



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 5/4/2021 Period start date
To 5/4/2022 Period end date

Charity name: Autism Bucks

Charity registration number: 1182603

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	To relieve the needs of people who are on the autistic spectrum, their parents, families and carers in Buckinghamshire:
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The provision and management of a website to provide advice, guidance, support and information to those affected by autism2. Providing support, education and practical advice and recreational and leisure time activities provided in the interest of social welfare, designed to improve their conditions of life and which develop their skills, capacities and capabilities3. Advancing the education of the public in autistic spectrum conditions, in particular among those who work with people who have autistic spectrum conditions.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	Through its activity the charity aims to make a positive difference for its members and to increase awareness of autism within the community of Buckinghamshire.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

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

Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	<p>Autism Bucks benefits greatly from its committed volunteers who are essential in supporting the trustees in the delivery of our main objectives.</p> <p>Our volunteers provide support for the delivery of the member social groups, in fundraising and in managing some of our social media platforms.</p>
Other		n/a

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>Provision of hosted member social groups</p> <p>The end of Covid lockdown has allowed the Charity to restart the bi-monthly face-to-face meetings with its members. Attendance was initially down when compared to the pre-Covid period, but is now increasing following the influx of 60+ new members since Sep 2021.</p> <p>A generous donation from the Rothschild Trust has allowed us to expand the scope of these meetings to include external activities, all free-of-charge to our members.</p> <p>Provision of Autism Bucks website and social media accounts</p> <p>The Autism Bucks has been completely rebuilt and is now more accessible, dynamic and up-to-date. It represents both information directly relevant to membership of our Charity, together with the latest in data about the Autism condition.</p> <p>Our Facebook channel provides a means for communicating with members and followers with current topics for discussion, news and details of upcoming events. Following grown from 915 to 1,092 in this period.</p> <p>Our YouTube channel provides the means for us to share our awareness sessions on a variety of autism related topics which collectively have had over 335 new viewers in this period.</p> <p>Our Twitter channel, operated by one of our members on our behalf has grown from 1,300 to over 2,050 followers this period.</p>

		<p>Raising Autism Awareness</p> <p>Through this period the charity has received several requests from schools and other organisations to speak to their officers and staff about care for people on the Autism spectrum. Usually a team of one Trustee and one Member will provide this insight, but on occasions the members have carried these out on their own volition.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

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

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<p>Our financial position at the end of this period remains strong, primarily due to 4 key factors:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A reduction in expenditure during the Covid lockdown period as Zoom meetings replaced face-to-face meetings; 2. A substantial drop in the ongoing cost of maintaining the website through a third party when these responsibilities were taken on by one of our trustees; 3. Strong fund-raising activities by our trustees including a stall at the Amersham Xmas Market (raised over £520) and a sponsored walk (raised over £1,500) 4. A generous donation from the Rothschild Trust to be spent on activities for our members (£4,000 in total of which £2000 was received in this period). <p>Further, we have consolidated our Restricted Funds and been granted permission to reallocate money in cases of under-spend.</p> <p>Financial reporting continues with monthly reporting to all.</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	It is the practice of the charity to hold sufficient reserves to cover operational costs for a minimum of 6 months.

		This is to provide a level of resilience against the possibility of unforeseen expense, to protect against loss of external sponsorship, and to provide funds to enable us to take advantage of opportunities that might arise.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£2,000
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	n/a
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	n/a
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	n/a

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	Donations: Sponsored Walk 29.9% Xmas Market 10.0% Other 5.8% Vale Lottery 2.4% Round Table 1.9% Collection Tins 1.0% Amazon Smile 1.0% Grants: Rothschild Fund 38.4% Bucks Council 9.6%
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	n/a
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Loss of the key trustees that are important to our ability to deliver the core charity operation (Chair, Treasurer) and its key operational activities (Member social groups). 2. Loss of main sponsorship funding sources. 3. Loss of support from volunteers. 4. Loss or corruption of IT such as our website. 5. Major hit on reputation for whatever reason. 6. Competition from other autism charities in Buckinghamshire, who might compete for funding, members etc. 7. Competition from larger autism charities in neighbouring counties that are well established and might chose to expand their territory.
Other		n/a

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	CIO Association model, and currently in the process of adopting the Charity Governance Code for smaller charities.
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Autism Bucks is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) under the association model and registered on 22 March 2019. It is governed by a constitution that establishes its objects and powers and member voting rights. In the event of the CIO being wound up members have no liability.
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	<p>Candidate Trustees are subject to interview by one, preferably two existing trustees in the first instance and appointment on their recommendation subsequently ratified by vote by all trustees at a board meeting.</p> <p>Applicants are also required to provide two character references.</p> <p>Confirmation of appointment made when the candidate attends their first board meeting.</p> <p>All trustees subject to a current DBS check being established.</p> <p>Appointment to key role such as treasurer or secretary by similar voting process.</p> <p>Board meetings are held at least once a month throughout the year.</p> <p>All trustees invited to stand for a further year at the AGM and these appointments confirmed by vote that includes voting by the members.</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	<p>Recruitment policy and procedure established.</p> <p>Trustee on-boarding pack and supporting induction procedure established</p>
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	n/a
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	<p>Partnership with the following bodies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bucks MIND, • Bucks Museum and Discovery Centre

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Impact Bucks, • Heart of Bucks, • National Autism Society (Aylesbury) • National Paralympic Heritage Trust • NDSA (Neural Diverse Self Advocacy). <p>Sponsorship from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bucks County Council, • Heart of Bucks, • Waitrose, • Bucks Freemasons, • Amersham Round Table • Rothschild Foundation
Other		n/a

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Autism Bucks
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1182603
Charity's principal address	50 Somerset Way Richings Park Iver, Bucks SLO 9AF

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Zita Calkin	Chair & Trustee	27 Jul 2020 – 27 Sep 2021	
2	Robert Neil Cary	Trustee (Digital)	21 Jun 2021 -	
3	Robert Neil Cary	Chair	28 Sep 2021 -	
4	Sue Keating	Secretary & Trustee		
5	Martin Hollett	Treasurer & Trustee		
6	Paulette Hunn	Trustee		
7	Paula Strawbridge	Trustee		
8	Yin Ling Denise Voon	Trustee	26 Oct 21 -	

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
n/a		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
n/a		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

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

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
	n/a	

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

n/a

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

n/a

Other optional information

n/a

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Robert Neil Cary	Martin Hollett
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair (during reporting period)	Treasurer
Date	12 Sep 2022	13 Sep 2022