

ALLERDALE DISABILITY ASSOCIATION (ADA) ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Charitable companies and Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs) can hold AGMs online - this has been made possible by the Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act 2020 and applies until 30 December.

ADA's Constitution does not contain any provisions applicable to when an AGM cannot be held but provides that the annual AGM should be held within three months of the end of its financial year.

The Charity Commission recognises that for some charities virtual meetings are not a viable solution, nor are socially distanced face-to-face meetings. In such instances trustees may consider they have no choice but to cancel or postpone their AGMs and other critical meetings.

ADA has a large majority of disabled people as members (mostly in the highly vulnerable category), so a real meeting at this time is impossible and many members would be unable to attend a virtual meeting. In the circumstance, the Executive Committee of ADA feels that it has no alternative but to postpone the AGM for 2020 until such time as the COVID-19 restrictions allow ADA to hold an AGM that can be attended by most of its members.

Prepared on 29th October 2020 by John Brown, ADA Treasurer.

"The above statement has been approved by a quorum of its members on 10th November 2020".

**ALLERDALE DISABILITY ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL REPORT 1ST APRIL 2019 – 31ST MARCH 2020**

1. ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity number: 510656

Office

Allerdale Disability Association
Moorclose Community Centre
Needham Drive
Moorclose
Workington
Cumbria
CA14 3SE

Tel: 01900 61912

Principle Bank

CAF Bank Limited
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

2. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

The charity trustees are appointed or reappointed by the association members annually at the Annual General Meeting in accordance with the governing document adopted on 11th September 2003.

Office	Trustee name	Date acted if not whole year
Chairman	Peter Mallyon	
Vice Chair	Margaret Crabtree	
Honorary Secretary	Diane Brown	
Honorary Treasurer	John Brown	
Ordinary Members	Pat Brinicombe	
	Anthony Markley	
	Konrad Hansen	
	Paul Parkinson	
	Marian Westgarth	
	Janet Sherriff	
	Michelle Corlett	

The day-to-day management of ADA is delegated by the Executive to the following staff member:

Manager Mrs Tracey Parker

3. OBJECTIVE

To promote the welfare of disabled people within Allerdale and West Coast District.

4. SUMMARY OF MAIN ACTIVITIES

In delivering our activities this year the trustees have had regard to Charity Commission guidance on public benefit. The focus of our activities remains to provide a range of quality services to disabled people, their families and carers, enabling greater accessibility and integration. We promote equality and social justice through information and empowerment.

- Information service gives advice on any disability related issue to people with disabilities, their families and carers
- Assisting people to complete welfare benefit forms.
- Production of the local talking newspaper for people with a visual impairment.
- Drop in sessions for physically disabled adults and their carers.

5. ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The Information Service over the last 12 months have helped **754** people with any type of disability on a variety of issues including; general advice on benefits, aids and adaptations for their home and the Blue Badge scheme, with the majority of the enquiries being Welfare Benefit related with clients wanting help to complete and understand the forms.

A major pressure on the Information Service remains the demand to support our clients when attending 1st tier tribunals, and as there is little or no support available elsewhere for this we get referrals from other organisations to help their clients at this stage of their claims as well as helping our own. We have supported **107** clients through the appeals process, representing them at their 1st tier tribunal hearings this year. Some of these clients were appealing Universal Credit decisions, and although other organisations have met the demand to assist with applications, we remain the only support locally to attend tribunal. Of these we have been successful in reversing the decision in favour of our client in **99** cases, this represents an impressive **93%** turn around in the original decision to decline the clients application for benefits. The total benefit entitlement we were able to achieve for our clients was just over 4.9 million pounds.

The drop in sessions run two days per week, Mondays and Wednesday providing a friendly environment for adults with physical disabilities with a place to socialise and make and meet friends. In addition to the normal activities this year we have had outings to various places the members wanted to go and a Christmas shopping trip. By providing accessible transport it means everyone can participate.

This year's Christmas Concert was a huge success, 51 members and volunteers attended, and we delighted to be entertained by the Year 1 and 2 pupils from Beckstone Primary School. Many of our members wouldn't normally see a school play, so this was a special and heart-warming event. Santa also came and thanks to our local fundraising efforts and donations from local businesses he was able to give each child a gift to show our appreciation.

On a Tuesday we have our sugar craft classes which are still very popular. During our Christmas cake workshop there were some beautiful cakes produced. We have also started a baking class for men only which has been thoroughly enjoyed by all the participants.

The Talking Newspaper continues to produce this highly valued weekly recording of the local newspaper and distributes the discs to people with a visual impairment, and to care/nursing homes for the enjoyment of residents. The Talking Newspaper enables people to keep abreast of local news and events in their community independently.

All our services are only possible due to the contribution made by volunteers who give their time, knowledge and commitment freely. Our sincere thanks to all of them.

6. PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

At the time of writing this report we have just closed our doors because of Coronavirus, who knows what the future holds. At this time we will all continue to work for the benefit of the organisation, its members and clients.

7. FINANCIAL REVIEW

Total funds carried forward on 31st March 2019 were £3,206.

We were delighted to receive a grant from Sellafield Ltd to cover the cost of installing cookers and baking equipment so we could offer more activities within the drop in.

Special thanks go as always to Cumbria Community Foundation and Allerdale Borough Council for continued support to the organisation.

Fund raising and obtaining grants must continue to be a high priority even in these uncertain times.

John D Brown Treasure

EXAMINER'S UNQUALIFIED REPORT ALLERDALE DISABILITY ASSOCIATION

I report on the accounts of the Association for the year ended 31st March 2019.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's 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.

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; and
- 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 statement below.

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 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

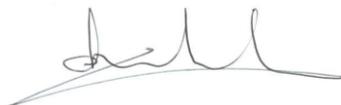
have not been met; or

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

Name: Neil Richardson

Address: 5 Fell View
Branthwaite
Workington
Cumbria
CA14 4SY

Signed



Date 24/07/2020

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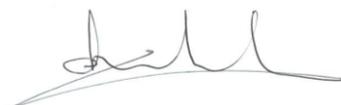
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