BERKSHIRE AUTISTIC SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

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 2018

END OF FINANCIAL YEAR

31 MARCH 2019

DIRECTORS AT 31 MARCH

2019

Ewan R Duncan (resigned November 2018)

Chair

Richard Flemming, Chair from November 2018

Sandra Stubbs Margaret Collum

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,

Earlev.

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.

Ewan Duncan stood down as a trustee at the AGM held in November 2018, at the end of his term of office. We would like to thank Ewan for his hard work, enthusiasm and commitment as the chair of trustees. Richard Flemming has taken over as Chair. Sandra Stubbs was re-elected as a trustee at this meeting.

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:

Autism Berkshire is the leading autism charity in Berkshire, with almost 30 years' experience of delivering advice, support, training and social and leisure activities for families living with autism throughout the county.

After an expansion of our services between 2015 and 2017, the 2018-19 year saw a continuation of the consolidation in provision in 2017-18. Regrettably, there was some reduction of services, notably in youth group provision, due to downturns in funding from public sector bodies.

Our staff once again a significant number of new service users during the year, many referred by health, education and social care professionals. Others found out about the charity through other avenues, notably social media, where the Facebook page is an increasingly important point of contact with service users and the number of people following the page grew by almost 40 per cent during the year.

Autism Berkshire continues to be commissioned by the two NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in Berkshire to provide support to families when their children are referred for assessment and after diagnosis.

These services include home visiting, support groups and a range of workshops to help parents and carers of autistic children and those whose children are waiting for autism assessment.

Alongside National Autistic Society Seminars for Families workshops, we launched a new workshop in East Berkshire about Emotional Self-Regulation, offering parents strategies to help their children to manage their own emotions.

Autism Berkshire's Benefits Service underwent two major changes during 2017-18 – expanding to offer representation at appeal hearings and advice appointments in Slough, so 2018-19 represented the first chance to see the impact of these over a full year.

The number of cases dealt with by our expert adviser, Kevin Jackson in 2018-19 was 168, compared with 119 in 2016-17. Of these, successful outcomes for the clients were achieved in 143, with 19 appeal tribunal cases yet to be settled at the end of March 2019. A total of £42,235 in back payments of benefits had been secured for clients through appeals at that point

Due to a similar number of cases awaiting tribunal decisions at the end of 2017-18, a full picture for that year was not available until early 2019. Of 135 cases handled, there were successful outcomes for clients in 122 – a success rate of 90 per cent.

Back payments won through appeals totalled £86,103. One tribunal case for 2017-18 had still to be heard at the end of 2018-19.

As a result of reduced funding from the NHS and councils, the youth groups in Slough, Windsor and Wokingham were closed.

However, the Games Club in Reading and CAYP (Children and Young People) Group in Bracknell remained popular with children, along with trampolining sessions in Reading and Bracknell, which are supported by BBC Children in Need, and the Lego Club at Woolhampton in West Berkshire. Older teenagers and young adults continued to transition to the Level Up games club in Reading.

Special activities laid on for children during the summer of 2018 included a Lego workshop day with professional 'brick artist' Kevin Hall, and a family picnic in Reading's Forbury Gardens. At this event, our team was supported by young volunteers from the National Citizen Service, who ran games and activities for children during the event.

Our main social groups for adults, the 197 Club in Reading and Bear With Me in Maidenhead, continued to see high levels of attendance for both regular meetings and special activities, such as trips to go bowling, to the theatre, or canoeing on the River Thames.

During the year, plans were made to set up a new social group in Slough, in conjunction with the borough council's autism team. It was planned to launch this group early in the summer of 2019. Unfortunately, the social group in Bracknell stopped operating in early 2019, due to staffing difficulties.

We were also pleased to support the launch of a new group in Reading for people who have received autism diagnoses as adults, called Being Us. It builds on the Being Me post-diagnosis courses run by Dr Trevor Powell, head of Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust's adult autism diagnosis service.

Alongside support, advice and leisure services for autistic people and their families, we continued to work to improve awareness and understating of autism in communities across Berkshire, including planning a conference called All About Autism, to take place in Slough at the start of April 2019, on World Autism Awareness Day.

As part of our partnership with Reading Buses, as their 2018 Charity of the Year, we provided autism training for the company's staff. Other organisations in Berkshire to benefit from our expertise were Reading Museum and the Museum of English Rural Life, part of the University of Reading, as they prepared to launch relaxed opening sessions for autistic visitors.

We held a sell-out speaker event in Bracknell in October, where autism advocate Dean Beadle told people to be positive about autism in a talk about his journey from a difficult childhood to a successful career as an autism trainer and speaker.

Fellow autism trainer Richard Maguire had a similar message when he spoke at Autism Berkshire's 2018 annual general meeting in November. He said simple adjustments could help autistic people to perform well in school, at work and in other situations.

Autism Berkshire's high organisational and safeguarding standards were recognised in September 2018 with the award by Slough Council for Voluntary Services of their Slough Quality Protects scheme platinum award, making us the first voluntary organisation working in the town to achieve that status.

Statement of Directors' Responsibilities:

The directors are satisfied that for the year ended on 31 March 2019 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 9.

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 13th September 2019

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 31^{st} March 2019, which are set out on pages 10 to 15.

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
 - (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 14th September 2019

BERKSHIRE AUTISTIC SOCIETY

Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)

for the year ended 31 March 2019

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2018/2019	Total 2017/2018
		£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources					
Incoming Resources from Generated F	unds				
Grants		3,400	-	3,400	8,120
Donations	5	97,042	-	97,042	44,488
Fundraising and Collections		29,050	-	29,050	12,887
Bank Interest		66	-	66	48
Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities	1	8,772	142,198	150,970	204,489
Total Incoming Resources		138,330	142,198	280,528	270,032
Resources Expended					
Fundraising Trading Costs		12,430	-	12,430	16,680
Charitable Activities	2a	45,371	142,198	187,569	244,453
Governance	2b	2,171	-	2,171	1,908
Total Resources Expended		59,972	142,198	202,170	263,041
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources		78,358	-	78,358	6,991
Total Funds Brought Forward		48,473	-	48,473	34,762
Reclassification of Short Term Loan		-	-	-	6,720
Total funds Carried Forward		126,831	-	126,831	48,473

BERKSHIRE AUTISTIC SOCIETY

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2019

Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	3/31/2019 £	3/31/2018 £
	-	_	-	-
Current Assets				
Debtors	75,000	4,397	79,397	5,260
Prepayments	1,737	230	1,967	3,259
Cash at Bank and in Hand	55,567	16,969	72,536	78,835
Total Current Assets	132,304	21,596	153,900	87,354
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year				
Creditors	382	3,557	3,939	1,390
Accruals	3,154	12,001	15,155	14,648
HMRC PAYE/NI	1,938	-	1,938	-
Deferred Income	0	6,038	6,038	22,843
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	126,831	0	126,831	48,473
NET ASSETS				
General Funds	126,831		126,831	10 172
Restricted Funds	120,031		120,031	48,473
Total Funds	126,831	0	126,831	48,473

Notes to the financial statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2019

1. Incoming Resources		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2018/2019	Total 2017/2018
		£	£	£	£
Incoming resources from Charitable Activitie	s				
Training courses		835		835	1,500
Membership subscriptions		7,937		7,937	8,347
Restricted Income Released to I & E:					
RBWM	Maidenhead Adult Social Group "The Bear"	1	4,994	4,994	4,914
TVP Property Act Fund	Internet Safety		2,500	2,500	1,833
CCG's - East/Attendee Donations	Future in Mind - East		52,000	52,000	51,000
Berkshire Community Foundation	Siblings Social Group		-	-	1,250
Reading Abbey Rotary Club/Attendee Dona	tion Games Club		4,657	4,657	5,769
Reading BC/Grace Trust/Attendee Donation	s Narrowing the Gap/197 & Level Up Clubs		5,821	5,821	16,777
BBC Children in Need/Autism Berkshire	Trampolining		10,100	10,100	9,912
Reading Children and Voluntary Youth Serv	ices Autism Awareness Training		2,207	2,207	-
Women's Aspergers Circle/Reading Lions	Being Us Group		681	681	-
CCG West with Parenting Special Children	Future in Mind - West		20,000	20,000	28,564
Bracknell Forest Council/Attendee Donation	s Adult Social Group		7,025	7,025	8,873
Slough CVS SPACE Project	Advice & Support in Slough		15,474	15,474	3,060
Reading ACLF/BCHTR/Alchemy Foundation	Adult/Carer Benefits Workshops		8,138	8,138	5,833
Slough ACLF	Adult Community Learning Socialeyes & Independent Living		3,865	3,865	3,656
Big Lottery - Awards for All	Lego Club		4,736	4,736	6,057
Various	Projects Closed in 2017/2018		-	-	47,144
		8,772	142,198	150,970	204,489

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2019

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2018/2019	Total 2017/2018
		£	£	£	£
2.	Resources Expended				
a)	Charitable Activities				
	Payroll Costs 3	43,722	65,480	109,202	146,903
	Sub-Contracted Providers	2,640	16,054	18,694	23,785
	Venue Hire	1,077	12,722	13,799	14,282
	Refreshment Costs	719	732	1,451	2,485
	Travel	975	4,957	5,932	6,462
	Leaflets & Promotional Materials	507	5,282	5,790	5,855
	Other Activity Costs	-	1,149	1,149	1,908
	Premises	21,787	-	21,787	26,847
	Insurance	1,571	-	1,571	1,363
	Telephone	608	80	688	2,543
	Printing, Postage, Stationery	2,918	88	3,006	3,170
	IT & Web Services	2,445	0	2,445	7,091
	Small Fixtures Replacement	-	-	-	1,153
	DBS Fees	161	433	594	-
	Staff Recruitment & Training	592	72	664	30
	Subscriptions & Licenses	115	0	115	194
	Bank & Fundraising Collection Fees	682	-	682	383
	Overhead allocation	(35,149)	35,149	-	-
		45,371	142,198	187,569	244,453
b)	Governance Costs				
	Legal fees	-	-	-	306
	Governance Costs	1,171	-	1,171	602
	Independent Examiners Fee	1,000	-	1,000	1,000
	•	2,171	-	2,171	1,908

3 Staff Costs and Numbers

	2018/2019	2017/2018
	£	£
Gross Salaries and Wages	113,605	143,413
Employers' National Insurance Costs	1,437	3,045
Redundancy Costs	-	-
Pension Contributions	648	445
	115,690	146,903
Allocated to Fund Raising (2017/18 Sub-Contracted)	(6,488)	
	109,202	146,903

Average full time equivalent of employees engaged:

	2018/2019	2017/2018
Activities in furtherance of organisation's objects	4.5	6.9

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 2019

Deferred Income

Note 5			At 1st April 2018	2018/19	2018/19	At 31st March 2019
Restricte	d Funde		Brought Fwd	Income Received £	Income Released to I & E £	Carried Forward £
Nestricte	u i unus		2	2	2	2
	Maidenhead Adult Social Group "The Bear"	RBWM	1,086	5,000	-4,994	1,092
	Internet Safety	TVP Property Act Fund	2,500		-2,500	0
	Future in Mind - East	CCG's - East/Attendee Donations	0	52,000	-52,000	0
	Siblings Social Group	Berkshire Community Foundation	1,250	-1,250		0
	Games Club	Reading Abbey Rotary Club/Attendee Donatio	1,773	4,038	-4,657	1,155
	Narrowing the Gap/197 & Level Up Clubs	Reading BC/Grace Trust/Attendee Donations	4,651	1,171	-5,821	0
	Trampolining	BBC Children in Need/Autism Berkshire	0	10,100	-10,100	0
	Autism Awareness Training	Reading Children and Voluntary Youth Service	0	4,500	-2,207	2,293
	Being Us Group	Womens' Aspergers Club/Reading Lions	0	1,488	-681	806
	Future in Mind - West	CCG West with Parenting Special Children	0	20,000	-20,000	0
	Adult Social Group	Bracknell Forest Council/Attendee Donations	809	6,216	-7,025	0
	Advice & Support in Slough	Slough CVS SPACE Project	647	14,827	-15,474	0
	Adult/Carer Benefits Workshops	Reading ACLF/BCHTR/Alchemy Foundation	21	8,809	-8,138	692
	Adult Community Learning Socialeyes & Independent Living	Slough ACLF	2,091	1,774	-3,865	0
	Lego Club	Big Lottery - Awards for All	8,016	-3,281	-4,735	0
			22,844	125,392	-142,198	6,038

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

Reading Buses - Charity of 2018	11,720
Gerald Palmer Eling Trust	5,000
Theodore Roussel Memorial Trust	5,000
Reading Abbey Rotary Club	3,370
Women's Aspergers Circle	1,000
Berkshire Community Fund	1,000
Bracknell Town Council	1,000
Paypal Charity Fund	800
Donation in memory of Tracey Stringer	760
Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust	750
Woodroffe Benton Foundation	750
The Grace Trust	750
BCHTR (Braywick Nurseries)	500
The Alchemy Foundation	500
Holy Spring Infant and Nursery School	490
Reading Lions Clubs	488
AWE Community Committee	300
Maidenhead Advertiser Cracker Appeal	275
Crowthorne Parish Council	250