

**Autism Independent UK**  
**Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 30th September 2017**

**Charity name and number:** Autism Independent UK, registered charity number 803003

**Correspondence address:** 199/203 Blandford Avenue  
Kettering  
Northants  
NN16 9AT

**Trustees at the year end and who served throughout the year:**

Pamela York	Chair
Pam Lovett	Secretary
Eileen Bell	Treasurer
Marie Howley	
Bianca Lucia	

**Custodian trustees in respect of land and buildings held:** The Charity Commissioners

**Professional advisers**

**Bankers:** NatWest Bank plc  
43 High Street  
Rushden  
Northants

**Solicitors:** Wilson Browne  
4 Grange Park Court  
Roman Way  
Northampton

**Independent examiners** McShane Wright  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
2 College Street  
Higham Ferrers  
Northants  
NN10 8DZ

## **Autism Independent UK**

### **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 30th September 2017**

#### **Constitution**

Autism Independent UK is registered with the Charity Commissioners (No. 803003) and constituted by Deed of Trust. This charity was formerly known as The Society For The Autistically Handicapped (SFTAH).

#### **History, objectives and activities**

Autism Independent UK was constituted by Deed of Trust. The constitution was adopted on 12 February 1990 and amended on 16 October 1999. The charity was formerly known as The Society For The Autistically Handicapped (SFTAH) which it continues to use as a working name. Other names used by the charity are, Autism On Line (AOL) and Autism For All. The objects of the charity are to encourage greater awareness of autism, to assist in improving the quality of life of sufferers and their families through the provision of training and recreational facilities and to provide a voice for those with autism in matters of local and national government policy towards them and those involved in their care.

The main activities of the charity throughout the year continued to be the provision of training and recreational facilities for the sufferers of autism and related conditions and support and training for carers, families and professionals involved in the support of autistically handicapped individuals.

#### **Management and governance arrangements**

Where required, new trustees are appointed by the other trustees as a body and are inducted by the Chief Administrator, K Lovett. The day to day operation of the charity is made by the management committee. The trustees are all members of the management committee. This committee is the sole body for decision making. The trustees regularly review the risks the charity faces and, because of its investment policy, the major risk facing the charity is that a fall in property prices may affect the ability of the charity to achieve the purchase of a group home as quickly as it wants. However, there is no borrowing attaching to any of the freehold properties at present so there would be no impact on its ability to continue to achieve its main objects.

The charity has invested in land and buildings as part of its strategy to establish the group home. This will give it both an income and security for future purchase of the group home.

The charity employs 2 member of staff:

Chief Administrator	-	K Lovett
Development Officer	-	C Hales

#### **Achievements, performance and future plans**

The Society's major achievements during the year were:

- Housing project has reached phase 1 of 3 phases 1.5Ml
- continuing to expand the charity's collateral base for a group home project;
- providing free on-site internet access;
- providing an improved telephone information service;
- expanding the resource holdings in the information centre - adding literature to the resource library;
- produce animated films for Social Stories, social learning and understanding
- TEACCH and SCERTS;
- produce training videos
- produce information videos, Law, Education, Autism
- housing project moving onto phase 2. Purchasing land, negotiating with Northants CC for land (Maplefield School) in Kettering. Recommended by outside planning permission ended up being sold to the highest bidder;
- detailed drawings completed for phase 2.

Proposed developments for the future

- continuing to search for appropriate land for group homes project;
- to publish all charity newsletters, constitution, accounts, meetings via Worldwide Web;
- to continue the social activities scheme and increase venues;
- to make membership and information free via electronic means.... Web etc.;
- to continue to improve the telephone information service;
- to increase training events;
- to expand advocacy via the Web and other electronic means;
- to increase the use of the Carer and update Card service by making carers more aware of the available resources;
- start planning for phase 3 Housing project, buildings, grants, donations;

Fundraising activities are limited to requests for grants and aid from corporate and other donors. The charity wishes to expand on this during the coming years (and looking at professional fundraisers) to enable the group home to be established quickly.

**Autism Independent UK**  
**Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 30th September 2017**

**Financial review, investment policy and reserves**

As has been stated, a primary aim of the charity is to establish a group home for young autism sufferers. In this respect it has continued to invest in domestic property to give both an income and to increase its capital base. Reviews of values are carried out regularly to ensure that returns are reasonable. The returns for this year (both rental and estimated capital growth) amount to 8.5% (2016 7.1%). This reflects the current housing market. The trust has chosen not to adopt formal ethical investment policies although attention is paid as to whom properties are rented. The net incoming resources for the year before unrealised gains or losses on investments amounted to £83,967 (2016 - £63,573). Unrestricted funds at the end of the year amounted to £1,203,432 (2016 - £1,119,465), which represents 13 years' general expenditure (excluding workshop costs which are covered by specific income).

**Statement of trustees' responsibilities**

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and its financial activities for that period. In preparing those financial statements select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operational existence.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the committee on .....  
and signed on its behalf by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Trustee

**Autism Independent UK**  
**Independent Examiners' Report to the Trustees of Autism Independent UK**

We report on the accounts for the charity for the year ended 30th September 2017, which are set out on pages 5 to 11.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiners**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply and that an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under S.145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

**Basis of Independent Examiners' Report**

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently we do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts. Our report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiners' statement**

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention:

- (1) which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with S.130 of the Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Acthave not been met; or
- (2) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

McShane Wright  
Chartered Certified Accountants

2 College Street  
Higham Ferrers  
Northants  
NN10 8DZ

**Autism Independent UK**

**Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 30th September 2017**

	Unrestricted funds £	2017 Restricted funds £	Total funds £	2016 Total funds £
<b>Incoming resources:</b>				
Membership, donations and grants:				
Donations and Legacies	10,347	-	10,347	321
Grants	-	-	-	-
	<u>10,347</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,347</u>	<u>321</u>
Trading income:				
Seminar and workshop fees	163,051	-	163,051	187,552
Sales of course materials, equipment and learning materials	-	-	-	-
	<u>163,051</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>163,051</u>	<u>187,552</u>
Investment income:				
Interest receivable	34	-	34	94
Rent receivable	48,900	-	48,900	48,514
	<u>48,934</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>48,934</u>	<u>48,514</u>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<u><u>£222,332</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>£222,332</u></u>	<u><u>£236,481</u></u>
<b>Resources expended:</b>				
Direct charitable expenditure:				
Seminar and workshop costs	42,633	-	42,633	84,467
Depreciation on charitable purpose assets	7	-	7	9
Loss on sale of fixed assets	-	-	-	-
	<u>42,640</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>42,640</u>	<u>84,476</u>
Other expenditure:				
Publicity	13,580	-	13,580	11,133
Wages	49,721	-	49,721	49,886
Premises costs	12,701	-	12,701	7,041
Travel costs	1,378	-	1,378	2,448
Postage and telephone	1,715	-	1,715	1,762
Printing, copying, stationery and computer costs	5,176	-	5,176	12,135
Sundry other expenses	273	-	273	106
Bank charges	262	-	262	110
Professional fees	424	-	424	1,038
Depreciation	2,218	-	2,218	2,773
Loss on sale of fixed assets	-	-	-	-
	<u>87,448</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>87,448</u>	<u>88,432</u>
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<u><u>£130,088</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>£130,088</u></u>	<u><u>£172,908</u></u>
<b>Net incoming resources</b>	92,244	-	92,244	63,573
<b>Other recognised gains and losses:</b>				
Unrealised gains on revaluation of investments	-	95,150	95,150	67,800
Balances brought forward	<u>1,119,465</u>	<u>842,858</u>	<u>1,962,323</u>	<u>1,830,950</u>
<b>Balances carried forward</b>	<u><u>£1,211,709</u></u>	<u><u>£938,008</u></u>	<u><u>£2,149,717</u></u>	<u><u>£1,962,323</u></u>

There were no recognised gains or losses for either financial year other than those shown above

The notes on pages 8 to 11 form part of these financial statements.

**Autism Independent UK**  
**Balance Sheet at 30th September 2017**

		2017		2016	
	Note	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible fixed assets	3		34,508		36,733
Fixed asset investments	4		<u>1,789,800</u>		<u>1,694,650</u>
			1,824,308		1,731,383
<b>Current assets</b>					
Prepaid expenses and income tax recoverable		2,078		2,041	
Cash at bank		<u>324,954</u>		<u>231,326</u>	
		327,032		233,367	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	5	<u>(1,623)</u>		<u>(2,427)</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>325,409</u>		<u>230,940</u>
<b>Net assets</b>			<u>£2,149,717</u>		<u>£1,962,323</u>
<b>Funds</b>					
Unrestricted	6		1,211,709		1,119,465
Restricted	6		<u>938,008</u>		<u>842,858</u>
			<u>£2,149,717</u>		<u>£1,962,323</u>

These financial statements were approved by the committee on .....  
and signed on its behalf by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Trustee

The notes on pages 8 to 11 form part of these financial statements.

**Autism Independent UK**  
**Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 30th September 2017**

	Note	2017	2016
		£	£
<b>Net cash inflow from financial activities</b>	7	93,594	65,655
<b>Returns on investment and servicing of finance</b>			
Interest received		<u>34</u>	<u>94</u>
		34	94
<b>Capital expenditure</b>			
Sale of tangible fixed assets		-	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		-	-
Purchase of investment properties		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
		-	-
<b>Financing</b>			
Due within one year:			
Net decrease in loans		-	-
Due after more than one year:			
Net decrease in loans		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
		-	-
<b>Increase in cash</b>	8	93,628	65,749
<b>Cash at 1st October 2016</b>		<u>231,326</u>	<u>165,577</u>
<b>Cash at 30th September 2017</b>		<u><u>£324,954</u></u>	<u><u>£231,326</u></u>

The notes on pages 8 to 11 form part of these financial statements.

## **1 Accounting policies**

### **Basis of accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified for the inclusion of investment properties at valuation and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities 2005, (Accounting and Reporting for Charities). They comply with the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2005 issued under the Charities Act 2005.

### **Investment income**

Investment income is recorded when receivable.

### **Fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Office and other equipment	20% pa reducing balance
Caravans	20% pa reducing balance
Learning materials	25% pa reducing balance
Land	Nil
Portakabin and sitework	25% pa reducing balance
Building	2% pa straight line

Tangible fixed assets costing less than £50 are not capitalised.

### **Investment properties**

Investment properties are revalued annually and included at market value. Market value is the open market estimated selling price. Where this has been given on a banding basis by the valuer, the lowest value is taken.

### **Incoming resources**

In the case of grants, these are recognised as soon as the money is received and any conditions relating to the grants have been met.

Any grants for a specific purpose, either because they were requested for that purpose by the charity or because the donor specified the use, are included in income as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities. All other grants are included as unrestricted funds.

Income from seminars and workshops is recognised when the event is held irrespective of when the money is received.

Rental income is recognised as received.

### **Resources expended**

Expenditure on seminars and workshops is included when the event is held irrespective of when invoices are received or money expended. This matches with the treatment of receipts for seminars and workshops.

All other revenue expenditure is recognised when incurred on an accruals basis.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as part of the relevant cost.

## **2 Taxation**

The charity is exempt from taxation on its income and gains where they are applied for charitable purposes.

<b>3 Tangible fixed assets</b>	<b>Office and other equipment £</b>	<b>Learning materials £</b>	<b>Land, portakabin, sitework £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1st October 2016	82,741	1,350	36,039	120,130
Additions	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 30th September 2017	<u>£82,741</u>	<u>£1,350</u>	<u>£36,039</u>	<u>£120,130</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1st October 2016	71,648	1,347	10,402	83,397
Charge for the year	2,218	1	6	2,225
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 30th September 2017	<u>£73,866</u>	<u>£1,348</u>	<u>£10,408</u>	<u>£85,622</u>
<b>Net book amount</b>				
At 30th September 2017	<u>£8,875</u>	<u>£2</u>	<u>£25,631</u>	<u>£34,508</u>
At 30th September 2016	<u>£11,093</u>	<u>£3</u>	<u>£25,637</u>	<u>£36,733</u>

The net book amount at 30th September 2017 represents fixed assets used for:

	<b>Office and other equipment £</b>	<b>Learning materials £</b>	<b>Land, portakabin, sitework £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Direct charitable purposes</b>				
Teaching aids	8,214	2	-	8,216
Recreational	-	-	25,622	25,622
	<u>8,214</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>25,622</u>	<u>33,838</u>
<b>Other purposes</b>				
Management and administration	661	-	9	670
	<u>£8,875</u>	<u>£2</u>	<u>£25,631</u>	<u>£34,508</u>

**Autism Independent UK**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30th September 2017**

<b>4 Investment properties</b>	<b>205 Blandford Avenue £</b>	<b>209 Blandford Avenue £</b>	<b>207 Blandford Avenue £</b>	<b>211 Blandford Avenue £</b>	<b>179 Blandford Avenue £</b>	<b>114 Blandford Avenue £</b>	<b>177 Blandford Avenue £</b>	<b>82 Blandford Avenue £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Cost</b>									
At 1st October 2016	58,520	132,952	71,373	56,368	160,920	166,889	155,596	153,162	955,780
Additions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 30th September 2017	<u>£58,520</u>	<u>£132,952</u>	<u>£71,373</u>	<u>£56,368</u>	<u>£160,920</u>	<u>£166,889</u>	<u>£155,596</u>	<u>£153,162</u>	<u>£955,780</u>
<b>Revaluations</b>									
At 1st October 2016	141,430	116,998	133,577	133,582	44,030	68,111	49,354	51,788	738,870
Revaluation	10,000	20,000	10,050	10,000	10,050	14,950	10,050	10,050	95,150
At 30th September 2017	<u>£151,430</u>	<u>£136,998</u>	<u>£143,627</u>	<u>£143,582</u>	<u>£54,080</u>	<u>£83,061</u>	<u>£59,404</u>	<u>£61,838</u>	<u>£834,020</u>
<b>Carrying value</b>									
At 30th September 2017	<u>£209,950</u>	<u>£269,950</u>	<u>£215,000</u>	<u>£199,950</u>	<u>£215,000</u>	<u>£249,950</u>	<u>£215,000</u>	<u>£215,000</u>	<u>£1,789,800</u>
At 30th September 2016	<u>£199,950</u>	<u>£249,950</u>	<u>£204,950</u>	<u>£189,950</u>	<u>£204,950</u>	<u>£235,000</u>	<u>£204,950</u>	<u>£204,950</u>	<u>£1,694,650</u>

The properties consist of various houses on Blandford Avenue which are currently being let at a commercial rent on a short term lease.

The premises were revalued on 26th October 2017 by Prime Choice Ltd, Independent Estate Agents.

<b>5 Creditors</b>	<b>2017 £</b>	<b>2016 £</b>
<b>Amounts falling due within one year</b>		
Other creditors	<u>1,623</u>	<u>2,427</u>

<b>6 Funds</b>	<b>At 1st October 2016 £</b>	<b>Incoming resources £</b>	<b>Unrealised gains on revaluation £</b>	<b>Outgoing resources £</b>	<b>At 30th September 2017 £</b>
<b>Restricted funds:</b>					
Building Project fund	842,858	-	95,150	-	938,008
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<u>1,119,465</u>	<u>213,897</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(129,930)</u>	<u>1,203,432</u>
	<u>£1,962,323</u>	<u>£213,897</u>	<u>£95,150</u>	<u>(£129,930)</u>	<u>£2,141,440</u>

The restricted funds have been established by way of donations from various donors. These are restricted in that the request by the charity was for donations for the specific purpose identified above.

In the case of the Building Project fund, all donors were informed that until such time as the properties were completed for use as a group home for young adults with autism, they would be rented out on short term lets.

**Autism Independent UK**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30th September 2017**

Fund balances are represented by:

	<b>Tangible fixed assets</b>	<b>Investments</b>	<b>Net current assets</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Restricted funds:</b>				
Building Project Fund	-	938,008	-	938,008
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<u>34,508</u>	<u>851,792</u>	<u>325,409</u>	<u>1,211,709</u>
	<u>£34,508</u>	<u>£1,789,800</u>	<u>£325,409</u>	<u>£2,149,717</u>

**7 Reconciliation of net incoming resources to net cash flow  
from financial activities**

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Net incoming resources	92,244	63,573
Depreciation	2,225	2,782
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	(37)	(231)
(Decrease) in creditors	(804)	(375)
Loss on sale of fixed assets	-	-
Interest receivable	(34)	(94)
	<u>£93,594</u>	<u>£65,655</u>
Net cash inflow from financial activities	<u>£93,594</u>	<u>£65,655</u>

**8 Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net debt**

Increase in cash in the period	85,351	65,749
Net funds at 1st October 2016	<u>231,326</u>	<u>165,577</u>
Net funds at 30th September 2017	<u>£316,677</u>	<u>£231,326</u>

**9 Analysis of changes in net debt**

	<b>At 1/10/16</b>	<b>Cash flows</b>	<b>At 30/09/17</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Cash at bank:			
Business reserve	212,105	85,435	297,540
Current accounts	19,221	(84)	19,137
	<u>£231,326</u>	<u>£85,351</u>	<u>£316,677</u>
Total	<u>£231,326</u>	<u>£85,351</u>	<u>£316,677</u>