

# Action for Stammering Children



*Changing lives forever*

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015



*"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 self-confidence and self-esteem.*

*Much of the problem stems from public ignorance of stammering and stammerers and I hope that the raised profile of the Centre will help to change this. But the most important work is to try to alleviate stammering itself and to teach people how best it can be controlled. And what better way to start than with children who stammer?"*

Michael Palin, Vice-President of Action for Stammering Children

<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Message From the Chair</b>	2
<b>Trustees' Report</b>	6
<b>Independent Examiner's Report</b>	17
<b>Statement of Financial Activities</b>	18
<b>Balance Sheet</b>	19
<b>Notes to Financial Statements</b>	20
<b>References and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisers</b>	28

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

In the last year, with the help of our wonderful supporters, we have raised £580,832, which has helped us reach 2,800 children who stammer, train 424 speech and language therapists and answer 633 calls through the helpline.



This is a fantastic achievement. We know, however, that 5% of pre-school children have a stammer and 1.2% of these go on to have a persistent stammer, affecting approximately 150,000 children and young people across the UK. In addition, we know that children who stammer often feel isolated, lonely, sad and very frustrated. They prefer to stay quiet, avoid social situations, steer clear from classroom activities and find it difficult to make friends, which can sometimes result in them being teased and bullied at school. These facts underline both the crucial role the Charity performs and also the size of the challenge we face. It is ASC's belief that no child should be ashamed of their stammer and that no child should suffer alone.

It has been an exciting year full of change at ASC. I started in my role as Chair in April 2014 and, shortly after, our Chief Executive, Patrick Tonks, announced his departure, moving onto an exciting new role to run another Charity. Patrick left ASC after three years helping us rebrand, build a new website, and increase our funding income.

Patrick's departure meant that we had big shoes to fill, so we were especially delighted to appoint a new Chief Executive, Balshen Izzet, who brings with her a fresh pair of eyes, wonderful enthusiasm and new ideas that will help us build on our growing success.

The Charity's Administration Officer, Sarah Broadhead, retired, having worked for the Charity for twenty years. Sarah will be much missed by all. ASC has appointed Deeba Syed as Business Support Manager, to continue Sarah's administrative duties.

The smooth transition in staff enabled ASC not just to continue with business as usual but also to rack up some significant achievements.

Our most significant celebration this year was the official opening of the Lena Rustin Wing, an extension to the training facility at the Michael Palin Centre (MPC). In 2013 the Charity received a generous legacy of £225,000 and, as a result, we now have a fantastic extension equipped with the latest technology. The wing was officially opened by Michael Palin and co-founder Travers Reid in August 2014 and named in memory of Lena Rustin, co-founder of the Charity and inspirational speech and language therapist. This new facility has significantly enhanced the number of speech and language therapists trained at the MPC and has allowed us to provide therapy to more children and young people and their families thanks to the increased space.

The Centre's namesake, Michael Palin, continues to offer unwavering support and dedication. Michael always makes time to visit the children and therapists. This year, Michael gave one very lucky young man – a client of the Centre, Zaki Dogliani – the opportunity to join the Monty Python team onstage at the O2 in front of 20,000 people. Zaki also appeared on Sky News with Eamonn Holmes to talk about the experience. We remain so grateful to Michael for all of his generosity, enthusiasm and commitment.

ASC also was selected to be part of Global Radio's new charity - Make Some Noise - which aims to provide opportunities to improve the lives of disadvantaged children and young people across the UK. Global Radio presenters visited the Centre and met the hardworking therapists, children and their families. It was a proud moment for some of the children sponsored by the Charity to talk about their experiences live on LBC. We look forward to working with Global's Make Some Noise again this year.

In the autumn, ASC marked International Stuttering Awareness Day with a visit to the Centre from Ed Balls and Andy Burnham, who met children, families and speech and language therapists. Earlier in the year, Ed ran his third Virgin London Marathon for ASC, raising just under £40,000.

For the second consecutive year, ASC funded the 'Talking Out' Residential Course, a one-week course that aims to build the confidence and self-esteem of young people who stammer. Organised by the Stammering Support Centre (SSC) in Leeds, it was held at Beweley Park Outdoor Centre, where the children could also enjoy mountain biking, zip wiring and canoeing.

Among all these activities, we are sad to report that after four years of working in close partnership with the Leeds Community Healthcare Trust to help reach children who stammer in the North of England, the Trust has informed us that they will no longer provide specialist help to children outside the Leeds area. The Stammering Support Centre – which gave us the opportunity to support children across the North of England – will therefore revert to its original service of supporting Leeds children only although it will consider out-of-area children on a cost-per-case basis.

We regret the Trust's decision, as we would clearly have wanted to continue to support a service that went beyond just the Leeds

area. But we wish them well, of course, and would like to thank them for their partnership over the past four years. While this now provides us with an opportunity to review our reach across the country, ASC's nationwide commitment to help as many children who stammer as possible remains undimmed.

And that is why the Unlock a Child's Voice appeal – launched in February at a fantastically special and uplifting Gala Dinner, which was attended by Colin Firth, Ed Balls, Jane Fraser, Dame Gail Ronson, our founder Travers Reid and over 100 friends and supporters – was so important and timely. The Gala Dinner was an incredible start to the appeal, raising in excess of £90,000 and generating positive exposure in the national press and broadcast media. Money raised from the appeal will allow us to support the delivery of specialist therapy services across the UK, including the world-leading MPC, by funding therapy in partnership with the NHS. Just as crucially, it will also enable us to train more speech and language therapists and to fund and promote vital research. That has always been ASC's central mission and, with the continued help of our donors and supporters, it remains as necessary now as ever.

At ASC we work hard to reach as many children and their families as we can, to support and give them the confidence and tools they need. We want all children who stammer to thrive, be who they want to be, and have the same opportunities and quality of life as their peers. We believe that through the generous donations, hard work and support received over the last year, we have moved closer to realising that goal.

Our achievements would not be possible, were it not for the wonderful team of therapists we work with. I see first-hand the enormous dedication and care Elaine Kelman and the team at the MPC give to help transform the lives of children who stammer and their families. I thank you all! I also want to thank all the staff in Leeds, particularly Dr. Trudy Stewart, for their commitment and dedication over the last four years.

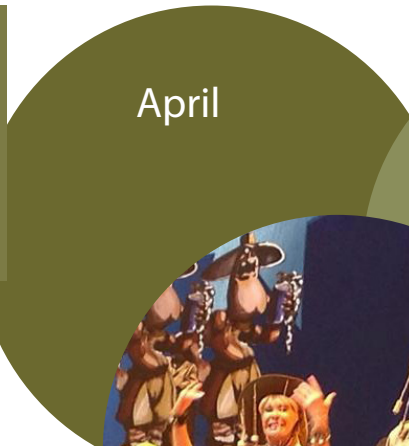


Jo Hunter

*"Extremely helpful. I feel there is support out there and we are not alone in dealing with this. There are times when it feels like we are in a dark tunnel with no light or way out, coming here makes me feel this is not the case. It is not a life sentence just something that with a little planning and goal setting we can conquer."*

Parent from the Michael Palin Centre

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR



April

Zaki with Mony Python



July

Travers Reid award



Circus Skills

April 2015



BBC Breakfast



February 2015

Gala Dinner



Michael Palin visits the Centre



CBBC Newsround

Opening the Lena Rustin wing



September



Jane Fraser awarded fellowship from RCSLT

October



International Stuttering Awareness Day

August



New training space

New Chief Executive



December



Visiting Global Radio

January 2015



Visiting the House of Commons

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015

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 2015. 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, 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. From 2011 to 2015, ASC supported the Stammering Support Centre (SSC) in Leeds, reaching children in the North of England.

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 September 2014, 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, to support a full training programme for therapists and to promote research in support of the delivery and impact of therapy for children who stammer.

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. The Charity aims to have at least one parent of a child who has recently attended 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 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 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 and inclusive body. A Trustee nominations committee regularly reviews the Trustees' skills mix and drives recruitment of new Trustees.

Potential new Trustees visit the Centre 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 1.

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 the Related Parties**

The work of ASC is, at present, largely achieved through our relationship with NHS Whittington Health and its Speech and Language Therapy Department in London and, until March 2015, 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.

### **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 has been thoroughly updated in the current financial year.

### **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.

*"Having a stammer robs you of the most important of all human rights – to speak your mind and, as such, to properly define your place in the world. It's having to live life from the outside looking in. It's being unable to say your name when you walk into a room, to explain why you're sad, to say what makes you happy, to tell someone you love them."*

Former client of the Michael Palin Centre

## THE MICHAEL PALIN CENTRE REPORT

The Michael Palin Centre has maintained its international reputation as a centre of excellence in stammering, with increased demand for its assessment and therapy services as well as the teaching programme and research collaborations. This profile was exemplified at the international Oxford Dysfluency Conference in July 2014, where the team of therapists gave a range of presentations and subsequently published papers in the Conference Proceedings, which were sponsored by Action for Stammering Children.

Clinical services for children from the age of two to eighteen include highly effective early intervention programmes, individual and group therapy, all with parental involvement. The Centre continues to deliver its renowned intensive courses for groups of children and their parents, and for young people.

The Centre's caseload is becoming increasingly complex with many children who stammer presenting with co-existing difficulties such as autistic spectrum disorder, mental health issues and learning difficulties. The team of therapists continues to develop their expertise by undertaking masters degrees and training in other psychological therapies.

Elaine Kelman, head of the Centre, has taken up the role of President of the International Fluency Association and Sharon Millard, the Centre's research lead, has been seconded to a part-time lectureship at City University, London.

### **GOAL 1: TO INCREASE THE DELIVERY OF CHARITABLY-FUNDED CLINICAL SERVICES, NOT DELIVERABLE BY THE NHS AND EXTEND OUR REACH ACROSS THE UNITED KINGDOM**

The Charity has continued its excellent collaboration with NHS Whittington Health, commissioning the Michael Palin Centre to deliver expert services to children from across the UK. The numbers of children increased significantly on the previous year, with 299 children receiving specialist consultations or reviews.

These expert assessments involve the child, both parents and the local therapist for a half-day of evaluation of the child's needs and circumstances. Individualised treatment recommendations are made, to be delivered either locally or at the Centre if the service or level of expertise is not available within the family's local NHS services. In 2014/15, almost eighty per cent of children assessed then attended the Centre for therapy, perhaps indicating the pressure that local services are under.

Funding for therapy is typically provided by the local NHS service but in cases where this was refused, the Charity provided support for children to access a service. The Charity funded therapy for 38 school aged children in 2014/15. In addition, a further seven young people moving into higher education or employment were supported by the Charity to return to the Centre for some 'top-up' sessions following a period of relapse.

ASC also funded a new initiative at the Centre – the 'Preschoolers at Risk Project'. Research demonstrates that early intervention is highly effective with young children who stammer but calls to the Centre's helpline indicated that the cuts in NHS services meant that children were on lengthy waiting lists and potentially missing this critical window of opportunity to access help. ASC funded a further 11 preschool children from across the UK who had no local service to receive support at the Centre, thereby maximising their chances of a good outcome.



The Centre's charitably-supported helpline fielded a further 633 telephone calls this year from across the UK, offering advice and support to parents, therapists and other referrers.

*"The support provided by the MPC has been exceptional. We arrived in a period of despair, when our very young daughter was suffering from moderate/severe stammering and we were seen quickly. A treatment plan was put in place and we have been working with Vicky who has been patient, understanding and incredibly supportive, which is already having a positive impact on our daughter's stammering."*

Parent from the Michael Palin Centre

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



The Centre's training programme has attracted increased demand at the Centre, across the UK and internationally. This enables many more children to be reached with quality and effective therapy services in their local area. Charity support enables more therapists to access training, when NHS support or study leave is typically unavailable. ASC subsidised the training of a further 303 therapists at the Centre and 86 therapists on the Emily Hughes-Hallett training roadshow in Aberdeen, Carlisle and Powys. It is conservatively estimated that these 389 therapists will each help four children who stammer, thus reaching an additional 1,556 children who stammer every year.

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

The Centre's research lead, Sharon Millard, co-chaired the Oxford Dysfluency Conference (ODC) and co-edited the conference proceedings. The Centre's team also served on the conference's scientific committee and chaired sessions. The Travers Reid Award for research was presented at the conference by Travers, a co-founder of ASC.

This year the Centre's research department has expanded its activity with a subsequent increased output of papers and presentations at international conferences, including 11 presentations at ODC, six papers in the ODC Proceedings, four presentations at the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists' Conference, six presentations at the American Speech and Hearing Association Convention and a further three papers published in journals.

Existing collaborations with international researchers continue to develop and there have been further requests for joint studies as the Centre's research profile grows internationally.

The research programme is monitored at quarterly meetings of the ASC Trustees' research group.

## GOAL 4: TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO ACCESS FOR FAMILIES ACROSS THE UNITED KINGDOM

The Centre extends the reach of its services through the routine use of telehealth to deliver assessment and therapy to families across the UK, with excellent user feedback. This enables children to access services which might otherwise have been unavailable for geographical, financial or social reasons. The Centre also uses a professional interpreting service to enable any family to access clinical services in their own language if necessary.

The Charity has funded supervision bursaries for the development of the clinical and research skills of four therapists, from Ayrshire, Hull, Stafford and Lincolnshire, thus enabling children from these locations to access quality therapy. The Charity has also provided assistance with travel and accommodation to enable a family in difficult circumstances to access an intensive course of group therapy.

The Charity also funded open days and parent workshops at the Centre, opening its doors to those seeking information and help. 110 people came to the open days – including parents, teachers, doctors, therapists and student therapists. A further 21 parents attended pre-school, primary school, and secondary school-aged workshops, where they were able to access information, advice and training as well as raise individual questions about their child.

*"It was grate, don't change anything (pleas)"*

Child client from the Michael Palin Centre

## NORTHERN CENTRE REPORT - STAMMERING SUPPORT CENTRE

As is the case for many NHS services, the Stammering Support Centre (SSC) in Leeds has undergone significant changes during the last financial year. Most notably, there has been a change in the commissioning arrangements with the Yorkshire and Humber region Clinical Commissioning Groups. During the SSC's first three years (April 2011-March 2014) there were commissioning agreements in place to fund clinical activity for out-of-district clients and training for out-of-district professionals. However, in the last financial year, there have been no such commissioning agreements in place. Furthermore, during the last financial year, the SSC saw significant reductions in staff time and expertise.

Despite the above challenges, the numbers of consultations carried out at the SSC was higher than the figures projected at the beginning of the year. Funding from ASC has enabled 41 children and young people to receive the support that they needed. ASC funding also enabled many more children and young people to be helped indirectly through their speech and language therapist attending a training day at the SSC. Feedback for both clinical and training activities at the SSC was very positive.

### GOAL 1: TO INCREASE THE DELIVERY OF CHARITABLY-FUNDED CLINICAL SERVICES, NOT DELIVERABLE BY THE NHS AND EXTEND OUR REACH ACROSS THE UNITED KINGDOM

The SSC has continued to deliver assessments and consultations for children and young people from outside the Leeds area, thereby helping parents to understand the nature of their child's stammering and providing them with a detailed report and recommendations for intervention and support. With funding from ASC, 25 children and young people from outside the Leeds area were helped in this way during the last year.

The second ASC funded 'Talking Out' Residential Course at Bewerley Park Outdoor Activity Centre in Pateley Bridge was held in October 2014. The course was funded by ASC and delivered by SSC speech and language therapists, in collaboration with the Activity, Training and Education Trust. The participants were 16 young people who stammered, aged 12 –16 years; 10 of these were from outside the Leeds area. Activities included therapy sessions, games, outdoor pursuits, and activities to practise skills learned in therapy. Participants and their parents attended a follow-up meeting at the SSC in January 2015.



The feedback from the young people, about their experience of the course, was overwhelmingly positive. Furthermore, quantitative analysis of assessments administered at various time points suggested that they had made excellent progress with their stammer and that this progress had largely been maintained three months after the course. Qualitative data collected from the participants and their parents suggested that the course had been particularly beneficial to the participants in four key areas:

- Being in a therapeutic environment with other young people who stammered reduced their sense of isolation

*"Now I know I'm not the only one going through these things."*

*"...it's nice to know I'm not alone."*

- They became more confident:

*"Going back to school, I feel more confident"*

*"My confidence has improved..."*

*"Much more confident; a different child!" (A parent)*

- They developed a more positive attitude towards their speech:

*"I have learnt how to be open with people."*

*"If I stammer no-one will judge me."*

- They became less restricted by their stammering:

*"I've been [...] trying new things"*

*"School has been better because I am able to speak more freely"*

*"He talked about his achievements and did more than he thought he could"  
(A parent)*

Collection and analysis of data relating to the 2014 Residential Course is on-going. It is anticipated that this will support the delivery of efficient and effective Residential Courses in the future.

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

The SSC has continued to deliver training courses for speech and language therapists during the last financial year, but this has been at a reduced level when compared to previous years. Several SSC courses, in the past year, were cancelled due to insufficient numbers of participants. In contrast, the Annual Study Day, 'Stammering Plus', which was funded by ASC, was attended by 24 speech and language therapists in September 2014.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

Total incoming resources amounted to £580,832, compared to £593,727 in the year to 31 March 2014.

We have received the second 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.

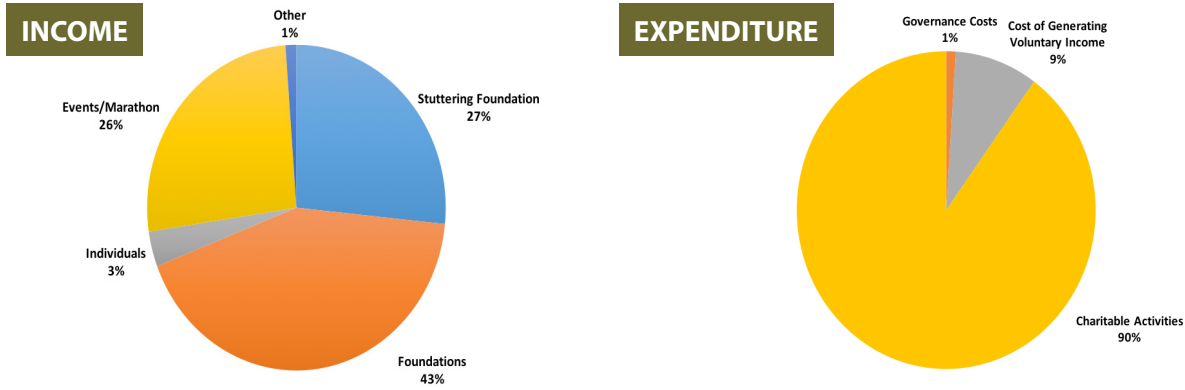
We have again benefited from multi-year restricted funding in excess of £10,000 from The City Bridge Trust (£15,000) being the final payment of a grant of £90,000 and the Emily Hughes-Hallett Foundation (£15,000) being the third payment of a five year grant, and unrestricted funding from the Gerald Ronson Foundation (£30,000), being the final payment of a four year grant, together with major on-going support from the Stuttering Foundation.

Expenditure of £510,088 was spent on charitable activity in the Michael Palin Centre and Stammering Support Centre for public benefit, representing 90% of total resources expended.

The net movement in funds in the year ended 31 March 2015 was £14,091. Total funds at the period end amounted to £1,121,084.

The total free unrestricted reserves of £401,465 represent approximately eight months' expenditure, in line with current policy.

The balance of unrestricted reserves, shown in note 14 as designated funds of £593,460 comprises of freehold property and the net book value of fixed assets.



### Reserves policy

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 to respond immediately to a reasonable range of unforeseen adverse circumstances, before remedial plans can be implemented.

Reserves to support children in the North are held in restricted reserves.

### Investment policy

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

## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2015 - 2016

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

In 2014-2015 we embarked on a strategy review to develop a model for growth and intend to develop this further in the next twelve months. In particular we have the following goals:

### **Goal 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 remains central to our ability to help children and young people across the UK. The expert speech and language therapists do incredible work and continue to make a lasting difference to so many young people and their family's lives.

Following national changes in the delivery of services to children and young people with special educational needs, which now extends access up to the age of 25 years, ASC intends over the next 12 months to pilot a programme to enable up to 20 young adults to attend the Michael Palin Centre for a specialist assessment. Any subsequent therapy would be funded either by the NHS or privately.

### **Goal 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 a critical component of the Charity's mission as it enables more children across the UK to access effective support in their local area from therapists who have been trained by the MPC experts. This programme will indirectly help hundreds more children to access a greater level of specialist help and support.

### **Goal 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 a key difference for children who stammer and their families. Our experienced research committee monitors and reviews all MPC research activity.

### **Goal 4: To explore various options on how to expand ASC's reach, remove barriers to access and help more children and young people across the UK**

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

### **Goal 5: To extend and diversify income streams**

In this difficult funding climate ASC aims to extend and diversify its income. We have recently developed a new fundraising strategy which has included the launch of Unlock a Child's Voice, our three year appeal to raise £1.5m and help 10,000 children and young people. It is our intention to develop the appeal further this year through implementing our new strategy.

97% of parents report that they have the knowledge and skills to build their child's confidence (following therapy at the MPC)

90% of children report that they are becoming more independent (following therapy at the MPC)

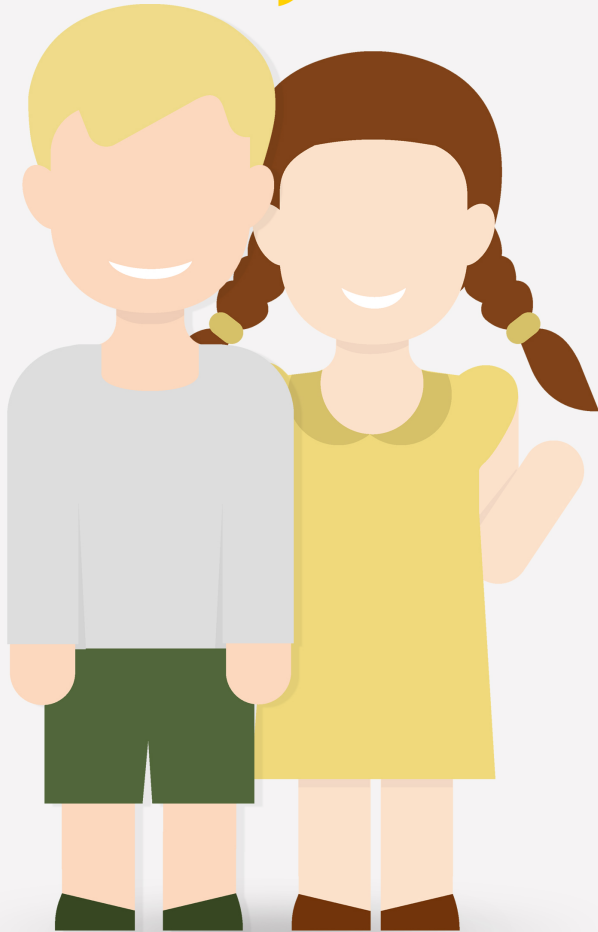
# Action for Stammering Children



Changing lives forever

# 2,800

Children and young people supported by **ASC**:



## 633

through the helpline



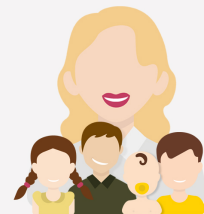
## 131

through open days and workshops



## 340

through direct clinical support



## 424

therapists trained to support

# 1,696

children



For every **£1** donated **90p** was spent on charitable activity



**1 in every 100 adults** has a persistent stammer



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



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



Approx **4 males for every 1 female** has a stammer



**#UnlockaChildsVoice** aims to raise **£1.5m** over **3 years** helping **10,000** children

DESIGNED BY  
**TONIC**



*"Children with a stammer and their families need our support and today it is important for us to stand shoulder-to-shoulder and campaign to raise awareness. Action for Stammering Children together with its two service providers, the Michael Palin Centre and the Leeds Stammering Support Centre, achieve great results reaching out to hundreds of children and their families.*

*"Let's all speak with one voice to reach every child with this condition so they can be confident to achieve great things."*

Ed Balls

*"The children ... are an inspiration. Watching them eagerly take on each task set by the therapist is incredible. These children have huge potential to achieve their dreams and goals - their stammer should not obstruct their future."*

Shadow Health Secretary, Andy Burnham MP

*"Global's Make Some Noise is delighted to support Action for Stammering Children. We're huge fans of the work that they do, and we're so pleased that they've been part of our inaugural campaign...to make some noise and change young lives."*

Emma Bradley, Director of Global Radio's Make Some Noise

*"Young people who stammer face a number of complex issues including social exclusion and bullying. The work of ASC is vital in giving these young people a safe and non-judgemental environment in which they can learn more about what triggers their stammer."*

Chairman for the City Bridge Trust Jeremy Mayhew

*"My stammer still comes back occasionally and I still use all the lessons I learnt when I was a kid to control it. It will never leave me but I think it's made me a better person. I think anyone who has a stammer is very brave and shouldn't let anything stop them speaking out"*

Hayley Hassall, CBBC Newsround

## 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).

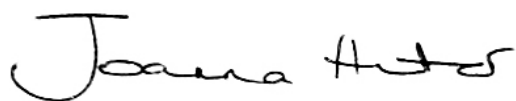
Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and the profit or loss of the 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 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 18th June 2015 and signed on their behalf, by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joanna Hunter', written in a cursive style.

Joanna Hunter, Chair

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

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2015 which are set out on pages 18 to 27

### 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 that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (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 for England & 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;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- 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 charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently 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 in the statement 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 Charitieshave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



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: 14 September 2015

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015

	Note	Restricted funds 2015 £	Unrestricted funds 2015 £	Total funds 2015 £	Total funds 2014 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
Incoming resources from generated funds:					
Voluntary income	2	311,907	257,803	569,710	582,698
Activities for generating funds	3	-	6,067	6,067	5,106
Investment income	4	-	5,055	5,055	5,923
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>311,907</b>	<b>268,925</b>	<b>580,832</b>	<b>593,727</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
Costs of generating funds:					
Cost of generating voluntary income	5	-	50,803	50,803	48,908
Charitable activities	6	370,233	139,855	510,088	435,750
Governance costs	7	-	5,850	5,850	7,776
		<b>370,233</b>	<b>196,508</b>	<b>566,741</b>	<b>510,434</b>
<b>NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS</b>		<b>(58,326)</b>	<b>72,417</b>	<b>14,091</b>	<b>83,293</b>
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS FOR THE YEAR BEING NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>					
		<b>(58,326)</b>	<b>72,417</b>	<b>14,091</b>	<b>83,293</b>
Total funds at 1 April 2014	14	184,485	922,508	1,106,993	1,023,700
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT 31 MARCH 2015</b>		<b>£ 126,159</b>	<b>£ 994,925</b>	<b>£1,121,084</b>	<b>£ 1,106,933</b>

**ACTION FOR STAMMERING CHILDREN**  
**REGISTERED NUMBER 2328627**  
**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2015**

	Note	2015 £	2014 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible assets	11	593,460	596,772
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	12	28,138	16,484
Cash at bank		616,858	548,781
		644,996	565,265
<b>CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year</b>	13	(117,372)	(55,044)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		527,624	510,221
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		£ 1,121,084	£ 1,106,993
<b>CHARITY FUNDS</b>			
Restricted funds	14	126,159	184,485
Unrestricted funds	14	994,925	922,508
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		£ 1,121,084	£ 1,106,993

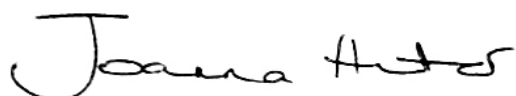
The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

For the year ended 31 March 2015 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 an audit of its 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 18 June 2015 and signed on their behalf, by:



Joanna Hunter, Chair

The notes on pages 20 to 27 form part of these financial statements.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015

## 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.

### 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 2015 £	Unrestricted funds 2015 £	Total funds 2015 £	Total funds 2014 £
Grants and donations	311,907	257,803	569,710	579,461
Legacies	-	-	-	3,237
<b>Total</b>	<b>£311,907</b>	<b>£257,803</b>	<b>£569,710</b>	<b>£582,698</b>

## 3. TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Restricted funds 2015 £	Unrestricted funds 2015 £	Total funds 2015 £	Total funds 2014 £
<b>Charity trading income</b>				
Books and DVD sales	-	6,067	6,067	5,106
<b>Net income from trading activities</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£6,067</b>	<b>£6,067</b>	<b>£5,106</b>

## 4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Restricted funds 2015 £	Unrestricted funds 2015 £	Total funds 2015 £	Total funds 2014 £
<b>Bank interest received</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£5,055</b>	<b>£5,055</b>	<b>£5,923</b>

## 5. COST OF GENERATING VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Restricted funds 2015 £	Unrestricted funds 2015 £	Total funds 2015 £	Total funds 2014 £
Events and fundraising	-	18,357	18,357	1,266
Voluntary income staff costs	-	32,446	32,446	47,642
<b>Total</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£50,803</b>	<b>£50,803</b>	<b>£48,908</b>



## 6. EXPENDITURE BY CHARITABLE ACTIVITY

<b>SUMMARY BY FUND TYPE</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2015 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds 2015 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2015 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2014 £</b>
Michael Palin Centre (MPC) - London	327,274	139,855	467,129	446,378
Northern Centre (NC) - Leeds	42,959	-	42,959	66,415
	370,233	139,855	510,088	512,793
Released accrual				(59,043)
<b>Total</b>	<b>£370,233</b>	<b>£139,855</b>	<b>£510,088</b>	<b>£453,750</b>

<b>EXPENDITURE BY CHARITABLE ACTIVITY</b>	<b>NC £</b>	<b>MPC £</b>	<b>2015 £</b>	<b>2014 £</b>
Direct costs:				
Assessments	9,958	220,000	229,958	231,449
Clinical work/ I have a voice project	1,800	119,715	121,515	123,500
Residential programme	27,520	-	27,520	17,671
Returners	-	6,000	6,000	6,000
Research programme	-	20,000	20,000	20,000
Advisory services	-	25,200	25,200	25,200
Education and training	1,095	41,091	42,186	40,667
Bursary fund	-	1,370	1,370	-
Service development and management	-	-	-	12,459
Released accrual	-	-	-	(59,043)
	40,373	433,376	473,749	417,903
Support costs	2,586	33,753	36,339	35,847
<b>Total</b>	<b>£42,959</b>	<b>£467,129</b>	<b>£510,088</b>	<b>£453,750</b>

## 7. GOVERNANCE COSTS

<b>GOVERNANCE COSTS</b>	<b>Restricted 2015 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted 2015 £</b>	<b>Total 2015 £</b>	<b>Total 2014 £</b>
Auditors remuneration	-	-	-	4,560
Independent Examiner's fee	-	2,700	2,700	-
Travel costs	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	1,335	1,335	626
Bank charges	-	107	107	83
Staff costs	-	1,708	1,708	2,507
<b>Total</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£5,850</b>	<b>£5,850</b>	<b>£7,776</b>

## 8. SUPPORT COSTS

	<b>Commission Costs</b>	<b>Total 2015</b>	<b>Total 2014</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Depreciation of assets	4,864	4,864	13,109
Staff costs	15,240	15,240	12,249
Staff expenses	31	31	130
Travel	489	489	1,949
Professional fees	14,827	14,827	5,968
Website costs	365	365	569
DVDS/ Books	494	494	1,016
Equipment and repairs	29	29	857
<b>Total</b>	<b>£36,339</b>	<b>£36,339</b>	<b>£35,847</b>

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

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation	£4,864	£13,109
Auditors' remuneration	£0	£4,560
Independent Examiner's fee	£2,250	£0

Trustees did not receive remuneration, benefits in kind, reimbursement of expenses (2014: £NIL)

## 10. STAFF COSTS

	<b>Total 2015</b>	<b>Total 2014</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	46,927	56,697
Social security costs	2,467	5,701
<b>Total Staff Costs</b>	<b>£49,394</b>	<b>£62,398</b>

Average monthly number of employees during the year	<b>Total 2015</b>	<b>Total 2014</b>
	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>
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 2015 £
<b>Cost</b>			
Brought forward	592,000	41,227	633,227
Additions	-	1,552	1,552
Disposals	-	-	-
Carried forward	£592,000	£42,779	£634,779
<b>Depreciation</b>			
Brought forward	-	36,455	36,455
Charged	-	4,864	4,864
Disposals	-	-	-
Carried forward	£0	£41,319	£41,319
<b>Net book value</b>			
At year end	£592,000	£1,460	£593,460
Previous year	£592,000	£4,772	£596,772

## 12. DEBTORS

	2015 £	2014 £
Other debtors	28,138	16,484

## 13. CREDITORS

	2015 £	2014 £
Other creditors	-	11,129
Accruals	117,372	43,915
	£117,372	£55,044

## 14. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	1 April 2014	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	31 March 2015
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Designated funds</b>					
Freehold Pine Street	350,000	-	-	-	350,000
Training room extension	242,000	-	-	-	242,000
Net Book Value Fixed Assets	4,772	-	-	(3,312)	1,460
<b>General funds</b>					
General funds - all funds	325,736	268,925	(196,508)	3,312	401,465
	922,508	268,925	(196,508)	-	994,925
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Assessments	19,800	21,000	(40,800)	-	-
Big Lottery Fund	-	128,400	(128,400)	-	-
Training	-	10,000	(4,000)	-	6,000
Michael Palin Centre clinical activity	-	151,574	(151,574)	-	-
Northern Centre	162,185	-	(42,959)	-	119,226
Therapy	2,500	-	(2,500)	-	-
Other	-	933	-	-	933
	184,485	311,907	(370,233)	-	126,159
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>£1,106,993</b>	<b>£580,832</b>	<b>£(566,741)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£1,121,084</b>

<b>SUMMARY OF FUNDS</b>	1 April 2014	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	31 March 2015
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds	596,772	-	-	(3,312)	593,460
General funds	325,736	268,925	(196,508)	3,312	401,465
	922,508	268,925	(196,508)	-	994,925
Restricted funds	184,485	311,907	(370,233)	-	126,159
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>£ 1,106,993</b>	<b>£ 580,832</b>	<b>(£ 566,741)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£ 1,121,084</b>

### 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.
Northern Centre	These funds are used to support the provision of specialist speech and language therapy for children and young people who stammer in the North that attended the Stammering Support Centre in Leeds.
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	The transfer of £3,312 was made from the designated fixed asset fund to general funds being the net movement on fixed assets.

## 15. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	<b>Restricted funds 2015 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds 2015 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2015 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2014 £</b>
Tangible fixed assets	-	593,460	593,460	596,772
Current assets	126,159	518,837	644,996	565,265
Creditors due within one year	-	(117,372)	(117,372)	(55,044)
<b>Total</b>	<b>£126,159</b>	<b>£994,925</b>	<b>£1,121,084</b>	<b>£1,106,993</b>

## 16. FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

	<b>Total 2015 £</b>	<b>Total 2014 £</b>
NHS Whittington Health	442,000	422,425
Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust	-	71,052
<b>Total</b>	<b>£442,000</b>	<b>£493,477</b>

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015

<b>Trustees</b>	Joanna Hunter (Chair from April 2014) Samira Ahmed David Broom (appointed Honorary Treasurer April 2014) Will Evans Diana Goodwin (retired January 2015) Gerald Grattoni Claudine Provencher Oliver Rawlins Vicky Slonims (appointed March 2015) Anne Whateley Bryan Dutton (Chair - retired April 2014)
<b>Company Registered Number</b>	2328627
<b>Charity Registered Number</b>	801171
<b>Company Status</b>	A company limited by guarantee
<b>Registered Office</b>	The Michael Palin Centre for Stammering Children 13-15 Pine Street London EC1R 0JG
<b>Independent Examiners</b>	Price Bailey LLP Chartered Accountants Causeway House 1 Dane Street Bishop's Stortford Hertfordshire CM23 3BT
<b>Bankers</b>	Lloyds Pall Mall St James's London SW1Y 4BE



*“The King’s Speech taught me not only the cruelty of having a stammer but also the life-changing benefits specialist therapy can bring. Just as Lionel Logue unleashed the passion of a king, so too Action for Stammering Children is unlocking the potential of thousands of children in the UK every year. I hope everyone will get behind this appeal, which will make a genuine difference to children up and down the country, all of whom deserve to speak freely and live their life to the full.”*

Colin Firth, Vice-President of Action for Stammering Children

# ACTION FOR STAMMERING CHILDREN

020 3316 8100    Action for Stammering Children  
@StammerCentre    c/o The Michael Palin Centre  
[www.stammeringcentre.org](http://www.stammeringcentre.org)    13-15 Pine Street  
Charity Number: 801171    London, EC1R 0JG