on to find out more about Autism Berkshire's services and achievements in 2020-21 and how you can get involved and support our work.



Talking sense about autism.





What service users say about Autism Berkshire

"Thank you for all your help and support. I really enjoyed the course and will recommend it to others."

 Parent who took part in our first ever Teen Life course in West Berkshire, March 2020

"We have had to use the benefits service recently, my son was awarded '0' points following his review for PIP... Five weeks later my son's PIP was reinstated, great result. I highly recommend this service."

> Parent whose appeal was supported by our Benefits Service

Loved the fact that there was no 'jargon', just practical ideas to support children."

Parent who attended a Managing Anger workshop in Thatcham

"Thank you so much for yesterday, it was really refreshing to speak to someone who understands and doesn't always question us. You gave us some really useful thingslideas to try and encouragement to keep pressing on."

A parent after a Home Visit from one of our family support workers

"Thank you for your quick, detailed and rather warm reply. I don't exactly know what I was expecting but I'm pleasantly surprised."

A Helpline contact seeking advice about a referral for autism assessment

"Thank you so much for the session today. I found it really interesting and could relate to so much of what you were saying."

A parent who attended an autism advice workshop

Conference Contrasts

A highlight of 2019-20 came at the start of the year, with the staging of Autism Berkshire's first All About Autism conference on World Autism Awareness Day, April 2.

Held at Slough's showpiece The Curve library and cultural hub, the one-day event attracted 140 parents, carers and professionals to hear presentations from local autism advocates Carly Jones and Conor Eldred-Earl; Mairi Evans, the clinical director for Children, Young People and Families at Berkshire Healthcare NHS Trust; Dr Fiona Knott and Dr Fang Liu of the University of Reading; and sleep specialist Helen Cattermole, of Parenting Special Children.

You can access video recordings of the presentations from the conference from the Autism Berkshire website.

Sadly, the 2020 conference, due to be held at The Curve at the end of March, was initially postponed due to the coronavirus lockdown and subsequently cancelled, as the venue was being used as overflow accommodation by a nearby school to help it comply with social distancing rules.

A longstanding aim of the charity has been to provide more in-depth support to parents and carers of autistic children and part of this ambition was realised at the start of 2020 with the launch of Teen Life courses for parents and carers of children aged 11 to 16, along with education professionals who support the children.

Three staff members attended a National Autistic Society course to become accredited Teen Life trainers. The course helps participants to understand more about autistic teenagers, discussing strategies and sharing ideas about how to communicate with and support autistic young people during this part of their lives.

Teen Life was launched in West Berkshire, thanks to a grant from the council's community learning service. The first course in took place in Thatcham, fortunately being completed in early March, just ahead of the lockdown period.

Demand for our other autism advice workshops, held in all six unitary council areas in Berkshire, continued at a high level, with 350 parents and carers attending more than 40 sessions.



In Numbers 2019-20

£235,777	benefits awarded to clients of our Benefits Service
3,200	people follow our Facebook page
1,750	Berkshire Autism Alert Cards in use
1,500	people follow us on Twitter
350	people attended our autism advice workshops
140	people attended our first All About Autism Conference

The Benefits Service saw another year-on-year rise in requests for advice about applications and appeals, which led to a decision to recruit a new caseworker, Carrie Steers, to assist the service's manager, Kevin Jackson.

By the end of the 12-month period, they had advised almost 200 clients and helped to secure £235,000 in benefit awards and back payments. Much of this total was a result of Kevin representing clients at mandatory reconsideration and tribuna hearings, which is a growing part of his workload.

A new community education course called Chop & Chat was launched at the end of 2019 in Slough, with the concept proving to be popular with those who took part. It is hoped to run similar courses in the future, open to autistic adults from other parts of the county.

Support for Autism Berkshire's social groups for adults, Bear With Me in Maidenhead and the 197 Club in Reading, remained strong, with high levels of attendance at their regular meetings. Their programmes also included a number of outings including a joint day out at the seaside in Bournemouth. Members of the Bear With Me group got expert advice about staying safe online and posting on social media when they visited Facebook's UK head office in London in April 2019.

Other leisure activities for children and young adults remained popular, with enhancements made to the trampolining service to address high levels of demand for places – see separate panel.

The 2019 Annual General Meeting of Berkshire Autistic Society was held for the first time in conjunction with one of our regular Family Fun Days for members at the Thames Valley Adventure Playground in Taplow in September.

Two new trustees were elected at the meeting, increasing the board's membership to five people. Adam Bermange took on the post of treasurer, and Conor O'Connor became a trustee.

On a sad note, Nancey England, an assistant tutor on our community education course for autistic adults, died suddenly in January.

A former teacher, Nancey joined Autism Berkshire after retiring from the classroom to work on our SocialEyes social skills courses for autistic adults. Her family have raised money in her memory to help us to support children and young people in a creative way, by running art workshops for children during school holidays.

Trampolining

Trampolining is among the most popular leisure activities provided by Autism Berkshire, with sessions funded by BBC Children in Need oversubscribed since they were launched in 2014.

As well as offering the opportunity to get together and have fun with other children and young people, trampolining has physical and mental health benefits. It can help to improve motor skills, including co-ordination and balance, along core stability and overall fitness. Physical activity has also been shown in a series of studies to be an effective tool to manage anxiety and stress and to release tension.

In May 2019 we received the news that we had been awarded a further three-year grant by Children in Need, securing the future of the sessions for children and young people aged five to 17 at Crosfields School and Meadway Sports Centre in Reading and at Bracknell Trampoline Centre until 2022.

However, with many children still on the waiting list for places and a number of requests from older teenagers to continue trampolining after they became too old for the existing sessions, it was decided to explore avenues for additional funding.

Plans were drawn up for extra sessions for young people aged 14 to 25, which would allow some teenagers to transfer from existing sessions and for young adults who had previously benefited from trampolining to continue taking part.

An application to Sport England for a two-year grant was successful and sessions for the older age group began at Crosfields School and Bracknell Trampoline Centre began in January 2020.

As a result, from January to March 2020, before the coronavirus lockdown forced the suspension of sessions, 110 children and young people were regularly attending trampolining sessions at our three venues.



Fundraising

Kay Syed, who raised £1,400 for us during Autism Awareness Week 2018, supported us again at the start of April 2019 and collected almost twice as much.

This time Kay set herself a target of raising £2,000 but when she added up the proceeds of raffles she ran at her workplace - BT's central London offices - and donations from family and friends, she had collected an amazing £2,787.

She decided to raise funds to thank us for our support after her daughter Zarah received an autism diagnosis in 2017.

Another fundraiser who got 2019-20 off to a flying start was Alicia McAloon, who took part in the London Marathon at the end of April, raising £1,400.

Alicia ran to support us in memory of Steve McCreight, a member of our 197 Club and Bear With Me social groups for autistic adults, who died in 2016. She is a friend of Steve's sister Caroline.

Our ever-popular Winter Ball, held in conjunction with other local charities at the Hilton Hotel in Reading, was another highlight of the fundraising calendar, with £3,100 raised.

A charity of the year partnership with the Sainsbury's supermarket at Winnersh, which ran until August 2019, raised a total of £2,377.

PRA Life Sciences' UK office, at Green Park in Reading, donated £1,000 to help us pay for Lego workshops events during school holidays. We were nominated for support by PRA employee Nick Tibbels, whose son Oscar is a member of our Lego Club at Woolhampton, in West Berkshire. Nick is pictured below with club member Lily Punter.

This was followed by a further donation from PRA of £825 at the start of 2020, from a Christmas raffle, along with some new Lego building kits for the Lego Club.

And for the second year running, the Women's Asperger Circle donated a surplus from a conference they organised in Reading, giving £580 to help pay for the running costs of the Being Us group for people who have received an autism diagnosis as adults, which we support.

 Information about how to get involved with fundraising for Autism Berkshire is available on our website or from our office.



Thank you

To our funders and supporters

- Abbvie Ltd
- Barbara Ward Children's Foundation
- Boshier Hinton Foundation
- Bracknell Town Council
- Clothworkers' Foundation
- Compassionate Loaf, Springwater Church, Peppard Common
- Crowthorne Parish Council
- Denefield School, Tilehurst
- Earley Charity
- Edward Gostling Foundation
- Garfield Weston Foundation
- Gerald Palmer Eling Trust
- Greenham Trust
- Grocers' Charity
- Heathrow Community Trust
- Henley Choir Festival
- Henry Denman and Agneta Mary Cook Charity
- Kennet Care, Reading
- Legal & General Homes
- Louis Baylis Trust (Maidenhead Advertiser)
- Newbury Building Society
- Paypal Charity Fund
- Penn Wood School, Slough

- Peter Brett Associates, Reading
- PRA Life Sciences, Reading
- Reading Lions Club
- Sodexo Stop Hunger Foundation
- Thames Valley Police Property Act Fund
- Women's Asperger Circle
- Zurich Community Trust

To our key partners

- East Berkshire NHS Clinical Commissioning Group
- Berkshire West NHS Clinical Commissioning Group
- Slough Council for Voluntary Service SPACE project
- BBC Children in Need
- Sport England
- Reading Borough Council
- Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead Council
- West Berkshire Council
- Employment & Skills
 Funding Agency/European
 Social Fund
- University of Reading internship scheme

Financial Summary for 2019-20

Total Income	£198,000
Grants and Subscriptions	£160,000
Donations and Fundraising	£38,000
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	£140,600
Fundraising costs	£7,000
Governance costs	£2,000
Excess costs drawn from reserves	£49,000
Reserves carried forward to 2020-21	£77,800

For 2020-2021 we are forecasting our expenditure to again exceed our income, although the deficit should be contained following the receipt of some coronavirus support grant payments.



Autism Berkshire – the working name for Berkshire Autistic Society

Registered office:

40 Caversham Road, Reading, RG1 7EB Charity no: 1076217, Company number: 3750656

BERKSHIRE AUTISTIC SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

CHARITY REGISTRATION No: 1076217 COMPANY REGISTRATION No: 3750656

Tim D Miller MA ACMA CGMA 105 Redhatch Drive, Earley, Reading, RG6 5QN

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LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

CHARITY NUMBER 1076217

COMPANY REGISTRATION 3750656

NUMBER

START OF FINANCIAL YEAR 1 APRIL 2019 END OF FINANCIAL YEAR 31 MARCH 2020

DIRECTORS AT 31 MARCH

2020

Richard Flemming Chair

Sandra Stubbs Margaret Collum

Adam Bermange Treasurer

Connor O'Connor

REGISTERED ADDRESS 40 Caversham Road

Reading, RG1 7EB

DATE OF

INCORPORATION

GOVERNING DOCUMENT BANKERS 12 April 1999

Memorandum and Articles of Association

CAF Bank

25 Kings Hill Avenue,

Kings Hill, West Malling Kent, ME19 4JQ

INDEPENDENT Tim D Miller MA ACMA CGMA

EXAMINER 105 Redhatch Drive,

Earley,

Reading, RG6 5QN

OBJECTS The relief of school age and pre-school age

children and adults suffering from autism, autistic-

related problems and challenging behaviour,

resident in Berkshire.

Structure, Governance and Management:

The Berkshire Autistic Society (Autism Berkshire) is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee, both under the name of Berkshire Autistic Society, working name Autism Berkshire. Our office is located at 40 Caversham Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 7EB. The governing documents are Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated on 12/04/1999 and amended by special resolution dated 13/10/2015, to update our articles to the 2012 model articles published by the Charity Commission.

During the year we had one full-time member of staff and 21 part-time members of staff and 21 regular volunteers. All staff, both paid and volunteers, receive appropriate induction training and ongoing refresher training as required. Jane Stanford-Beale is the CEO, an unremunerated post. Tony Walker is the part-time Finance Manager.

This year we elected two new trustees Adam Bermange from Maidenhead and Connor O'Connor from Reading. Adam has taken over the role of Treasurer.

We are well supported in our work by our staff and volunteers, some of whom have personal experience of living with a person with autism. Volunteers undertake a wide variety of activities, including regular work in the office, fundraising, helping at events and attending meetings of area forums and partnership boards in local authority areas across Berkshire on behalf of the society.

Objectives and Activities:

Our mission is to help and support anyone living with autism in Berkshire. We aim to enhance the current provision of services and support, with the purpose of improving the quality of life of people with autism and giving them maximum independence.

We do this by:

- Providing information and advice through a helpline, events, workshops, outreach, publications and newsletters;
- Running accessible youth groups, trampolining and adult social groups;
- Providing autism-specific training and support;
- Working with education, health, emergency and employment services and the six main local authorities in Berkshire to deliver autism-appropriate services;
- Raising awareness in the wider community to promote greater understanding of autism.

We are frequently consulted by Local Authorities and the NHS about autism services within the county.

We support children, young people and adults and their parents and carers, from when concerns are initially raised, to when they are placed on the waiting list for an autism assessment, after diagnosis, and life beyond. You do not need a formal diagnosis of autism to be supported by Autism Berkshire.

Achievements and Performance:

A highlight of 2019-20 came at the start of the year, with the staging of Autism Berkshire's first All About Autism conference on World Autism Awareness Day, April 2.

Held at Slough's showpiece The Curve library and cultural hub, the one-day event attracted 140 parents, carers and professionals to hear presentations from local autism advocates Carly Jones and Conor Eldred-Earl; Mairi Evans, the clinical director for Children, Young People and Families at Berkshire Healthcare NHS Trust; Dr Fiona Knott and Dr Fang Liu of the University of Reading; and sleep specialist Helen Cattermole, of Parenting Special Children.

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Statement of Directors' Responsibilities:

The directors are satisfied that for the year ended on 31 March 2020 the charitable company was entitled to exemption from the requirement to obtain an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and that no member or members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act. However, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011, the accounts have been examined by an Independent Examiner whose report appears on page 8.

The directors are responsible for preparing the report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (Financial Reporting Standard 102 and applicable law). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Berkshire Autistic Society is a public benefit entity.

Approved by the Directors on 17th September 2020

Signed on their behalf by Director and Chair of Trustees: Richard Flemming

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of 'Berkshire Autistic Society'

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2020, which are set out on pages 10 to 14.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of CIMA.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006 and;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met or

The July

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Name: Tim D Miller MA ACMA CGMA

Relevant professional qualification or body: Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

Address: 105 Redhatch Drive, Earley, Reading, RG6 5QN 18th September 2020

BERKSHIRE AUTISTIC SOCIETY

Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)

for the year ended 31 March 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2019/2020	Total 2018/2019
Incoming Resources		£	£	£	£
incoming Resources					
Incoming Resources from Generated Fu	nds				
Grants		22,850	-	22,850	3,400
Donations	5	8,280	12,623	20,903	97,042
Fundraising and Collections		15,768	874	16,642	29,050
Bank Interest		182	-	182	66
Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities	1	8,566	128,829	137,395	150,970
Total Incoming Resources		55,646	142,326	197,972	280,528
Resources Expended					
Fundraising Trading Costs		6,542	-	6,542	12,430
Charitable Activities	2a	96,169	142,326	238,495	187,569
Governance	2b	2,335	-	2,335	2,171
Total Resources Expended		105,046	142,326	247,372	202,170
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources		(49,400)	-	(49,400)	78,358
Total Funds Brought Forward		126,831	-	126,831	48,473
Total funds Carried Forward		77,431	-	77,431	126,831

BERKSHIRE AUTISTIC SOCIETY

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2020

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	31-03-20	31-03-19
No		£	£	£
Current Assets				
Debtors	0	1,275	1,275	79,397
Prepayments	1,645	964	2,609	1,967
Cash at Bank and in Hand	84,273	60,760	145,033	72,536
Total Current Assets	85,918	62,999	148,917	153,899
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year				
Creditors	298	(11)	287	3,939
Accruals	5,037	27,488	32,525	15, 155
HMRC PAYE/NI	3,152	-	3,152	1,938
Deferred Income	0	35,522	35,522	6,038
Total Current Liabilities	8,487	62,999	71,486	27,070
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	77,431	0	77,431	126,829
	· · · · ·		<u> </u>	
NET ASSETS				
General Funds	77,431		77,431	126,831
Restricted Funds				400.004
Total Funds	77,431	0	77,431	126,831

Notes to the financial statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2020

1.	Incoming Resources		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2019/2020	Total 2018/2019
			£	£	£	£
	Incoming resources from Charitable Activities					
	Training courses		1,125	95	1,220	835
	Membership subscriptions		7,441	-	7,441	7,937
	Ristricted Income Released to I & E:					
	Autism Berkshire	Thames Valley Adventure Playground Days		1,325	1,325	-
	Grocers Charity/Abb Vie Ltd	Maidenhead Adult Social Group "The Bear"		4,672	4,672	4,994
	CCG's - East	Future in Mind - East		46,770	46,770	52,000
	Earley Charity/Grocers' Charity	197 Group		1,134	1,134	1,495
	Barbara Ward Foundation	Games Club		2,560	2,560	4,657
	Earley Charity/Grocers' Charity	Level-Up Club		2,793	2,793	2,526
	BBC Children in Need	Trampolining		9,100	9,100	10, 100
	Reading Children and Voluntary Youth Services	Autism Awareness Training		2,292	2,292	2,207
	Womens' Aspergers Club	Being Us Group		524	524	681
	CCG West with Parenting Special Children	Future in Mind - West		20,000	20,000	20,000
	Slough CVS SPACE Project/Berkshire Comm Fdn	Advice & Support in Slough		16,077	16,077	15,474
	Employment & Skills Funding Agency/ESF	Chop & Chat Social Group		3,849	3,849	-
	Reading ACLF/Garfield Weston Foundation	Adult/Carer Benefits Workshops		10,197	10,197	8,138
	Heathrow Communities Trust/Sodexo Stop Hunger Fo	Adult Community Learning Socialeyes		1,462	1,462	-
	Greenham Common Trust/Edward Gosling Fund	Lego Club		3,383	3,383	4,736
	West Berkshire C C/Autism Berkshire	TeenLife Programme		1,707	1,707	-
	Sports England	Adult trampolining		889	889	-
	Various	Projects Closed in 2018/2019		-	-	15, 191
			8,566	128,829	137,395	150,970

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2020

			Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2019/2020	Total 2018/2019
			£	£	£	£
2.	Resources Expended					
a)	Charitable Activities					
	Payroll Costs	3	64,323	93,077	157,400	109,202
	Sub-Contracted Providers		3,315	16,643	19,958	18,694
	Venue Hire		529	9,381	9,910	13,799
	Refreshment Costs		552	1,284	1,836	1,451
	Travel		494	7,206	7,700	5,932
	Leaflets & Promotional Mater	ials	1,477	1,990	3,467	5,790
	Other Activity Costs		0	1,834	1,834	1,149
	Premises		23,070	-	23,070	21,787
	Insurance		1,563	-	1,563	1,571
	Telephone		505	257	762	688
	Printing, Postage, Stationery		3,064	0	3,064	3,006
	IT & Web Services		2,792	0	2,792	2,445
	Small Fixtures Replacement		636	0	636	-
	DBS Fees		173	155	328	594
	Staff Recruitment & Training		2,674	726	3,400	664
	Subscriptions & Licenses		80	0	80	115
	Bank & Fundraising Collection	n Fees	695	-	695	682
	Overhead allocation		(9,773)	9,773	-	-
			96,169	142,326	238,495	187,569
b)	Governance Costs					
IJ,	COVERTIONICE COSIS					
	Legal fees		-	-	-	-
	Governance Costs		1,335	-	1,335	1,171
	Independent Examiners Fee		1,000		1,000	1,000
			2,335	-	2,335	2,171

3 Staff Costs and Numbers

	2019/2020 £	2018/2019 £
Gross Salaries and Wages	150,589	113,605
Employers' National Insurance Costs	6,441	1,437
Redundancy Costs	-	-
Pension Contributions	2,198	648
	159,228	115,690
Allocated to Fund Raising	(1,828)	(6,488)
	157,400	109,202

Average full time equivalent of employees engaged:

	2019/2020	2018/2019
Activities in furtherance of organisation's objects	5.35	4.50

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000. Staff are paid through the PAYE system.

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2020

Deferred Income

Note 5		At 1st April 2019	2019/20	2019/20	At 31st March 2020
Programme/Activity	Principal Sponser	Brought Fwd	Income Received	Income Released to 1 & E	Carried Forward
Restricted Funds		£	£	£	£
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Games Club	Barbara Ward Foundation	1,155	5,000	-2,560	3,595
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Trampolining	BBC Children in Need	-	9,100	-9,100	-
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Being Us Group	Womens' Aspergers Club	806	-	-524	282
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		6,038	158,218	-128,734	35,522

We also received grants, included in the above analysis, or donations over £250 from the following:-

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Penn Wood School, Slough	500
Newbury Building Society	500
Legacy - Willmott	488
Peter Brett Associates, Reading	375
Compassionate Loaf, Springwater Church, Peppard Cc	350
Denefield School, Tilehurst	299
Kennet Care, Reading	250
Crowthorne Parish Council	250

BERKSHIRE AUTISTIC SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

CHARITY REGISTRATION No: 1076217 COMPANY REGISTRATION No: 3750656

Tim D Miller MA ACMA CGMA 105 Redhatch Drive, Earley, Reading, RG6 5QN

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Activities

Page 10 Balance Sheet

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Statements

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

CHARITY NUMBER 1076217

COMPANY REGISTRATION 3750656

NUMBER

START OF FINANCIAL YEAR 1 APRIL 2019 END OF FINANCIAL YEAR 31 MARCH 2020

DIRECTORS AT 31 MARCH

2020

Richard Flemming Chair

Sandra Stubbs Margaret Collum

Adam Bermange Treasurer

Connor O'Connor

REGISTERED ADDRESS 40 Caversham Road

Reading, RG1 7EB

DATE OF

INCORPORATION

GOVERNING DOCUMENT BANKERS 12 April 1999

Memorandum and Articles of Association

CAF Bank

25 Kings Hill Avenue,

Kings Hill, West Malling Kent, ME19 4JQ

INDEPENDENT Tim D Miller MA ACMA CGMA

EXAMINER 105 Redhatch Drive,

Earley,

Reading, RG6 5QN

OBJECTS The relief of school age and pre-school age

children and adults suffering from autism, autistic-

related problems and challenging behaviour,

resident in Berkshire.

Structure, Governance and Management:

The Berkshire Autistic Society (Autism Berkshire) is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee, both under the name of Berkshire Autistic Society, working name Autism Berkshire. Our office is located at 40 Caversham Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 7EB. The governing documents are Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated on 12/04/1999 and amended by special resolution dated 13/10/2015, to update our articles to the 2012 model articles published by the Charity Commission.

During the year we had one full-time member of staff and 21 part-time members of staff and 21 regular volunteers. All staff, both paid and volunteers, receive appropriate induction training and ongoing refresher training as required. Jane Stanford-Beale is the CEO, an unremunerated post. Tony Walker is the part-time Finance Manager.

This year we elected two new trustees Adam Bermange from Maidenhead and Connor O'Connor from Reading. Adam has taken over the role of Treasurer.

We are well supported in our work by our staff and volunteers, some of whom have personal experience of living with a person with autism. Volunteers undertake a wide variety of activities, including regular work in the office, fundraising, helping at events and attending meetings of area forums and partnership boards in local authority areas across Berkshire on behalf of the society.

Objectives and Activities:

Our mission is to help and support anyone living with autism in Berkshire. We aim to enhance the current provision of services and support, with the purpose of improving the quality of life of people with autism and giving them maximum independence.

We do this by:

- Providing information and advice through a helpline, events, workshops, outreach, publications and newsletters;
- Running accessible youth groups, trampolining and adult social groups;
- Providing autism-specific training and support;
- Working with education, health, emergency and employment services and the six main local authorities in Berkshire to deliver autism-appropriate services;
- Raising awareness in the wider community to promote greater understanding of autism.

We are frequently consulted by Local Authorities and the NHS about autism services within the county.

We support children, young people and adults and their parents and carers, from when concerns are initially raised, to when they are placed on the waiting list for an autism assessment, after diagnosis, and life beyond. You do not need a formal diagnosis of autism to be supported by Autism Berkshire.

Achievements and Performance:

A highlight of 2019-20 came at the start of the year, with the staging of Autism Berkshire's first All About Autism conference on World Autism Awareness Day, April 2.

Held at Slough's showpiece The Curve library and cultural hub, the one-day event attracted 140 parents, carers and professionals to hear presentations from local autism advocates Carly Jones and Conor Eldred-Earl; Mairi Evans, the clinical director for Children, Young People and Families at Berkshire Healthcare NHS Trust; Dr Fiona Knott and Dr Fang Liu of the University of Reading; and sleep specialist Helen Cattermole, of Parenting Special Children.

You can access video recordings of the presentations from the conference from the Autism Berkshire website.

Sadly, the 2020 conference, due to be held at The Curve at the end of March, was initially postponed due to the coronavirus lockdown and subsequently cancelled, as the venue was being used as overflow accommodation by a nearby school to help it comply with social distancing rules.

A longstanding aim of the charity has been to provide more in-depth support to parents and carers of autistic children and part of this ambition was realised at the start of 2020 with the launch of Teen Life courses for parents and carers of children aged 11 to 16, along with education professionals who support the children.

Three staff attended a National Autistic Society course to become accredited Teen Life trainers, taking place over six weekly sessions. The course helps participants to understand more about autistic teenagers, discussing strategies and sharing ideas about how to communicate with and support autistic young people during this part of their lives.

Teen Life was launched in West Berkshire, thanks to a grant from the council's community learning service. The first course in took place in Thatcham, fortunately being completed in early March, just ahead of the lockdown period.

Demand for our other autism advice workshops, held in all six unitary council areas in Berkshire, continued at a high level with 350 parents and carers attending more than 40 sessions.

The Benefits Service saw another year-on-year rise in requests for advice about applications and appeals, which led to a decision to recruit a new caseworker, Carrie Steers, to assist the service's manager, Kevin Jackson.

By the end of the 12-month period, they had advised almost 200 clients and helped to secure £235,000 in benefit awards and back payments. Much of this total was a result of Kevin representing clients at mandatory reconsideration and tribunal hearings, which is a growing part of his workload.

A new community education course called Chop & Chat, was launched at the end of 2019, with the concept proving to be popular with those who took part. It is hoped to run similar courses in the future, open to autistic adults from other parts of the county.

Support for Autism Berkshire's other social groups for adults, Bear With Me in Maidenhead and the 197 Club in Reading, remained strong, with high levels of attendance at their regular meetings.

Their programmes also included a number of outings including a joint day out at the seaside in Bournemouth. Members of the Bear With Me social group got expert advice about staying safe online and posting on social media when they visited Facebook's UK head office in London in April 2019.

Other leisure activities for children and young adults remained popular, with enhancements made to the trampolining service to address high levels of demand for places.

On a sad note, Nancey England, an assistant tutor on our community education course for autistic adults, died suddenly in January.

A former teacher, Nancey joined Autism Berkshire after her retiring from the classroom to work on our SocialEyes social skills courses for autistic adults. Her family have given some of the donations from her funeral to help us to support children and young people in a creative way, and we are planning some Summer holiday art workshops in Maidenhead in 2021.

Statement of Directors' Responsibilities:

The directors are satisfied that for the year ended on 31 March 2020 the charitable company was entitled to exemption from the requirement to obtain an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and that no member or members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act. However, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011, the accounts have been examined by an Independent Examiner whose report appears on page 8.

The directors are responsible for preparing the report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (Financial Reporting Standard 102 and applicable law). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- · select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Berkshire Autistic Society is a public benefit entity.

Approved by the Directors on 17th September 2020

Signed on their behalf by Director and Chair of Trustees: Richard Flemming

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of 'Berkshire Autistic Society'

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2020, which are set out on pages 10 to 14.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of CIMA.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006 and;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met or

The July

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Name: Tim D Miller MA ACMA CGMA

Relevant professional qualification or body: Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

Address: 105 Redhatch Drive, Earley, Reading, RG6 5QN 18th September 2020

BERKSHIRE AUTISTIC SOCIETY

Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)

for the year ended 31 March 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2019/2020	Total 2018/2019
Incoming Resources		£	£	£	£
incoming Resources					
Incoming Resources from Generated Fu	nds				
Grants		22,850	-	22,850	3,400
Donations	5	8,280	12,623	20,903	97,042
Fundraising and Collections		15,768	874	16,642	29,050
Bank Interest		182	-	182	66
Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities	1	8,566	128,829	137,395	150,970
Total Incoming Resources		55,646	142,326	197,972	280,528
Resources Expended					
Fundraising Trading Costs		6,542	-	6,542	12,430
Charitable Activities	2a	96,169	142,326	238,495	187,569
Governance	2b	2,335	-	2,335	2,171
Total Resources Expended		105,046	142,326	247,372	202,170
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources		(49,400)	-	(49,400)	78,358
Total Funds Brought Forward		126,831	-	126,831	48,473
Total funds Carried Forward		77,431	-	77,431	126,831

BERKSHIRE AUTISTIC SOCIETY

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2020

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	31-03-20	31-03-19
No		£	£	£
Current Assets				
Debtors	0	1,275	1,275	79,397
Prepayments	1,645	964	2,609	1,967
Cash at Bank and in Hand	84,273	60,760	145,033	72,536
Total Current Assets	85,918	62,999	148,917	153,899
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year				
Creditors	298	(11)	287	3,939
Accruals	5,037	27,488	32,525	15, 155
HMRC PAYE/NI	3,152	-	3,152	1,938
Deferred Income	0	35,522	35,522	6,038
Total Current Liabilities	8,487	62,999	71,486	27,070
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	77,431	0	77,431	126,829
	· · · · ·		<u> </u>	
NET ASSETS				
General Funds	77,431		77,431	126,831
Restricted Funds				400.004
Total Funds	77,431	0	77,431	126,831

Notes to the financial statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2020

1.	Incoming Resources		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2019/2020	Total 2018/2019
			£	£	£	£
	Incoming resources from Charitable Activities					
	Training courses		1,125	95	1,220	835
	Membership subscriptions		7,441	-	7,441	7,937
	Ristricted Income Released to I & E:					
	Autism Berkshire	Thames Valley Adventure Playground Days		1,325	1,325	-
	Grocers Charity/Abb Vie Ltd	Maidenhead Adult Social Group "The Bear"		4,672	4,672	4,994
	CCG's - East	Future in Mind - East		46,770	46,770	52,000
	Earley Charity/Grocers' Charity	197 Group		1,134	1,134	1,495
	Barbara Ward Foundation	Games Club		2,560	2,560	4,657
	Earley Charity/Grocers' Charity	Level-Up Club		2,793	2,793	2,526
	BBC Children in Need	Trampolining		9,100	9,100	10, 100
	Reading Children and Voluntary Youth Services	Autism Awareness Training		2,292	2,292	2,207
	Womens' Aspergers Club	Being Us Group		524	524	681
	CCG West with Parenting Special Children	Future in Mind - West		20,000	20,000	20,000
	Slough CVS SPACE Project/Berkshire Comm Fdn	Advice & Support in Slough		16,077	16,077	15,474
	Employment & Skills Funding Agency/ESF	Chop & Chat Social Group		3,849	3,849	-
	Reading ACLF/Garfield Weston Foundation	Adult/Carer Benefits Workshops		10,197	10,197	8,138
	Heathrow Communities Trust/Sodexo Stop Hunger Fo	Adult Community Learning Socialeyes		1,462	1,462	-
	Greenham Common Trust/Edward Gosling Fund	Lego Club		3,383	3,383	4,736
	West Berkshire C C/Autism Berkshire	TeenLife Programme		1,707	1,707	-
	Sports England	Adult trampolining		889	889	-
	Various	Projects Closed in 2018/2019		-	-	15, 191
			8,566	128,829	137,395	150,970

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2020

			Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2019/2020	Total 2018/2019
			£	£	£	£
2.	Resources Expended					
a)	Charitable Activities					
	Payroll Costs	3	64,323	93,077	157,400	109,202
	Sub-Contracted Providers		3,315	16,643	19,958	18,694
	Venue Hire		529	9,381	9,910	13,799
	Refreshment Costs		552	1,284	1,836	1,451
	Travel		494	7,206	7,700	5,932
	Leaflets & Promotional Mater	ials	1,477	1,990	3,467	5,790
	Other Activity Costs		0	1,834	1,834	1,149
	Premises		23,070	-	23,070	21,787
	Insurance		1,563	-	1,563	1,571
	Telephone		505	257	762	688
	Printing, Postage, Stationery		3,064	0	3,064	3,006
	IT & Web Services		2,792	0	2,792	2,445
	Small Fixtures Replacement		636	0	636	-
	DBS Fees		173	155	328	594
	Staff Recruitment & Training		2,674	726	3,400	664
	Subscriptions & Licenses		80	0	80	115
	Bank & Fundraising Collection	n Fees	695	-	695	682
	Overhead allocation		(9,773)	9,773	-	-
			96,169	142,326	238,495	187,569
b)	Covernance Costs					
b)	Governance Costs					
	Legal fees		-	-	-	-
	Governance Costs		1,335	-	1,335	1,171
	Independent Examiners Fee		1,000	-	1,000	1,000
			2,335	-	2,335	2,171

3 Staff Costs and Numbers

	2019/2020 £	2018/2019 £
Gross Salaries and Wages	150,589	113,605
Employers' National Insurance Costs	6,441	1,437
Redundancy Costs	-	-
Pension Contributions	2,198	648
	159,228	115,690
Allocated to Fund Raising	(1,828)	(6,488)
	157,400	109,202

Average full time equivalent of employees engaged:

	2019/2020	2018/2019	
Activities in furtherance of organisation's objects	5.35	4.50	

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000. Staff are paid through the PAYE system.

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2020

Deferred Income

Note 5		At 1st April 2019	2019/20	2019/20	At 31st March 2020
Programme/Activity	Principal Sponser	Brought Fwd	Income Received	Income Released to & E	Carried Forward
Restricted Funds		£	£	£	£
Thames Valley Adventure Playground Days	Autism Berkshire	-	1,325	-1,325	-
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Crowthorne Parish Council	250