

**Trustees' Report and Financial Statements** 

For the Year Ended 31 March 2017



ASC staff team, Trustees, Youth Panel and Vice Presidents Colin Firth and Ed Balls

"It's been a huge honour to be made a Vice President of Action for Stammering Children this year. I'm constantly surprised by the impact that the work of the charity has in providing the help and support that children and young people who stammer and their families need. It was a real privilege to hear about the fantastic work of the ASC Youth Panel in March, and their plans to reach more of the 150,000 children and young people across the UK who stammer."

> Ed Balls ASC Vice President

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# **Message from the Chair of Trustees**



ction for Stammering Children (ASC) has had another extraordinary year, supporting projects and initiatives across the UK that have transformed the lives of over 4,000 children and young people who stammer.

This is a fantastic achievement, and I am hugely proud of the work both of the Charity itself and our small but brilliant team, led by our new Chief Executive Phil Pyatt.

The core of our work remains funding a highly specialist assessment service for anyone aged 2-18 in the UK who stammers. The cornerstone of each child's subsequent therapy, the assessment very often acts as a gateway to the effective services

that children and their families need and greatly increases the likelihood of a successful outcome. It is a service neither paid for nor provided by the NHS, and it sets ASC apart.

That assessment service in turn underpins our close, long-term partnership with the Michael Palin Centre (MPC), whose world-renowned therapists and activities ASC commissions. Not only are we delighted to continue to support the hugely beneficial and life-changing work of the MPC, we are especially thrilled that 2016/17 was another record year, with 315 children and their families receiving specialist assessments at the MPC.

ASC's work goes far further than that, however, recognising as we do the critical need to promote awareness of stammering and the profound impact it has on children and young people's lives.

To that end, ASC continues to chair the Stammering Network, a coalition of seven organisations from across the stammering community, all working together to collaborate and share best practice.

In addition, we are always looking at ways to help inform and influence key decision makers about the many complex issues relating to stammering. In October 2016, therefore, the Charity led on an event at Speaker's House – Stammering Therapy Changes Lives – which helped raise awareness of stammering and highlighted the power therapy has to transform the lives of people who stammer.

ASC is a national charity, and our mission is to ensure that every child and young person across the UK who stammers has the access they need to effective services and support.

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That is why we fund the training of speech and language therapists not just at the MPC but across the UK, ensuring more therapists can support more children and young people who stammer, wherever they live.

We fund a designated UK-wide helpline for the many parents, young people and speech and language therapists who need urgent advice and help.

We provide the funds for much-needed research into stammering and do everything we can both to further the understanding of the causes of stammering and to promote new and innovative treatments.

And we fund initiatives such as 'Talking Out', a residential course in partnership with the Yorkshire and Humber Clinical Excellence Network. I was fortunate enough to attend the last day of the course and to learn more about the various ways it had helped the participants, many of whom were meeting other young people who stammer for the very first time.

Above all, and now more than ever, ASC is working towards a society where the 150,000 children and young people across the UK who stammer have the same opportunities and quality of life as their peers. We want to empower them and to give them a voice not just within society but within our organisation too.

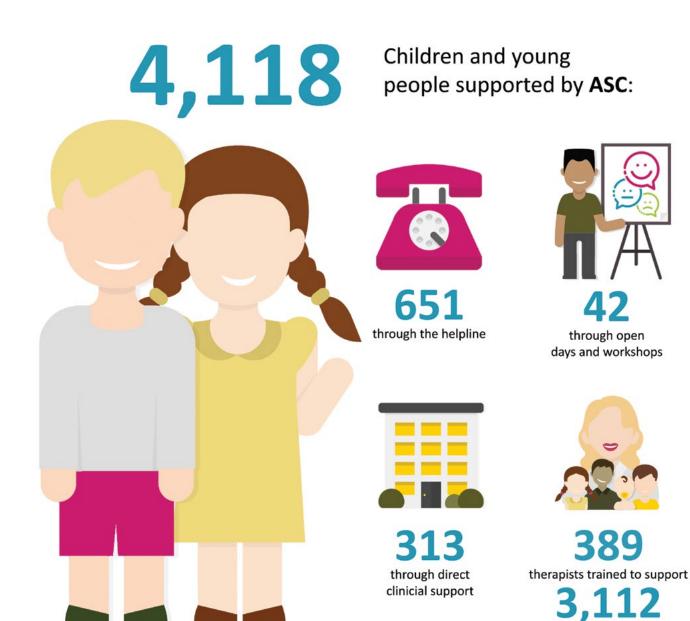
With that in mind, the ASC Youth Panel, set up in 2016, is going from strength to strength and has been of huge benefit to the Charity, helping us get closer to, engage with and better understand the voices of young people who stammer. I was incredibly proud

to watch this inspirational group present their ideas and thoughts to the Charity's trustees and two of our Vice Presidents, Colin Firth and Ed Balls, and to hear about their plans to create awareness of stammering on social media and in schools.

I must take this opportunity to thank my fellow trustees for their expertise and dedication and to welcome Arthur Hughes-Hallett to the board. Enormous thanks, too, to Elaine Kelman and the truly outstanding therapists at the Michael Palin Centre; our inspirational Vice Presidents, including Michael Palin, who continue to support us in so many ways; Jane Fraser and the Stuttering Foundation, whose on-going generosity helps underpin the work of the Michael Palin Centre; the ASC Youth Panel; our Life President and Co-founder, Travers Reid, whose passion and enthusiasm remain undimmed, and of course our many supporters and donors. Without your generosity, none of this would be possible, and I want to say a big thank you to you all.

I am lucky enough to have been involved in ASC for nearly a decade now. It's a unique and remarkable charity, forever changing the lives of many thousands of children up and down the UK, all of whom have a voice and all of whom have a right to be heard. If you would like to learn more about what we do or to support us in any way, we would love to hear from you.

*Joanna Hunter Chair of Board of Trustees* 





or every **21** donated 99 was spent on haritable activity



**60%** of people who stammer has a family member who does too





2

5% or more children under the age of 5 will go through a phase of stammering

children



ASC's new Youth Panel: 15 young people changing perceptions of stammering

# **Annual Report of the Board of Trustees**

For The Year Ended 31 March 2017

The Trustees, who are also directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, present their Annual Report together with the financial statements of Action for Stammering Children (the Charity) for the year ended 31 March 2017. 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 with the FRS102.

## **Purpose and Activities**

The Charity's vision is a society where children and young people who stammer have the same opportunities and quality of life as their peers. The Charity's mission is to ensure that every child and young person across the United Kingdom who stammers has access to effective services and support to help them meet the challenges created by their stammer.

To achieve its mission, the Charity undertakes activities and services across the following seven key strategic goals:

- 1 To increase access to effective therapy services for children and young people across the UK who stammer
- 2 To empower children and young people who stammer by giving them a voice within our organisation and in society
- 3 To assist the parents of children and young people who stammer, so that they are better able to support their child
- 4 To improve the ability of speech and language therapists to provide effective services to children and young people who stammer

- 5 To promote research into the most effective treatment of stammering in children and young people
- 6 To support innovation in stammering services for children and young people across the UK
- 7 To promote awareness of stammering and the impact it has on children and young people's lives, and to change public perceptions

# **Our Impact in 2016/17**

The summary below sets out the impact of the Charity in 2016/17 against its key objectives, and the difference the Charity has made to its beneficiaries – children and young people who stammer, their families, and to the wider society.

To increase access to effective therapy services for children and young people across the UK who stammer

## Assessments and therapy at the Michael Palin Centre

S tammering is a highly complex problem. It typically starts in pre-school years and can blight a child's social, emotional and educational development, often becoming worse over time. For many children, young people and their parents, receiving an early assessment and identifying the most appropriate form of therapy is key to managing their stammer and to enabling them to reach their full potential.

## "When I try to speak, I get scared because I'm going to stammer and I'm afraid what people will think."

Many of these services are not available through the NHS, and over the last year the Charity has continued to increase the delivery of charitablyfunded services across the UK. Thanks to support from Action for Stammering Children, a record 315 children and their families received specialist assessments for stammering at the Michael Palin Centre in the year. Children and young people travelled from across the UK to undergo a specialist assessment and then received a tailor-made treatment programme to be delivered either by their local NHS Trust or at the Michael Palin Centre. "We were all treated with tremendous understanding and respect, and left feeling very energised and confident to move towards treatment." Parent of child attending an assessment

In addition, the Charity funded individually tailored courses of therapy for children who had been unable to access treatment through the NHS. This included one pre-school child for whom early intervention is most effective, 11 schoolaged children and their parents, and a returners' programme for 12 young people who have either suffered a relapse in their stammer or were going through a particularly big event in their lives (an event that often exacerbates a stammer).

Action for Stammering Children also supported children and young people through a year-long group therapy programme, which included a twoweek intensive course delivered at the Michael Palin Centre. The Charity supported three children aged 10-14 and 11 young people aged 15-18 to participate in these intensive programmes, when funding could not be obtained through the NHS. Activities on these courses focus on fluency techniques, confidence building, development of social communication skills and ways to manage the emotional aspects of stammering. Parents attend courses at the same time as their children under 15, exploring how they and their wider family can support their children as they go through what is often a life-changing journey. The two-week intensive courses allow children to speak about their stammer in a safe environment. As their confidence increases, they feel better able to speak up in situations where previously they had kept quiet.

Other initiatives funded by ASC, such as the Circus Skills workshops, allow participating young people to face their fears of stammering. By going beyond their comfort zone through attempting activities like the flying trapeze for the first time, they are able to draw powerful parallels with their therapy journey, showing them they can take control of difficult situations.

"I did my presentation today in form and it went really well. My body was shaking so much and I could feel my heart racing when I was up there on stage. Even though I thought I was going to get upset I didn't let my fear and stammer get in the way and I still went up and spoke in front of everyone. To me it was a big accomplishment because even though I was scared I still did it anyway and I had accomplished something that is very far out of my comfort zone. I thought of what you and coach B (positive thoughts) would have said, that made me feel a lot more confident. I was so glad when it was over and I was extremely proud of myself and very happy. Thank you for supporting me and believing in me."

Young person who attended the intensive therapy when back at school

## **Outcomes**

**100%** of parents who attended consultation clinics and review sessions with their child reported they better understood their child's stammer, felt more able to help their child, felt more confident about the future and more hopeful that someone could help.

In addition, **95%** of parents reported that they felt less worried about their child's stammer, and that they now knew what to do.

Various measuring tools were used to ascertain the impact of therapy on each child's stammer, including Parent Palin Rating Scales and the OASES scoring system.



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## **Talking Out Residential Course – North Yorkshire**

Young people who stammer often feel extremely isolated, with many not having met another young person who stammers with whom to share their experiences. During the October half-term, Action for Stammering Children, in partnership with the Yorkshire and Humber Clinical Excellence Network for Stammering, ran a week-long outdoor activitybased residential course called 'Talking Out' at Bewerley Park Outdoor Education Centre in North Yorkshire.

Involving 18 young people aged 12-15 who stammer from across North Yorkshire and the surrounding area, the week-long course involved a wide-range of activities from rock climbing to canoeing combined with speech and language therapy. As with the Circus skills workshops, the residential course takes participating young people completely out of their comfort zone, which, coupled with on-going speech and language therapy and group work, results in them gaining new skills, tools and a new-found confidence to deal with their stammer.

One young person who attended the residential, when asked why it is useful to spend time with other children who stammer, commented: "because we shared our stories and it helps me think I am not the only one".

"The week made a massive difference to my confidence and I'm now not as scared to try things and talk to people. Since getting home I have started to order my own food in restaurants and McDonalds and I have even been into a jewellery shop and asked for a bracelet for my mum that was behind the counter and not on display. I am part of the media team at school and usually I just stand behind the camera. However, when we were making the BBC School Report this year I volunteered to be a narrator and spoke for 4 or 5 sentences."

Young person on residential

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## **Outcomes**

As with all ASC supported programmes, outcome measures for the course, both qualitative and quantitative, were obtained from participants and their families before, during and at set periods after the end of the residential. Results have shown it to be an effective intervention that helps to reduce negative reactions to teenagers who stammer, leading to improvements in selfconfidence. Feedback also showed that being part of a group with other young people who stammer and sharing experiences and challenges, helped build confidence in communicating and decreased sensitivity to stammering, with a positive impact in situations both at home and in school.

A follow-up day for the October 2016 participants was held in May 2017.



2 To empower children and young people who stammer by giving them a voice within our organisation and in society

## **ASC Youth Panel**

Young people who stammer often feel isolated and that they do not have a voice. As a result, in 2015/16 the ASC Youth Panel, which comprises 15 young people aged 13–25 from across the UK, was established to give young people a voice within the Charity and wider society. The Panel meets regularly in London to learn new skills and discuss the issues around stammering that are most important to them.

Most recently, they have developed a Youth Panel website **www.ascyouthpanel.com** – specifically targeted at other young people aged 13–25 who stammer, to seek their advice and guidance, and encourage them to sign up as ASC Youth Ambassadors on social media, so that young people who stammer truly have a voice in society. The panel members have exciting plans for the next 12 months such as the development of promotional and educational materials to be used in schools.

A special thank you goes to our corporate partner, LRWTonic, for their incredible support in helping to establish the ASC Youth Panel. One of the panel members commented:

"This panel has given every member the chance to make a huge difference for stammering people as a whole, and to ensure that the thoughts of the people who receive the services of ASC are deeply embedded within the Charity's policy."





To assist the parents of children and young people who stammer, so that they are better able to support their child



## **Stammering Helpline**

emand for the Action for Stammering Children-funded helpline, which is delivered by experienced staff at the Michael Palin Centre, remains high. The helpline provides a first port of call to worried parents, teachers, therapists, GPs and other professionals who need expert advice on how to respond to a child's stammer. A total of 597 calls were received during the year, including calls from concerned parents needing advice on whether their child's stammer requires therapy, parents needing advice whilst waiting for their child to be seen locally, and therapists seeking advice on how to respond to a clinical issue.

## Website

he Action for Stammering Children website continues to be a source of information for parents of children and young people who stammer. Over the last year, demand for information has remained high, with people searching for everything from what is a stammer, through to what are the best types of treatment and where to seek help and support. The next 12 months will see a new and improved website to help more children and young people.

Helpline Example - The concerned mother of a three year old from Nottingham called the helpline about her child's severe stammering, after she was told the waiting list was twelve months at her local service. The therapist was able to give the worried parent advice about helping her child's fluency, and directed her to the website as well as a stammering advice book for parents. The trained therapist contacted the specialist in Nottingham, and they were able to call the parent and arrange an appointment. With this call to the helpline, a concerned parent was able to get the support her child needed in weeks as opposed to the twelve months she was quoted, and appropriate techniques to cope in the meantime.



To improve the ability of speech and language therapists to provide effective services to children and young people who stammer



*"Really engaging and knowledgeable; good references. It inspired me to work in such client groups."*  In our effort to reach as many as possible of the 150,000 children and young people across the UK who stammer, the Charity has continued to support the training of speech and language therapists through a range of training courses both at the Michael Palin Centre and across the country.

"I have gained a lot more knowledge and confidence working with those who stammer, but also so many transferable skills to work with other paediatric groups / collaborative working in general."

A total of 302 therapists undertook training at the Michael Palin Centre, and a further 108 received training through a Charity-funded outreach training programme delivered by Michael Palin Centre therapists in Blackpool, Newcastle and Norwich. This means that more than 3,380 children, young people and their families can now access the therapy that they need to help manage their stammer in their local area. The Charity also supported clinical and research supervision bursaries for four recipients in Hastings, Bedford, Northampton and Bury.

## 5 To promote research into the most effective treatment of stammering in children and young people

Over the last year, in partnership with the Michael Palin Centre, research was undertaken in the following areas:

- » Finding out what children and parents want to gain from therapy
- » Developing outcome measurement tools
- » Investigating the effectiveness of therapy
- » Considering what factors make therapy successful

# Finding out what children and parents want to gain from therapy

Two studies have been conducted to find out what parents and children want to gain from therapy. The results demonstrate that children want to learn how to be more fluent, participate more in speaking situations, to be more knowledgeable about stammering, and to feel more confident in their ability to communicate. Parents wanted to know how to support their children with these goals, and also to see a reduction in their levels of worry. All wanted to meet others in the same position to share ideas and experiences and to reduce feelings of isolation.

#### **Developing outcome measurement tools**

Few of the therapy goals expressed by parents and children attending for therapy can be measured using the assessments that are available. In order to explore the impact of therapy, two new measures have been developed, one for parents and one for children. The Palin Parent Rating Scale is an on-line rating scale which measures the parents' view of the impact of stammering on the child; the severity of stammering and impact on the parents; and the parents' knowledge and confidence in managing the stammer.

The development of an outcome measure for children in the UK has begun, with the first stage to find out what children consider should be included in such a tool.



#### Therapy effectiveness

The MPC have been exploring the effectiveness of the therapy they provide for two age groups: 7 years and under, and 8-14 year olds. In both age ranges they have found that stammering frequency reduces with therapy, along with improvements in impact on both child and parent/s. Following therapy, parents feel more knowledgeable and confident in how to support their child. The importance of improving a child's attitude to communication has been identified as crucial.

6 To support innovation in stammering services for children and young people across the UK

#### What factors make therapy successful?

Learning more about the mechanisms for change and the key therapy components will help to ensure that these important elements are retained and therapy provision is enhanced to include them. Two studies have been conducted to find out what children and parents consider made the difference to their long term progress. In both studies, the importance of including parents, meeting others who have experience of stammering, and encouraging confidence in speaking and reducing negative attitudes, have been identified as critical.

Thanks to the generosity of Global Radio and their Global Make Some Noise charitable fund, the Charity secured funding to purchase stateof-the-art equipment to further develop the Telehealth programme enabling the Centre to use this modern technology for the delivery of more assessments and therapy across the UK, so that children and their families can access services which might otherwise have been unavailable for geographical, financial or social reasons.



Joe Allen (second right), ASC Youth Panel member at the 'Stammering Therapy Changes Lives' event with The Speaker of the House, The Rt Hon John Bercow MP, George Freeman MP and ASC Vice President Ed Balls.

7 To promote awareness of stammering and the impact it has on children and young people's lives, and to change public perceptions

# Raising awareness of stammering

he Charity plays a leading role in promoting awareness of stammering and the impact it has on children and young people.

The Charity does this through our website **www.actionforstammeringchildren.org**, our Facebook and Twitter social media channels (for both the Charity and the ASC Youth Panel), on Instagram, and through our monthly e-newsletter.



## Influencing Government – Stammering Network

SC continued to chair the Stammering Network, a network of seven organisations from across the stammering community, with the aim of raising awareness of stammering and influencing government policy. In October 2017, the Charity led on a Stammering Network event at Speaker's House titled **'Stammering Therapy Changes Lives'**. We heard from a range of speakers – from senior politicians to children and young people who stammer. The event was an opportunity to raise awareness of stammering and the importance of speech and language therapy in transforming the lives of people who stammer in the UK.

With support from MPs, the Stammering Network has been working together to compile a paper to better inform government policy both at a local and national level, by highlighting the need for stammering interventions and provision from preschool aged children through to adults in prison and in wider society.

# **Our Fundraisers**



## on for nmering Idren ging lives forever

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for

Children changing lives forever

on

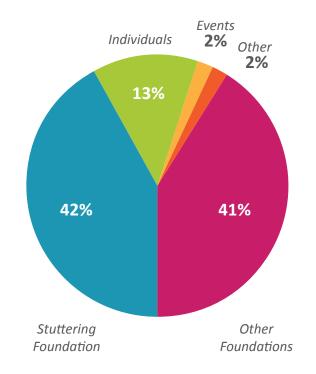
# **Financial Review**

#### Income

Total income for the year to the 31 March 2017 amounted to £455,292 compared to £566,632 in the year to 31 March 2016. The reduction was mainly due to the ending of the Big Lottery Fund in 2015/16.

In 2017 we have benefited from a new multiyear grant from the Garfield Weston Foundation (£50,000), continued support from the Emily Hughes-Hallett Foundation (£15,000) and ongoing support from the Stuttering Foundation (\$250,000).

In addition, we received support of more than  $\pm 5,000$  from the following grant making bodies: The Leathersellers' Company Charitable Fund ( $\pm 15,000 - 2$ nd of four), and the Woodroffe Benton Foundation ( $\pm 5,000 - final$  of three and renewed for a further three years).

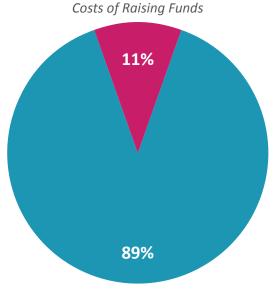


Everything we did in 2016-17 was only possible because of the generosity and commitment of our supporters. Some prefer to remain anonymous, but we are extremely grateful to them all.

#### Expenditure

Total expenditure for the year was £558,618. A total of £499,963 was spent on charitable activity. Of this, £474,311 was used to enable the delivery of charitable activity at the Michael Palin Centre, and the remainder to fund the 'Talking Out' residential for teenagers in North Yorkshire. Expenditure on charitable activities represented 89% of total charitable expenditure.

The net movement in funds in the year ended 31 March 2017 was  $\pounds(103,326)$ , representing the budgeted reduction in restricted reserves, resulting in total funds of £993,885.



Charitable Expenditure



#### Reserves

Total unrestricted reserves, shown in note 14 of £951,010 includes designated illiquid funds of £603,889 which comprises freehold property and the net book value of fixed assets. The remainder of £347,121 comprises unrestricted free reserves and represents approximately eight months' expenditure, in line with current policy.

#### **Reserves policy and going concern**

The Trustees have considered the desired level of unrestricted funds not designated for specific purpose 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 able to respond immediately to a reasonable range of unforeseen adverse circumstances, before remedial plans can be implemented.

#### **Investment powers and policy**

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

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# **Looking Ahead to 2017 – 2018**

s a Charity we are really excited by the challenges ahead and are working hard to reach more of the 150,000 children and young people across the UK who stammer. Our partnership with the Michael Palin Centre remains fundamental to the work of the Charity, and we will continue to commission activities that reach more children and young people who need the specialist advice and therapy that is simply not available through the NHS.

In addition, we will enhance our existing partnerships with organisations such as the National Clinical Excellence Network for Stammering and City University, in order to reach more speech and language therapists. We will also build new partnerships with employers and educational establishments, working closely with the ASC Youth Panel.

# In 2017/18 we aim to continue to help over 4,000 children and young people by:

- Supporting assessments, therapy, and the training of speech and language therapists across the country in partnership with the Michael Palin Centre;
- Rolling out the 'Talking Out' week-long residential programme in Staffordshire and North Yorkshire;
- Launching a new and improved charity website, with easily accessible information for parents, children and young people, teachers and therapists;
- » Supporting the Action for Stammering Children helpline, delivered by the Michael Palin Centre;
- Developing the work of the ASC Youth Panel with resources for schools and colleges and increasing the number of ASC Youth Ambassadors;

- » Launching Stambassadors a project involving role models who stammer from the world of work, who volunteer to speak to young people who stammer, ensuring they can reach their potential by learning about different careers and, as far as possible, receiving the encouragement they need;
- Supporting research into the best treatments for stammering and, in turn, the societal impact of not starting therapy early;
- Promoting awareness of stammering and looking at innovative solutions to reach more children and young people who stammer.

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# 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 September 2014, and as a charity on 21 March 1989.

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**

The Charity's Board of Trustees meets at least six times per annum. At present the Board has ten members from a variety of professional backgrounds, many of whom have experience of stammering, either personally or through a family member. 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 a 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. 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 and inclusive body. A Trustee nominations committee regularly reviews the Trustees' skills mix and drives recruitment of new Trustees. 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 40.

The members of the charitable company include 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 Related Parties and co-operation with other organisations

The work of ASC is, at present, largely achieved through its relationship with Whittington Health NHS Trust and its Speech and Language Therapy Department in London. ASC commissions the provision of specific services from the Michael Palin Centre, part of Whittington Health NHS Trust. Specifically, we commission expert assessments, consultations, treatments, 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.

The Charity has a strict conflict of interest policy and declarations are made at the start of every trustee meeting.

#### Pay Policy for Senior Staff

All directors give their time freely and no director received remuneration in the year.

The pay of all staff is review annually. The directors benchmark pay against levels in other similarly sized charities.

#### **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. A formal risk register is maintained and regularly updated.

#### **Public Benefit**

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

# **Trustees' Responsibilities Statement**

he 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 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.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 22nd June 2017 and signed on their behalf, by:

*Joanna Hunter* Chair of Board of Trustees

## Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of Action for Stammering Children

report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2017, which are set out on pages 25 to 37.

# Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider than an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my 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 Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- » to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the company 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a true and fair view and the report is limited to those matters set out below.

#### **Independent Examiner's statement**

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- » to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- » to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities;

have not been met; to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

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Helena Wilkinson

For and on behalf of

Price Bailey LLP Chartered Accountants Causeway House 1 Dane Street Bishop's Stortford Hertfordshire CM23 3BT

Date: 27 October 2017

# **Statement of Financial Activities**

(Incorporating Income and Expenditure Account) For the Year Ended 31 March 2017

Income and Expenditure	Note	Restricted Funds £	Unrestric General £	ted Funds Designated	Total 2017 £	Total 2016 £
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	2	285,905	158,356	-	444,261	552,373
Other trading activities	3	-	7,932	-	7,932	10,273
Investments	4		3,099		3,099	3,986
Total Income		285,905	169,387		455,292	566,632
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	5	-	58,655	-	58,655	58,207
Charitable activities:	6	293,554	206,409		499,963	532,298
Total expenditure		293,554	265,064	-	558,618	590,505
(Loss)/gain on investments		-	-	-	-	-
Net (expenditure)/income		(7,649)	(95,677)	-	(103,326)	(23,873)
Transfer between funds	14	(18,003)	7,257	10,746		
Net movement in funds		(25,652)	(88,420)	10,746	(103,326)	(23,873)
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b> Total funds brought forward		68,527	435,541	593,143	1,097,211	1,121,084
Total funds carried forward	14	42,875	347,121	603,889	993,885	1,097,211

There are no recognised gains and losses other than those in the statement of financial activities. Therefore no statement of total recognised gains and losses has been prepared. All the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

# **Balance Sheet**

## As at 31 March 2017 Registered Number: 2328627

	Note		2017 £		2016 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible Assets	11		603,889		593,143
Current assets					
Debtors	12	18,133		92,398	
Cash at bank and in hand		482,998		415,705	
		501,131		508,103	
Creditors	13	(111,135)		(4,035)	
Net current assets			389,996		504,068
Total net assets			993,885		1,097,211
Funds					
Designated funds - fixed assets	14		603,889		593,143
Unrestricted funds - free reserves	14		347,121		435,541
Restricted funds	14		42,875		68,527
Total funds and reserves			993,885		1,028,684

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.

For the year ended 31 March 2017 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

#### Directors' responsibilities:

- » The members have not required the company to obtain audit of it accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476
- » The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting recorded and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 22 June 2017 and signed on their behalf by:

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Joanna Hunter, Chair of Trustees

# **Statement of Cash Flows**

For the Year Ended 31 March 2017

	2017 £	2016 £
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year	(103,326)	(23,873)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation of tangible assets	7,257	1,255
Investment income	(3,099)	(3,986)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	74,265	(64,260)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	107,100	(113,337)
Loss/(gain) on investments	-	-
Net cash generated from operating activities	82,197	(204,201)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(18,003)	(938)
Income from investments	3,099	3,986
Net cash from investing activities	(14,904)	3,048
Net increase/decrease in cash and cash equivalents	67,293	(201,153)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	415,705	616,858
Cash equivalents at the end of the year	482,998	415,705
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year comprise:		
Cash at bank and in hand	482,998	415,705

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# **Notes to the Financial Statements**

For the Year Ended 31 March 2017

## **1. Accounting Policies**

# **1.1.** Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Action for Stammering Children meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

#### 1.2. Company status

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company are the Trustees named on page 40. 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 Income

All income is 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. Expenditure

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

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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.

#### 1.8. Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due. Accrued income and tax recoverable is included at the best estimate of the amounts receivable at the balance sheet date.

## 1.9. Creditors

Creditors are recognised as soon as there is legal or constructive obligation committing the Charity to pay out resources.

## **1.10 Financial Instruments**

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement value before any trade discounts due. Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account. Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts.

## 1.11 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

## 1.12 Pension costs

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for employees. These assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity. The annual contributions payable are charged to the statement of financial activities. The Charity also makes contributions into individual's own personal pension arrangements.

## 1.13 Taxation

No liability to UK corporation tax arose on ordinary activities for the year ended 31 March 2017 as the company enjoys tax-exempt charity status.

## 2. Voluntary Income

	Restricted Funds 2017 £	Unrestricted Funds 2017 £	Total Funds 2017 £	Total Funds 2016 £
Grants and donations	285,905	158,356	444,261	552,373
Legacies	-	-	-	-
Total donations	285,905	158,356	444,261	552,373

Income from donations in 2016 included £204,054 of unrestricted income and £348,319 restricted fund income.

## 3. Trading Activities

	Restricted Funds 2017 £	Unrestricted Funds 2017 £	Total Funds 2017 £	Total Funds 2016 £
Charity trading income				
Books and DVD sales	-	4,072	4,072	5,510
Other Income	-	3,860	3,860	4,763
Net income from trading activities	-	7,932	7,932	10,273

Income from charitable activities in 2016 was all unrestricted.

## 4. Investment Income

	Restricted Funds 2017	Unrestricted Funds 2017	Total Funds 2017	Total Funds 2016
	£	£	£	£
Bank interest received		3,099	3,099	3,986

Income from investment income in 2016 was all unrestricted.

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## 5. Cost of Raising Funds

	Restricted Funds 2017 £	Unrestricted Funds 2017 £	Total Funds 2017 £	Total Funds 2016 £
Events and fundraising	-	669	669	2,807
Voluntary income staff costs	-	57,986	57,986	55,400
	-	58,655	58,655	58,207
Prior Year - Cost Of Raising Funds	Restricted Funds 2016 £	Unrestricted Funds 2016 £	Total Funds 2016 £	Total Funds 2015 £
Events and fundraising Voluntary income staff costs	-	2,807 55,400	2,807 55,400	18,357 32,446
	-	58,207	58,207	50,803

## 6. Expenditure by Charitable Activity

Summary By Fund Type	Restricted Funds 2017 £	Unrestricted Funds 2017 £	Total Funds 2017 £	Total Funds 2016 £
Michael Palin Centre (MPC) - London	267,902	265,409	474,311	481,599
Northern Services (NS)	25,652	-	25,652	23,802
Strategic Review	-	-	-	26,897
	293,554	206,409	499,963	532,298

Prior Year - Summary by Fund Type	Restricted Funds 2016 £	Unrestricted Funds 2016 £	Total Funds 2016 £
Michael Palin Centre (MPC) - London	355,252	126,347	481,599
Northern Services (NS)	23,802	-	23,802
Strategic Review	26,897	-	26,897
	405,951	126,347	532,298

## 7. Expenditure by Charitable Activity

Direct costs:	NS £	MPC £	2017 £	2016 £
Assessments	-	228,000	228,000	228,000
Clinical work	-	118,000	118,000	118,600
Residential programme	25,652	-	25,652	23,802
Returners	-	10,000	10,000	10,000
Research programme	-	25,000	25,000	25,000
Advisory services	-	31,500	31,500	31,500
Education and training	-	27,776	27,776	33,199
Strategic Review	-	-	-	26,899
Other commissioning	-	150	150	-
	25,652	440,426	466,078	497,000
Support costs	-	33,885	33,885	35,298
Total	25,652	474,311	499,963	532,298

## Prior Year - Expenditure by Charitable Activity

Direct costs:	NS £	MPC £	2016 £
Assessments	-	228,000	228,000
Clinical work	-	118,600	118,600
Residential programme	23,802	-	23,802
Returners	-	10,000	10,000
Research programme	-	25,000	25,000
Advisory services	-	31,500	31,500
Education and training	-	33,199	33,199
Strategic Review	26,899	-	26,899
Other commissioning	-	-	-
	50,701	446,299	497,000
Support costs	-	35,298	35,298
Total	50,701	481,597	532,298

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## 8. Support Costs

	<b>Total 2017</b>	Total 2016
	£	£
Depreciation of assets	7,257	1,255
Staff costs	13,128	20,906
Staff expenses	2,361	31
Travel	162	377
Professional fees	938	2,913
Website costs	245	144
DVDS/ Books	-	1,179
Office costs	-	1,645
Youth Panel	2,058	1,051
Equipment and repairs	90	245
Miscellaneous	1,000	175
Governance costs	6,646	5,377
	33,885	35,298

## 9. Net (Expenditure)/Income for the Year

	Total 2017 £	Total 2016 £
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation	7,257	1,255
Independent Examiner's Fee	2,250	1,500

Trustees did not receive remuneration or benefits in kind. Trustees expenses reimbursement in the year totalled £NIL (2016: £NIL)

## **10. Staff Costs**

	Total 2017 £	Total 2016 £
Wages and salaries	66,573	73,869
Social security costs	7,755	6,007
Total staff costs	74,328	79,876
Average monthly number of employees during the year	Total 2017 No.	Total 2016 No.
Average number of staff	2	2

No employee received emoluments amounting to more than £60,000 (2016: 0).

The key management personnel of the Charity comprise the Trustees and management teams as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions) received by the key management personnel for their services to the Charity was £53,607 (2016: £53,731).

## **11. Tangible Fixed Assets**

	Freehold Property £	Office Equipment £	Total 2017 £
Cost			
At 1 April 2016	592,000	43,717	635,717
Additions	-	18,003	18,003
Disposals	-		-
At 31 March 2017	592,000	61,720	653,720
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2016	-	42,574	42,574
Charged	-	7,527	7,527
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 March 2017	-	49,831	49,831
Net book value			
At 31 March 2017	592,000	11,889	603,889
At 31 March 2016	592,000	1,143	593,143
12. Debtors			
		2017	2016
		£	£
Other debtors		18,133	92,398
13. Creditors			
		2017	2016
		2017 £	2010 £
Accruals		4,037	4,036
Deferred income		107,098	-
	-	111,135	4,036
<b>Deferred income comprises restricted grants received in advance</b> Balance brought forward	:		_
Amounts received in the year			107,098
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## 14. Statement of Funds

	1 April 2016	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	31 March 2017
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds					
Freehold Pine Street	350,000	-	-	-	350,000
Training room extension	242,000	-	-	-	242,000
Net book value fixed assets	1,143	-	-	10,746	11,889
	593,143	-	-	10,746	603,889
General funds					
General funds - all funds	435,541	169,387	(265,064)	7,257	347,121
	1,028,684	169,387	(265,064)	18,003	951,010
Restricted funds					
Assessments	-	93,988	(75 <i>,</i> 985)	(18,003)	-
Michael Palin Centre clinical activity	-	189,417	(189,417)	-	-
Northern Services	68,527	-	(25,652)	-	42,875
Other	-	2,500	(2,500)	-	-
	68,527	285,905	(293,554)	(18,003)	42,875
Total funds	1,097,211	455,292	(558,618)		993,885

## Summary of Funds

	1 April 2016	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	31 March 2017
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds	593,143	-	-	10,746	603,889
General funds	435,541	169,387	(265,064)	7,257	347,121
	1,028,684	169,387	(265,064)	18,003	951,010
Restricted funds	68,527	285,905	(293,554)	(18,003)	42,875
	1,097,211	455,292	(558,618)	-	993,885

## **Prior Year - Statement of Funds**

	1 April 2015	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	31 March 2016
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds					
Freehold Pine Street	350,000	-	-	-	350,000
Training room extension	242,000	-	-	-	242,000
net book value fixed assets	1,460	-	-	(317)	1,143
	593,460	-	-	(317)	593,143
General funds					
General funds - all funds	401,465	218,313	(184,554)	317	435,541
	994,925	218,313	(184,554)	-	1,028,684
Restricted funds					
Assessments	-	56,900	(56,900)	-	-
Big Lottery Fund	-	128,400	(128,400)	-	-
Training	6,000		(6,000)	-	-
Michael Palin Centre clinical activity	-	160,519	(160,519)	-	-
Northern Services	119,226	-	(50,699)	-	68,527
Therapy	-	2,500	(2,500)	-	-
Other	933	-	(933)	-	-
	126,159	348,319	(405,951)	-	68,527
Total funds	1,121,084	566,632	(590,505)	-	1,097,211

## **Prior Year - Summary of Funds**

	1 April 2015	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	31 March 2016
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds	593,460	-	-	(317)	593,143
General funds	401,465	218,313	(184,554)	317	435,541
	994,925	218,313	(184,554)	-	1,028,684
Restricted funds	126,159	348,319	(405,951)	-	68,527
	1,121,084	566,632	(590,505)	-	1,097,211

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## Purpose of Restricted Funds

Assessments	These funds are used to pay for specialist consultations at the Michael Palin Centre.
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.
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.
Northern Services	These funds were used to support a residential course in North Yorkshire for teenagers who stammer.
Technology and Therapy	These funds were donated for the purpose of supporting therapy and purchasing assets that the Charity would otherwise be unable to afford for the Michael Palin Centre in London, funded by Global's Make Some Noise

## 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 principle 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 principle objectives.
Transfer of Funds	There was a transfer of funds from restricted funds of £18,003 for Global's Make Some Noise. £10,746 was transferred to the designated fixed asset fund and represented the addition to fixed assets and £7,527 was transferred to general funds.



## **15. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds**

	Restricted Funds 2017 £	Unrestricted Funds 2017 £	Total Funds 2017 £	Total Funds 2016 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	603,889	603,889	593,143
Current assets	49,973	451,158	501,131	508,103
Creditors due within one year	-	(111,135)	(111,135)	(4,035)
	49,973	943,912	993,885	1,097,211

#### Prior year - analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted Funds 2016 £	Unrestricted Funds 2016 £	Total Funds 2016 £	Total Funds 2015 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	593,143	593,143	593,460
Current assets	68,527	439,576	508,103	644,996
Creditors due within one year	-	(4,035)	(4,035)	(117,372)
	68,527	1,028,684	1,097,211	1,121,084

## **16. Financial Commitments**

	2017	2016
	£	£
NHS Whittington Health	390,000	436,900

The Charity commissions an expert speech and language service for children and young people from NHS Whittington Health.

## 17. First Time Adoption of FRS 102

The polices applied under the entity's previous accounting framework at the date of transition are not materially different to FRS 102 and have not impacted on funds or the statement of financial activities.

# **Reference and Administrative Details of The Charity, Its Trustees and Advisers**

For the Year Ended 31 March 2017

Trustees	Joanna Hunter (Chair) David Broom (Honorary Treasurer) Will Evans (Company Secretary) Samira Ahmed Gerald Grattoni Arthur Hughes-Hallett (appointed September 2016) Claudine Provencher Oliver Rawlins Vicky Slonims Anne Whateley
Company Registered Number	2328627
Charity Registered Number	801171
Company Status	A company limited by guarantee
Day-to-Day Management	The trustees delegated day-to-day management to the Charity's Interim Chief Executive Delyth Evans (to July 2016) and thereafter to Phil Pyatt (Chief Executive August 2016 onwards)
Registered Office	Action for Stammering Children Michael Palin Centre for Stammering Children 13-15 Pine Street London EC1R 0JG
Independent Examiners	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
Life Presidents and Co Founders	Travers Reid The Late Lena Rustin
Vice Presidents	Michael Palin Colin Firth Ed Balls Jane Fraser Thomas Hughes-Hallett Gail Ronson



Michael Palin visiting the young children at the Centre, we are so grateful for his unwavering support.

"Anyone who knows what it is to stammer either personally or, as in my case, through a loved one's experience, will know the effect it can have on a life. To know what you want to say and be unable to say it is almost intolerably frustrating. All the patience in the world cannot prevent it affecting the selfconfidence and self-esteem."

Behind every great charity is someone with the initial passion and drive to help those people most in need. For Action for Stammering Children that person is Travers Reid, Life President and Co-Founder.

Travers, whose childhood experience of stammering was instrumental in setting up a specialist charity for children and young people who stammer, continues to be an influence within our work, as we strive to live up to the legacy he has created.



We were delighted when Travers's granddaughter Sam Davis ran the Brighton half-marathon in early 2016, continuing her grandfather's legacy.

# Notes




Action for Stammering Children c/o The Michael Palin Centre 13-15 Pine Street London, EC1R 0JG 020 3316 8113 @ascstammering www.actionforstammeringchildren.org **Charity Number:** 801171