



Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2020



Action for Stammering Children has kept going and stayed in touch throughout the COVID-19 lockdown. Here is our Youth Panel meeting in May 2020.

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Jo Hunter, Chair of Trustees, speaking at the 30th anniversary evening, held at the Houses of Parliament.

Message from the Chair of Trustees

I write this report in the most extraordinary and difficult period in recent times with the coronavirus pandemic continuing to be part of our lives. This has created uncertainty for the Charity in terms of both the ways in which we are able to support children and young people who stammer and the effects of an economic downturn on funding.

I'm very pleased to report that the Michael Palin Centre team have been able to continue with their activities, working remotely and delivering therapy online, even as many of the therapists bravely volunteered to move into the healthcare front line, supporting coronavirus

patients. We are indebted to them. In addition, our residential programme is moving online with some nimble adaptations, as well as our Youth Panel and other programmes.

In terms of funding, our policy is designed to ensure that our charity is resilient and able to withstand a period of uncertainty and our financial position remains robust. Having had a very successful fundraising year with income up 20% on the previous year, we currently hold sufficient cash reserves to support seven months of regular activity. Given the current climate, I am particularly grateful for recent grants from City Bridge

Trust and John Lyon's Charity and the ongoing support from the Stuttering Foundation.

The pandemic arrived as we were concluding a landmark year for the Charity, in which we celebrated our thirtieth anniversary. The year opened with a reception in honour of the founding pioneers of the charity who had the vision to see new ways of working with children and young people who stammer, and their families, challenging conventional wisdom.

Amongst those was Travers Reid, who sadly passed away in October 2019. Without his vision, commitment and determination, many thousands of children would not have received specialist support and many hundreds of therapists across the world would not have been trained. His contribution to the world of stammering has been exceptional and will always be remembered and celebrated. He has a room at the Centre named after him and we were delighted that his wife Sandra was able to present the annual Travers Reid Award this year, sponsored by the Charity.

Our two major fundraising events in the year were also dedicated to Travers. The centrepiece for the year was a 'Strictly' themed event, inspired by Ed Balls and featuring friends and family from the Charity and our therapists, which raised over £130,000. Michael Palin provided the bookends, with a BBC Radio 4 Appeal in April 2019 and, just before lockdown, in hosting his wonderful fifth Evening with Michael Palin. We are indebted to Michael and Ed for their tireless efforts and dedication to supporting the Charity. In addition, we are so grateful to fellow Vice President, Jane Fraser, and the Stuttering Foundation's ongoing generosity which helps to underpin the work of the Michael Palin Centre.

We have recently seen changes to our Board of Trustees, and I was delighted to welcome Richard Murray who has a vast range of experience. He is currently Chief Executive of The King's Fund, an independent charity working to improve health and social care. Richard was previously Chief Analyst at NHS England and has worked at the Department of Health as Director of Strategy and Director of Financial Planning. Sadly, we have had to say goodbye to Oliver Rawlins who has retired from the Board after more than a decade as a trustee. He has been involved with

the Charity since he was a boy and opens the Michael Palin Centre in 1993 and being supported directly by the Co-Founder of the Charity, inspirational speech and language therapist, Lena Rustin, when reflecting on her legacy he recalls his stammer as being, "so awful that my only realistic option seemed to be locking myself in the room and throwing away the key. I have watched with unbending pride as Lena's legacy has taken shape. Action for Stammering Children has grown beyond recognition – not just in terms of the children and families whom it helps but as importantly the breadth of the services it funds. It is an ambitious charity, a national charity and a campaigning charity which is just what Lena would have wanted." I will really miss Oli's passion, enthusiasm, intelligence, dedication and sense of fun, but he will of course continue to stay connected with us.

Looking forward, recognising there will be changes in a post-pandemic world, we will be exploring new and complementary ways to fundraise and to deliver our services. This will include how we can make greater use of technology and also reflecting on a panel event that we held during the year with leading speech therapy researchers and academics at University College London to discuss what the next 30 years might hold.

This would not be possible without the generous donations of time and money that we receive from our supporters, and a special thank you to everyone who has helped us to make our 30th Anniversary year such a success.

Whilst the future is still very unclear, one thing is certain. We will continue to do everything we can to support children and young people who stammer, and their families, and to invest as much as we can in research into the most effective ways to help them.

Joanna Hunter OBE



Steven Gauge, the Charity's Chief Executive with Michael Palin, Vice President, at the 30th Anniversary Evening at the Houses of Parliament.

Chief Executive's Report

Reflections on an anniversary year

When I joined Action for Stammering Children at the start of our 30th year, Jo as Chair of Trustees gave me two clear objectives. The first was to make sure that we had a successful fundraising year and the second was to make sure that the Charity had a clear strategy going forward to be able to support as many children and young people who stammer as we can.

I knew the Charity had some A-List patrons but I hadn't, in my wildest dreams, imagined how generous and supportive they would be. I also hadn't appreciated quite how much money could be raised by one home-made dish of lasagne.

Working with a Python on the script for a BBC Radio 4 appeal will always be a massive career highlight for me. Michael Palin's personal story about his reasons

for supporting the Charity was moving and expertly delivered. It got our anniversary appeal off to a flying start.

I was also hugely excited to have the offer of support from former shadow chancellor Ed Balls. Whilst I briefly considered asking him to deliver a lecture series on neo-classical endogenous growth theory, we thought it might be slightly more fun and much more lucrative to ask him to host our 'Strictly' themed gala evening. Inspired by Ed's Gangnam Style moves, eleven couples, all novices, were sponsored to learn to dance 'Strictly' style and perform in front of family, friends and celebrity judges. The event raised a massive £130,000, thanks in no small part to some enthusiastic bidding for an exclusive helping of Ed's home-cooked lasagne.

What made our 'Strictly' evening so special was that so many of our dancers had a close personal connection with the Charity. Competing for the glitterball trophy were parents of children who stammer, speech and language therapists and adults and young people, many having benefited from our support. Their personal stories and their heroic efforts on the dance floor, sequins and all, made for a very emotional and enjoyable evening.

The newly knighted, now Sir, Michael Palin rounded off our 30th anniversary year by hosting a wonderful evening for us at the Cadogan Hall. He regaled a 900 strong audience with stories from 30 years of travel and 50 years of comedy and raised an impressive £70,000.

Our 30th anniversary has been a good opportunity to review our strategy with the Trustees and our inspiring Youth Panel. I have been proud to have been able to continue to support the Michael Palin Centre in London to deliver life-changing assessments and therapy for children who stammer and their families and training for speech and language therapists. Researching the history of the Charity for the Anniversary demonstrated very clearly to me that the Michael Palin Centre will always be at the heart of what the Charity is about. It was also a real privilege to attend one of our residential courses in Harrogate, and to meet an inspirational group of young people who stammer supporting each other as they challenged themselves in exciting new ways.

No charity, however successful, should stand still, so it has been encouraging to have been able to try some new things this year. I was pleased to have been able to create our first ever careers networking evening for young people who stammer, at the PwC headquarters

in London, supported by our brilliant Stambassadors, adults in successful careers who stammer. It was also enormously rewarding to hold our research panel event at University College London with leading academics in the field sharing their reflections on the last 30 years of research and their predictions for the future.

We are so fortunate to have been able to achieve all this before the coronavirus pandemic hit. In the last few days of the financial year covered by this report, we had to leave our office in the Michael Palin Centre and all start working from home. As we emerge tentatively from the lockdown, the Charity will be facing a period of uncertainty and difficulty. We will need to rethink the ways in which we raise money and deliver services. However, I have every confidence that our Charity will rise to meet the challenges before it. The team which brought you the brilliant 'Strictly' fundraising triumph could not be better placed to, "face the music and dance".

Steven Gauge
Chief Executive

A Year in Pictures

April 2019



Radio 4 Appeal £15k

May 2019



Parliamentary Reception celebrated:

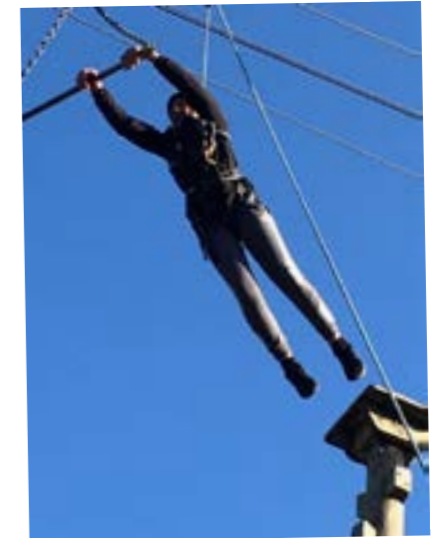
- 30 years of changing lives
- 1 OBE and 1 Knighthood

November 2019



- Freedom of Information research published revealing a 'postcode lottery' of services for children who stammer

October 2019 & February 2020



- Fully funded residentials run in October 2019 and February 2020 with excellent feedback.

July 2019



Careers Evening

- 14 Young people connected with 25 Stambassadors in PwC London

September 2019



Research Panel

- 3 academics presented to a packed University College London lecture hall on 30 years of research into stammering and their predictions for future research.

October 2019



ASC does Strictly

- Raised £133k from the event
- Exceptional feedback

February 2020



Michael Palin Evening

- 900 people attended
- Raised £70k

Paul's life-changing week away

When he was growing up, Paul had various difficulties with communication and did not develop speech until he was nearly five years old. He was diagnosed with ADHD when he was seven and continued to have difficulties expressing himself, often becoming stuck, repeating sounds or words or generally being difficult to understand. He was diagnosed with stammering and cluttering (another type of fluency difficulty which can often occur alongside stammering).

Paul was making some progress with his Speech and Language Therapist, but, as with a lot of young people who stammer, he experienced difficulties with feelings of isolation and was seldom confident enough to start a conversation, far less to speak in front of his class. We were able to offer him a place on one of our Talking Out residential courses.

Paul was very apprehensive about being away from his parents and his established routine, and was not sure that he was confident enough to be among so many new people. His parents worked hard to reassure him and kept reinforcing the many activities and benefits for him.

Paul found the week very challenging. He was very nervous about sleeping in a strange place and had a long-standing fear of the dark. He spent time each evening with one of the Talking Out team to help him develop strategies to meet this challenge. This helped him overcome his fear.

By the end of the week, Paul had become more confident when talking. He was able to reflect on this and recognised that if he could transfer this positive attitude towards talking to school and home life, he would have crossed a major hurdle

with his stammering. In the minibus on the way back to the centre on the penultimate day, Paul told a team member that 'everything' had changed for him as a result of being part of the Talking Out Residential. He no longer felt embarrassed about his stammer and was proud of his new confidence in being away from home.



Ben Bolton-Grant, a Lead Speech and Language Therapist, and Paul at the end of the residential week.

Annual Report of the Board of Trustees for The Year Ended 31 March 2020

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 2020. 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 six 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 children

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

Our Impact in 2019/2020

The summary below sets out the impact of the Charity in 2019/2020 against its key objectives and performance indicators which are agreed at the beginning of each financial year, and monitors the difference the Charity has made to its beneficiaries, children and young people who stammer, and to the wider society using qualitative and quantitative measures. These are reviewed at each board meeting.

This year we have supported 4,730 children and young people, down on the figure of 5,914 from last year. This is due to fewer speech and language therapists being able to attend training courses run for us by the Michael Palin Centre. However, we reached more children, young people and their families through our 5,038 social media followers and through 26,204 YouTube views. This was achieved by the following activities:

1. 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

The Charity funds the provision of assessments and therapy by the Michael Palin Centre team of specialist speech and language therapists. This is delivered through a commissioning agreement with Whittington Health NHS.

For many children, young people and their families, receiving an early assessment and identifying the most appropriate form of therapy is key to managing their stammer and enabling them to fulfil their potential. Specialised assessments for children aged 2-18 years in the UK who stammer remain core to the work of the Charity, with 282 children and their families from across the UK benefitting from a specialist assessment for stammering at the Michael Palin Centre over the last year, funded

by Action for Stammering Children. Following the assessment, children and their families were able to receive a tailored treatment programme delivered either by their local NHS Trust or at the Michael Palin Centre. In their feedback forms, parents have told us how much they appreciate the very thorough assessments that take place.

.....
“We felt that the level of understanding of our son’s issues was extraordinarily good and the plan made for care seems ideal. Although his existing therapist is very good, this feels as though we have accessed a whole new level of help. There is a strong sense of deep experience within the team at the Michael Palin Centre.”

Research published by the Charity in November 2019 has indicated that there is a postcode lottery in the delivery of support for children who stammer. For many children and young people who stammer, specialist services are simply not available through the NHS. The Charity has continued to support courses of therapy for children of all ages at the Michael Palin Centre, who have been unable to access treatment through the NHS. This is highly valued by parents as one parent told us:

.....
“We had found S’s stammering somewhat overwhelming when it started. It was not the stammering itself but witnessing our son move from an incredibly talkative little boy to someone who stopped talking to us over the course of a weekend – he didn’t know how to cope. We have learned so much from working with you and it has truly been a transformative experience. S’s stammer has ceased, but that is not really the point. The real lesson is that if I could turn back the clock and live again, with or without the stammer, I would choose the stammer. I realise this may sound odd. However, we all learned so much working with you and it had a wonderful effect on all of us and most importantly on S. The breadth of the positive impact and understanding made the stammering seem like a small blip along the road.”

The Charity supports programmes of therapy provided at the Michael Palin Centre where the NHS is unable to provide funding. This year we funded packages of 30 therapy sessions of Palin Stammering Therapy for six school children aged 8 to 14 and their parents.

The Charity funds places on intensive courses at the Michael Palin Centre, followed by year-long on-going support for children and their families. Unfortunately, the intensive course planned for Easter 2020 had to be postponed due to the coronavirus outbreak.

The Charity supports a returners’ programme for young people who have either suffered a relapse in their stammer or were undertaking a particularly big event in their lives, whether that’s starting college, university or their first job. This year 10 young people benefitted from follow-up support. The feedback from this service remains very positive:

.....
“I just wanted to thank you for all the support you are giving X. Last week’s session was a godsend with his stress levels being particularly high over an essay which he was completing. X told me how much your advice helped him. He is now focusing on the dreaded dissertation!”

Outcomes

The Michael Palin Centre measures the child's and parents' experience of this assessment process and in the past year:

- 99% reported that they better understood the stammer.
- 96% reported that they felt more confident about the future.
- 96% reported that they felt more hopeful that they could be helped.
- 97% of parents reported that they were less worried.
- 100% of parents reported that they knew more about what to do and felt more able to help their child.

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.



The Talking Out residential group went caving as part of the week's activities.

"I attend the MPC and I've recently had a couple of online sessions due to the COVID-19 situation. It's been very beneficial to have these sessions especially during this unsettling time which has caused a 'flare-up' of my stuttering. I've come away from the sessions feeling as if I've learnt something about myself and have an action plan to get where I want to be. The fact that I can still have sessions despite not being able to attend the centre in person is very valuable. It means that I can speak to someone about my stutter who understands and means help is always there."

Talking Out Residential Courses

The Talking Out residential courses have continued to develop and become increasingly popular. We were able to run courses again for young people from North Yorkshire, the North West and the North East.

Young people who stammer often feel extremely isolated, with many not having met another young person who stammers with whom to share their experiences. The Talking Out residentials are a week-long residential for young people and are held at Bewerley Park Outdoor Education Centre in North Yorkshire.

"Spending the week with other people who stammer has helped me feel less alone. It's good to see them stammer and hear them talking about it."

"It helped me to feel more confident and comfortable talking about my stammer. It was awesome!"

They involve a wide range of challenging outdoor activities such as abseiling, ghyll scrambling and climbing, combined with speech and language therapy. The young people are supported after the residential course with a face to face follow-up after three months and a full day back at Bewerley Park with their parents at six months to ensure that the positive changes made during the week can be maintained.

October Residential - thanks to BBC Children in Need, 18 young people aged 12-15 who stammer were able to attend.

Comments from parents:

“Two weeks after the residential we had a phone call from school. They asked what had happened during the half term break because X was like a different person. They couldn’t believe how much more confident and communicative he was. He was getting stuck in during class and not scared to speak out. He’s a changed person and is loving his new found confidence.”

“Since the residential we have noticed that he is more confident to talk to people and also talk on the phone more. School have said he is participating more, putting his hand up and answering questions in class”

“He realises it’s okay to stammer and it’s no longer a big deal.”

“He didn’t know anyone else at all who stammered - he thought he was the only person in the world that this affected and in spite of having speech and language input early on, he really didn’t understand stammering at all. Meeting other children who stammer has helped him understand and accept his stammer, and he proudly accepted it as part of his identity.”

The six month follow-up day has been delayed due to Coronavirus, but will be held later in the year.

February Residential – thanks to the Sowerby Foundation, 18 young people who stammer travelled from the Yorkshire and Humber Region and the surrounding area were able to attend. In addition, two final year speech and language therapist students attended to develop their knowledge of supporting young people who stammer. The follow-up days have been delayed due to coronavirus, but will be held later in the year.


“He went feeling anxious and a bit hesitant and came back enthusiastic, energetic and so much more confident! He understands and identifies with having a stammer and proudly wore his wristband and we’ve been looking online for some other merchandise such as t-shirts and hoodies so that he can wear them to let people know that he has a stammer, and doesn’t feel he has to hide or mask it.”

“He accepts that he stammers and he is more likely to approach teachers about his stammer, or even speak out in class if he wants to.”

Outcomes

Outcome measures for the courses, both qualitative and quantitative, were obtained from participants and their families before, during and at set periods following the residential. Results have shown it to be an effective intervention to help reduce negative reactions to teenagers who stammer, leading to improvements in self-confidence. Feedback also showed that being part of a group with other young people who stammer, sharing experiences and challenges, helped build confidence in communicating, and decreased sensitivity to stammering, thereby having a positive impact on situations both at home and in school.

KPI targets:

» 300 children and young people directly helped - achieved 329 

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

Our objectives in this area for 2019-2020 were to:

- Create a careers networking event for young people who stammer, working with our Stambassadors and in partnership with PwC.
- Actively engage Youth Panel members in developing our future projects and funding proposals and evaluating our activities.
- Empower and encourage Youth Panel members to recruit, train and inspire a new cohort of members to build on their successes so far.
- Continue our Stambassadors in Time project looking at people of influence who have stammered over the last 100 years in partnership with the London Metropolitan Archives.

These objectives have all been achieved.



The Careers Networking Evening, held at PwC in London in July 2019.

Careers Networking Evening

In July 2019, Action for Stammering Children held its first Stambassadors Careers Networking Event, where adults and young people who stammer were brought together to help demystify the world of work for young people about to embark up the career ladder.

Action for Stammering Children assembled a group of volunteer Stambassadors, adults who stammer and are successful in their fields. The event allowed the Stambassadors to share their stories and encourage the young people not to limit themselves when it comes to starting their careers.

The event was hosted by our Trustee Arthur Hughes-Hallett in the PwC headquarters in London. Stambassadors attended from a wide

range of sectors and careers including marketing, psychology, management consultancy, teaching, engineering, product design, law, medicine, acting, property, politics, journalism, academia and defence. Fourteen young people attended and engaged in lively conversations with a selection of the Stambassadors present.

Feedback from young people and the Stambassadors involved was extremely positive and we hope to repeat the event in future years.

.....
“An amazing night. It taught me that people who stammer can do anything they want to do – no limits!”
.....

ASC Youth Panel

Our Youth Panel was formed in 2015 to empower young people who stammer and give them the opportunity to have their say about the Charity’s direction. It is important for our support of children and young people that they have a voice within our organisation and society, and our panel are making a major contribution to the work we do. Now in its fifth year the panel, made up of young people aged between 15-25 from across the UK, continues to work hard to inform our work and raise awareness of stammering around the country.

This year, members of the Youth Panel were actively involved in recruiting and introducing a new cohort of members, including a group of new Northern Youth Panel members in order to extend our reach across the UK.



(l-r) Zain Ghani, Amelia Horsfall and Steven Gauge, at the Northern Youth Panel recruitment day, held in Leeds.

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



Stamback in Time, created by the Youth Panel, looking at some great figures of the past and present who stammered.

Stamback in Time

Stamback in Time is a Heritage Lottery funded project with the Youth Panel that started in July 2018 working in partnership with the London Metropolitan Archives. The project is bringing the history of stammering to life. The panel have been researching some great figures of the past and present who stammered and what their stories can teach us today. Together they have created an online game and information booklet. They have continued working on the project, collaboratively over Zoom meetings, during the coronavirus lockdown period and are prepared for an online launch event in autumn 2020.

A special thank you goes to the London Metropolitan Archives for their support in helping to run the Stamback in Time project.

KPI targets:

» 60 young people who stammer empowered by taking part in our events and able to inform our strategy and inspire others Actual: 28 😞

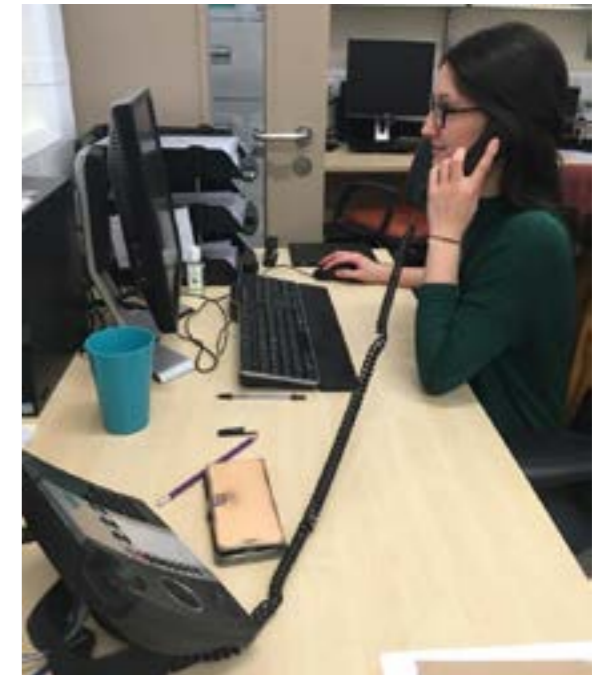
60 was an ambitious target for us but we are pleased that 14 young people took part in our careers evening and a further 14 are playing an active role in our Youth Panel.

» All our other objectives were achieved. 😊

Our objective for the year was to fund the national helpline and to continue to grow our website.

Stammering Helpline

Action for Stammering Children continues to fund a national helpline, which is delivered by specialist speech and language therapists from the Michael Palin Centre. It is available five days a week, Mondays to Fridays, from 9am to 5pm. The helpline provides a first port of call to parents, teachers, therapists, GPs and other professionals who need expert advice on how to respond to a child's stammer. Demand increased dramatically this year and a total of 1,075 calls were responded to. Calls included parents needing advice whilst waiting for their child to be seen locally, concerned parents needing advice on whether their child's stammer requires therapy, and therapists seeking advice on how to respond to clinical issues.



Rosie Markland, a Speech and Language Therapist at the Michael Palin Centre, answering the helpline calls.

The helpline has been particularly valuable during the coronavirus lockdown period as children who stammer and their parents have faced increased difficulty and reduced access to their normal sources of support.

Our helpline is also used by speech and language therapists working in a community setting, and much appreciated:

.....
'It was invaluable that you took the time to listen to the complex background to the case and recognise the challenges involved. You were able to support and direct me with my thoughts on how to move forward with the case. Helping me remain calm by explaining that behaviours others exhibited were a result of high anxiety and fear was invaluable. The importance of using the appropriate language, when I meet with carers and relatives, which you sensitively highlighted, will ensure that individuals feel reassured and valued.'
.....

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

Website and Social Media

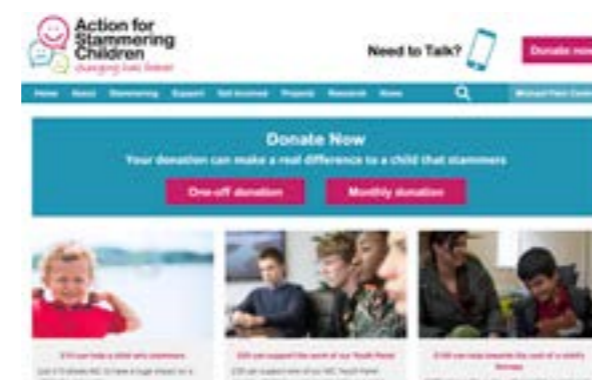
We are increasingly finding social media a powerful mechanism for increasing awareness about stammering in children and driving people to our website.

Our website remains a useful platform for sharing information about stammering particularly with parents of children who stammer. We had a total of 69,534 page views in the year, an increase of 36% on the previous year. Our most popular pages include tips, facts about stammering and support for parents. The Stambassadors page is the section of the website where our visitors spend the most time. This is where adults who stammer share videos of their career stories to inspire and encourage young people.

This year our YouTube videos have been viewed 26,904 times. We have shared videos made by Stambassadors and young people who stammer. Natasha Zack's videos reached over 3,000 viewers, and helped to raise awareness and understanding of how young people experience stammering.

We have increased our social media following this year to over 5,000 across Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn. Celebrity support from our Vice Presidents Michael Palin and Ed Balls,

together with Trustee Samira Ahmed, has helped to increase our reach. We ran a series of posts about celebrities who stammer, in the run up to Christmas, which generated a good deal of engagement. Posts with advice and tips continue to be popular.



Supporters are able to donate using the our website.



We continue to upload photos and videos to our instagram page: @stammer_action.

This year we published a report that revealed that there is a postcode lottery in the provision of services for children who stammer. Our Freedom of Information requests identified that only 45% of health providers across the UK offer specialist stammering services.

To ensure that more of the 150,000 children and young people who stammer across the UK receive the help that they need, the Charity has continued to support the training of speech and language therapists across the UK. We have helped to fund a range of training courses at the Michael Palin Centre and across the country. This enables more professionals to help more children and young people who stammer.

A total of 333 therapists undertook training with the Michael Palin Centre in London and through a Charity-funded outreach training programme delivered by Michael Palin Centre therapists in Huntingdon, Wolverhampton and Maidstone, Kent. Sadly, because of the coronavirus outbreak one of the training courses due to be held in Dorset had to be postponed. The course was run online in June 2020.

Our research indicates that each speech and language therapist will, as a result of our training, support at least 10 children and young people who stammer over the following year. We estimate therefore that more than 3,330 children and young people will now be receiving locally-delivered, high quality therapy to help manage their stammer.

In addition, 16 student speech and language therapists sat in on intensive courses being run at the Michael Palin Centre during the year, gaining hands-on experience that will be extremely useful in their future careers. Two students also attended our Talking Out residential courses.

We believe that our training is changing the way speech and language therapy is delivered all around the country. In the normal course of events, speech and language therapists receive very limited training in stammering. Often, they are reluctant to take on stammering cases as they don't feel that they have the skills to provide the support needed. Our training courses are helping to close this skills gap.

Our helpline is also used by speech and language therapists working in a community setting, and much appreciated:

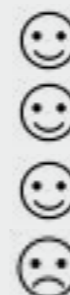
I feel so much more confident in knowing the steps to take when working with children who stammer. I no longer feel 'lost' when these children are referred to us!

KPI targets:

- » Increase in the number of page views of our website
- » Increase in our social media following
- » 750 helpline calls answered
- » At least one parents' support group established and holding regular meetings

Results:

- » Website page views increased by 36%
- » Social media following increased by 37%
- » 1,075 helpline calls answered
- » Parents support group postponed



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

PhD Programme - Stammering and Mental Health

This year saw the continuation of our PhD research project.



Action for Stammering Children funded PhD student, Ria Bernard

We are delighted to be supporting Speech and Language Therapist, Ria Bernard, as she undertakes a PhD investigating the relationship between stammering and mental health outcomes in children. She is now in the second year of her three-year research project at University College London. She has completed a systematic review of existing literature and has launched a national questionnaire and a comparative study of children who stammer, children with a language disorder and non-stammering children.

In addition to her PhD studies, Ria is also working for the Charity one day a week. Her report which mapped the different levels of support available for children who stammer in different parts of the UK was published in 2019 and generated broadcast coverage on ITV London and Channel 5 news as well as on social media and in sectoral publications.

In September 2019, as part of our 30th Anniversary celebrations we hosted a research panel event at University College London. Leading academics in stammering Margaret Leahy, Professor Kate Watkins and Dr Naheem Bashir reviewed the things that we had learned about stammering over the last three decades and shared their thoughts about the research opportunities that may prove fruitful over the coming years.



Our research panel event, hosted at University College London in September 2019.



The Michael Palin Centre team and visiting Speech and Language Therapists at a training event at the Michael Palin Centre.

Research at the Michael Palin Centre

Action for Stammering Children continues to work in partnership with the Michael Palin Centre (MPC) to support and promote research into effective treatment for stammering in children and young people.

MPC staff members were engaged in a number of research-related activities, including presentations at national and international conferences, preparing publications and data management. In addition, they have contributed to the wider scholarly and scientific community by: reviewing research papers; participating in scientific committees; collaborating in international research groups; organising the Oxford Dysfluency Conference; advising and supervising a range of undergraduate and postgraduate projects; and acting as internal examiners for UK universities.

Studies in progress:

Temperament and children who stammer:

The aim of this ASC-funded research is to explore the role of temperament in childhood stammering, as well as any relationship between temperament and stammering frequency and levels of anxiety. This study has been developed collaboratively with Dr Kurt Eggers at Thomas More University, Belgium. Data has been collected from 123 children. The findings of the study

indicate a relationship between temperament and the impact of stammering, but no relationship between temperament and stammering severity. The first paper reporting these outcomes has been submitted for peer review and the authors are currently responding to the reviewers' queries and requests.

Motor learning in children who stammer:

Fiona Hobler, PhD student at the University of Toronto, recruited 10 children from MPC to add to a larger dataset recruited in Canada. This study seeks to explore the motor learning abilities of children who stammer aged 4 to 6 and 9 to 11 years compared with children who do not stammer.

Genetics and Stammering:

This study is funded by the National Institutes of Health and led by a team of American researchers. The Michael Palin Centre has been involved in seeking UK ethical approval so that the MPC will be the UK recruitment site for this international study. Unfortunately, this study has also been suspended due to COVID-19.

The effectiveness of Palin Stammering Therapy for School Children aged 8 to 14 years:

This feasibility study will refine the methods that are necessary to conduct a large-scale trial into the effectiveness of Palin Stammering Therapy for School Children (Palin STSC), when delivered by therapists working in local clinics. The successful application to the NIHR Research for Patient Benefit funding stream was submitted in collaboration with City University of London, University of East Anglia Clinical Trials Unit and co-investigators Professor Victoria Joffe, Dr Lorna Rixon and Dr Suzanne Murphy. Palin STSC is an integrated approach aimed at supporting

children aged 8 to 14 and their parents. The aim is to help the child become a more confident and competent communicator, by working with the family to identify strategies that will enhance communication skills, develop a more positive attitude to communication, and help the child to speak more fluently and with less struggle. This study began in June 2019 and is due to complete in May 2021 but has currently been suspended because of Coronavirus restrictions.

Publications:

- » Kelman & Nicholas (2020) Palin Parent Child Interaction Therapy for Early Childhood Stammering second edition has been published.
- » Millard, S.K. (2019) Therapy with school-aged children who stutter. In D. Tomaiuli (Ed). Proceedings of the 3rd International Conference on Stuttering (2018). Rome. Edizioni Centro Studi Erickson S.p.A. 143-153.

Palin Parent Rating Scales:

This online, freely accessed assessment tool developed at the Centre is now available in Polish, Greek, Spanish, Italian, Slovakian, Swedish and Czech. Turkish and Korean versions are being developed.



The Michael Palin Centre team.

Travers Reid Award

This year sadly saw the death of the Charity’s co-founder Travers Reid. He was very much driven by a desire to see more research into stammering and so it is fitting that part of his huge legacy will continue to be the Travers Reid Award. This annual award, funded by the Charity, is made to researchers in the field who are making a real difference to our understanding of this developmental disorder.

In March 2020 the Travers Reid Award was presented by Travers’ widow, Sandra Reid, to Charlotte Wiltshire of the University of Oxford for her study: “Investigating speech motor control using vocal tract imaging, fMRI, and brain stimulation”. Charlotte delivered a fascinating presentation on her findings to an audience including the team of Speech and Language Therapists from the Michael Palin Centre along with staff and Trustees from the Charity.



Sandra Reid, presenting the Travers Reid Award to Charlotte Wiltshire, the winner of this year’s award.

KPI targets:

- » 1 PhD Student supported (currently 1): Achieved 😊
- » 50 attendees at panel event (new event): 60 attended 😊
- » 1 paper published in an academic peer-reviewed journal: Achieved 😊

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

The aim for the year was to increase the number of media mentions of the Charity and to generate more Stammer Aware Schools. Both of these objectives have been achieved.

The Charity also continues to play a leading role in promoting awareness of stammering and the impact it has on children and young people – through our website www.actionforstammeringchildren.org, through our social media channels and through our e-newsletter.

Raised Media Profile

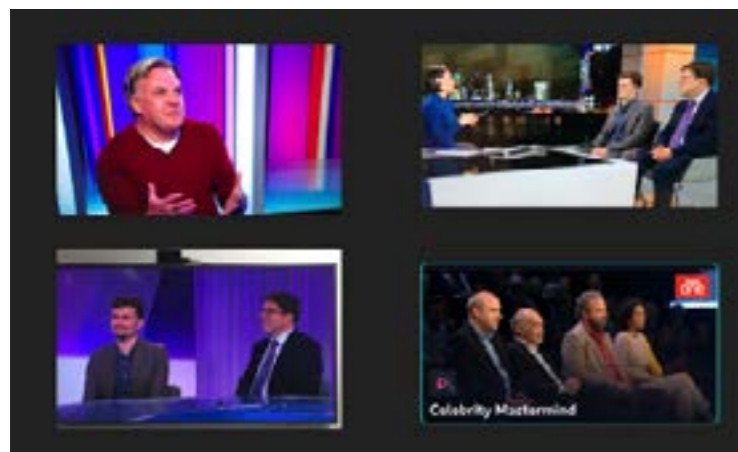
This year the Charity has been more successful in securing media coverage. Our report “Suffering in Silence” which revealed a post-code lottery in services for children who stammer, was featured on ITV London and Channel 5 News, as well as in the sectoral media. We also helped many of our fundraisers to secure coverage in their local media. The dance couples who took part in our Strictly themed event were featured in a wide range of local papers and the presence at the event of our Vice President Ed Balls helped us to gain coverage in the Daily Mail. Our Trustee Samira Ahmed won Celebrity Mastermind donating her winning prize to the Charity. Our media coverage has helped to raise both awareness of the issues around stammering and vital funds to support our ongoing work.

Stammer Aware Schools

Funding from John Lyon’s Charity has enabled us to help London schools adopt frameworks for supporting students who stammer. Children receiving therapy at the Michael Palin Centre initiate and lead the process of change within their own schools. Participating schools also take part in a training webinar, following which they receive Stammer Aware accreditation. So far there are nine Stammer Aware schools with a further 15 expected to earn accreditation this year. We’re very pleased with the success of this project and intend to extend it to include more schools from all across the UK.

KPI targets:

- » Positive media mentions of the Charity: Achieved 33
- » Schools becoming “Stammer Aware”: Achieved 9



Clockwise from top left: Ed Balls on BBC’s The One Show; Suffering in Silence report on ITV London; Samira Ahmed wins Celebrity Mastermind earning £3,000 for her nominated charity; Steven Gauge and Michael Derrig-Adams interviewed on Channel 5 News

Phoebe’s journey From isolated and alone to sharing a stage with Michael Palin

Phoebe Avbulimen attended a number of ASC therapy programmes and is now a member of our Youth Panel. Phoebe developed a stammer around the age of eight. She was a very vibrant, chatty and happy child, but then the stammer took hold. At secondary school it was at its worst, Phoebe said:

“The stammer preoccupied my mind every day. Even the smallest speaking tasks filled me with dread. A few hiccups at the start of my sentences became heavy blocks.”

She felt that she could not fluently express herself, and that her true personality was being hidden. It was like having a heavy burden she could not shrug off. She felt alone, isolated and held back.

Her speech has since improved with lots of trial and error, hard work and commitment. She has to practice every day, be conscious of her breathing and use a special technique when she speaks. She is also more accepting of the stammer and does not let it hold her back. Phoebe is now attending University of Leicester, studying medicine.

.....
“The stammer preoccupied my mind every day. Even the smallest speaking tasks filled me with dread. A few hiccups at the start of my sentences became heavy blocks.”

During our 30th Anniversary year Phoebe has been hugely active in supporting the Charity. She joined Michael Palin at BBC Broadcasting House for the recording of the Radio 4 Appeal, sharing her story about how the Charity has supported her. She even appeared on stage at the fundraising Evening with Michael Palin, speaking about her stammer in front of 900 people at the Cadogan Hall.

We are delighted to have Phoebe supporting our work and are proud of what she has achieved. But all young people who attend our courses show similar bravery and resilience in building a life for themselves that need not be limited by stammering.



Phoebe Avbulimen, Youth Panel member.

Financial Review

Income

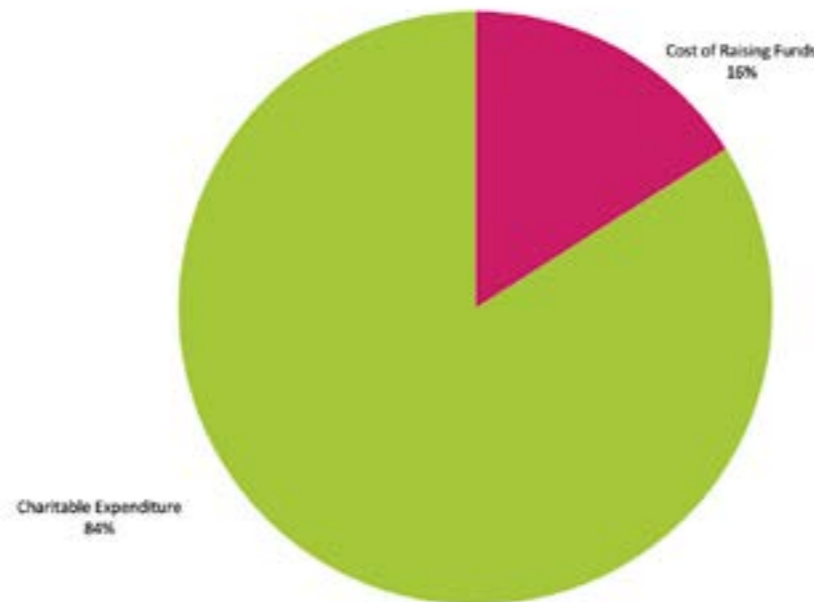
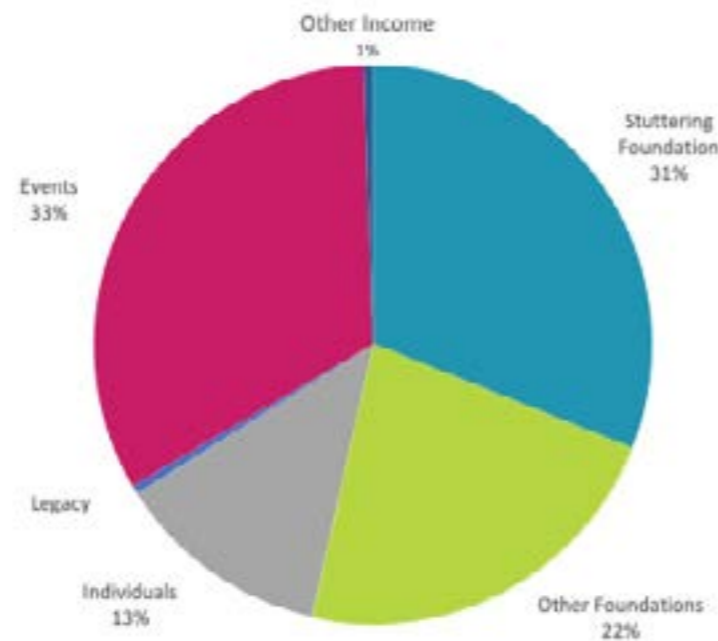
This was a very successful year. Total income for the year to 31 March 2020 amounted to £618,942 compared to £517,653 in the year to 31 March 2019, an increase of 20%.

In 2020 we have benefited from the continued support from the John Lyon's Charity (£30,000), Children in Need (£22,601), the Woodroffe Benton Foundation (£21,667), the Peter Sowerby Foundation (£24,796) and new funding from Bain Capital (£34,185) and Bidder McKinley (£10,000). We are extremely grateful for the ongoing support from the Stuttering Foundation (\$250,000).

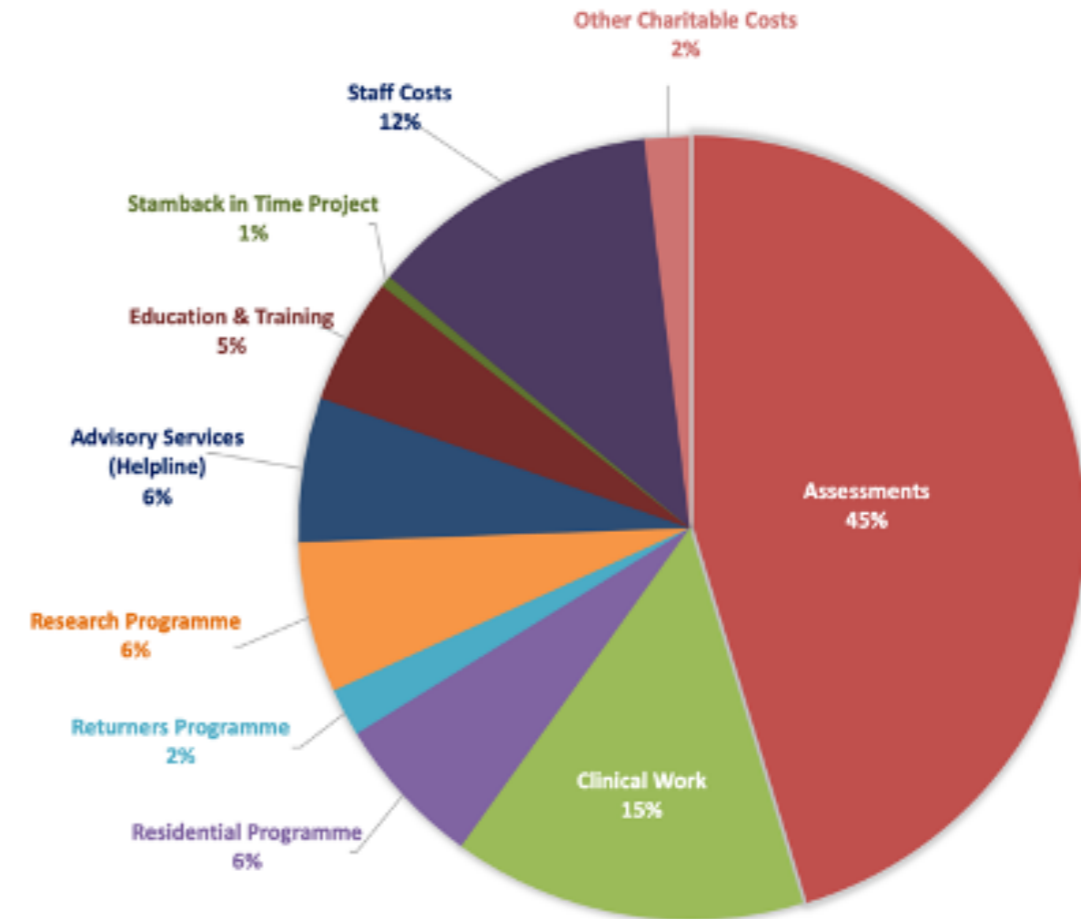
Expenditure

Expenditure of £600,285 (2019: £588,531 revised) was spent on charitable activity during the year, a modest increase of 2%. Of this, approximately £390,000 was used to enable the delivery of charitable activity at the Michael Palin Centre and the remainder to fund other activities including: two "Talking Out" residential courses for teenagers, a PhD research project and Youth Panel "Stamback in Time" project.

The cost of raising funds increased in 2020 from 10% to 16% of total charitable expenditure. This increase was largely attributable to the costs of organising fundraising events to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Charity. More than £200,000 was raised from these events.



Summary of Charitable Expenditure



Reserves

Total unrestricted reserves, shown in note 15 of £924,905 includes designated illiquid funds of £592,000 which comprises freehold property and the net book value of fixed assets. The remainder of £332,905 comprises unrestricted free reserves and represents approximately seven 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. This policy will be kept under constant review, particularly in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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.

Looking Ahead to 2020 – 2021

We expect the coming financial year to be extremely challenging. The coronavirus outbreak has meant that we are not currently able to organise any large-scale fundraising events. The general fundraising environment will be very difficult as the economic impact of the lockdown period begins to be felt by our supporters. We also are acutely aware that there will be huge demands on the public's generosity from organisations working directly to alleviate the worst impacts of the outbreak. It is in this context that we are planning for the coming year.

There will need to be a particular focus on steps to limit our outgoings wherever possible, whilst ensuring that we are able to continue to support children who stammer and their families through these difficult times. We are delighted that, with our support the Michael Palin Centre has been able to continue to operate throughout the crisis by delivering assessments, therapy and training online. The team in the Centre have taken the opportunity to innovate and adapt and we are immensely proud to be able to support them through this transition. Our Youth Panel have continued to meet and work together over Zoom and our Talking Out Residential partners have been working on plans to provide new services online. We will work together over the coming year to see how we can use the lessons learnt during the lockdown period to deliver our support more effectively long into the future.

As a charity we have six key goals and we will continue, in spite of the difficult fundraising environment, to work hard to achieve them. We will look to identify new ways to deliver our services drawing on the community spirit which has always existed and that the coronavirus outbreak has uncovered. We will seek to recruit a new team of volunteers to support our fundraising, administration and support our service delivery where possible, whilst maintaining the highest standards at all times.

We will monitor our progress towards achieving these with a set of key performance indicators.

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

- Review the lessons learnt from working under lockdown conditions to identify new ways of delivering online therapy services to more children across the UK.
- Continue supporting face to face assessments and therapy in partnership with the Michael Palin Centre as soon as government guidelines allow.
- Continue to expand our residential programme across the UK as soon as government guidelines allow and explore online options.

KPI targets:

- » 285 children and young people directly helped with assessments and therapy at the Michael Palin Centre or online (2019-20 actual: 285)
- » 40 children attending our Talking Out residential programme or online equivalents (2019-20 actual: 36)

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

- Empower and encourage Youth Panel members to train and inspire the new cohort of members from across the UK, to build on their successes so far and extend our reach.
- Actively engage Youth Panel members in developing our future projects and funding proposals and evaluating our activities.
- Create a mentoring scheme for young people who stammer, working with our Stambassadors.
- Complete our Stamback in Time project looking at people of influence who have stammered over the last 100 years in partnership with the London Metropolitan Archives and launch an online game.

KPI targets:

- » 20 Youth Panel Members from across the UK actively engaged in the Charity's work (2019-20: 14)
- » Stamback in Time game successfully launched

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

- Develop and deliver an on-going, on-line support programme for parents of children who have been through the Michael Palin Centre and our Talking Out Residentials.
- Continue growing our website, ensuring easily accessible information and guidance for parents of children who stammer and increase the reach of our social media platforms.
- Increase funding for the national helpline which is managed by the expert therapists at the Michael Palin Centre and increase the promotion of the service to a wider audience.

KPI targets:

- » 50 parents joining online support programme events (New project for 2021)
- » Increase the number of page views of our website (63,534 in 2019-20)
- » Increase our social media following to 10,000 (5,038 – 31st March 2020)
- » 1,500 helpline calls answered (1,075 in 2019-20)

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

- Continue supporting the training of speech and language therapists in stammering across the UK and work with the Michael Palin Centre to improve and develop the online provision so that more therapists can access the training.
- Ensure that training will reach therapists from a wide geographical spread with courses planned in the coming year in locations where specialist services are not currently available.
- Ensure speech and language students attend therapy courses to improve their knowledge of stammering

KPI targets:

- » 500 therapists trained supporting 5,000 children who stammer (333 trained in 2019-20, supporting 3,330)

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

- Continuing to support our PhD student research project looking at the link between stammering and mental health.
- Support planning and preparation for the Oxford Fluency Conference.
- Obtain funding for a Research Priorities project, to be delivered in partnership with the James Lind Alliance, to agree a set of the top ten research questions to encourage and focus future research in the sector.

KPI targets:

- » 1 PhD Student supported (currently 1)
- » 1 paper published in an academic peer-reviewed journal (1 paper in 2019-20)
- » Secure funding for Research Priorities Project (new project for 2020-21)

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

- Work with the Youth Panel to develop their role as media spokespeople for the Charity and as advocates for children who stammer.
- Continue to combine fundraising and awareness raising publicity in local, national and sectoral media outlets.
- Review the success of our school's project funded by John Lyon's Charity and explore ways we can reach schools in under-resourced areas, share webinars, recommend policy changes and make more schools "Stammer Aware".

KPI targets:

- » 50 positive media mentions of the Charity (33 in 2019-20)
- » 15 Schools becoming "Stammer Aware" (9 in 2019-20)

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 in person or online, at least five 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. 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 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 56.

The members of the charitable company include the Trustees and three 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, ASC commissions 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 Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee received remuneration in the year.

The Board has overall responsibility for the pay policy and the salaries of staff. The Chair, Treasurer and Company Secretary oversees the administration of the pay policy, evaluates employee performance and decides on any changes to pay.

Our general principles are to pay our employees a fair salary that is competitive within the charity sector, proportionate to the complexity of the role, and responsible in line with our charitable objectives.

Risk Policy

The Board of Trustees continues to review and evaluate the key risks faced by the Charity at Board meeting throughout the year. A formal risk register is maintained to record ongoing risk assessments and track key mitigating activity. The key risks of the Charity include risks associated with its governance, delivery of key strategic objectives, safeguarding of charitable assets and compliance with regulation.

The Board of Trustees ensures that robust policies, procedures, systems and financial controls are in place to mitigate key risks to protect the reputation of the Charity.

In the light of Covid-19 the Risk Register was thoroughly reviewed by the Board in May 2020. The major risk identified was fundraising due to restrictions on activities such as events and marathons and a plan to mitigate these risks has been developed.

Public Benefit

The Trustees have taken in to 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.

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 statement 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 FRS102;
- 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 19 September 2020 and signed on their behalf, by:



Joanna Hunter
Chair of Board of Trustees

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

I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity Trustees of the Company (and also its Directors for the purposes of Company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your Company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Report Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I draw the Trustees attention to note 1.5 of the Financial Statements which considers the affects of Covid-19 on the Company's ability to continue as a going-concern.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Date: 12 October 2020



Helena Wilkinson

For and on behalf of
Price Bailey LLP
Chartered Accountants
Causeway House
1 Dane Street
Bishop's Stortford
Hertfordshire
CM23 3BT

Statement of Financial Activities

(incorporating income and expenditure accounts)

For the year ended 31 March 2020

	Note	Restricted Funds		Unrestricted Funds		Total 2020	Restated Total 2019
		General	Designated	General	Designated		
Income and Expenditure		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	2	345,110	270,553	-	615,663	513,512	
Trading activities	3	-	469	-	469	2,002	
Investments	4	-	2,810	-	2,810	2,139	
Total Income		345,110	273,832	-	618,942	517,653	
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	5	-	96,441	-	96,441	60,948	
Charitable activities	6	304,077	199,767	-	503,844	527,583	
Total expenditure		304,077	296,208	-	600,285	588,531	
<i>(Loss)/gain on investments</i>		-	-	-	-	-	
Net income/(expenditure)		41,033	(22,376)	-	18,657	(70,878)	
Transfer between funds		(13,000)	13,000	-	-	-	
Net movement in funds		28,033	(9,376)	-	18,657	(70,878)	
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		46,717	342,282	592,000	980,999	1,051,877	
Total funds carried forward	15	74,750	332,905	592,000	999,655	980,999	

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.

The notes on pages 43 to 55 form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet

For the year ended 31 March 2020

	Note	2020	Restated 2019
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets	11	592,000	592,000
Current Assets			
Debtors	12	7,049	1,460
Cash at bank and in hand		502,466	525,734
		509,515	527,194
Creditors	13	(101,860)	(138,195)
Net current assets		407,655	388,999
Total Net Assets		999,655	980,999
Funds			
Designated funds - fixed assets	15	592,000	592,000
Unrestricted funds - free reserves	15	332,905	342,282
Restricted funds	15	74,750	46,717
Total funds and reserves		999,655	980,999

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.

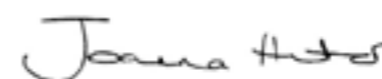
For the year ended 31 March 2020 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain audit of 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 accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees on 19 September 2020 and signed on their behalf on 28 September 2020.



Joanna Hunter, Chair of Trustees

Company no: 2328627
The notes on pages 43 to 55 form part of these accounts

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 March 2020

	2020 £	2019 £
Cash flows from operating activities:		
<i>Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year</i>	18,657	(70,878)
Adjustments for:		
<i>Depreciation of tangible assets</i>	-	5,574
<i>Investment income</i>	(2,810)	(2,139)
<i>Decrease/(increase) in debtors</i>	(5,589)	39,356
<i>(Decrease)/increase in creditors</i>	(36,336)	(37,387)
Net cash used by operating activities	<u>(26,078)</u>	<u>(65,474)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
<i>Income from investments</i>	2,810	2,139
Net cash from investing activities	<u>2,810</u>	<u>2,139</u>
<i>Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents</i>	(23,268)	(63,335)
<i>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year</i>	525,734	589,069
Cash equivalents at the end of the year	<u>502,466</u>	<u>525,734</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year comprise:		
<i>Cash at bank and in hand</i>	<u>502,466</u>	<u>525,734</u>
Net debt reconciliation:		
<i>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year</i>	525,734	589,069
<i>Net cash outflow in the year</i>	(23,268)	(63,335)
<i>Cash and cash equivalents at the year end</i>	<u>502,466</u>	<u>525,734</u>

Notes to the Financial Statement

For the year ending 31 March 2020

1. Accounting Policies

1.1. Basis of preparation of financial statements

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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 October 2019), 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. The functional and presentational currency used in the financial statement is Pounds Sterling.

1.2. Company status

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee and is incorporated and domiciled in England. The members of the company are the Trustees named on page 56. 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. The Charity's registered office is The Michael Palin Centre for Stammering Children, 13-15 Pine Street, London, EC1R 0JG.

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. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:
The Trustees make estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. There are not deemed to be any estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

1.5. Going concern

Following the year end the Charity has been affected by restrictions imposed by the UK Government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the following ways, but not limited to:

- 1 - Social distancing measures and restrictions on groups meeting will have a significant impact on funds previously raised through Charity evenings and sponsored events.
- 2 - An expected funding gap between funding which is considered to be reasonably certain and anticipated costs.

The funding gap will be managed by continued applications to Trusts and Foundations who might be interested in supporting Action for Stammering Children in the future.

The Trustees consider that the resources available to the Charity will be sufficient for it to be able to continue as a going concern during the restrictions and once the restrictions are lifted. The financial statements do not contain any adjustments that would be required if the Charity were not able to continue as a going concern.

1.6. 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.

1.7. 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.

1.8. Tangible fixed assets and appreciation

All assets costing more than £500 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

Included within the accounts this year is a prior year adjustment to the depreciation charge in the previous year. This adjustment incorporates a full charge of depreciation in the prior year and thus changes the brought forward depreciation figure.

1.9. 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.

1.10 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.

1.11 Creditors

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

1.12 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. Fixed assets are recorded at depreciated historical cost.

1.13 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.

1.14 Pension costs

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity. The annual contributions payable are charged to the statement of financial activities.

1.15 Taxation

The company is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the company is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

2. Donations and Legacies

	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
Grants and donations	345,110	267,553	612,663	502,092
Legacies	-	3,000	3,000	11,420
Total donations	<u>345,110</u>	<u>270,553</u>	<u>615,663</u>	<u>513,512</u>

Income from donations in 2019 included £207,552 of unrestricted income and £305,960 restricted fund income.

3. Trading Activities

	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
Charity trading income				
Books and DVD sales	-	469	469	2,002
Net income from trading activities	<u>-</u>	<u>469</u>	<u>469</u>	<u>2,002</u>

Income from charitable activities in 2019 was all unrestricted.

4. Investment Income

	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
Bank interest received	-	2,810	2,810	2,139

Income from investment income in 2019 was all unrestricted.

5. Expenditure on Raising Funds

	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
Events and fundraising	-	38,157	38,157	1,638
Voluntary income staff costs	-	58,284	58,284	59,310
	-	96,441	96,441	60,948

The cost of raising funds in 2019 was all unrestricted.

6. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Summary by Fund Type - Current Year			
Michael Palin Centre (MPC) - London	258,781	195,962	454,743
Stamback in Time project	2,354	-	2,354
Residential programmes	31,609	-	31,609
Research programme	11,333	3,805	15,138
	304,077	199,767	503,844

	Restricted Funds 2019 £	Restated Unrestricted Funds 2019 £	Restated Total Funds 2019 £
Summary by Fund Type - Prior Year			
Michael Palin Centre (MPC) - London	243,320	219,647	462,967
Stamback in Time project	5,755	-	5,755
Residential programmes	36,501	5,693	42,194
Research programme	16,667	-	16,667
	302,243	225,340	527,583

7. Expenditure by Charitable Activity

	Total 2020 £	Restated 2019 £
Direct costs:		
Assessments	228,000	228,000
Clinical work	73,500	73,500
Residential programme	31,609	42,194
Returners	10,000	10,000
Research programme	31,333	31,667
Advisory services	30,000	30,000
Education and training	26,280	27,449
Other commissioning costs	150	300
Innovation Awards	300	300
Stamback in Time project	2,354	5,755
Costs relating to charitable projects	40,207	46,471
	473,733	495,636
Support costs (note 8)	30,111	31,947
	503,844	527,583

8. Support Costs

	Total 2020 £	Restated 2019 £
Depreciation of assets	-	5,574
Staff costs	16,885	17,616
Staff expenses	1,240	105
Travel	-	684
Professional fees	957	996
Website costs	1,001	(1,005)
Youth Panel	224	117
Equipment and repairs	4,043	490
YouGov research	1,440	500
Miscellaneous	77	535
Governance costs	4,244	6,335
	30,111	31,947

9. Net Expenditure for the Year

	Total 2020 £	Restated 2019 £
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation	-	5,574
Independent Examiner's Fee	2,856	2,853

10. Staff Costs

	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Wages and salaries	105,223	110,175
Social security costs	7,934	11,691
Pension costs	2,219	1,531
Total staff costs	<u>115,376</u>	<u>123,397</u>

	Total 2020 No.	Total 2019 No.
Average monthly number of employees during the year	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
Average number of staff	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

One employee received emoluments amounting to more than £60,000 (2019: £0).
£60,000 - £70,000 - 1 employee

The key management personnel of the Charity comprise the Trustees and management teams as listed on page 56. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension and national insurance contributions) received by the key management personnel for their services to the Charity was £69,066 (2019: £73,278).

11. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold Property £	Restated Office Equipment £	Restated Total 2020 £
Cost			
At 1 April 2019	592,000	61,720	653,720
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 March 2020	<u>592,000</u>	<u>61,720</u>	<u>653,720</u>
Depreciation			
Restated At 1 April 2019	-	61,720	61,720
Charged	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 March 2020	<u>-</u>	<u>61,720</u>	<u>61,720</u>
Net book value			
At 31 March 2020	<u>592,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>592,000</u>
At 31 March 2019	<u>592,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>592,000</u>

A prior year adjustment has been applied to correct the depreciation charge in the year ended 31 March 2019, thus restating the brought forward figure for depreciation.

12. Debtors

	2020 £	2019 £
Other debtors	6,549	1,460
Donations receivable	500	-
	<u>7,049</u>	<u>1,460</u>

13. Creditors

	2020 £	2019 £
Accruals	100,457	134,795
Social Security	1,403	3,400
	<u>101,860</u>	<u>138,195</u>

14. Pension Commitments

The Charity operates a defined contributions pension scheme. The total contributions for the year amounted to £2,219 (2019: £1,531). No amounts were payable to the fund at the year end (2019: £Nil).

15. Statement of Funds

	1 April 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	31 March 2020 £
Designated funds					
Freehold Pine Street	350,000	-	-	-	350,000
Training room extension	242,000	-	-	-	242,000
Net Book Value Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>592,000</u>	-	-	-	<u>592,000</u>
General funds					
General funds	342,282	273,832	(296,208)	13,000	332,905
	<u>934,282</u>	<u>273,832</u>	<u>(296,208)</u>	<u>13,000</u>	<u>924,905</u>

	1 April 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	31 March 2020 £
Restricted funds					
Assessments	1,015	7,243	(6,243)	-	2,015
Stuttering Foundation	-	192,404	(192,404)	-	-
Heritage Lottery Fund	2,702	1,641	(4,343)	-	-
John Lyon's Charity	30,000	30,000	(30,000)	-	30,000
Peter Sowerby Foundation	13,000	24,796	(21,700)	(13,000)	3,096
Children in Need	-	22,601	(20,020)	-	2,581
Woodroffe Benton Foundation	-	16,667	(16,667)	-	-
The Weinstock Fund	-	2,500	(127)	-	2,373
G C Gibson Charitable Trust	-	2,573	(2,573)	-	-
Other	-	500	-	-	500
Bain Capital	-	34,185	-	-	34,185
Bidder McKinley	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
	<u>46,717</u>	<u>345,110</u>	<u>(304,077)</u>	<u>(13,000)</u>	<u>74,750</u>
Total funds	<u>980,999</u>	<u>618,942</u>	<u>(600,285)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>999,655</u>

Summary of Funds

	1 April 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	31 March 2020 £
Designated funds	592,000	-	-	-	592,000
General funds	342,282	273,832	(296,208)	13,000	332,905
	<u>934,282</u>	<u>273,832</u>	<u>(296,208)</u>	<u>13,000</u>	<u>924,905</u>
Restricted funds	46,717	345,110	(304,077)	(13,000)	74,750
	<u>980,999</u>	<u>618,942</u>	<u>(600,285)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>999,655</u>

The transfer of funds reflects an adjustment to the balance carried forward incorrectly from a previous grant which had been utilised in the previous year.

Prior Year - Restated Statement of Funds

	1 April 2018	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	31 March 2019
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds					
Freehold Pine Street	350,000	-	-	-	350,000
Training room extension	242,000	-	-	-	242,000
Net Book Value Fixed Assets	5,574	-	(5,574)	-	-
	597,574	-	(5,574)	-	592,000
General funds					
General funds - all funds	411,303	211,693	(280,714)	-	342,282
	1,008,877	211,693	(286,288)	-	934,282
Restricted funds					
Assessments	-	26,015	(25,000)	-	1,015
Stuttering Foundation	-	186,627	(186,627)	-	-
Heritage Lottery Fund	-	10,150	(7,448)	-	2,702
John Lyon's Charity	30,000	30,000	(30,000)	-	30,000
Peter Sowerby Foundation	13,000	13,900	(13,900)	-	13,000
Children In Need	-	22,601	(22,601)	-	-
Woodroffe Benton Foundation	-	16,667	(16,667)	-	-
	43,000	305,960	(302,243)	-	46,717
Total funds	1,051,877	517,653	(588,531)	-	980,999

Prior Year - Restated Summary of Funds

	1 April 2018	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	31 March 2019
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds	597,574	-	(5,574)	-	592,000
General funds	411,303	211,693	(280,714)	-	342,282
	1,008,877	211,693	(286,288)	-	934,282
Restricted funds	43,000	305,960	(302,243)	-	46,717
	1,051,877	517,653	(588,531)	-	980,999

Purpose of Restricted Funds

Assessments	These funds were used for specialist consultations at the Michael Palin Centre.
Stuttering Foundation	These funds were used for specialist clinical, research and training activities at the Michael Palin Centre.
Children in Need	These funds were used for a Talking Out outward-bound residential in the year.
Peter Sowerby Foundation	These funds were used for a Talking Out outward-bound residential in the year.
	The transfer of funds reflects an adjustment to the balance carried forward incorrectly from a previous grant which had been utilised in the previous year.
John Lyon's Charity	These funds have been used to help children and young people in key London Boroughs to lead changes within their schools community to develop frameworks for improved provision and support for children who stammer.
Heritage Lottery Fund	These funds are being used for a project called Stamback in Time working with the Youth Panel looking at famous people who stammered.
Woodroffe Benton	These funds were used to support the second year of a three-year PhD programme investigating the relationship between stammering and anxiety and depression in children in partnership with University College London.
The Weinstock Fund	These funds are being used for the development of a Northern Youth Panel.
G C Gibbon Charitable Trust	These funds were used for capital equipment to assist the Stambassadors and Youth Panel work.
Bain Capital	These funds are to support the helpline, residential and intensive courses for children who stammer.
The Bidder McKinley Foundation	These funds were used solely for activities relevant to the Charity's objects.

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.

16. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Restricted Funds 2020	Unrestricted Funds 2020	Total Funds 2020
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	592,000	592,000
Current assets	74,750	434,765	509,515
Creditors due within one year	-	(101,860)	(101,860)
	<u>74,750</u>	<u>924,905</u>	<u>999,655</u>

Prior Year - Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Restricted Funds 2019	Unrestricted Funds 2019	Total Funds 2019
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	592,000	592,000
Current assets	46,717	480,477	527,194
Creditors due within one year	-	(138,195)	(138,195)
	<u>46,717</u>	<u>934,282</u>	<u>980,999</u>

17. Financial Commitments

	2020	2019
	£	£
NHS Whittington Health	<u>180,000</u>	<u>390,330</u>

The Charity commissions an expert speech and language service for children and young people from NHS Whittington Health. As a result of the current funding environment, the Charity has committed £180,000 for the period 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2020. At the end of September, the Charity will review and agree its commitments for the period 1 October to 31 March 2021.

18. Related Parties

There were no related party transactions that require disclosure.

19. Prior Year Adjustments

Two prior year adjustments were made in the current year accounts. The first adjustment of £5,283 was to restate an understatement of depreciation charge in the prior year. The second adjustment of £13,000 was to the funds analysis to reflect an adjustment to the balance carried forward incorrectly from a previous grant which had been utilised in the year.

Reference and Administrative Details of The Charity, its Trustees and Advisers

For the year ending 31 March 2020

Trustees	Joanna Hunter (Chair) David Broom (Honorary Treasurer) Will Evans (Company Secretary) Samira Ahmed Gerald Grattoni (retired February 2020) Arthur Hughes-Hallett Balshen Izzet Richard Murray (appointed April 2020) Oliver Rawlins (retired May 2020) 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 Chief Executive Steven Gauge.
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

Travers Reid Hon FRCSLT Co-founder and Life President of Action for Stammering Children

We were deeply sorry to hear of the death of Travers Reid on 13th October 2019 aged 89. Travers held a very special place in the heart of the Charity and the Michael Palin Centre and he will be greatly missed.

Travers was a true gentleman whose ambition and achievements have changed the lives of many thousands of children and families. First and foremost he was a devoted family man, married to Sandra for 60 years and intensely proud of his children and grandchildren.

More than 30 years ago, as a successful businessman, Travers had a vision of a world without stammering. Having been affected by stammering throughout his life, he was determined to help children and young people gain access to the help that was not available to him during his childhood.

During the 1980s, in collaboration with Lena Rustin, a pioneering Speech and Language Therapist and stammering expert, Travers decided to set up a charity to fulfil his dream of providing specialist help to children and their families. He recalled that it took several meetings with the Charity Commission to persuade them that stammering was a worthy cause. His persistence paid off, and in 1989 the Association of Research into Stammering in Childhood was launched and work was started to raise money to provide information videos, to raise awareness and to develop therapy programmes.

A unique partnership was established between the Charity and the NHS which still operates today. By 1991, Travers had made contact with Michael Palin who gave his enthusiastic support to the opening in 1993, of The Michael Palin Centre for Stammering Children. The Centre is now recognised nationally and internationally as a centre of excellence in this field, offering assessments and therapy as well as training and research.

Travers visited the Michael Palin Centre regularly, eager to meet the children, young people and their families, listening to their stories and sharing his own experiences. He was a wonderful role model of how stammering need not hold an individual back, how personal and professional potential can still be realised and how you can crack a good joke with or without a stammer. Travers was also a great support to the team of therapists, showing a keen interest in the therapy, the teaching and the research programme. He recognized the importance of evidence-based practice and founded the annual Travers Reid Award to encourage and celebrate research studies into stammering conducted by student speech and language therapists. In October 2015 Travers was made a Fellow of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists in recognition of his services to stammering.

Without Travers Reid's vision, commitment and determination, many thousands of children would not have received this specialist support and many hundreds of therapists across the world would not be trained. His contribution to the world of stammering has been exceptional and will always be remembered and celebrated.

Travers's role as Life President afforded him some interesting opportunities – meeting HRH Prince Charles at Clarence House, two receptions at 10 Downing Street, regular attendances at the House of Commons, most recently in May 2019 when, despite poor health, his determination ensured he would not miss the 30th Anniversary celebration of his beloved charity, Action for Stammering Children. He remained a constant support to the Board of Trustees by keeping in touch right to the end. Travers will be remembered for his charm, thoughtfulness, his extraordinary memory, wide knowledge, compassion and his mischievous sense of humour. Despite health worries over several years, his indomitably independent spirit was legendary. His increased physical frailty belied his lively intellect, and quick wit. The Charity and the Michael Palin Centre will continue as his lasting legacy and as an achievement of which he was justly proud.



30 years of changing lives



Lena Rustin, described by Michael Palin as 'a tiny powerhouse of a woman', co-founded the charity in 1989 and headed up the Michael Palin Centre until 2002.

“ We really can't thank you enough for the impact you have had on our family - I feel like we won the lottery in being able to attend the Michael Palin Centre as a family. You have made a long-lasting positive imprint on all of our lives, and we will always be so grateful to you. ”

“ Many thanks for talking to me earlier about M's stammering, I am grateful for your time and for the very detailed advice and reassurance you gave me. I wasn't expecting such a comprehensive discussion when I called so it's a relief to know your helpline exists. ”



Over 30 years Action for Stammering Children has helped and supported over 90,000 children and young people who stammer.



Action for Stammering Children
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www.actionforstammeringchildren.org

Charity Number: 801171

Design and layout: Stephanie Nutman