



Annual report  
and accounts

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For the year ending 31 March 2017

**AUTISTICA**

Building brighter futures through autism research

# Honorary Roles and Charity Management

## Honorary Roles

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### Patron

Professor Sir Michael Rutter

### President

Dame Stephanie Shirley CH

### Vice Presidents

Sir Christopher Ball

Jane Asher

Lady Christine Bett

Hugh Merrill CVO

### Trustees

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Gill Ackers

Dr Sarah Caddick PhD

Michael Earl (joined October 2016)

Alison Hardy (retired Sept 2016)

David Morgan (retired July 2016)

Jude Ragan OBE

Jeff Saul (joined April 2016)

Professor Eric Taylor

### Chair: Edward Chandler

### Honorary Treasurer

James Lowe

### Science Advisory Group

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#### Chair: Professor Eric Taylor FRCP, FRCPsych, FMedSci

Professor Gillian Baird FRCPCH

Professor Patrick Bolton FRCPsych

Professor Patricia Howlin FBPS

Professor Dr Andreas Meyer-Lindberg

Joshua Muggleton

Carol Povey

Jude Ragan OBE

Professor Paul Stallard

## Key Management Personnel

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### Chief Executive: Jon Spiers

### Director of Science

Dr James Cusack

### Director of Fundraising

Sarah Bissell

### Auditors

Wilkins Kennedy LLP

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London Bridge

London SE1 9QR

### Bankers

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Metro Bank

One Southampton Row

London WC1B 5HA

### Registered office

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[www.autistica.org.uk](http://www.autistica.org.uk)

### Company registration no.

1107350

### Charity registration no.

05184164

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# Chairman and Chief Executive's Report

As the UK's leading autism research charity, Autistica exists to harness the potential of cutting-edge science to improve the lives of everyone affected by autism. In the thirteen years since our founding, we have funded the set up and development of some of the most important UK studies and scientific assets in autism, including the BASIS and iBASIS trials, the ASD-UK family database and the Autism Brain Bank.

2016–17 saw the charity grow remarkably on every front: from increasing our scientific spend to involving ever more autistic people in our work, from influencing policy and governmental investment here and overseas to raising awareness of neurodiversity and the untapped talent of people on the autism spectrum, we have made huge advances, which are already changing lives for the better. Despite the continued challenging climate for all charities, we grew our income by over 400%, maintained the funding of our core scientific projects, launched a raft of new research programmes, shared widely the national research priorities developed in 2016 and became globally recognised for our work tackling early death in autism.

Autistica's mission is threefold: to improve outcomes for autistic people of all ages through innovative research; to grow autism research in the UK through collaborations, campaigning and capacity-building; and to be the bridge between researchers, policymakers and people living with autism. These principles guide our work and help us ensure that our funds always have maximum impact.

Improving outcomes for autistic people of all ages: In 2016–17, we made significant new investments in the areas that matter most to autistic people and their families, including early intervention, mental health and suicide, employment and ageing with autism. We continued to fund our world-leading Autistica Research Centre for Ageing with Autism at Newcastle University and our new Mental Health in Autism programme at King's College London, Warwick University, Coventry and Cambridge. Our Best Start in Life programme to support families at the point of diagnosis included new studies at Bangor, Plymouth and Bedford. We successfully lobbied for changes in policy and practice to tackle early death and raised autism up the political agenda in the UK, US and Europe.

Growing autism research in the UK: We have carried out an extensive scoping exercise to understand the current research landscape and secured very significant funding to take autism science to the next level in the UK through our innovative autism research network, Discover, which launches in September 2017. We continue to develop partnerships with major and specialist funders to increase autism research spending, including the MRC, Wellcome Trust, Simons Foundation, MQ and the Waterloo Foundation. We have supported the National Autism Project, an initiative to increase state spending on autism science and play a leading role lobbying through the Association of Medical Research Charities to boost scientific investment.

Being the bridge: We have worked extensively in the UK and abroad to share the results of our James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnership for Autism, which brought together the whole autism community to define the ten most pressing unanswered questions in autism. We continued our efforts to make the latest research findings digestible and relevant to families and autistic adults through the press, social media and publications.

This year, we said fond farewells to Alison Hardy and David Morgan (Trustees). We wish them the very best for the future. 2017–18 promises to be a year of continued incredible progress for the charity, with partnerships with companies like Deutsche Bank and our new fundraising strategy delivering vital funds for a much expanded research programme. We look forward to working with all of our partners within autism and beyond to ensure everyone with autism has the chance of a long, happy, healthy life.



**Edward Chandler,**  
Chair



**Jon Spiers,**  
Chief Executive

# Trustees' Strategic Report

Autistica aims to offer autistic people and their families the chance of a long, happy, healthy life through funding and promoting groundbreaking medical research, improving understanding and advancing new therapies and interventions.

Despite scientific advances, too many autistic individuals and their families still tell us that they face a life long struggle to access appropriate support and services. Research has the capacity at national and global levels to transform this experience, raise awareness, and ensure that services are based on the latest evidence. However, autism research is greatly underfunded compared to other medical conditions and a coordinated and focused effort is required to deliver changes for the one in a hundred people with autism in the UK.

Autistica is committed to working in partnership to achieve both a step change in the amount of resources focused on autism research and to ensure that research funding is directed to those areas of greatest need. Autistica is the UK's only national autism research charity and acts as the bridge between people with autism, the research community and other funders of autism science. This is an exciting time in autism research and significant advances have been made in the last ten years. There is an urgent need to harness the strength and diversity of the UK research environment to benefit all those living with autism.

Together we can and will make a real and lasting difference.

## Our vision is:

A long, healthy, happy life for autistic people and their families.

## Our mission is:

To improve outcomes for autistic people of all ages through world-class research.

To grow autism research in the UK through innovative collaborations with other funders, campaigning for increased state investment and developing capacity and infrastructure within the research community.

To be the bridge between researchers, policymakers and people living with autism, ensuring that services are evidence-based and research responds to the autism community's needs and desires.



*"Autistica is a small charity doing big things. The innovative, collaborative approach they have taken in recent years is gaining attention from far larger, more established research organisations. At AMRC, we often use examples of their community involvement activities as examples of best practice. I look forward to following their progress – they are doing all the right things to bring real change to the lives of autistic people."*

Aisling Burnand MBE, Chief Executive, the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC)

## 2016–17 Grant Commitments

In line with our mission and in consultation with autistic people, parents and professionals, we continued to invest in new science in line with the priorities identified through our 2016 James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnership and our 2015 Research Strategy's key areas of focus:

### 1. Early Intervention, Early Diagnosis

Diagnosis is a vital point in the journey to understanding why a person with autism may develop, behave or feel different to a person who does not have autism. It provides opportunities for services and support. We know that early diagnosis and early intervention significantly improves outcomes. Our research aims to give families and individuals answers and appropriate, effective support as soon as possible.

### 2. Mental Health in Autism

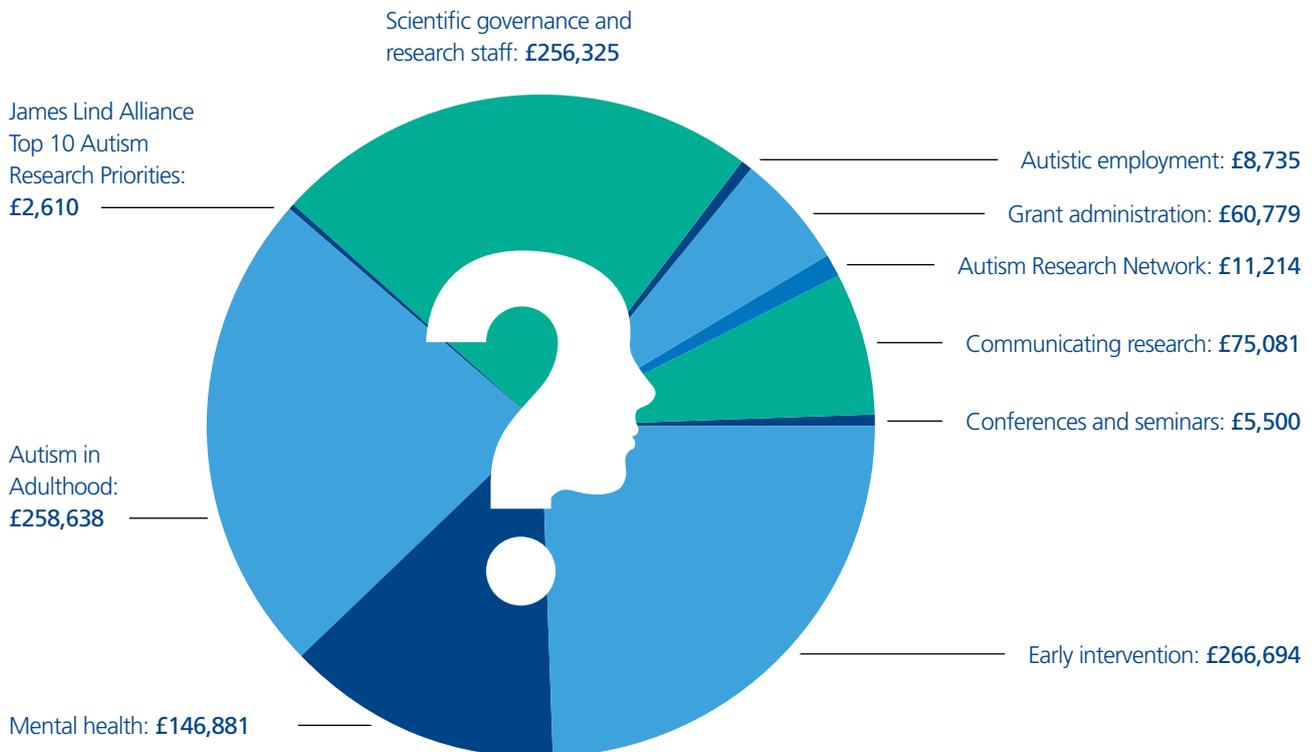
Mental health problems affect 79% of autistic people and new research shows shocking rates of suicide in the autistic population. These issues can cut lives short and affect many people's ability to build relationships, work and learn. We aim to understand why mental health is such a problem for autistic people and how we can best treat and support those affected.

### 3. Autism in Adulthood

Most autistic people are adults, yet there has been a severe lack of research into adulthood and ageing. Autistica's flagship programme with Newcastle University aims to understand autism across the lifespan and improve adult diagnosis, support and services.

In addition to our existing commitments, we spent £1.09m on our scientific work in 2016–17 and laid the foundations for significant funding increases in 2017–18.

## 2016–17 Research Spend



## Our Research

Autistica has funded and advocated for world-class autism research, which can lead to a long, happy, healthy life for all. We continue to work closely with international and national funders such as the US National Institute for Health (NIH), UK Medical Research Council (MRC), UK National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), as well as the charity MQ: Transforming Mental Health and others to achieve this mission and raise awareness of community priorities and our work on early death in autism.

To ensure scarce resources are focused on the most pressing issues faced by the people we serve, Autistica is proud to have led a gold standard, validated consultation exercise to understand the autism community's top priorities for research, with partners including the National Autistic Society, UK Autism Alliance and Autism Research Trust. These priorities will form the basis of a new scientific strategy to be published in late 2017.

We secured funding and began development of a flagship initiative to cement the UK's position at the forefront of autism science: Discover, the UK's autism research network. This will unite researchers across the country, families, doctors, charities, hospitals and many others, with the aim of increasing scientific collaboration, improving participation and meaningful involvement of the autism community in new studies, building a new generation of research leaders and putting autistic involvement at the heart of research.

### The work we funded this year:

**Autism and the lifespan.** Through our programme of research on adulthood and autism, Autistica has established the UK as a leader in this under funded area. Autistica's longitudinal adult cohort database lies at the heart of this priority area, with over 1,000 autistic adults and 450 family members or caregivers recruited in just two years. This cohort has acted as a stepping stone for addressing other community research priorities, with Autistica funding projects to develop tools for better adult diagnosis and a new trial of a personalised anxiety management programme for autistic adults. Autistica's strategic funding of an adult cohort has also leveraged funds for other research projects on quality of life and community priorities such as interventions for mental health problems, suicidality, social care and service design.

Gaining access to employment is hard for many autistic people, despite their skills often being incredibly valuable, but little high quality research has examined how to improve this. We organised autistic internships with our corporate partner Deutsche Bank and built research into the scheme, resulting in an independent evaluation by University College London with recommendations for other firms wanting to attract autistic talent.

**Timely support for families.** Our UK-wide family research database (ASD-UK) at Newcastle University is an essential resource for researchers seeking to understand the lives of over 4,000 families affected by autism. By tracking diagnoses across a ten-year period using this database, Newcastle's researchers were able to show that the average age of diagnosis has not improved in a decade, despite scientific advances. They identified

groups who often had to wait much longer than others, such as those with co-occurring conditions like ADHD.

Post-diagnosis support is seldom available and parents tell us that getting their child's diagnosis of autism is like getting a "magic key and then you open the cupboard and there's nothing in it." We know from our priority-setting partnership that parents desperately want research to give them tools to support their autistic child. In 2016, we announced the results of our early intervention call for proposals: three new trials at Bangor, Plymouth and Bedfordshire focused on post-diagnostic support for issues such as stigma, eating, sleep, aggression and developing whole-family approaches. Long-term follow-up of a previous trial funded by Autistica showed that intervening early in babies who were highly likely to have autism improves social communication in the long term.

**Tackling the autism community's number one priority: mental health.** Mental health problems are incredibly common in autism, representing a substantial barrier to quality of life for autistic people. We are committed to understanding why these problems exist and finding ways to support people as quickly as possible. We funded a new study at Cambridge University to understand what makes autistic people with and without intellectual disabilities vulnerable to mental health issues. Our four mental health PhD fellows at King's College London are now into their second year and producing exciting results: one fellow, Hannah Pickard, found that difficulties with social anxiety are largely predicted by earlier problems with social communication, providing a possible target for intervention. Building on our PhD Fellowship scheme, MQ: Transforming Mental Health (a mental health research charity) and Autistica announced a co-funded early career fellowship worth £225,000 on mental health in autism, with the fellow due to be recruited later in 2017.

To find interventions that can translate quickly into real-world impact, Autistica has announced a call for proposals worth £600,000 for autism-specific mental health interventions, with the winning ideas to be announced in autumn 2017. We also partnered with King's College London and Deutsche Bank to continue the development of our anxiety management toolkit through a 24-hour IT hackathon.

Our work on early death also highlighted that autistic people have a tragically high increased likelihood of suicide. Autistica has funded the world's first psychological autopsies study to understand what drives this increased risk. An international suicide summit funded by Autistica was held in May 2017 to develop a coherent research strategy leading to lower rates of suicide and suicidality in autism.

# Working with Families and the Autistic Community

We aim to give the autism community a voice in everything that we do. We ensure, through consultation and involvement, that they direct not just our funded research, but autism science across the UK. Our public profile as the voice of autism research has increased hugely this year through increased press coverage, our Radio 4 Appeal, campaigning and our World Autism Awareness Day campaign. This has led to a major uplift in the number of people affected by autism who we involve in conversations around science and autism, and in the personal stories that we can use to demonstrate the urgent need for research.

**Involving the community.** This year we embedded the involvement of families and autistic people not just in our scientific decision-making, but in all levels of our work. We carried out focus groups and interviews with those living with autism every day to understand their needs and attitudes to our communications. This is a diverse group, but using these insights informs our communications and fundraising strategies so that we provide useful information in formats that everyone can understand and relate to.

We remain proud members of the UK Autism Alliance, working with charities across the UK to improve services and embed research into practice.

**Campaigning for change.** In March 2016, we launched our ground breaking report into premature mortality in autism, 'Personal tragedies, public crisis'. The response was unprecedented, with media coverage around the world and huge interest from policymakers, the autism community and health professionals. After a year of campaigning, many of our policy recommendations have now been adopted and we have spoken at high-profile meetings in the US and Europe calling for an urgent global response to the poor health and low life expectancy in autism.

We continue to be active members of the Advisory Group for the All Party Parliamentary Group for Autism advocating for families, so research findings are translated into the services that families need.

**Providing evidence-based information.** We had a powerful reaction to our early mortality report from parents and autistic individuals affected by epilepsy and mental health problems, two leading causes of death. In response to the huge numbers of families wanting answers, in December 2016 we launched two new information leaflets. These were circulated online to a large audience and distributed via 13,000 GPs to give families the information and reassurance that they need now, while we carry out the research that is so desperately needed.

Our CEO and Director of Science have appeared numerous times in mainstream and specialist media talking about autism research. We continue to work closely with the Science Media Centre and Sense About Science to provide scientific comment on autism-related news pieces, tackling myths and fake treatments, and increasing the accuracy of media coverage.

**Raising the profile of research.** We work tirelessly to highlight the value of autism research to individuals and families. We launched a campaign in March 2017 for World Autism Awareness Day: 'Help Us Find Answers'. To support the campaign, we carried out a parent survey showing that the majority of parents felt forced to try non-proven treatments to help their child, with 90% stating that research was the only thing that could give them the answers they need.

We're hugely grateful to our media case studies and our celebrity supporters, including Jane Asher, Kathy Lette, Rory Bremner and Gethin Jones, who help us reach out to more families.



## How We Funded Our Work

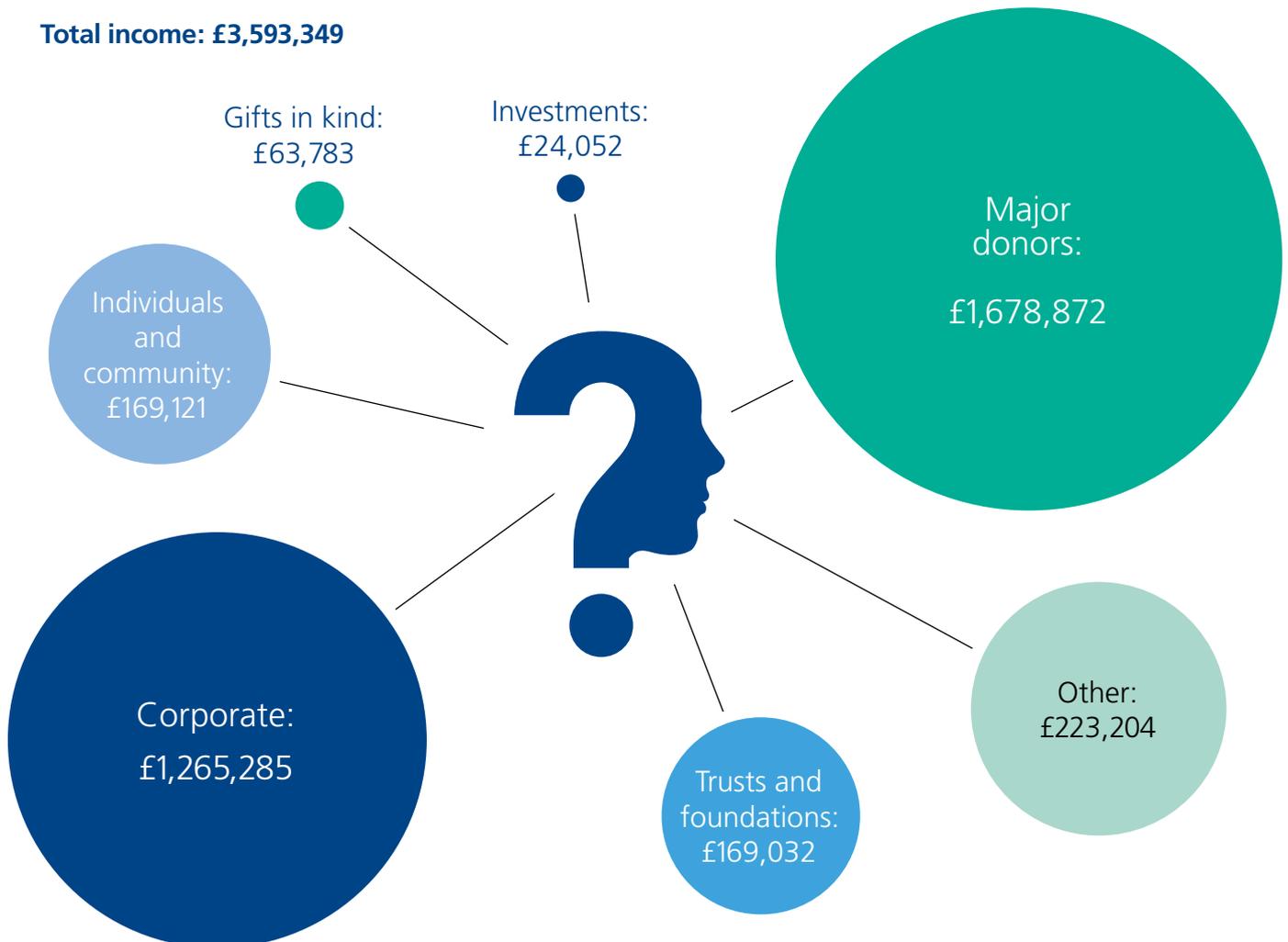
Despite an ever tougher financial and regulatory climate, this has been a year like no other for Autistica's fundraising. We have raised more than ever before for autism research, increasing our income over 400% to a record £3.59m. Our strategic and donor-led fundraising approach sets us on a path to continued growth.

**Corporate partnerships.** Our partnership with Deutsche Bank has generated more than any previous Deutsche Bank charity partner, with over £1.1 million raised this year for our lifesaving and life-changing work. But the relationship goes much deeper than fundraising: we have worked with Deutsche Bank's employees to speed up the pace of our research, bring autistic adults into employment and improve our internal processes. DB's Chief Technology Office helped Autistica develop prototypes for the first ever smartphone app to treat anxiety in autism, which we hope will be available by the end of 2017 to help autistic people manage this paralysing condition. Many other corporate partners and trusts maintained or increased their incredible support. We were delighted to develop a number of new corporate relationships, particularly in finance and technology, with many companies also interested to work with Autistica on improving autistic employment, following our hugely successful internship scheme at Deutsche Bank.

**Individual giving.** Autistica's major donors have joined our call to transform the future for autistic people and we were overjoyed to receive our first million-pound and £500,000 gifts, in addition to other significant donations. Our Catalyst Giving Club will aim to continue this growth in major gifts. Supporters across the UK continued to support us with regular donations and by taking on challenge events including marathons, abseils and cycle races. We engaged our community in raising funds to find much needed answers about autism through our Radio 4 Appeal with Ruby Wax and our online campaigns and appeals. Our neuro-diversity-themed art exhibition, An Infinitely Beautiful Mind, during Frieze 2016, saw autistic artists exhibited and celebrated alongside neurotypical artists.

We end the year with more donors giving more than ever before for autism research. We receive no government funding so we want to thank everyone who has given this invaluable support.

### Total income: £3,593,349



## Looking Ahead

Thanks to the incredible support of donors, researchers and the community we serve, Autistica has undergone major growth in the past year. But we cannot rest on our laurels: we are the only national charity dedicated to changing lives through autism research and the scale of the challenge remains enormous.

Our new science strategy, informed by the findings of the James Lind Alliance partnership and the latest evidence on mortality, will be published in late 2017. We will map UK autism spend and set up an international collaboration to compare spending and priorities across the countries investing the most in autism research.

We remain dedicated to ensuring that we get the greatest return for every pound donated, and wherever possible leverage further investment on the work that we fund. Working in partnership with an expanded group of funders, including those outside the UK, will continue to be a major priority for us in 2017–18.

A new focus will be launching the UK autism research network, a unique collaboration bringing together the entire autism community to drive a step-change in research. Autistic people and their families will be at its core, driving the research agenda, increasing recruitment into trials and accessing the latest science.

As well as further investment in our flagship scientific programmes, we have a number of world-class research projects launching through 2017-18, including studies of mental health and global summits on priority topics. Our third Call for Proposals will be held this year, focusing on language and communication. We will make major new investments in suicide and epilepsy research, following our mortality report and campaign. New Fellowships will support the rising stars of research and grow capacity in twenty-first-century scientific skills like data science.

We will invest in growing our influence and profile nationally through communications, policy and lobbying. Our PR and public affairs work will push autism research up the political and media agendas, developing our policy work on preventing early deaths in autism, lobbying on improved mental healthcare for autistic people and highlighting the need for evidence-based practice in autism care.

Our fundraising strategy is intended to drive significant growth for the charity, bringing in new supporters and ensuring our customer service is exemplary, so that we maximise the funds available for autism research while adhering to the new regulations around data protection and fundraising.



Autistic people, family members and professionals prioritising autism research questions.

## Public Benefit and Impact

The Trustees have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in relation to the charity's aims and objectives. The Trustees consider it important to demonstrate to supporters and others interested in our work that the research we have funded will support medical progress and enhance understanding.

People with autism and their families are at the heart of our Research Strategy and embedded within our wider governance processes. Our overarching aim by doing so is to improve outcomes, giving longer, healthier and happier lives to all autistic people. The Research Strategy drew from the findings of two important consultations that were published in 2013: Autistica's own One in a Hundred report and A Future Made Together published by the Institute of Education. The latter highlighted three key areas that needed to be addressed:

- greater investment in under-researched areas
- the need for strategic partnerships
- putting people with autism at the heart of the research process.

Autistica is leading the response to each of these areas. People with autism and family members play an active role on our Science Advisory Group, the Scientific Review Panel and the Advisory Boards, which oversee our work. Both our Ageing with Autism programme and our Mental Health in Autism programme are supported by the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR), building on their investment in the Biomedical Research Centres for Ageing and Mental Health.

We know how important it is that scarce resources are deployed on research that is not just important to families, but is also of the highest quality, internationally competitive and does not inappropriately duplicate investment made elsewhere. As a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities, we are committed to the highest possible standards of research governance and independent peer review underscores all the research that we fund. In addition to the Scientific Review Panel, which scores and deliberates on all research proposals, we are fortunate to benefit from independent strategic advice from the Science Advisory Group, drawing on world-leading experts in neurological conditions, including autism.

Autistica is regulated by the Fundraising Regulator and a proud member of the Fundraising Standards Board. We are committed to best practice in fundraising and customer service.

*“Autism remains one of the UK’s most expensive medical conditions, costing over £32 billion each year, largely in adult care and lost earnings. We must do more to fund research to improve individuals’ quality of life and mental well-being and help remove barriers to work and education such as anxiety and depression.”*

**Professor Martin Knapp, The London School of Economics and Political Science**

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# Structure, Governance and Management

## How we are governed

Autistica was registered as a charity in December 2004 and its governing document is its Memorandum and Articles of Association, which were adopted on 20 July 2004. Autistica is incorporated under the Companies Act 2006 as a company limited by guarantee having no share capital. For the purposes of this Act, the Chair and other Trustees (none of whom receives any remuneration) are the directors of the company. A full list of Trustees, together with other legal and administrative information can be found at the front of this report.

On 31 March 2017, there were eight members of our Trustee Board. Trustees may serve for up to two terms of three years and are appointed in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association. David Morgan stood down following two terms on the Board in July 2016 and Alison Hardy resigned from the Board in September 2016. The Board approved the appointment of Jeff Saul in April 2016 and Michael Earl in October 2016. The Board of Trustees meets formally four times a year and additionally relies on a number of Board sub-committees to provide further oversight of the work of the charity (see inside back cover), which are each chaired by a Trustee. All key decisions, including the allocation of funds for research, are taken at full meetings of the Trustee Board.

The following issues are addressed by the Trustees during the year:

- reviewing progress on a five-year strategic plan
- agreeing and monitoring an annual business and financial plan
- the award of all grants for research
- the risks the charity is facing in delivering its plans
- the impact of the charity's work.

Each year the skills and expertise required within the Trustee Board are reviewed to help the charity deliver its objectives. If gaps are identified or a vacancy occurs, new Trustees with the appropriate skills and experience are identified. All Trustees are offered a full induction when they join and Trustee training is available to keep Trustees up to date with the environment in which the charity operates.



## How we are managed

The Chief Executive is responsible to the Board of Trustees for the management of the charity. The Director of Science and Fundraising Director report to the Chief Executive. Remuneration for senior staff is set at market rates and reviewed annually by the Remuneration Committee.

The administrative offices of the charity are in Southwark.

## Risk management

The Trustees formally consider the major risks faced by the charity as part of a risk management strategy that comprises:

- an annual review of the risks faced by the charity in delivering its plans
- the establishment of systems and procedures to manage those risks identified in the review
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential negative impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

The charity has identified a number of key risks this year, including generating sufficient donations to cover planned investment in research as well as the core costs of the charity, the need to improve our digital communications, the impact of Brexit on the UK autism science base and the need for better national coordination across autism research. New investments in fundraising, policy and communications put us in a strong position to grow income and influence. We continue to actively seek new partnerships within and beyond autism science and build pro bono support to increase capacity.

## Reserves

The Trustees review the reserve policy annually and consider the charity should hold free reserves of approximately £400,000 (2015-16 – £200,000) to cover six months' operating costs in the event of a significant reduction in planned income.

At 31 March 2017, the charity had free reserves (excluding designated funds) of £811,355 (2015/16 – £188,844).

## Investments

Free reserves and other surplus cash are held in interest-bearing deposit accounts with authorised UK deposit takers or in regulated money market funds, with a maximum of two months' operating costs held in instant access accounts, or the current account when required.

A maximum of 15% of total cash or £250,000, whichever is lower, can be held in interest-bearing deposit accounts with authorised UK deposit takers which benefit from the government guarantee scheme (currently up to £75,000).

A maximum of 50% of total cash or £1,000,000, whichever is lower, can be held in regulated money market funds with an AAA rating from Fitch and/or Standard & Poor's, provided that the funds offer instant, or close to instant, access.

Investments are reviewed by the Finance Committee, which meets four times a year, and Trustees are advised of any recommended changes at full meetings of the Trustee Board.

## Approval

The report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities', and in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to smaller entities.

The Trustees' Report and Financial Statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 27th July 2017.

On behalf of the Board



**James Lowe**  
**Honorary Treasurer**

Date: 27 July 2017

# Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

## Statement of disclosure to auditors

The trustees (who are also directors of Autistica for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report (including the Strategic Report) and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102)
- make judgements and 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
- prepare the financial statements on the going-concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable 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 charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.



**Edward Chandler**  
Chair of Trustees

Date: 27 July 2017

# Independent Auditor's Report to the Members

We have audited the financial statements of Autistica for the period ended 31 March 2017, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

## Respective responsibilities of Trustees and auditors

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

## Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charitable company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Trustees; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we need all the financial and non-financial information in the Trustees' Strategic Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications of our report.

## Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2017 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the period then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

## Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report (including the Strategic Report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

## Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements and the Report of the Trustees in accordance with the small companies regime.

## Michelle Wilkes (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of **Wilkins Kennedy LLP**,

## Statutory Auditor

Chartered Accountants  
Greytown House, 221–227 High Street  
Orpington, Kent BR6 0NZ

Date: 27 July 2017



# Financials

# Statement of Financial Activities, including Income and Expenditure

for the year ending 31 March 2017

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year ending 31 March 2017 Total Funds £	15 Months ending 31 March 2016 Total Funds £
<b>INCOME FROM:</b>					
Donations	2	2,772,495	796,802	3,569,297	699,729
Investment income		24,052	-	24,052	5,402
<b>Total income</b>		<b>2,796,547</b>	<b>796,802</b>	<b>3,593,349</b>	<b>705,131</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>					
<b>Costs of raising funds</b>					
Costs of generating donations	3	475,528	-	475,528	312,633
Cost of events	3	44,153	-	44,153	73,907
		<b>519,681</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>519,681</b>	<b>386,540</b>
<b>Expenditure on charitable activities</b>					
Grants for medical research	4	735,321	153,893	889,214	304,929
Medical research dissemination	4	203,243	-	203,243	186,997
		<b>938,564</b>	<b>153,893</b>	<b>1,092,457</b>	<b>491,926</b>
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>1,458,245</b>	<b>153,893</b>	<b>1,612,138</b>	<b>878,466</b>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR</b>		1,338,302	642,909	1,981,211	(173,335)
<b>Transfer between funds</b>	13, 14	41,709	(41,709)	-	-
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		1,380,011	601,200	1,981,211	(173,335)
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		<b>188,844</b>	<b>42,586</b>	<b>231,430</b>	<b>404,765</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>1,568,855</b>	<b>643,786</b>	<b>2,212,641</b>	<b>231,430</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.  
All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing operations.

# Comparative Statement of Financial Activities, including Income and Expenditure

for the period ending 31 March 2016

	15 Months ending 31 March 2016 Unrestricted Funds £	15 Months ending 31 March 2016 Restricted Funds £	15 Months ending 31 March 2016 Total Funds £
<b>INCOME FROM:</b>			
Donations	545,375	154,354	699,729
Investment income	5,402		5,402
<b>Total income</b>	<b>550,777</b>	<b>154,354</b>	<b>705,131</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>			
<b>Costs of raising funds</b>			
Costs of generating donations	312,633	-	312,633
Cost of events	73,907	-	73,907
	<b>386,540</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>386,540</b>
<b>Expenditure on charitable activities</b>			
Grants for medical research	241,925	63,004	304,929
Medical research dissemination	186,997	-	186,997
	428,922	63,004	491,926
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>815,462</b>	<b>63,004</b>	<b>878,466</b>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR</b>	(264,685)	91,350	(173,335)
<b>Transfer between funds</b>	(353,998)	353,998	-
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>	(618,683)	445,348	(173,335)
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<b>807,527</b>	<b>(402,762)</b>	<b>404,765</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>188,844</b>	<b>42,586</b>	<b>231,430</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.  
All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing operations.

# Balance Sheet

as at 31 March 2017

	Notes	£	2017 £	£	2016 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	8		7,556		8,213
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors - amounts falling due within one year	9	926,898		57,325	
Current asset investment	10	88,034		86,818	
Cash at bank		2,026,777		566,855	
		<b>3,041,709</b>		<b>710,998</b>	
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10, 11	<b>(557,063)</b>		<b>(335,112)</b>	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			<b>2,484,646</b>		<b>375,886</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			2,492,202		384,099
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	11, 12		(279,561)		(152,669)
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			<b>2,212,641</b>		<b>231,430</b>
<b>RESERVES</b>					
Unrestricted funds – general	12, 13		811,355		188,844
Designated funds	12, 13		757,500		-
Restricted funds	13, 14		643,786		42,586
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<b>2,212,641</b>		<b>231,430</b>

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 27 July 2017 and signed on behalf of the Board



James Lowe

Honorary Treasurer

Company Registration Number: 05184164

# Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ending 31 March 2017

	Notes	2017 £	2016 £
<b>NET CASH (OUTFLOW)/INFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	15, 16	<b>1,441,130</b>	<b>(373,259)</b>
<b>CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets		(4,044)	(12,666)
Interest received		24,052	5,402
<b>Net cash flow from investing activities</b>		<b>20,008</b>	<b>(7,264)</b>
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>1,461,138</b>	<b>(380,523)</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2016</b>		<b>653,673</b>	<b>1,034,196</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2017</b>		<b>2,114,811</b>	<b>653,673</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents consists of:</b>			
Cash at bank and in hand		2,026,777	566,855
Current asset investment		88,034	86,818
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 31 MARCH 2017</b>		<b>2,114,811</b>	<b>653,673</b>

# Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ending 31 March 2017

## 1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### a Basis of preparation

Autistica is a company limited by guarantee in the United Kingdom. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are set out on page 5.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2016, the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 31 March 2017.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

### b Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations and grants receivable are included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.

Investment income is accounted for when received. Tax recoverable on investment income is accounted for on a receivable basis.

Other income is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.

Gifts in kind and donated services are included at the open market value of the goods or services provided.

### c Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Raising funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes expenditure associated with grants for medical research and medical research dissemination. Grants payable are accounted for at the point that either conditions or receipt have been satisfied or the post being funded if filled.

### d Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

The designated fund balance has been represented to ensure that fund balance stated accurately reflects the designation policy adopted by the Management Committee.

### e Tangible fixed assets

All assets costing over £5,000 are capitalised. Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives as follows:

- |                                |     |               |
|--------------------------------|-----|---------------|
| - Computer equipment           | 33% | straight line |
| - Other equipment and fittings | 25% | straight line |

### f Debtors and creditors receivable/payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

## g Leasing commitments

Assets acquired under finance leases are capitalised and depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and the expected useful life of the asset. Minimum lease payments are apportioned between the finance charge and the reduction of the outstanding lease liability using the effective interest method. The related obligations, net of future finance charges, are included in creditors.

Rentals payable and receivable under operating leases are charged to the SoFA on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

## h Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

## i Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The following judgements (apart from those involving estimates) have been made in the process of applying the above accounting policies that have had the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements:

### *Useful economic lives of tangible assets*

The annual depreciation charge for tangible assets is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are re-assessed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimates, based on technological advancement, future investments, economic utilisation and the physical condition of the assets. See note 8 for the carrying amount of the tangible fixed assets, and note 1(e) for the useful economic lives for each class of assets.

### *Bad debts*

Debtors are regularly reviewed for recoverability, any debts which in the opinion of trustees are not recoverable are provided for as a specific bad debt.

There are no key assumptions concerning the future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

2 INCOME	2017	2016
	£	£
Donations	2,606,622	270,899
Gifts in kind	63,783	74,304
Challenge events	83,153	98,442
Ticketed events	18,937	101,730
Unrestricted income	2,772,495	545,375
Restricted donations	796,802	154,354
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>3,569,297</b>	<b>699,729</b>
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
	£	£
<b>Gifts in Kind</b>		
Costs of generating donations	45,440	355
Costs of activities for generating funds, challenge events	268	-
Charitable activities, website	-	22,638
Charitable activities, disseminating information on autism and autism research	8,694	15,289
Administrative support costs, office expenses	8,500	12,754
Administrative support costs, professional development	1,150	2,000
Administrative support costs, rent	-	21,000
	<b>64,052</b>	<b>74,736</b>

The above activities were organised by the charity. Income from activities organised by individuals and donated to the charity are included in voluntary income.

# Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ending 31 March 2017

3 COST OF RAISING FUNDS		2017	2016
		£	£
<b>Costs of Generating Donations</b>			
Website, database, literature and PR costs		7,786	4,356
Other fund raising expenses		144,595	30,761
Allocation of administrative support costs (note 6)		54,991	64,579
Staff costs (note 7)		268,156	212,937
		<u>475,528</u>	<u>312,633</u>
<b>Cost of Events</b>			
		<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
		£	£
Challenge events costs		8,812	11,343
Other event costs		20,870	45,570
Allocation of administrative support costs (note 6)		14,471	16,994
		<u>44,153</u>	<u>73,907</u>
4 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES		2017	2016
	Unrestricted	Restricted	
	£	£	£
			£
<b>Grants for medical research:</b>			
James Lind Alliance:			
Autism Top 10 research priorities	-	2,610	2,610
University of Warwick			11,767
Mental Health – ESRC Fellowship	-	500	500
The Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience			7,500
Mental Health – Anxiety Toolkit	-	-	-
Wellcome / SAC / Other	-	-	-
Website	-	-	-
Cambridge University, Vulnerability to mental health in Autism	40,000	-	40,000
Plymouth University			-
Early intervention – SAFE intervention	51,647	33,900	85,547
Bangor University			-
Early intervention – Incredible Years	70,247	79,700	149,947
Bedford University – A stigma protection intervention for caregivers of children in autism	29,200	2,000	31,200
University College London – Deutsche bank workplace internship	8,735	-	8,735
The Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience			-
ARCH Seminar Series	500	-	500
Newcastle University – International summit to synthesise and translate research priorities and prevent suicide in autism	13,880	5,070	18,950
Newcastle University – Personalised non-pharmacological anxiety treatment – Ageing project 3	258,638	-	258,638
Kings College London – Health and disease conference – Neurodevelopmental disorders Inaugural symposium	5,000	-	5,000
Coventry University – Psychological autopsies	87,431	-	87,431
Autism Clinical Research Network		11,214	11,214
Governance costs (note 5)	22,276	-	22,276
Grant Administration costs (note 6)	53,887	6,892	60,779
Staff costs (note 7)	93,880	12,007	105,887
<b>Total Grant Expenditure</b>	<u>735,321</u>	<u>153,893</u>	<u>889,214</u>
Research Dissemination	75,081	-	75,081
Governance costs (note 5)	22,275	-	22,275
Staff costs (note 7)	105,887	-	105,887
<b>Total Charitable Expenditure</b>	<u>938,564</u>	<u>153,893</u>	<u>1,092,457</u>

<b>5 GOVERNANCE COSTS 2017 2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
External audit	8,520	9,313
Trustees' liability insurance	2,791	3,216
Consultancy & recruitment costs	4,146	3,220
Other governance costs	960	12,178
Allocation of administrative support costs (note 6)	14,471	16,994
Staff costs (note 7)	13,663	28,940
	<u>44,551</u>	<u>73,861</u>

No Trustees were paid during this period. No Trustees received reimbursements.  
Governance costs were allocated equally against Grants and Dissemination expenditure in Charitable Activities.

<b>6 ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT COSTS</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Telephone	6,984	5,689
IT Expenditure	12,399	9,543
Stationery, copying, postage and other office expenses	11,228	13,891
Staff recruitment and professional development	30,954	43,357
Rent and office move	27,000	44,483
Depreciation	4,701	6,671
Other	17,129	5,181
Staff costs (note 7)	34,317	41,129
Total support costs	<u>144,712</u>	<u>169,944</u>

These are divided:

Generating donations 38% (note 3) (2016: 38%)	54,991	64,579
Events 10% (note 3) (2016: 10%)	14,471	16,994
Charitable activities 42% (£3,488 restricted expenditure (2016 £30,069)) (note 4) (2016: 42%)	60,779	71,377
Corporate governance 10% (note 5) (2016: 10%)	14,471	16,994
	<u>144,712</u>	<u>169,944</u>

<b>7 STAFF COSTS</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Salaries	474,043	414,122
Social security costs	53,867	42,843
	<u>527,910</u>	<u>456,965</u>
These are allocated:		
Generating donations (note 3)	268,156	212,937
Charitable activities (£4,249 is restricted expenditure (2016 £39,520)) (note 4)	211,774	173,959
Corporate governance (note 5)	13,663	28,940
Administration – support costs (note 6)	34,317	41,129
	<u>527,910</u>	<u>456,965</u>

The charity employed 15 full-time and 1 part-time staff members during the year to 31 March 2017 (2016: 9 full-time and 1 part-time).  
Staff costs are allocated between the various activities according to time spent.

The amounts disclosed above include the following number of highly paid employees:

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
	<b>no.</b>	<b>no.</b>
£60,000-£70,000	1	1
£70,000-£80,000	-	1
£80,000-£90,000	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

The 2016 figures include the outgoing and incoming CEOs. The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel is £235,971 (2016 – £193,922). The Trust considers its key management personnel to comprise those individuals listed on page 2.

# Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ending 31 March 2017

## 8 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer Equipment	Other equipment and fittings	Total
	£	£	£
<b>COST</b>			
At 1 April 2016	13,167	8,382	21,549
Additions	2,760	1,284	4,044
As at 31 March 2017	<u>15,927</u>	<u>9,666</u>	<u>25,593</u>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>			
At 1 April 2016	8,564	4,772	13,336
Charge for the year	3,111	1,590	4,701
As at 31 March 2017	<u>11,675</u>	<u>6,362</u>	<u>18,037</u>
Net book value at 31 March 2017	<u>4,252</u>	<u>3,304</u>	<u>7,556</u>
Net book value at 31 March 2016	<u>4,603</u>	<u>3,610</u>	<u>8,213</u>

## 9 DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2017	2016
	£	£
Other debtors	890,714	38,361
Accrued donations	-	5,068
Prepayments and accrued income	36,184	13,896
	<u>926,898</u>	<u>57,325</u>

## 10 CURRENT ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2017	2016
	£	£
Short term deposits	88,034	86,818
	<u>88,034</u>	<u>86,818</u>

Short term deposits have an original maturity of 100 days, an average maturity at the balance sheet date of 100 days and an average interest rate of 1.4%

## 11 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2017	2016
	£	£
Trade creditors	33,917	1,308
Other creditors	6,391	-
Grant commitments	489,784	322,716
Accruals and deferred income	26,971	11,088
	<u>557,063</u>	<u>335,112</u>

12 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR		2017	2016
Grant commitments (see table below)		£ 279,561	£ 152,669
		<b>Less than 1 year £</b>	<b>More than 1 year £</b>
At 1 April 2016		322,716	152,669
Transfers		47,891	(47,891)
Grant commitments		511,165	174,783
Paid in year		(391,988)	-
As at 31 March 2017		<u>489,784</u>	<u>769,345</u>
			<b>Total £</b>
			475,385
			-
			685,948
			(391,988)
			769,345

13 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS					
	Balances	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balances
	£	£	£	£	c/f £
Designated Funds	-	-		757,500	757,500
General unrestricted funds	188,844	2,796,547	(1,458,245)	(715,791)	811,355
	<u>188,844</u>	<u>2,796,547</u>	<u>(1,458,245)</u>	<u>41,709</u>	<u>1,568,855</u>

Designated funds – £25,000 Epilepsy Summit, £20,000 Social Care Scoping, MQ Fellow £112,500, Mental Health Call £600,000

14 RESTRICTED FUNDS					
	Balances	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balances
	b/f £	£	£	£	c/f £
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
James Lind Alliance:					
Autism Top 10 research priorities	14,086	-	(2,975)	(11,111)	-
University of Newcastle ASD-UK Research Database		17,932	-	(17,932)	-
University of Newcastle					
Autistica Centre for Ageing with Autism – Project 2	-	17,700	-	(17,700)	-
The Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience					
Autistica/Sackler Fellowships	-	8,000	-	(8,000)	-
University of Warwick					
Mental Health – ESRC Fellowship	-	500	(570)	70	-
The Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience					
Mental Health – Anxiety Toolkit	-	5,500	-	(5,500)	-
Plymouth University					
Early intervention – SAFE intervention	8,500	25,400	(38,646)	4,746	-
Bangor University					
Early intervention – Incredible Years	20,000	59,700	(90,858)	11,158	-
The University of Bedfordshire					
Early intervention – Stigma prevention	-	2,000	(2,280)	280	-
Autism Clinical Research Network	-	600,000	(12,784)	1,570	588,786
Epilepsy summit	-	55,000	-	-	55,000
Suicide summit	-	5,070	(5,780)	710	-
Total restricted funds	<u>42,586</u>	<u>796,802</u>	<u>(153,893)</u>	<u>(41,709)</u>	<u>643,786</u>

Restricted funds are funds where the donor has specified the funds must be spent on a particular project as listed above. All of these grants represent either programme grants for autism research at a particular institution or where specified fellowships are awarded for the purposes of supporting individuals engaged in autism research.

# Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ending 31 March 2017

15 ANALYSIS OF NET FUNDS	General	Restricted	Total	2016
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	7,556	-	7,556	8,213
Debtors	36,184	890,714	926,898	57,325
Cash at bank	1,592,395	522,417	2,114,812	653,673
Liabilities	(67,280)	(769,345)	(836,625)	(487,781)
	<u>1,568,855</u>	<u>643,786</u>	<u>2,212,641</u>	<u>231,430</u>

16 RECONCILIATION OF NET EXPENDITURE TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	2017	2016
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure)	1,981,211	(173,335)
Bank interest	(24,052)	(5,402)
Depreciation charges	4,701	6,672
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(869,573)	(7,214)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	348,843	(193,980)
Net cash flow from operating activities	<u>1,441,130</u>	<u>(373,259)</u>

## 17 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions during the period to 31 March 2017 (2016: £NIL).

## 18 GUARANTEE

Autistica is a company limited by guarantee. Its Memorandum of Association prohibits any income or property of the company being paid or transferred to the members. Members of the company undertake to contribute a maximum of £1 to cover its liabilities.

## 19 LEASE COMMITMENTS

The charity had the following commitments under operating leases at the year end:

	2017	2016
	£	£
Due within one year	27,000	27,000
Due in 2-5 years	20,250	47,250
	<u>47,250</u>	<u>74,250</u>

# Board of Trustees: Advisory Committees

## Board Committees

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### Finance and Fundraising Committee

**Chair: James Lowe**

Edward Chandler

Gill Ackers

Jeff Saul

### Nominations Committee

**Chair: Edward Chandler**

Gill Ackers

James Lowe

## Advisory Committees

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### Policy and Communications Advisory Board

**Chair: Dr Michael Fitzpatrick**

Marianne Atterbury

Sandy Starr

Sally Bercow

Matt Davis

### Scientific Review Panel

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**Chair: Professor Terry Brugha MD (NUI), FRCPsych**

**Vice Chair: Professor Christopher Oliver BSc, MPhil, PhD, CPsychol.**

Professor Dermot Bowler, PhD

Professor Mark Brosnan, PhD, CPsychol

Professor Christine Freitag, Med, Dipl, Theol

Professor Lucy Henry, DPhil, DClInPsych

Dr Catherine Jones, PhD

Professor Jonathan Mill, PhD

Professor Courtenay Norbury, PhD

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