Charity trustees' annual report – London Autism Group Charity (29/1/2020)

Your charity's name: London Autism Group Charity

Registration number: 1176341

Address: 66 Chase Way, London, N14 5DG.

<u>Trustee names</u>: Dr Chris Papadopoulos (Chair), Morgan Papadopoulos, James Gordon, Emma Lazenby

Its structure and details of how it is managed, including how it recruits trustees:

The trustees follow and abide to the Charity's Governing Document which is based on the Constitution of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation whose only voting members are its charity trustees ('Foundation' model constitution).

The appointment of new charity trustees follows the following rules:

(1) Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term of two years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

(2) In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

Its activities and objectives in the year:

Our activities this year have been aligned with our overall charity objective which is 'to relieve the needs of individuals in London (and surrounding counties) with a formal diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder, and their family carers, by the provision of information and support'.

We believe we can achieve this objective by conducting activities related to the following goals:

- To provide support for autistic people and/or their family carers living in London or surrounding counties
- To promote social inclusion of autistic people and family carers.
- To promote social awareness and acceptance of autism and to reduce autism stigma and discrimination
- To advance the mental and physical health and wellbeing of autistic people and family carers

Its achievements and performance, including reporting on its public benefit:

In the past year, we have conducted the following successful and impactful activities:

1. <u>Continued management of the London Autism Group</u>. The London Autism Group is a private Facebook group aimed at supporting anyone whose lives have been influenced by autism and reside in or near to London. As of the end of January, we currently have 1775 members with approximately 650 members joining in the past 12 months. The group is extremely popular and active, with 1486 of the 1775 members being 'active' on the group in the past month (i.e. they have read or interacted with posts). Also, each month, we receive over 45,000 views on posts made. The group consists of a wide and balanced socio-demographic and includes members who identify as autistic, family carers, health and social care professionals, scientists/researchers and more.

2. <u>The Autism Podcast</u>: The Autism Podcast continues to be extremely successful and impactful. The aim of the podcast is 'to improve our understanding of autism, boost acceptance, reduce autism stigma, and generate impactful, transformative ideas ranging from practical everyday advice to thoughts on policy, practice, and wider socio-cultural challenges.' We have been releasing an episode almost every month with a wide range of guests and impactful topics. Our statistics continue to rise; we now have almost 11,000 downloads and a growing membership. We appear among the first results listings when the word 'autism' is searched for in most podcast apps (including Apple Podcasts). We also appear among the top Google listings when 'Autism podcast' is searched for. We have also been listed in many 'top autism podcasts' lists (e.g.

<u>https://blog.feedspot.com/autism_podcasts/</u>). The National Autistic Society have recently reached out to us and are writing a feature about our podcast in one of their upcoming 'Your Autism' magazine issues which has considerable reach. Overall, we are confident that our podcast is among the most listened to autism-related podcasts in the world and continues to create considerable impact.

- 3. <u>SOLACE mental health intervention for family carers</u>: We have also commissioned a run of the SOLACE mental health intervention for new family carers of recently diagnosed autistic children. We selected SOLACE as it's aims align with our own; namely to improve the mental health of family carers in part through the reduction of autism stigma (in this case, the prevention of self-stigma and the rejection of courtesy & social stigma). SOLACE is also evidence-based and has been trialled by the University of Bedfordshire (who provided us a free license). The intervention was incredibly successful, with our group participants unanimously agreeing over its positive impact upon their mental health and thus an improved ability to care for their child effectively.
- 4. <u>Website</u>: We have also produced a website in the past year (londonautismgroupcharity.org) which details our charity's mission and values, the work that we do, and how to get in touch. As can be seen on the 'What We Do' page

(<u>https://www.londonautismgroupcharity.org/what-we-do</u>), we have also produced several accessible maps that users can gain information about legal services, services, schools and more. These maps have been accessed more than 40,000 times.

A financial review including any debts and details of your reserves policy (if applicable):

From the charity's inception to date we have raised £5314.89 and have spent £992.93. Our current balance is £4321.96

Details of any funds held as a custodian trustee:

n/a



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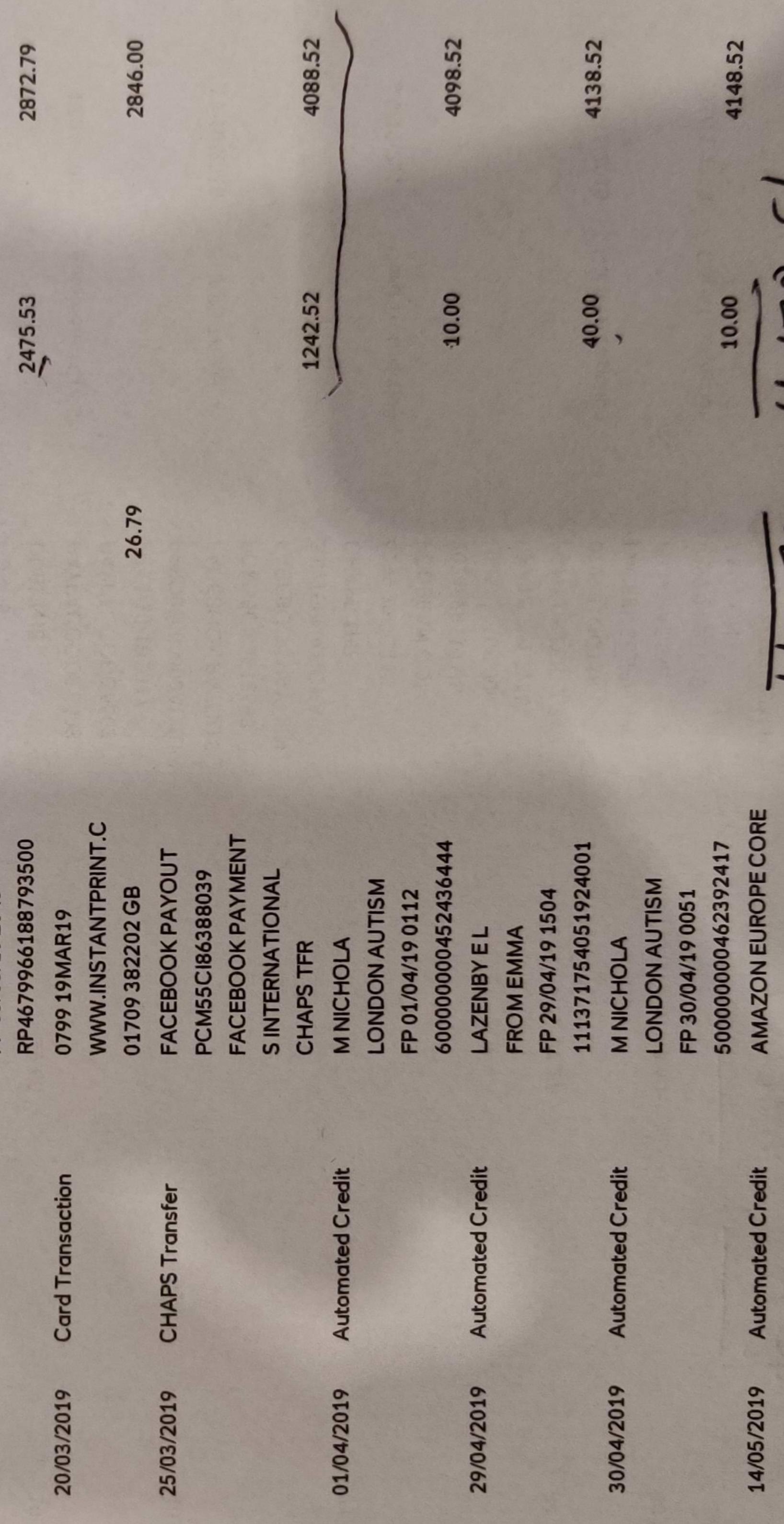
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