



Annual report and accounts

For the year ending 31 March 2018

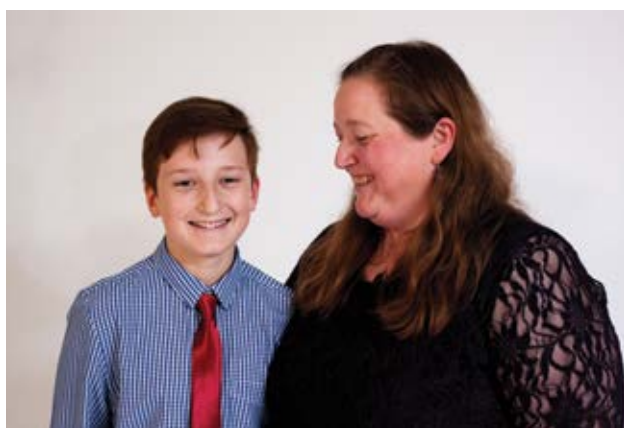
AUTISTICA

Building brighter futures through autism research



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Honorary Roles and Charity Management

Honorary Roles

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Michael Earl

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Jeff Saul

Vinny Smith (joined July 2017)

Professor Eric Taylor

Honorary Treasurer James Lowe

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Professor Patrick Bolton FRCPsych

Professor Patricia Howlin FBPS

Professor Dr Andreas Meyer-Lindberg

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Carol Povey

Jude Ragan OBE

Professor Paul Stallard

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Director of Science

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Company registration no.

1107350

Charity registration no.

05184164

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 every autistic person. Since our foundation, 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 and AASC databases and the Autism Brain Bank. We fund leading scientists and rising stars at top universities across the UK, including Cambridge, UCL, Newcastle, King's College London, Plymouth, Bangor, Birmingham and Nottingham.

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 autistic people. We keep the composition of the board and executive team under regular review and constantly seek ways of ensuring that the voice of the autism community, in all its facets, is clearly heard and that it informs all our discussions around the board table.

In 2017-18, we proudly launched Discover, the UK's new national autism research network, which brings together families, autistic adults, researchers, clinicians and charities to accelerate autism science nationally. Over 5000 people joined Discover in less than six months and more than 20 universities are now members. Discover's new 100-strong Autism Insight Group is made up of autistic people and parents who help develop new research ideas, provide real-life insights and experiences and test new products like our anxiety app. We announced our first ever Discover autistic-led grants scheme backed by autism philanthropist Charles Sharland. Our Global Summits on epilepsy, mental health and physical health across the lifespan saw us co-creating innovative life-saving scientific ideas with our community and researchers.

Our new Research Strategy and Involvement Promise lays out our approach to changing lives through research, with autistic people and their families involved in everything we do. We delivered our second competitive Call for Proposals, funding new studies on anorexia, intolerance of uncertainty, and depression and anxiety in minimally verbal autistic people. We have now begun our third Call, this time seeking pilot studies on language and communication, the #2 priority of our community. We published our first study on autistic employment, launched our new clinical senate with representatives from the major Royal Colleges and further developed our working relationships with national and international research funders including the US Government, Simons Foundation, Wellcome Trust, Medical Research Council and National Institute for Health Research.

Following our globally influential report into premature death in autism, we lobbied successfully in Westminster, Scotland, the USA and Europe to push this crucial issue up the policy agenda, including making reducing preventable deaths the top government priority in the Autism Strategy and launching our autistic-led #NotOneSize campaign on mental health. We

secured a recommendation from NICE for GP autism registers and worked with NHS England and others to promote their adoption.

Our fundraising continued its impressive growth, including Year 2 of our multi-award-winning partnership with Deutsche Bank and our largest ever grant thanks to the Peter Sowerby Foundation to fund a globally leading study into autistic health-checks. We developed a host of new corporate relationships, particularly in tech, law and finance, and brought in large numbers of new community, individual and events supporters.

Autistica was proud to win several awards this year, including Fundraising Charity of the Year, Best Corporate Partnership, CEO of the Year and an ACEVO Fellowship. We said a fond farewell to Jude Ragan (Trustee) after six years on the Board bringing her deep understanding of the needs of autistic children and young people with complex needs. We wish her the very best for the future. In 2018-19, Autistica will continue to fund groundbreaking new science, expand our reach and influence through Discover and international partnerships, and improve lives through our policy campaigns. Our more integrated approach to fundraising and communications will build closer relationships with our donors and supporters, generating vital income and increasing engagement in autism science.

We look forward to working with all of our partners within autism and beyond to ensure every autistic person 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 autistic people in the UK and around the world.

Autistica is committed to working in partnership to achieve both a step change in the amount of resource 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 autistic people, 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.

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

Our vision is:

That every autistic person has a long, happy, healthy life.

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 autistic people, ensuring that services are evidence-based and research responds to the autism community's needs and desires

Three values guide our work and help us ensure that our funds always have maximum impact:

1. Our community is involved at all levels

Our research priorities are largely derived from the top ten questions for research as identified by autistic people

and their allies. We are already leaders in involvement but our new involvement strategy takes this to new heights. It ensures autistic people are involved during the full research cycle through dialogue between researchers, autistic people and families. This means research will have greater, faster impact for the people we serve.



2. We are confident in our vision and in autism research's capacity to change lives

We don't accept the life chances that autistic people currently face. When that meant facing up to the early deaths of autistic people, we campaigned worldwide to make this a research priority. Now we will fund vital studies to address this appalling inequality. We have clear ideas based on cutting-edge evidence and we fund innovative ideas and kick-start research in new areas. We make the right decisions, not the easy ones.

3. We collaborate with others

Progress is best made together. We work in partnership and want everyone to win. Autistica is working with international funders to develop autism research, including initiatives to understand global trends in funding for autism research. We proudly work with national and international research funders, and charities for autism, neurodevelopmental disability and mental health.

2017-18 Grant Commitments

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

1. World class research

Through a competitive Call for Proposals, we invested in new mental health studies at UCL, Newcastle and Birmingham and began our latest call on language and communication. Our first ever Future Leaders Awards were launched, backing the brightest rising stars of autism science. We kick-started new research priorities through collaborative Global Summits with autistic people, parents, doctors and scientists developing ideas together to tackle the biggest killers in autism: epilepsy, suicide, and physical health problems like heart disease and diabetes.

2. Outstanding environment

We unveiled Discover, the UK's autism research network. This strategic initiative will drive progress and accelerate research by fostering new collaborations between the community we serve and the academic world. Through Discover, autistic people and their loved ones can find out about the latest research findings, join new studies and even help design and deliver research themselves.

3. Innovative involvement

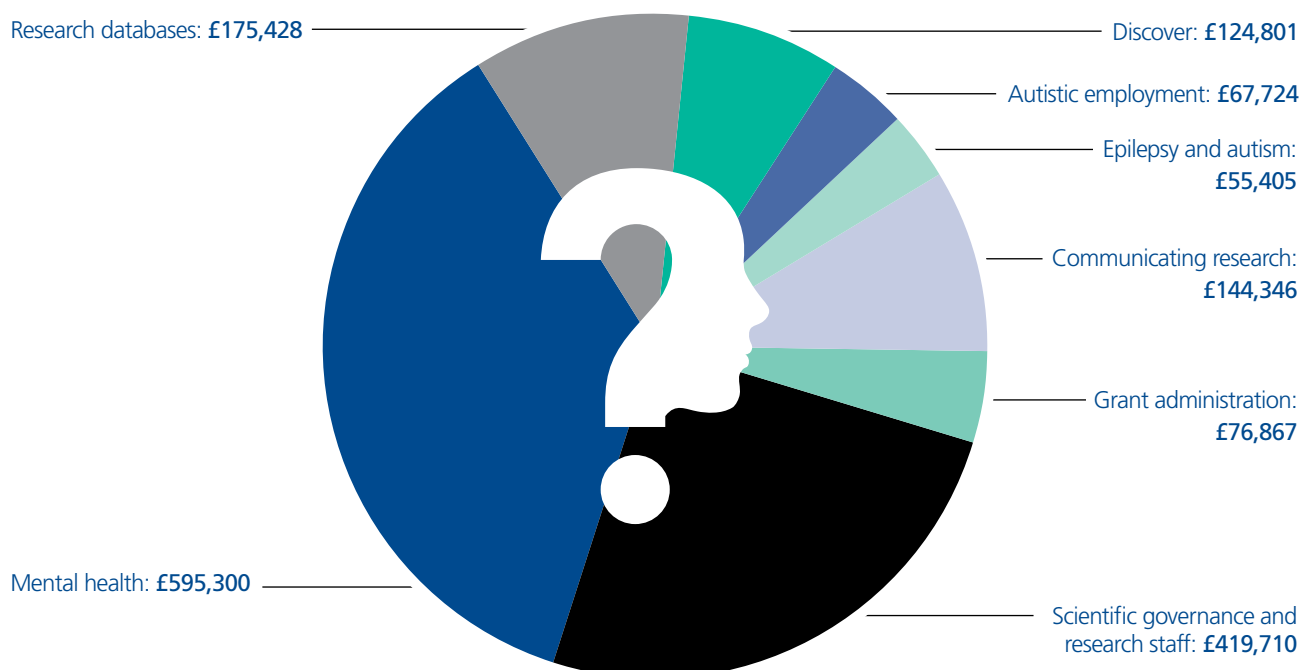
In 2017-18, we took our commitment to genuine community involvement to new heights, including an autistic-led grants scheme, world-leading engagement through Discover and our new Involvement Promise.

4. Clear focus

We're proud that our research priorities are set by our community, tackling the outcomes that matter most to you. In 2017-18, these were mental health and suicide; physical health; language and communication; and epilepsy.

As well as existing commitments in autism across the lifespan, mental health and early intervention, we spent £1.66m on our scientific work and laid the foundations for major new funding in 2018-19.

2017–18 Research Spend



2017-18 Highlights

Our Research

Autistica funds and advocates for world-class autism research which can lead to a long, happy, and healthy life for all. We 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 other medical research charities to achieve this mission.

Changing focus

To ensure scarce resources are focused on the most pressing issues faced by the people we serve, Autistica are 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, Autism Alliance UK and Autism Research Trust. These priorities formed the basis of a new research strategy published in 2017. Our strategy aims to transform the unacceptable outcomes which autistic people face by being both a funder of autism science and a catalyst for UK and global autism research.

Our new research strategy

Three years ahead of schedule, Autistica achieved the ambitious goals of our 2015-20 research strategy which promised to invest in research in three areas: early intervention, ageing and mental health. Our new strategy has built upon the success of its predecessor by enhancing our focus on involvement, following the priorities of the community we serve and accelerating progress within autism research.

@Fiona_Clarke_ "This new strategy sounds great. I wish there was a fast forward button, but in the meantime I am excited to have opportunities to be involved with the work of @AutisticaUK."

Fiona Clarke, Twitter

In our new strategy, we not only take responsibility for the funds we spend but for the success of wider autism research in the UK. We aim by 2021 to increase national autism research spending threefold and to have 20,000 autistic people engaged in research, including those often excluded such as women, adults and those with an intellectual disability.

Autistica's new vision has sharpened our research focus more than ever. We now fund research which improves outcomes and breaks new ground, we support future scientific leaders, and we are the leading organisation which drives autism research forward in the UK.

Improving outcomes

Each year we focus on an urgent community priority for autism research. We consider how we can implement evidence

through policy, communications and campaigns and begin the development of innovative, life-changing therapies through our annual Improving Outcomes call for proposals.

Mental health and suicide

The community's top priority for autism research is mental health. Mental health problems are very common in autism. Seven out of 10 autistic primary school aged children have a mental health problem and five out of 10 have an anxiety disorder. Thanks to our research database, we know that one of the reasons that autistic children get anxious is that they find it hard to tolerate uncertainty. Dealing with uncertainty can be so stressful that autistic children begin to avoid situations which are unpredictable such as going to school or social events. We are funding Dr Jacqui Rodgers at Newcastle University to help autistic children manage fear of uncertainty through an innovative psychotherapy tool.

Autistic adults want new treatments to address the chronic difficulties they face with anxiety. No single approach is likely to work, so we funded a project which acknowledges that different approaches are likely to work for different people. Dr Jeremy Parr at Newcastle University is developing a personalised intervention which offers a range of treatment options for autistic adults and will be tailored to the type of anxiety they are facing.

Autistic women are far more likely to develop anorexia than non-autistic women with more than one in five women with anorexia being autistic. We are funding Dr Will Mandy at University College London to understand why anorexia is different in autistic women and to break down the barriers that stop them getting the effective treatment they need.

Clinicians face substantial challenges understanding whether some autistic people with severe learning disability are in pain or experiencing depression or anxiety. It is critical for doctors to be able to make this assessment to improve physical and mental health and avoid early deaths. We are funding Professor Chris Oliver at the University of Birmingham to develop a new tool for doctors which will ensure that we can begin to give autistic people with severe learning disability better support.

Language and communication

For an autistic five-year-old, one of the best predictors of their life chances is their language and communication ability. Autistic people deserve the right to advocate for their own needs and to express themselves. That is why finding ways to improve language and communication is the second biggest research priority, according to autistic people and their allies.



We're hosting an open call for proposals, which will allow researchers on the theme of language and communication to develop pilot trials testing innovative therapies and improving knowledge in this area. The results will be announced in August 2018.

Breaking new ground

Many research areas have gone under-investigated because they are hard for individual researchers to solve and require a concerted multidisciplinary focus. To resolve this, we now hold strategic workshops so autistic people, allies, researchers and funders can develop proposals together and understand the quickest route to progress for all autistic people and their families. In the last year, we've held workshops on physical health and epilepsy, with meetings planned on environments and social care next year.

Physical Health

Autistic people are at risk of early death and experience poorer physical health than the general population in almost every area. We hosted a meeting on this vital but poorly understood issue to develop new cutting-edge study designs. You can read the results on our website and in the inaugural edition of the new journal *Autism in Adulthood*.

We're funding two of those ideas through one of our largest ever project grants, kindly supported by the Peter Sowerby Foundation. The study will investigate the effectiveness of healthchecks for autistic adults with the aid of a digital tool which will personalise the checks. We hope that a sensitively designed healthcheck can address the shocking rates of early death in autism and improve the physical and mental health of autistic people.

Epilepsy

Epilepsy is a leading cause of early death in autistic people with intellectual disability, acting as a major contributor to poor quality of life, physical health and mental health. The prevalence of epilepsy in autistic people is understood to be substantially higher than the general population. Epilepsy may also be different for autistic people and given the neurobiological links between autism and epilepsy, research to understand shared mechanisms could help us better understand both conditions and drive forward new treatments. Our workshop has led to the beginning of a strategic plan for this research area and Autistica will be using it as a platform to develop international strategic partnerships and investments.

Supporting future leaders

Science is the most powerful vehicle for change, but to drive that change, we need exceptional people. To build a bigger and better future generation of scientists, we are bridging the bottleneck in the career trajectory of scientists between leaving their PhD and becoming independent scientists. We do that by giving researchers their first step to independence through our inaugural Future Leaders Award scheme. Our first Future Leaders will be announced in 2018.

Driving research As the UK's leading autism research charity, we see it as our job to get research started. We have launched the Discover autism research network, a strategic hub for autism science in the UK to drive progress and kick-start research. One of the primary objectives of Discover will be to bring people together. For the first time, we will hold an annual science conference, alongside specialist meetings on priority research areas, to foster collaborations between researchers from different institutions as well as autistic people and their family members. We will use Discover to support partnerships between funders, both within the UK and globally.



Involving Autistic People and Families in Research

@slooterman I know I gush about @Autistica a lot, but I'm going to keep gushing about them as long as they keep leading the world in funding research that actually makes a difference in my life.

The Discover network

For research to become a true engine of change, we knew we needed to tackle multiple challenges in the academic and clinical systems. Autistic people had few opportunities to lead research directly. Early career autism scientists were poorly supported to develop their careers. Scientists were not incentivised or funded to address priorities of the autism community or genuinely involve autistic people in study design and supervision. Many trials failed because of a lack of suitable participants. We consulted with researchers and funders here and overseas to co-design a new nationwide research network aiming to solve these problems.

The Discover network was launched in September 2017 at the London Transport Museum, thanks to the generous support of Adrian Binks and Lisa Wood. We already have over 5,000 members across four categories: autistic people, family members /carers, professionals and researchers. We recruited a large proportion of these members via social media so many are new to Autistica and to autism science. Each group receives regular updates covering opportunities to take part in research or get research funding, updates on the latest studies, and notifications of campaigns and events led by Autistica. Since launching Discover, we've found research studies easier to fill and there has been more interest in our grant schemes, so Discover is doing precisely what we hoped – providing a platform for more inclusive, higher quality and more impactful research.

Autism Insight Group

We gave Discover members the chance to become more involved with our work by joining our Autism Insight Group. The Group provide feedback on research proposals and study designs from different researchers, campaign materials, survey designs and attend engagement events or act as media spokespeople. In return, members receive training and are compensated for their time. This is invaluable to ensure research is as high quality and inclusive as possible and everything we do is accessible, sensitive and reflective of community priorities.

Autism Study Groups

Discover members can also join new Autism Study Groups. Members of these ASGs commit to focus on a particular research area for three years. They are made up of people with personal experience of that topic as well as researchers and professionals. The groups meet twice a year and maintain contact virtually between meetings. These Groups will speed up research in four areas that matter most to autistic people and families: language and communication, mental health, physical health and complex needs.

Campaigning for change

Influencing global priorities

Despite considerable growth, we are still a relatively small charity with a limited research budget. This year, we developed a collaborative influencing strategy to align other, much larger funders, charities and government bodies with the voices of those we represent. Our new policy and campaigns function has influenced the UK and US governments to refocus policymaking and research investment on the community's priorities. Closing the life expectancy gap for autistic people is now the top priority for UK autism policy and a topic of intense interest on both sides of the Atlantic.

Mortality & mental health

Having been the first organisation in the world to reveal the mortality crisis facing autistic people, we've now taken the lead in tackling it. In November, we launched our "One Size Doesn't Fit All" policy campaign to address the lack of personalised mental health support for autistic people. This led MPs from all parties to vote for the Government and NHS England to develop effective and research-based mental health pathways, a project Ministers have confirmed is going ahead. The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) has worked with our research team to commission two new mental health studies.



Turning research into practical tools

Evidence-based guides

Following the success of our guides to mental health and epilepsy published last year, this year we published a guide for parents looking at the evidence base around language and communication in autism. This supported our campaign for World Autism Awareness Day: 'Give Autistic People a Voice'. Following our intervention, five out of the six English regions now include the latest evidence-based communication therapy in their local training programmes for health professionals.

An app to manage anxiety

Autistica commissioned research at King's College London, led by Professor Emily Simonoff, which centred around anxiety in autistic people. This research was turned into workbooks and manuals for use in the clinic. Interviews conducted after the research suggested that the books were helpful but raised the crucial point that having this information available anywhere, any time would radically increase its impact.

As a result, we're developing a smartphone app, 'Molehill Mountain', with the support of the Maudsley Charity to transform this research into an interactive, accessible and fun app for daily use for autistic young people and adults. The app launches in July 2018.

Communicating our work

New website

To coincide with the launch of the Discover network, we launched a totally revamped website. We started from scratch, carrying out extensive user research to understand our key audiences. We worked with autistic developers and testers to ensure that assumptions we made on content and layout were correct and evolved the design to reflect these findings. We now have a website that is much more accessible and encourages visitors not just to read but to get involved by registering for Discover or donating. The stats reflect this: we have far more website visitors and they are staying far longer on our site.

Discover lectures

As part of our drive to involve people in research around the country, we hosted a series of public engagement talks led by our research centres in Birmingham and London. These events were extremely popular with autistic people, family members, professionals and researchers. We plan to host more in 2018 thanks to the continued generous support of Terra Firma.

Really insightful talks into mental health and autism. Absolutely amazing work @AutisticaUK. You give us all hope.

London event guest

Champions

We are hugely grateful to the autistic people, family members, professionals and researchers who share and discuss our work online and in public. Your voices are invaluable in raising the profile of autism research.

Special thanks to our celebrity supporters who use their profile to support our work, especially Rory Bremner, Ken Bruce, Carrie and David Grant, JP Horsley, David Mitchell and Steve Silberman.

Being an opinion leader

In the press

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. Our CEO and Director of Science were quoted in over fifty national news stories and their conversations with journalists led to numerous misleading stories being dropped.



Funding Brighter Futures

In spite of another difficult year for charities of all sizes, Autistica has continued to benefit from the support of our dedicated and tireless donors. Our unique commitment to tackling the challenges that matter most to the people we serve remains our most powerful tool for attracting income. We were proud to be recognised with a number of fundraising awards this year, reflecting our leading status among small and medium sized charities.

Uniquely for an autism research organisation, Autistica commits to involving our community in how we design, develop and disseminate our research. This year, we brought together families, doctors and researchers to design a project to help us improve physical health for autistic people. We were hugely grateful for the support of the Peter Sowerby Foundation who are fully funding a world-first study into GP healthchecks for people on the autism spectrum. This grant is the largest Autistica has received and demonstrates the power of involving funders at the earliest stages as we conceive research.

The second and final year of our partnership with Deutsche Bank proved record breaking in many ways. With a total of £2.3 million raised for Autistica's work, we are the smallest charity partner in the scheme's history but raised the highest amount ever through this partnership. Our innovation in making the case for autism research within the bank and our involvement of staff in creating new tools to directly improve lives led us to win a series of awards.

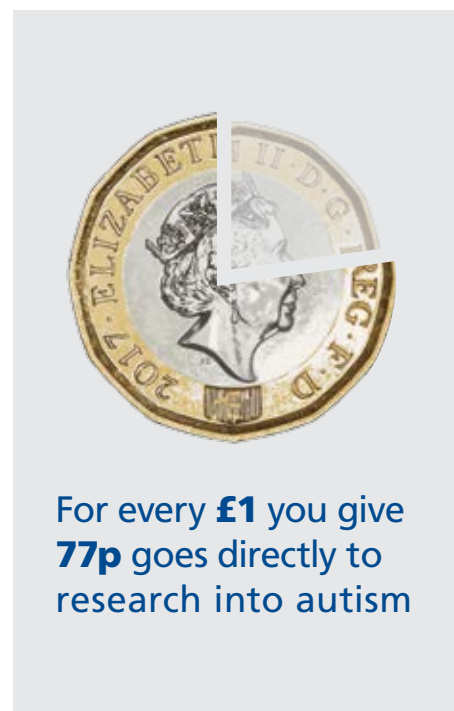
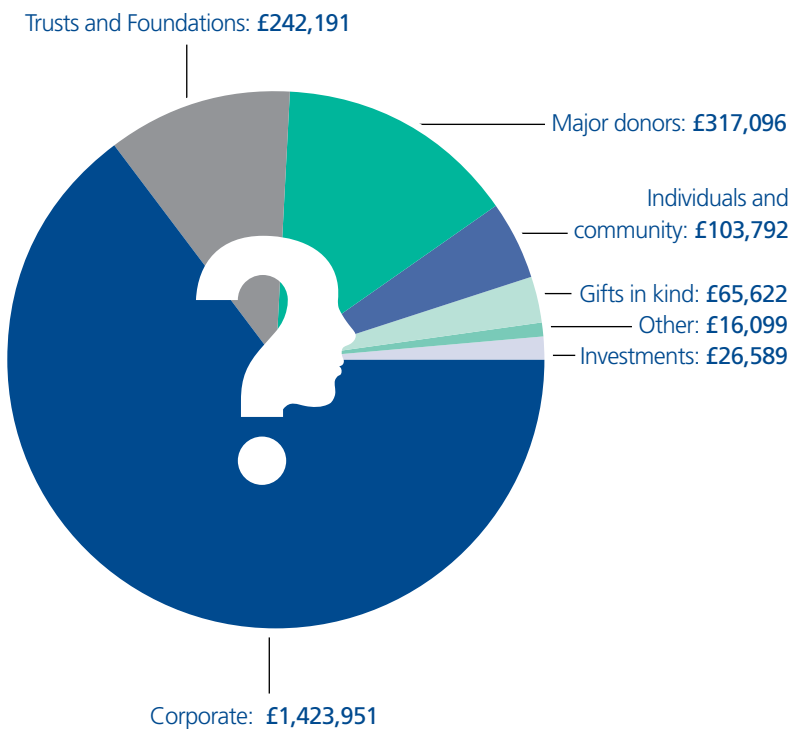
We were delighted to expand our corporate connections even further, including becoming the Berwin Leighton Paisner charity of the year and taking our growing work in tech solutions for autism to the gaming community to win a partnership with GamesAid.

Sustainability is vital for a small but ambitious cause like Autistica. A number of trusts, companies and major donors gave multi-year gifts this year reflecting their long-term belief in our mission and approach to improving lives. We increased our focus on relationships and demonstrating impact, including an all-staff thanking day to reach out to supporters of all kinds and securing a grant from the Pears Foundation to help us measure the impact of autism research.

We continued to grow our individual supporter base with more people than ever before running, cycling, abseiling and having fun to raise vital funds and awareness.

We receive no government funding so we want to thank everyone who has helped us to change and save lives this year.

Total income: £2,195,340



Looking Ahead

Thanks to the incredible support of our 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.

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 2018-19.

In the year ahead, we will:

- Invest at least £1.5m in autism research and involvement, including our first Future Leaders Awards, new language studies and our first autistic-led grant awards
- Further develop our Discover network, including delivering the first annual Discover conference and rolling out training for early career researchers
- Seek to build a coalition of funders for investment in autism and epilepsy research to get major new studies off the ground
- Launch our anxiety app to help autistic people struggling with their mental health
- Begin to build a global alliance of research funders, sharing our community-led approach so it is replicated around the world

- Roll out our new DARE initiative to increase the evidence base for autistic employment so more autistic people get into and stay in work
- Work with the Government and NHS to ensure your priorities are at the heart of the revised national adult autism strategy
- Continue campaigning to change the appalling rates of premature death among autistic people

Autistica punches way above its weight and is becoming a powerful force in autism research. As parents of an autistic son, we've supported them for many years. Their research has great real-world impact because they listen to, and work with, autistic people and their families

Lisa Wood



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.

Autistic people 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.

Autistic people 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. Through Discover, our autism research network, we provide mechanisms to involve autistic people and families in research as participants, advisers, co-designers and researchers. In 2018, we began a new project to better measure and report on the impact of our work, due for delivery in 2019.

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.

Our fundraising team works carefully with third parties who are experts in telephone and digital fundraising, and who feel as passionately about autism research as we do. Working with agencies allows us to raise vital funds in the most cost-effective way, and we closely manage the work they do on our behalf. Through our Privacy Policies, we promise to keep our supporters informed about our work and to treat their information with respect. Over the past year, we have worked with Stratcom, who provide telephone fundraising for us, and Copper, who carry out digital fundraising on our behalf.



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 2018, there were nine 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. The Board approved the appointment of Vinny Smith and John Carey in July 2017. Jude Ragan OBE stood down following two terms on the Board in January 2018. 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. In 2018, we began a search for autistic board apprentices to increase autistic involvement in governance.



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 Director of Fundraising 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 GDPR's impact on our ability to communicate with supporters, the effect of a post-Brexit economic downturn on income, cyber-security and improving national and international collaborations in autism research. Investment in GDPR compliance, 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 £500,000 (2016-17 – £400,000) to cover six months' operating costs with a contingency of £50,000 in the event of a significant reduction in planned income. At 31 March 2018, the charity had restricted reserves of £873,714 (2016-17 - £643,786).

There are funds of £814,000 designated at year-end to the following projects:

£400,000	Language and communication call for proposals
£214,000	Newcastle cohort database costs
£100,000	2018 Future Leader Award
£100,000	Discover recruitment and donor acquisition programme

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 2 August 2018.

On behalf of the Board



James Lowe
Honorary Treasurer
Date: 2 August 2018

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.

In so far 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: 2 August 2018

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Autistica for the year ended 31 March 2018 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, 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 and the charitable company's members as a, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2018, and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year 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 and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group and parent charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or

- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the group's or parent charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information; we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the trustees' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the trustees' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

- In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the group and parent charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report and the trustees' report.
- We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and sufficient accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

- As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 17, 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, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
- In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the group's and parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the group or the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

- Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

- A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.
- We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

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



Financials





Statement of Financial Activities, including Income and Expenditure

for the year ending 31 March 2018

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year ending 31 March 2018 Total Funds £	Year ending 31 March 2017 Total Funds £
INCOME FROM:					
Donations	2	1,611,951	556,800	2,168,751	3,569,297
Investment income		26,589		26,589	24,052
Total income		1,638,540	556,800	2,195,340	3,593,349
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Costs of raising funds					
Costs of generating donations	3	467,782	10,821	478,603	475,528
Cost of events	3	24,729	-	24,729	44,153
		492,511	10,821	503,332	519,681
Expenditure on charitable activities					
Grants for medical research	4	999,239	325,995	1,325,234	889,214
Medical research dissemination	4	334,347	-	334,347	203,243
		1,333,586	325,995	1,659,581	1,092,457
Total expenditure		1,826,097	336,816	2,162,913	1,612,138
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR		(187,557)	219,984	32,427	1,981,211
Transfer between funds	13, 14	(9,944)	9,944	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(197,501)	229,928	32,427	1,981,211
Total funds brought forward		1,568,855	643,786	2,212,641	231,430
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		1,371,354	873,714	2,245,068	2,212,641

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 year ending 31 March 2017

	Year ending 31 March 2017	Year ending 31 March 2017	Year ending 31 March 2017
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£
INCOME FROM:			
Donations	2,772,495	796,802	3,569,297
Investment income	24,052	-	24,052
Total income	2,796,547	796,802	3,593,349
EXPENDITURE ON:			
Costs of raising funds			
Costs of generating donations	475,528	-	475,528
Cost of events	44,153	-	44,153
	519,681	-	519,681
Expenditure on charitable activities			
Grants for medical research	735,321	153,893	889,214
Medical research dissemination	203,243	-	203,243
	938,564	153,893	1,092,457
Total expenditure	1,458,245	153,893	1,612,138
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR	1,338,302	642,909	1,981,211
Transfer between funds	41,709	(41,709)	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	1,380,011	601,200	1,981,211
Total funds brought forward	188,844	42,586	231,430
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	1,568,855	643,786	2,212,641

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 2018

	Notes	£	2018 £	£	2017 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	8		3,094		7,556
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors - amounts falling due within one year	9	293,697		926,898	
Current asset investment	10	89,107		88,034	
Cash at bank		2,761,624		2,026,777	
		3,144,428		3,041,709	
CREDITORS					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(719,299)		(557,063)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			2,425,129		2,484,646
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			2,428,223		2,492,202
CREDITORS					
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	12		(183,155)		(279,561)
NET ASSETS			2,245,068		2,212,641
RESERVES					
Unrestricted funds – general	13		557,354		811,355
Designated funds	13		814,000		757,500
Restricted funds	14		873,714		643,786
TOTAL FUNDS			2,245,068		2,212,641

2nd August 2018

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 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 2018

	Notes	2018 £	2017 £
NET CASH (OUTFLOW)/INFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	16,17	709,331	1,441,130
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets		-	(4,044)
Interest received		26,589	24,052
Net cash flow from investing activities		26,589	20,008
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		735,920	1,461,138
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2017		2,114,811	653,673
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2018		2,850,731	2,114,811
Cash and cash equivalents consists of:			
Cash at bank and in hand		2,761,624	2,026,777
Current asset investment		89,107	88,034
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 31 MARCH 2018		2,850,731	2,114,811

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ending 31 March 2018

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 4 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are set out on page 6ww.

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 (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2017, the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 31 March 2018.

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 for receipt have been satisfied or the post being funded is 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 trustees.

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	2018	2017
	£	£
Donations	1,495,243	2,606,622
Gifts in kind	65,622	63,783
Challenge events	51,086	83,153
Ticketed events	-	18,937
Unrestricted income	1,611,951	2,772,495
Restricted donations	556,800	796,802
Total Income	2,168,751	3,569,297
	2018	2017
	£	£
Gifts in Kind		
Costs of generating donations	59,622	45,440
Charitable activities, disseminating information on autism and autism research	-	8,694
Administrative support costs, office expenses	-	8,500
Administrative support costs, professional development	-	1,150
Governance costs, consultancy & chair recruitment	6,000	-
	<u>65,622</u>	<u>63,783</u>

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 2018

3 COST OF RAISING FUNDS	2018	2017
	£	£
Costs of Generating Donations		
Website, database, literature and PR costs	12,220	7,786
Other fundraising expenses	102,946	144,596
Allocation of administrative support costs (note 6)	69,546	54,990
Staff costs (note 7)	293,891	268,156
	<u>478,603</u>	<u>475,528</u>
Cost of Events	2018	2017
	£	£
Challenge events costs	6,141	8,812
Other event costs	286	20,870
Allocation of administrative support costs (note 6)	18,302	14,471
	<u>24,729</u>	<u>44,153</u>

4 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	Unrestricted	Restricted	2018	2017
	£	£	£	£
Grants for medical research:				
James Lind Alliance: Autism Top 10 research priorities	-	-	-	2,610
University of Warwick Mental Health - ESRC Fellowship	-	-	-	500
The Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience Mental Health - Anxiety Toolkit	-	50,107	50,107	-
Cambridge University Vulnerability to mental health in autism	-	-	-	40,000
Plymouth University Early intervention - SAFE intervention	-	-	-	85,547
Bangor University Early intervention - Incredible Years Bedford University	-	-	-	149,947
A stigma protection intervention for caregivers of children in autism	-	-	-	31,200
University College London Deutsche Bank workplace internships	-	67,724	67,724	8,735
The Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience ARCH Seminar Series	-	-	-	500
Newcastle University International summit on suicide in autism	-	-	-	18,950
Newcastle University Personalised non-pharmacological anxiety treatment - Ageing project 3	-	-	-	258,638
Kings College London Health and disease conference - Neurodevelopmental disorders inaugural symposium	-	-	-	5,000
Coventry University Psychological autopsies	-	-	-	87,431
The Autism Spectrum Database - UK	-	250	250	-
Discover Network	-	124,801	124,801	11,214
Epilepsy Summit	-	43,405	43,405	-
Impact Reporting	-	-	-	-
Local Engagement	-	-	-	-
Newcastle University Intolerance of Uncertainty Birmingham University	183,734	-	183,734	-
Anxiety and Depression in Minimally Verbal Individuals	166,985	-	166,985	-
University College London Anorexia Nervosa in Autistic Women MQ Fellow	90,099	-	90,099	-
Research Databases	112,500	-	112,500	-
Suicide summit (refund for underspending)	175,428	-	175,428	-
Mental Health - ESRC (grant refund as study no longer running)	(3,375)	-	(3,375)	-
Healx Epilepsy Drug Repurposing	(5,000)	-	(5,000)	-
Governance costs (Note 5)	12,000	-	12,000	-
Grant Administration costs (Note 6)	27,687	-	27,687	22,276
Staff costs (Note 7)	76,867	-	76,867	60,779
Total Grant Expenditure	<u>162,314</u>	<u>39,708</u>	<u>202,022</u>	<u>105,887</u>
Research Dissemination	999,239	325,995	1,325,234	889,214
Governance costs (note 5)	144,346	-	144,346	75,081
Staff costs (note 7)	27,687	-	27,687	22,275
	<u>162,314</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>162,314</u>	<u>105,887</u>
Total Charitable Expenditure	<u>1,333,586</u>	<u>325,995</u>	<u>1,659,581</u>	<u>1,092,457</u>

5 GOVERNANCE COSTS	2018	2017
	£	£
External audit	8,690	8,520
Trustees' liability insurance	2,829	2,791
Consultancy & recruitment costs	7,285	4,146
Other governance costs	3,598	960
Allocation of administrative support costs (Note 6)	18,302	14,471
Staff costs (Note 7)	14,670	13,663
	<u>55,374</u>	<u>44,551</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.

6 ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT COSTS	2018	2017
	£	£
Telephone	7,931	6,984
IT Expenditure	13,812	12,399
Stationery, copying, postage and other office expenses	7,155	11,228
Staff recruitment and professional development	35,415	30,954
Rent and rates	33,133	27,000
Depreciation	4,463	4,702
Other	41,270	17,128
Staff costs (note 7)	39,838	34,317
Total support costs	<u>183,017</u>	<u>144,712</u>

These are divided:

Generating donations 38% (Note 3) (2017: 38%)	69,546	54,991
Events 10% (Note 3) (2017: 10%)	18,302	14,471
Charitable activities 42% (Note 4) (2017: 42%)	76,867	60,779
Corporate governance 10% (Note 5) (2017: 10%)	18,302	14,471
	<u>183,017</u>	<u>144,712</u>

7 STAFF COSTS	2018	2017
	£	£
Salaries	635,625	470,907
Social security costs	59,487	53,867
Pension costs	17,623	3,136
	<u>712,735</u>	<u>527,910</u>
These are allocated:		
Generating donations (£10,821 is restricted expenditure (2017 £NIL) (Note 3)	293,891	268,156
Charitable activities (£39,708 is restricted expenditure (2017 £4,249) (Note 4)	364,336	211,774
Corporate governance (Note 5)	14,670	13,663
Administration - support costs (Note 6)	39,838	34,317
	<u>712,735</u>	<u>527,910</u>

The charity employed 19 full-time and 1 part-time staff members during the year to 31 March 2018 (2017: 15 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:

	2018 no.	2017 no.
£60,000-£70,000	1	1
£70,000-£80,000	1	-
£80,000-£90,000	-	1
£90,000-£100,000	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel is £260,216 (2017 - £235,971). The charity considers its key management personnel to comprise those individuals listed on page 4.

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ending 31 March 2018

8 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer Equipment £	Other equipment and fittings £	Total £
COST			
At 1 April 2017	10,566	6,627	17,193
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	(7,806)	(482)	(8,288)
As at 31 March 2018	<u>2,760</u>	<u>6,145</u>	<u>8,905</u>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 April 2017	6,314	3,323	9,637
Depreciation on disposals	(7,806)	(482)	(8,288)
Charge for the year	2,872	1,590	4,462
As at 31 March 2017	<u>1,380</u>	<u>4,431</u>	<u>5,811</u>
Net book value at 31 March 2018	<u>1,380</u>	<u>1,714</u>	<u>3,094</u>
Net book value at 31 March 2017	<u>4,252</u>	<u>3,304</u>	<u>7,556</u>

9 DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2018 £	2017 £
Other debtors	254,470	890,714
Prepayments and accrued income	39,227	36,184
	<u>293,697</u>	<u>926,898</u>

10 CURRENT ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2018 £	2017 £
Short term deposits	89,107	88,034
	<u>89,107</u>	<u>88,034</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 1.1%

11 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2018 £	2017 £
Trade creditors	75,707	33,917
Other creditors	218	6,391
Grant commitments	613,961	489,784
Accruals and deferred income	29,413	26,971
	<u>719,299</u>	<u>557,063</u>

12 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	2018 £	2017 £
Grant commitments (see table below)	<u>183,155</u>	<u>279,561</u>
	Less than 1 year £	More than 1 year £
At 1 April 2017	489,784	279,561
Transfers	267,061	(267,061)
Grant commitments	549,991	170,655
Paid in year	(692,876)	-
As at 31 March 2018	<u>613,961</u>	<u>183,155</u>
	Total £	Total £
		769,345
		-
		720,646
		(692,876)
		<u>797,116</u>

13a UNRESTRICTED FUNDS CURRENT YEAR		2018			
	Balances	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balances c/f
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated Funds	757,500	-	-	56,500	814,000
General unrestricted funds	811,355	1,638,540	(1,826,097)	(66,444)	557,354
	<u>1,568,855</u>	<u>1,638,540</u>	<u>(1,826,097)</u>	<u>(9,944)</u>	<u>1,371,354</u>

Designated funds - £400,000 Language and Communication Call for Proposals, £214,000 Newcastle cohort database costs, £100,000 2018 Future Leader Award, £100,000 Discover recruitment and donor acquisition programme

13b UNRESTRICTED FUNDS PREVIOUS YEAR		2017			
	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

14a RESTRICTED FUNDS CURRENT YEAR		2018			
	Balances b/f	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balances c/f
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds					
University of Newcastle ASD-UK Research Database	-	7,712	(250)	(7,462)	-
University of Newcastle	-	-	-	-	-
Autistica Centre for Ageing with Autism - Project 2	-	10,667	-	(10,667)	-
The Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience	-	-	-	-	-
Mental Health - Anxiety Toolkit	-	55,000	(50,107)	40,000	44,893
Plymouth University Early intervention - SAFE intervention	-	2,000	-	(2,000)	-
Bangor University Early intervention - Incredible Years	-	9,500	-	(9,500)	-
The University of Bedfordshire	-	-	-	-	-
Early intervention - Stigma prevention	-	5,000	-	(5,000)	-
Ageing Project 3 - Personalised Anxiety Treatment	-	8,000	-	(8,000)	-
Autism Clinical Research Network	588,786	62,500	(161,812)	105,302	594,776
Epilepsy summit	55,000	16,830	(43,405)	-	28,425
Suicide summit	-	-	-	-	-
Impact Reporting	-	28,000	-	-	28,000
Local Engagement	-	30,000	(13,518)	-	16,482
Epilepsy	-	15,000	-	-	15,000
Language and Communication Call	-	25,000	-	-	25,000
Intolerance of Uncertainty	-	62,500	-	(50,000)	12,500
Anxiety and Depression in Minimally Verbal Individuals	-	13,729	-	(13,729)	-
Mental Health PhD Fellowship 4	-	13,000	-	(13,000)	-
Psychological Autopsies	-	4,000	-	(4,000)	-
DB Intern Scheme (Phase 2 - UK only)	-	33,862	(67,724)	-	(33,862)
SHAPE, the Sowerby Health intervention for Autistic People (SHAPE)	-	30,000	-	-	30,000
Autistic-led Grants	-	62,500	-	-	62,500
Data science fellow	-	50,000	-	-	50,000
Healx epilepsy drug repurposing	-	12,000	-	(12,000)	-
Total restricted funds	<u>643,786</u>	<u>556,800</u>	<u>(336,816)</u>	<u>9,944</u>	<u>873,714</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.

Transfers out of restricted funds were restricted donations received after funding was committed to specific projects.

Transfers into restricted funds were donations received as unrestricted and subsequently restricted by request of the donor.

The negative fund balance for the DB Intern Scheme was due to restricted income promised but not received in the financial year. This has subsequently been received.

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ending 31 March 2018

14b RESTRICTED FUNDS PREVIOUS YEAR		2017			
	Balances b/f £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balances c/f £
Restricted Funds					
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)	-
The Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience					
Mental Health - Anxiety Toolkit	-	5,500	-	(5,500)	-
University of Warwick Mental Health - ESRC Fellowship	-	500	(570)	70	-
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
Total restricted funds	<u>42,586</u>	<u>791,732</u>	<u>(148,113)</u>	<u>(42,419)</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.

15a ANALYSIS OF NET FUNDS CURRENT YEAR	General	Restricted	Total	2018
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	3,094	-	3,094	7,556
Debtors	39,227	254,470	293,697	926,898
Cash and cash equivalents	1,434,371	1,416,360	2,850,731	2,108,420
Liabilities	<u>(105,338)</u>	<u>(797,116)</u>	<u>(902,454)</u>	<u>(830,233)</u>
	<u>1,371,354</u>	<u>873,714</u>	<u>2,245,068</u>	<u>2,212,641</u>

15b ANALYSIS OF NET FUNDS PREVIOUS YEAR	General	Restricted	Total	2017
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	7,556	-	7,556	8,213
Debtors	36,184	890,714	926,898	57,325
Cash and cash equivalents	1,586,003	522,417	2,108,420	653,673
Liabilities	<u>(60,888)</u>	<u>(769,345)</u>	<u>(830,233)</u>	<u>(487,781)</u>
	<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	2018	2017
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure)	32,427	1,981,211
Bank interest	(26,589)	(24,052)
Depreciation charges	4,462	4,701
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	633,201	(869,573)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	<u>65,830</u>	<u>348,843</u>
Net cash flow from operating activities	<u>709,331</u>	<u>1,441,130</u>

17 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions during the period to 31 March 2018 (2017: £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

2018

2017

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

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

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Board Committees

Finance and Fundraising Committee

Chair: James Lowe

Gill Ackers

Edward Chandler

Jeff Saul

Vinny Smith

Nominations Committee

Chair: Edward Chandler

Gill Ackers

James Lowe

Advisory Committees

Policy and Communications Advisory Board

Chair: Dr Michael Fitzpatrick

Sally Bercow

Matt Davis

Sandy Starr

Scientific Review Panel

Chair: Professor Terry Brugha MD (NUI), FRCPsych

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

Professor Dermot Bowler, PhD

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Thanks

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Argus Media Ltd
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