



**CHARITY COMMISSION**  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1/4/2019

Period start date To 31/3/2020

Period end date

Charity name: ALAG (Asperger London Area Group)

Charity registration number: 1160477

## Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	ALAG exists to support adults with high functioning autism and Asperger syndrome, their families, carers and professionals.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	ALAG has been established to improve the quality of life for adults on the autistic spectrum by offering support, advocacy and a chance to socialise and meet with other people who have similar issues. ALAG is committed to raising awareness of autistic spectrum conditions across London by facilitating support groups and social events, providing information, advice and guidance to those in need, also working with external agencies to achieve a greater understanding of the condition.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	When planning ALAG activities for the year, the Trustees regularly review the Commissions guidance on public benefit and make every effort to fulfil their legal duty to reach and improve the quality of life for as many people as we can, some of whom would ordinarily be marginalised because of their disability.

## Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	

Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	
Other		

## Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>Early in 2019, ALAG's trustees approved plans for an autism conference to celebrate ALAG's fifth year as an independent charity. Scheduled to take place in October 2019, the aim of the conference was to improve attendees understanding of what it feels like to be autistic, how autistic people may present, issues that may arise in their lives and how to move towards successfully overcoming them. It was agreed to invite professionals as well as autistic people, local councillors and local businesses to the conference to broaden our reach and ensure the benefits could be spread across society as a whole.</p> <p>The Conference took place on Thursday 17 October 2019 and was entitled <b>'Overcoming Barriers: Neurodiversity in Autism'</b>. Over 70 people attended and the event was extremely well received. ALAG brought together as speakers both autistic people and professionals working in clinical or research settings to share their insights on different facets of the condition and life with it. These are just a few of the feedback comments from the day highlighting the overall positive impression: <i>'Thank you for the wonderful event yesterday! I had such a lovely day, we met some really interesting and inspiring people.'</i></p> <p><i>'A very big thank you to you and all your colleagues for your very hard work in setting up the conference yesterday. I found the papers very relevant to my experience as a person with Asperger Syndrome.'</i></p> <p><i>'It was truly refreshing and I really learnt something new.'</i></p> <p><i>'Thank you for organising a wonderful event.'</i></p>

		<p>Throughout 2019 ALAG's Autism Hub - a user led initiative by and for adults with High-Functioning Autism and Asperger's syndrome – continued to go from strength to strength as another main achievement. The Autism Hub provides specialist counselling, information, support, sign-posting and host events delivered through peer support &amp; mentoring. The Hub is a central point of access to autism services in Islington and Camden linking in and connecting with other agencies in the community to make them more autism aware &amp; accessible.</p> <p>In September 2019, the Autism Hub partnered with the Islington &amp; Camden Diagnostic Service to form the Partners for Health Project, funded by the London Catalyst, offering direct support to people who are newly diagnosed with autism.</p>
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**Additional information (optional)**

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

## Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<p>During this period ALAG's funding came from the Cripplegate Foundation, The London Catalyst and Islington Council.</p> <p>Fundraising is currently taking place with support from the Voluntary Action Islington capacity building project.</p> <p><u>Summary of Accounts</u> At the end of the financial year the Total balance was £ £24,333.46.</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The policy for holding reserves states that the organisation must hold at least £6,000 as reserves to safeguard the charity's basic running costs for 6 months in the event of loss of income.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£6,000
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

## Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	<b>Constitution</b>
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	<b>CIO</b>
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	New Trustees are selected in an informal process. The board chooses and meets with each candidate inviting those that are suitable and interested to observe a board meeting and meet the current trustees.

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

## Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	ALAG (Asperger London Area Group)
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1160477
Charity's principal address	C/o Voluntary Action Islington 200A Pentonville Road London N1 9JP

## Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	John Harrison	Chair	Jan – March 2020	
2	Jason Crabtree	Vice Chair	Jan – March 2020	
3	Jennifer Barker	Treasurer		
4	Nicholas Stone	Trustee	Jan – March 2020	
5	Desmond Meldrum	Trustee		
6	Jessica Rittstieg	Trustee	Jan – March 2020	
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## Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

## Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

## Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

### Additional information (optional)

#### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

#### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Ethney Anderson – Senior Staff member

## Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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## Other optional information

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## Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

<b>Signature(s)</b>	<i>Ethney Anderson</i>	
<b>Full name(s)</b>	Ethney Anderson	
<b>Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)</b>	Senior Staff member	
<b>Date</b>	26/01/2021	



## ALAG: Income and Expenditure for period 1 April 2019- 31 March

	Total		Total	The Autism Hub
		UF	RF	
<b>Balance B/F</b>	<b>19683.49</b>	<b>9342.31</b>	<b>10341.18</b>	<b>10341.18</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>1607.91</b>	<b>1,607.91</b>		
<b>Grants</b>	<b>9,000.00</b>		<b>9000.00</b>	<b>9,000.00</b>
<b>Other Income</b>	<b>4669.80</b>	<b>2,830.80</b>	<b>1,839.00</b>	<b>1,839.00</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>15,277.71</u></b>	<b><u>4,438.71</u></b>	<b><u>10,839.00</u></b>	<b><u>10,839.00</u></b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Christmas Meal	390.51	390.51		
E Anderson	1,200.00	1200.00		
Rent	3,808.59		3,808.59	3,808.59
Laptop	233.49		233.49	233.49
Food	676.04	676.04		
Conference	1,950.45	1950.45		
COVID	3.00	3.00		
Insurance	448.96		448.96	448.96
Counselling	1,035.00		1035.00	1,035.00
Counselling supervision				
Volunteer's lunch	72.00		72.00	72.00
Volunteer's expenses	431.88		431.88	431.88
Petty Cash				
Mobile Phone	185.42		185.42	185.42
Furniture				
Printing	192.40	157.40	35.00	35.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b><u>10,627.74</u></b>	<b><u>4,377.40</u></b>	<b><u>6,250.34</u></b>	<b><u>6,250.34</u></b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b><u>4,649.97</u></b>	<b><u>61.31</u></b>	<b><u>4,588.66</u></b>	<b><u>4,588.66</u></b>
<b>Balance C/F</b>	<b>24333.46</b>	<b>9403.62</b>	<b>14929.84</b>	<b>14929.84</b>

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