

Action for Stammering Children



Changing lives forever

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014

CONTENTS	Page
References and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisers	2
Trustees' Report	3
Independent Auditors' Report	17
Statement of Financial Activities	19
Balance Sheet	20
Notes to Financial Statements	21

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014

Trustees	Bryan Dutton (Chair - retired April 2014) Joanna Hunter (Honorary Treasurer, appointed Chair April 2014) Samira Ahmed (appointed November 2013) David Broom (appointed Honorary Treasurer April 2014) Max Egremont (retired June 2013) Will Evans (appointed June 2013) Diana Goodwin Gerald Grattoni Richard Morgan (retired October 2013) Claudine Provencher Oliver Rawlins Hayley Ronson (retired October 2013) Debbie Sell (retired October 2013) Richard Smith (resigned April 2013) Anne Whateley (appointed October 2013)
Company Registered Number	2328627
Charity Registered Number	801171
Company Status	A company limited by guarantee
Registered Office	The Michael Palin Centre for Stammering Children 13-15 Pine Street London EC1R 0JG
Statutory Auditors	Price Bailey LLP Chartered Accountants Causeway House 1 Dane Street Bishop's Stortford Hertfordshire CM23 3BT
Bankers	Lloyds Pall Mall St James's London SW1Y 4BE

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014

The Trustees (who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act) present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of Action for Stammering Children ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 March 2014. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the charity comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the Charity's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) Accounting and Reporting by Charities issued in March 2005.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

In 1993, Action for Stammering Children (ASC) supported the establishment of a national speech and language therapy centre, the Michael Palin Centre for Stammering Children (MPC), to provide treatment and support for children who stammer and their families. This work continues today and has grown to provide ever more effective support to larger numbers of children and young people who stammer. In 2011 ASC supported the opening of the Stammering Support Centre (SSC) in Leeds.

ASC commissions and supports services to meet the following overarching objectives:

1. To support children and young people who suffer from stammering. This objective is pursued directly by the commissioning of assessments and therapy for children and indirectly through the training of therapists in this area of specialist need. Support is provided not only to the children but also to their family and their local therapist.
2. To carry out research into the most effective treatment of stammering in children, so as to validate and improve the therapy that is provided, and to disseminate the results of such research for the benefit of the public.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The Charity is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 15 December 1988 which was last revised in April 2012, and as a charity on 21 March 1989.

The principal object of the Charity is to help children and young people who suffer from stammering from any part of the UK and to support a full training programme for therapists.

The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association.

Organisational Structure

There is a Board of Trustees which meets at least six times per annum. At present the Board has nine members from a variety of professional backgrounds many of whom have experience of stammering, either personally or through a family member. We aim to have at least one parent of a child attending one of the Centres on the Board of Trustees. Trustees retire by rotation after three years but are eligible for re-election for up to three terms of office. The Chief Executive of the Charity implements the strategy set by the Trustees, acts as the key interface with the NHS, and has prime responsibility for fundraising.

Trustees' Recruitment and Induction

The Board of Trustees seeks to ensure that the interests of children who stammer are appropriately represented in the Trustee body. Trustees are recruited through informal methods both through a network of parents and adults who stammer and through the body of professionals working in the field of childhood stammering. The Trustees also aim to maintain a broad mix of backgrounds and business skills on the Board. The Board of Trustees is committed to being a diverse but inclusive body. A Trustee nominations committee regularly reviews the Trustee skills mix and drives recruitment of new Trustees.

Potential new Trustees visit the Centres to observe at first hand the work being carried out with children and young adults. New Trustees take part in a full induction programme covering all aspects of the work of the Charity, its governance and finances.

Board of Trustees

The Trustees are directors for the purpose of company law and trustees for the purpose of charity law. Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 2.

The members of the charitable company are the Trustees and four founding members. Members of the charitable company guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of winding up.

Method of Appointment or Election of Trustees

The management of the Charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Articles of Association.

Relationship with the Related Parties

The work of ASC is, at present, largely achieved through our relationship with NHS Whittington Health in London and with NHS Leeds Community Health Care. ASC commissions the provision of specific services from both Centres for children and young people who stammer, for delivery by the respective National Health Service Trusts. Specifically, we commission expert assessments, consultations, treatment, training and research not otherwise funded by the National Health Service. The Charity's funding also provides specialist advisory and helpline services to health professionals and families. This is a very productive relationship and a good method of working. It ensures the most effective use of our resources in pursuit of our charitable objectives.

We are aware of the major changes that are taking place in the structure and methods of work of the National Health Service but we are confident that the relationships we have will be preserved within new structures as they emerge. We remain actively engaged with the National Health Service to ensure that this is the case.

Risk Policy

The Trustees regularly assess the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific operational areas of the Charity and its finances. Systems and procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the Charity faces and a formal risk register is maintained.

Public Benefit

The Trustees have taken into account the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. The Trustees' report demonstrates our commitment to providing public benefit.

MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING CHAIR

This has been another very constructive year for the charity. The theme has been continued growth and consolidation but there have also been exciting new initiatives providing improved clinical support and training.

We set ourselves the following goals for the year:

1. To increase the delivery of charitably-funded clinical services, not deliverable by the NHS, at both the Michael Palin Centre and the Stammering Support Centre.
2. To support the training of more speech and language therapists in order to reach more children who stammer.
3. To fund and support research in support of the delivery and impact of therapy for children who stammer.

We have increased the delivery of services at the Michael Palin Centre as is outlined in the report from the Centre. This is excellent, but the NHS structural changes in the North East of England appear to have had greater effect on the commissioning of our services and we have been unable to achieve the increase we had hoped for in that area.



The training of therapists at both centres has been highly successful and has increased. A total of 452 therapists were trained, reaching 1,800 children who stammer. The courses are very popular and are oversubscribed, illustrating the need for this specialist training which has a wider beneficial impact on children who stammer across the country.

We have continued to fund research and good progress has been made. The detail is in the body of this report. This is an important element of our activity which we hope to grow as it not only captures the best and most effective clinical practice but also validates our areas of charitable support.

Expansion of the Michael Palin Centre

Last year I reported on our plans to use the wonderful legacy from the estate of the late Andrew Fowler of Cornwall. This has allowed us to extend and improve the facilities at the Michael Palin Centre quite dramatically. Two new group therapy rooms are now available at the rear of the building which, for example, can cater for the intensive therapy courses for children and their parents. These rooms have been designed so that they can also be configured as one large training room where more courses will be run for therapists seeking training by the Michael Palin Centre team. This will ensure that the Centre is enabling ever more children who stammer to access the life-changing help they so desperately need.

Funding

I am enormously grateful for the long term relationship we have with Jane Fraser, President of the Stuttering Foundation. It is an excellent and fruitful relationship which I hope will go from strength to strength.

In what remains a challenging fundraising climate, we were delighted to receive the first part of our three year award from the Big Lottery Fund. This grant has already made a significant contribution towards the funding of consultations at the Michael Palin Centre. The consultations remain the cornerstone of much of our work as they ensure that the recommended therapy programme for each child is tailor-made and, as such, is much more likely to be successful.

Last Christmas, ASC was invited to participate in The Big Give by The Garfield Weston Foundation. This is a very exciting fundraising event and one that was new to ASC. The Garfield Weston Foundation created a special fund of £250,000 which they used to match any funds raised by their nominated 28 charities during three very hectic days in December. We were delighted to take part and our sincere thanks to Garfield Weston, The Big Give and the many individual supporters whose generosity helped us to raise just over £33,000.

We continue to receive very significant support from many individual fundraisers including our marathon runners. The Rt Hon Ed Balls MP ran again on our behalf and once more made very substantial contributions to our funds and further raised our public profile.

Trustees

The year saw the departure of some of our longest serving and most committed Trustees as they came to the end of their tenure. Max Egremont, Richard Morgan, Hayley Ronson, Debbie Sell and Richard Smith have all made major contributions to the charity over the last decade with their expertise, commitment and willingness to turn their hand to whatever is necessary. They will be missed but I am sure will remain in contact and I am delighted that they have all agreed to join our newly formed Advisory Group, able to provide us with expert advice and support as needed.

I am also delighted to welcome Anne Whateley, Samira Ahmed, Will Evans and David Broom to the Board. All bring with them

specific expertise, commitment and a direct or indirect experience of the impact of stammering.

I have now stood down as Chairman after five years in the seat. It has been a marvellous and fulfilling experience and I look back with a wry smile and a sense of some satisfaction over the changes which have been achieved. I knew little about stammering, and its impact on people's lives, when I started or the difference that the Michael Palin Centre and the charity could make. I leave knowing that professional, specialist therapy of the highest order, supported by a relationship with a charity with a clear purpose and focus, can literally change the lives of children and their families for the rest of their lives. I would like to thank the teams at MPC and SSC for their unflagging and ever cheerful support and my fellow Trustees who have been a great team – they are of a quality few charities of this size can match.

I am delighted to hand over the Chair to Jo Hunter who has been Treasurer for the last five years and who has been central to almost every advance we have made. This succession will ensure that there is continuity and I know that she has some ambitious plans. I wish her and the charity every good fortune for the future.

Bryan Dutton
Chair – retired April 2014

ACTIVITIES AND PERFORMANCE

Activities and performance are shown in the reports from the two centres.

The Highlights of 2013/14



2,784 children and young people who stammer helped

311 through direct clinical support

1,808 through training of generalist therapists

665 through calls to the helpline

"One of the best experiences of my life, I will remember it for the rest of my life. Love all the therapists and the relaxed and entertaining atmosphere. The techniques have really helped my speech."



THE MICHAEL PALIN CENTRE REPORT

Another busy, exciting and successful year for the Michael Palin Centre, the children and their families.

There have been a number of staff changes and the Centre, led by Elaine Kelman, now has twelve permanent specialist therapists, two administrators and a research assistant.

The Centre welcomed a number of visitors, typically to the intensive courses, among whom were Michael Palin, Colin Firth, Ed Balls, Kelly Brown and leaders from NHS Whittington Health, as well as other adults who stammer. Many spoke inspirationally to the children, their parents and the young people, communicating the important message that stammering need not interfere with achieving one's potential in life.

Michael Palin's visit was recorded and transmitted on BBC Radio 4's Today Programme and Ed Balls's visit was filmed and screened on ITV's Daybreak.

A marketing campaign was launched to raise awareness of the Centre's services following a drop in referral rates in 2012/13. A direct referral route was established and regular bulletins sent to referrers, as well as a number of articles being published. The referral rate then increased substantially from 238 in 2012/2013 to 332 in 2013/2014.

The Michael Palin Centre building in Pine Street is a wonderfully welcoming and well-equipped facility with its five individual therapy rooms, two group therapy rooms, research room and administrative offices. This year the team has marvelled at the emergence of a fabulous new training department, replacing the old annexe, where capacity has increased from 25 (squashed) delegates to 60, a flexible space which can be used for training, group or individual therapy or meetings. This bright and welcoming wing complements the existing facilities and will enable the Centre to train more therapists and treat more children.

The Centre has developed its use of telehealth (using video equipment, Skype technology and video conferencing) to widen access to its services. Combined with training courses in Southampton, Birmingham and Inverness, this has dramatically increased the reach of charity support to children who stammer.

GOAL 1: TO INCREASE THE DELIVERY OF CHARITABLY FUNDED CLINICAL SERVICES, NOT DELIVERABLE BY THE NHS

The Charity has continued to commission a range of specialist clinical services at the Michael Palin Centre which are delivered by NHS Whittington Health, an effective and economic collaboration which ensures that expert services are accessible to children on a UK-wide basis.

In 2013/14 285 children from across the UK attended a specialist consultation or review, an increase from last year. These assessments are fully funded by the Charity and provide an in-depth evaluation of each child's needs in his or her individual context. Two of the Centre's therapists undertake the assessment which is attended for half a day by the child, both parents as appropriate, and the local therapist. In light of the assessment findings, individualised treatment recommendations are discussed with the family and therapist and a plan agreed.



Some of the graduates of the summer 2013 intensive course on the final day of this year's programme

Another innovation was the circus skills workshop attended by children from the intensive courses with their therapists. They bravely tackled the flying trapeze and the tightrope and learned to juggle and form a human pyramid. Parallels were drawn throughout to the experience of stretching their comfort zones in therapy, managing their anxiety and having a go.

Feedback from the mother of a four year-old boy who attended Palin Parent Child Interaction Therapy (Palin PCI) with both parents:

"I know that we still have further appointments to come, but now that it is almost exactly a year since Nicholas developed his stammer, both Matt and I wanted to take the opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you for all that you have done for Nicholas, and indeed for us.

It seems hard to believe that a year ago he was stammering terribly, with blocking, clenching his fists, and almost unable to communicate. Possibly even worse was when he gave up trying to make himself understood at all. I really feared for his future - and looking for advice on the internet only made it far worse!

Everyone at the Michael Palin Centre has been fantastic, from the very first phone call when you provided simple strategies to implement immediately, through the various assessments and therapy sessions, we have been hugely impressed with the level of care, skill and expertise provided.

We are absolutely delighted of course that Nicholas's fluency has improved beyond all recognition, and even if it were to deteriorate again, I think we feel confident that we have the skills and strategies in place to help him recover his fluency. Thank you for being a huge source of support when we were desperately worried about him, and for all your advice and expertise, which have restored our cheeky chap to his normal, redoubtable self!"

Feedback from parents of an 11 year old boy who attended the intensive course (Band 4 programme) with his parents:

"Having this course funded for us provided us with an invaluable experience. It was the first time our son's stammering problem had been properly addressed by highly-trained professionals who were extremely conscientious, imaginative and understanding. The two-week intensive course educated us about stammering, equipped us with techniques to support our child and left us feeling reassured about the future. Our daughter was also included on one day which meant that the whole family understood the process. Jack's progress has been noticeable and his confidence has grown considerably. Support since the course has been ongoing, helping us to maintain Jack's progress and remember our techniques. We have no hesitation in recommending the course: it has been life-changing for Jack. Thank you."

The Centre's helpline continued to be extremely busy with over 665 calls from young people who stammer, parents, doctors, teachers, therapists and others seeking information and advice.

GOAL 2: TO SUPPORT THE TRAINING OF MORE SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPISTS IN ORDER TO REACH MORE CHILDREN WHO STAMMER

ASC has continued to subsidise the training courses delivered by the Centre, thereby making them available to therapists who typically are not given leave or financial support to attend these courses. This enables more therapists across the UK to access expert training in order to provide effective therapy to more children.

During 2013/14 there was unprecedented demand for training, particularly in the Centre's Palin PCI therapy programme for pre-school children who stammer. It is estimated that the 306 therapists whose training was subsidised by ASC will reach a further 1,224 children who stammer. A roadshow of Palin PCI training courses was organised, reaching a wider geographical cohort of therapists. Further expert support was provided to recipients of six charity bursaries who received clinical supervision and research support.

Feedback from therapists who attended the training courses:

It's a pity this training could not be given to undergraduates during lectures. Learned more today and yesterday than 4 years in university."



The children form a human pyramid at the circus skills workshop

Before the course I felt I didn't have a clue what I would do with a child who stammers. Now I feel much more confident."

Learned much more than I expected I would and all really practical which I can translate to my own clinical setting."

This was the best presented training course I've attended. It was highly informative and clear and very engaging."

The most useful course/ training that I've attended to date!"

GOAL 3: TO FUND AND PROMOTE RESEARCH IN SUPPORT OF THE DELIVERY AND IMPACT OF THERAPY FOR CHILDREN WHO STAMMER

The Centre's research programme continues to develop the evidence base for consultations and therapy programmes, as well as building the Centre's national and international reputation for clinical and academic excellence.

This includes ongoing study of the effectiveness of the methods of intervention used at the Centre and the nature of stammering, as well as gathering outcomes to provide feedback to funders. Investigations are being completed into the intensive therapy programmes, both in terms of therapy outcomes as well as qualitative studies. A study into the user's experience of telehealth is underway to evaluate this new method of service delivery. A paper presenting evidence for the intensive course was published in a prestigious peer-reviewed journal and a second paper presenting a new online outcome measure is in preparation. Collaborations were formed with the University of East Anglia and the University of Iowa, increasing the Centre's research capacity and output. The research programme is monitored at quarterly meetings of ASC's trustees' research group.

THE STAMMERING SUPPORT CENTRE REPORT

GOAL 1: TO INCREASE THE DELIVERY OF CHARITABLY FUNDED CLINICAL SERVICES, NOT DELIVERABLE BY THE NHS

This has been a year of developing and growing the work of the Stammering Support Centre in Leeds. A team of five highly skilled therapists are now in place and there has been an overall increase in the numbers of referrals received. This growth is encouraging in this early stage of the Centre's life, but we are keen to see it develop more.

The year has also had its challenges, not least with the huge changes in the NHS and the need to grow awareness of the support that the Centre can offer across the Yorkshire and Humber region.

The Centre continues to deliver consultations and assessments for children and young people, thereby helping families to understand the nature of the child's stammer and providing a detailed report and set of recommendations for subsequent help and support. This year, 26 children and young people from the Yorkshire and Humber region received a charitably funded assessment and, in addition, the Centre was also able to deliver clinical packages to children and young people where such support was not otherwise available via the NHS.



Feedback from some of the families shows the impact we are now making by bringing this expert help to the Yorkshire and Humber region.

Quote from parents following their child's attendance at one of the therapy groups:

"It's been a good opportunity for children to gain information on new techniques in a fun environment. Thanks to all involved."

"The staff have been very caring and have developed an atmosphere for the adults and children that is relaxed and 'safe' which helps in sharing of ideas."

Quote from parents following attendance at a parent session:

"I feel that I have a better understanding of how to help my son."

"I found the parent group very helpful, giving me many ideas I can use at home"

The Residential

The second residential programme took place at Beverley Park Outdoor Activity Centre in Pateley. The programme was funded by ASC and delivered by the Centre's team of therapists in association with The Active Training and Education Trust (ATE) and Beverley Park staff.

This five-day residential group activity integrated therapy sessions, outdoor pursuits and other activities to develop self-confidence and practise the skills learned in therapy. There were 15 participants, aged between 12 and 16.

The key achievements of this exciting programme so far have been:

- To reduce the isolation teenagers who stammer often experience
- To develop positive self-esteem and confidence
- To enable the young people to experience going beyond their 'comfort zone' and help them acknowledge their own skills and competencies in that experience.

Building on the data from previous residential programmes, the Centre has continued to measure the outcomes achieved by these young people in the months since the programme. This enables the Centre to deliver the most effective and efficient programme and to ensure that we can develop and improve the programme for future years.

Comments made by some of the programme participants:

"This course is incredible. It is essential for any young stammerer to attend."

"The last few days I have been here have been wonderful; I have had a new experience, new friends, new teachers. I've learned about stammering and the fears I can overcome."

"I realised I wasn't the only one with a stammer."

This year, the Centre was lucky to have two of last year's young people return to the programme but this time acting as mentors. They did a fantastic job and one of them, Jordan, explains what it meant to him:

"Last year at Bewerley Park was amazing but on the first day I felt scared, worried and anxious which are the normal feelings you would get when meeting new people. During the week I felt as part of the group I met lots of new people who had a stammer just as me. I knew that no one would laugh at me."

"The reason why I came back was to support and help other people who have a stammer and give them the confidence to live with it and for it not to stop them from doing whatever they want to do in their lives."



GOAL 2: TO SUPPORT THE TRAINING OF MORE SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPISTS IN ORDER TO REACH MORE CHILDREN WHO STAMMER

This year has been a busy year for training at the Centre with over 140 therapists attending a variety of courses funded by ASC. There was an overall increase of 17% in training places provided during this year.

The courses always have a client-centred focus and allow therapists to update their theoretical knowledge, while exploring additional tools and skills so that they can work even more effectively with children and young people who stammer.

Feedback from some of the programme delegates include:

"Absolutely outstanding training! Thank you! Extremely well-presented, approachable, informative-invaluable. I confidently feel that this is going to have a hugely positive influence on my and future stammering clients experience!"

"I feel empowered to now take on a young person presenting with a stammer – know where to start and take things forward with the child and family. Does not now seem such a daunting task."

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2014 - 2015

ASC's primary objective remains to support more children and young people who stammer across the United Kingdom. Our desire to have a positive impact on the lives of children and their families influences all that we do.

In 2013-2014 we embarked on a strategy review to develop a model for growth. It is intended that we should develop this further in the next twelve months.

In particular we have the following goals:

1. To increase the delivery of charitably-funded clinical services, not deliverable by the NHS and extend our reach across the United Kingdom

The work of the Michael Palin Centre, now in its twenty-second year, and of the newer Stammering Support Centre in Leeds, remains central to our ability to help children and young people across the UK. The experts based in these two Centres do incredible work and continue to make such a lasting difference to so many young people and their families.

2. To support the training of more speech and language therapists in order to reach more children who stammer

ASC is committed to extending the availability of expert help through the training of generalist speech and language therapists. This is an area which has been very successful in the past and the new extension at the Michael Palin Centre will allow us to train as many as sixty therapists at a time. This programme will indirectly help hundreds more children to access a greater level of expert help and support.

3. To fund and promote research in support of the delivery and impact of therapy for children who stammer

We want to ensure that we continue to fund the support and therapy that makes the most difference for children who stammer and their families. Our experienced research committee monitors and reviews all research activity.

4. To remove barriers to access for families across the UK

We know that there are still children and families who are not receiving the help they need. We are working to widen access through increasing use of technology and out of hours services and we are working with our colleagues in London and Leeds to increase awareness of the services available to families and therapists.

5. To extend and diversify income streams

In this difficult funding climate ASC aims to extend and diversify its income streams.

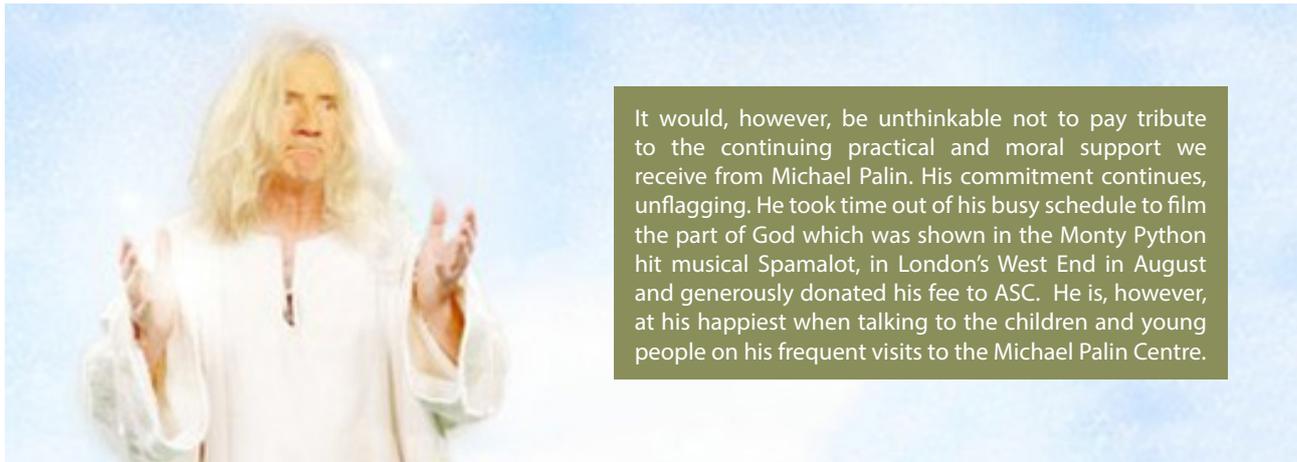


SUPPORTERS

The Charity is now in a better position to have a greater impact on the lives of children and young people who stammer than at any time in its history, transforming the lives of hundreds more children and teenagers – for the rest of their lives. We can only do so thanks to the part played by many individuals and organisations. We are indebted to the dedication and commitment of the expert speech and language specialists in both Centres supported by small administrative teams. We greatly appreciate the generous support of all of our donors, large and small, many of whom wish to remain anonymous.



The Stuttering Foundation and its President, Jane Fraser, have faithfully supported the work of the MPC for many years, providing significant funding for the activity delivered by the team of therapists.



It would, however, be unthinkable not to pay tribute to the continuing practical and moral support we receive from Michael Palin. His commitment continues, unflagging. He took time out of his busy schedule to film the part of God which was shown in the Monty Python hit musical Spamalot, in London's West End in August and generously donated his fee to ASC. He is, however, at his happiest when talking to the children and young people on his frequent visits to the Michael Palin Centre.



We are grateful for our Vice-President Colin Firth's continued support and interest in the Centre and we look forward to working with him in the future.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Total incoming resources amounted to £593,727, compared to £682,112 in the year to 31 March 2013. Donations in 2012/2013 included a legacy of £225,000 which has been used to fund the new training room extension completed at the year end.

We have received the first year of a three-year grant from the Big Lottery Fund for specialist support for stammering children partly funding Michael Palin Centre assessments and overheads. In addition we have received £40,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation as well as their support with the Big Give initiative.

We have again benefitted from multi-year restricted funding in excess of £20,000 from The Henry Smith Charity (£30,000) and the City Bridge Trust (£30,000), unrestricted funding from The Gerald Ronson Foundation (£25,000), together with major on-going support from the Stuttering Foundation.

Expenditure of £453,750 was spent on charitable activity in the Michael Palin Centre and Stammering Support Centre for public benefit, representing 89% of total resources expended.

The net movement in funds in the year ended 31 March 2014 was £83,293. Total funds at the period end amounted to £1,106,993.

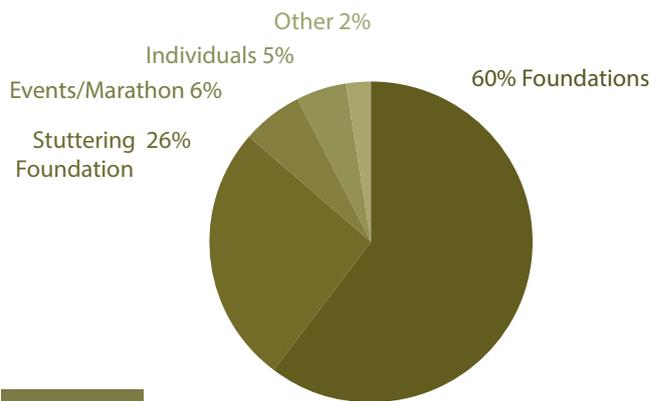
Reserves policy

The Trustees have considered the desired level of unrestricted funds not designated for specific purposes or otherwise committed (free reserves). Given the nature of the Charity's work, we have determined that the level of free reserves should be equivalent to six to nine months of annual expenditure. In our judgement, this provides sufficient flexibility to cover any temporary shortfalls in incoming resources and ensures that the Charity is able to continue its work and also to respond immediately to a reasonable range of unforeseen adverse circumstances, before remedial plans can be implemented. Currently, unrestricted free reserves for the Michael Palin Centre represent approximately seven months' expenditure.

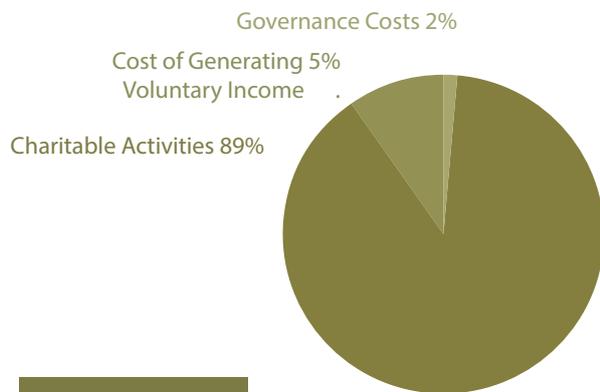
Reserves for the Stammering Support Centre are held in restricted reserves and represent amounts raised in 2011/2012 to fund the start-up and development over the initial two to three years.

Investment policy

The Board of Trustees' policy is to invest in low risk, liquid investments. Accordingly, ASC invests its funds in cash deposits.



INCOME



EXPENDITURE

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

The trustees (who are also directors of Action for Stammering Children for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual 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;
- 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.

In preparing this report, the Trustees have taken advantage of the small companies exemptions provided by section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 25th June 2014 and signed on their behalf, by:



Joanna Hunter, Chair

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ACTION FOR STAMMERING CHILDREN

We have audited the financial statements of Action for Stammering Children for the year ended 31 March 2014 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008) (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Smaller Entities).

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 body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditor

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

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

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

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

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2014 and of its 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 applicable to smaller entities); and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

Price Bailey LLP

Helena Wilkinson (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of
Price Bailey LLP

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors

Causeway House
1 Dane Street
Bishop's Stortford
Hertfordshire
CM23 3BT

Date: 12 August 2014

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014

		Restricted funds 2014 £	Unrestricted funds 2014 £	Total funds 2014 £	Total funds 2013 £
	Note				
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generated funds:					
Voluntary income	2	382,399	200,299	582,698	671,437
Activities for generating funds	3	-	5,106	5,106	2,623
Investment income	4	-	5,923	5,923	8,052
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		382,399	211,328	593,727	682,112
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Costs of generating funds:					
Cost of generating voluntary income	5	-	48,908	48,908	51,101
Charitable activities	6	462,447	(8,697)	453,750	520,834
Governance costs	7	-	7,776	7,776	8,504
		462,447	47,987	510,434	580,439
NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS		(80,048)	163,341	83,293	101,673
Transfers between funds	15	(1,190)	1,190	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS FOR THE YEAR BEING NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME FOR THE YEAR		(81,238)	164,531	83,293	101,673
Total funds at 1 April 2013 as previously reported		265,723	797,723	1,063,446	922,023
Prior year adjustment	17	-	(39,746)	(39,746)	-
Total funds at 1 April 2013 as restated	14	265,723	757,977	1,023,700	922,023
TOTAL FUNDS AT 31 MARCH 2014		£ 184,485	£ 922,508	£ 1,106,993	£ 1,023,696

The notes on pages 21 to 29 form part of these financial statements

ACTION FOR STAMMERING CHILDREN
REGISTERED NUMBER 2328627
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2014

	Note	2014 £	2013 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	11	596,772	366,607
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	12	16,484	16,224
Cash at bank		548,781	850,989
		565,265	867,213
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	13	(55,044)	(210,120)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		510,221	657,093
NET ASSETS		£ 1,106,993	£ 1,023,700
CHARITY FUNDS			
Restricted funds	14	184,485	265,723
Unrestricted funds	14	922,508	757,977
		£ 1,106,993	£ 1,023,700

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 25 June 2014 and signed on their behalf, by:



Joanna Hunter, Chair

The notes on pages 21 to 29 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008). The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' published in March 2005, applicable accounting standards and the Companies Act 2006.

1.2 Company Status

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company are the Trustees named on page 1. 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.

1.3 Fund Accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which 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.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors 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.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

1.4 Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Grant income is recognised when there is a firm commitment and certainty that the funds will be received.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

1.5 Resource expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular activities they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the Charity. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the Charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets and appreciation

All assets costing more than £200 are capitalised.

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

Computer and other equipment – 3 years on a straight line basis

Freehold Property – over 50 years to an estimated residual value of £592,000

1.7 Foreign currencies

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date.

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate ruling on the date of the transaction.

Exchange gains and losses are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

2. VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Restricted funds 2014 £	Unrestricted funds 2014 £	Total funds 2014 £	Total funds 2013 £
Grants and donations	382,399	197,062	579,461	445,437
Legacies	-	3,237	3,237	226,000
Total donations	£ 382,399	£ 200,299	£ 582,698	£ 671,437

Legacy income includes the final installment of the legacy from the late Andrew Fowler to help fund the extension of the Michael Palin Centre training room.

3. TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Restricted funds 2014 £	Unrestricted funds 2014 £	Total funds 2014 £	Total funds 2013 £
Charity trading income				
Books and DVD sales	-	5,106	5,106	2,623
Net income from trading activities	-	£ 5,106	£ 5,106	£ 2,623

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Restricted funds 2014 £	Unrestricted funds 2014 £	Total funds 2014 £	Total funds 2013 £
Bank interest received	-	£ 5,923	£ 5,923	£ 8,052

5. COST OF GENERATING VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Restricted funds 2014 £	Unrestricted funds 2014 £	Total funds 2014 £	Total funds 2013 £
Events and fundraising	-	1,266	1,266	12,603
Voluntary income staff costs	-	47,642	47,642	38,498
	-	£ 48,908	£ 48,908	£ 51,101

6. EXPENDITURE BY CHARITABLE ACTIVITY

SUMMARY BY FUND TYPE	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	funds	funds	funds	funds
	2014	2014	2014	2013
	£	£	£	£
Michael Palin Centre (MPC) - London	396,032	50,346	446,378	454,635
Stammering Support Centre (SSC) - Leeds	66,415	-	66,415	66,199
	462,447	50,346	512,793	520,834
MPC accrual released relating to 2011	-	(59,043)	(59,043)	-
Total	£ 462,447	(£ 8,697)	£ 453,750	£ 520,834

The Charity released an amount of £59,043 which had been accrued in a previous year to cover the costs of two speech and language therapists (SLTs) from Islington Primary Care Trust (the PCT). During the year ended 31 March 2014 it was confirmed that payment was not required for the services provided by the SLTs.

EXPENDITURE BY CHARITABLE ACTIVITY	SSC	MPC	2014	2013
	£	£	£	£
Direct costs:				
Assessments	11,449	220,000	231,449	236,075
Clinical work / 'I have a voice project'	7,700	115,800	123,500	109,000
Residential programme	17,671	-	17,671	-
Returners	-	6,000	6,000	-
Research programme	-	20,000	20,000	20,000
Advisory services	-	25,200	25,200	38,250
Education and training	10,686	29,981	40,667	55,450
Service development and management	12,459	-	12,459	29,568
Released accrual	-	(59,043)	(59,043)	-
	59,965	357,938	417,903	488,343
Support costs	6,450	29,397	35,847	32,491
Total	£ 66,415	£ 387,335	£ 453,750	£ 520,834

7. GOVERNANCE COSTS

GOVERNANCE COSTS	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	2014	2014	2014	2013
	£	£	£	Restated £
	Auditors' remuneration	-	4,560	4,560
Travel costs	-	-	-	993
Miscellaneous	-	626	626	595
Bank charges	-	83	83	73
Staff costs	-	2,507	2,507	2,103
Total	-	£ 7,776	£ 7,776	£ 8,504

8. SUPPORT COSTS

	Commission Costs	Total 2014	Total 2013
	£	£	£
Depreciation of assets	13,109	13,109	12,915
Staff costs	12,249	12,249	12,599
Staff expenses	130	130	82
Travel	1,949	1,949	-
Professional fees	5,968	5,968	5,004
Website costs	569	569	-
DVDS/ Books	1,016	1,016	1,000
Equipment and repairs	857	857	477
Other	-	-	415
Total	£ 35,847	£ 35,847	£ 32,492

9. NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR

	2014	2013
	£	£
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation	£ 13,109	£ 12,915
Auditors' remuneration	£ 4,560	£ 4,740

Trustees did not receive remuneration, benefits in kind, reimbursement of expenses (2013: £NIL)

10. STAFF COSTS

	Total 2014	Total 2013
	£	£
Wages and salaries	56,697	48,598
Social security costs	5,701	4,601
Total staff costs	£ 62,398	£ 53,199

Average monthly number of employees during the year	Total 2014	Total 2013
	No.	No.
Average number of staff	2	2

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year

11. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Office equipment £	Total 2014 £
Cost			
Brought forward	350,000	39,953	389,953
Additions	242,000	1,274	243,274
Disposals	-	-	-
Carried forward	£ 592,000	£ 41,227	£ 633,227
Depreciation			
Brought forward	-	23,346	23,346
Charged	-	13,109	13,109
Disposals	-	-	-
Carried forward	-	£ 36,455	£ 36,455
Net book value			
At year end	£ 592,000	£ 4,772	£ 596,772
Previous year	£ 350,000	£ 16,607	£ 366,607

Note: additions to fixed assets represents the training room extension which was completed on 31 March 2014 so no depreciation charge was appropriate

12. DEBTORS

	2014 £	2013 Restated £
Other debtors	£ 16,484	£ 16,224

13. CREDITORS

	2014 £	2013 £
Other creditors	11,129	140,237
Accruals and deferred income	43,915	69,883
Total	£ 55,044	£ 210,120

14. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	1 April 2013 Restated £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	31 March 2014 £
Designated funds					
Freehold Pine Street	350,000	-	-	-	350,000
Training room extension	-	-	-	242,000	242,000
Net Book Value Fixed Assets	16,607	-	-	(11,835)	4,772
Extension to MPC	220,846	3,237	-	(224,083)	-
General funds					
General funds - all funds	170,524	208,091	(47,987)	(4,892)	325,736
	757,977	211,328	(47,987)	1,190	922,508
Restricted funds					
Assessments	17,683	77,200	(75,083)	-	19,800
Big Lottery Fund	-	128,400	(128,400)	-	-
Training	4,856	15,000	(19,856)	-	-
Michael Palin Centre clinical activity	-	156,799	(156,799)	-	-
Northern Centre	231,600	-	(69,415)	-	162,185
Capital projects	1,190	-	-	(1,190)	-
Therapy programme	8,100	-	(8,100)	-	-
Therapy	-	5,000	(2,500)	-	2,500
Other	2,294	-	(2,294)	-	-
	265,723	382,399	(462,447)	(1,190)	184,485
Total funds	£ 1,023,700	£ 593,727	(£ 510,434)	-	£ 1,106,993

SUMMARY OF FUNDS	1 April 2013 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	31 March 2014 £
Designated funds	587,453	3,237	-	6,082	596,772
General funds	170,524	208,091	(47,987)	(4,892)	325,736
	757,977	211,328	(47,987)	1,190	922,508
Restricted funds	265,723	382,399	(462,447)	(1,190)	184,485
Total funds	£ 1,023,700	£ 593,727	(£ 510,434)	-	£ 1,106,993

Purpose of restricted funds

Assessments	These funds are used to pay for specialist consultations at the Michael Palin Centre.
MPC clinical, research and teaching activity	These funds are to pay for specialist clinical, research and teaching activities at the Michael Palin Centre, funded by the Stuttering Foundation.
Big Lottery Fund Grant	Specialist support for stammering children - sessional costs for client assessments in the Michael Palin Centre and overheads.
Stammering Support Centre	These funds are used to support the provision of specialist speech and language therapy for children and young people who stammer at the Stammering Support Centre in Leeds.
Equipment and programmes	These funds were donated for the purpose of additional equipment and funding of programmes in the Help a Capital Child Group Therapy Room in the Michael Palin Centre in London.
Training	These funds were donated for the purpose of supporting innovative activity which the charity would otherwise be unable to afford for the Michael Palin Centre in London.
Other	These funds were donated for the purpose of purchasing resources that the charity would otherwise be unable to afford for the Michael Palin Centre in London.

Purpose of designated funds

Freehold Pine Street fund	The Trustees have designated funds to the value of the freehold property as a designated resource to meet the charity's principal objectives.
Training room extension	The Trustees have designated funds received from a legacy to fund the training room extension.
Net book value of fixed assets	The Trustees have designated funds to the value of the net book value of fixed assets as a designated resource to meet the charity's principal objectives.
Transfer of funds	<p>The transfer of £11,835 was made from the designated fixed asset fund to general funds being the net movement on fixed assets.</p> <p>The transfer of £242,000 was a transfer of funds from designated funds to general funds being the costs associated with the extension.</p>

15. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Restricted funds 2014 £	Unrestricted funds 2014 £	Total funds 2014 £	Total funds 2013 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	596,772	596,772	366,607
Current assets	184,485	380,780	565,265	867,213
Creditors due within one year	-	(55,044)	(55,044)	(210,120)
	£ 184,485	£ 922,508	£ 1,106,993	£ 1,023,700

16. FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

	Total 2014 £	Total 2013 £
NHS Whittington Health	422,425	412,125
Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust	71,052	95,309
Total	£ 493,477	£ 507,434

17. PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENT

The 2013 unrestricted funds balance brought forward have been reduced by £39,746 as a result of an adjustment relating to a long term grant which is more appropriately recognised commencing at a later stage and thus reducing debtors in that year.

ACTION FOR STAMMERING CHILDREN

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