



Autism  
Jersey

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# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2022

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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**ENABLING** PEOPLE ON THE AUTISM  
SPECTRUM TO ACHIEVE THEIR  
**POTENTIAL** BY **ADVOCATING**  
FOR AN **INCLUSIVE** COMMUNITY  
AND PROVIDING **PERSONALISED**  
SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES  
AND CARERS

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# Contents

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Details of Officers	3
Message from Nick Winsor, Chairman	4-5
Message from Chris Dunne, Chief Executive Officer	6-7
Message from Lionel Gomes, Head of Operations	8-9
Message from Danielle Wharton and James Devon, Adult's Services Managers	10
Message from Niki Cross, Children's Services Manager	11
Message from Cheryl Ferey, Head of Training & Development	12-13
Message from Kerry O'Donovan, Support Services Coordinator and Counselling Service Coordinator	14-15
Message from Cheryl Hanlin, Family Events & Mentoring Coordinator	16-18
Message from Lesley Harrison, Head of Charitable Services, including Fundraising & Marketing	19-23
Message from Karen Gallichan & Catherine Tubb, Boutique Managers	24-25
Message from Brendan Dowling, Treasurer	26-27
Independent Reviewer's Report 20 Trustees' Responsibilities	28
Statement of Financial Activities	29
Statement of Financial Position	30-31

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# Details of Officers



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## PATRON

Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Dalton  
GCB LLD (Hon) DSc (Hon) BSc FRAES CCMI

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CHAIRMAN	VICE-CHAIRMAN	SECRETARY	TREASURER
Nicholas Winsor MBE Appointed 19 July 2011	Dr Helen Miles Appointed 24 February 2010	Jacquelyn Marsh Appointed 9 February 2016	Brendan Dowling Appointed 12 December 2012

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## TRUSTEES

Caroline Costello Appointed 6 October 2014	Richard Woolsey Appointed 15 May 2018	Oliver Etienne Appointed 22 February 2022
Cora Binchy Appointed 14 February 2017	Tiegan Little Appointed 21 November 2018	Nick Hutchinson Appointed 24 May 2022
Elizabeth Le Guillou Appointed 14 February 2017	Myles Hartley Appointed 18 September 2018	

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## AUTISM JERSEY

Century Buildings  
Patriotic Place  
St Helier  
JE2 3AF

## BANKERS

Lloyds Bank Offshore Ltd  
9 Broad Street  
St Helier  
JE4 8NG

## INDEPENDENT REVIEWERS

RSM Channel Islands Ltd  
PO Box 179  
40 Esplanade  
St Helier  
JE4 9RJ

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# Message from Nick Winsor

## Chairman



I am pleased to report that Autism Jersey has successfully negotiated another challenging year. Your charity continues to be financially strong, and we can look to the future with some confidence. However, we are inevitably exposed to the economic pressures caused by a combination of rising inflation and near-full employment, so some caution is required.

The underlying good news story is that Autism Jersey has continued to grow. We have expanded the commissioned services provided to both adults and children and developed our charitable services such as counselling, family support and information. All of this has contributed to the strong financial performance set out in the Treasurer's Report.

Sadly though, there are families in Jersey still waiting for support. It is vital that Autism Jersey can attract and retain high-quality individuals to deliver the services that our clients need. We offer careers with the best possible combination of benefits, progression and training, so that those who choose to join us are motivated to stay and make a difference to people's lives.

Our relationship with the States of Jersey remains as strong as ever and is a key enabler for our work. We continue to work closely with Andium Homes to deliver the Centre for Autism. This project is progressing, inevitably more slowly than we had hoped due to Covid 19, and the outcome of our planning application is expected later in the year.

The Autism Jersey Boutique has gone from strength to strength. Catherine, Karen and their team of volunteers do a great job offering advice and support to walk-in customers.

During the year, Lesley Harrison joined Autism Jersey to lead our charitable services and strengthen the overall

management team. We also said goodbye to Dania Healy, our Finance Manager for the past 6 years. Dania leaves with our thanks for a job very well done and we welcome Vikki Pennington as a replacement Head of Finance.

Autism Jersey is fortunate to have a professional Board of Trustees and I am grateful for their wise counsel. In particular, I would like to thank Brendan Dowling (Treasurer), Jackie Marsh (Secretary), Daragh McDermott and Helen Miles (Deputy Chair) for their contribution as they step down after many years of service. I am delighted that Helen and Jackie have agreed to remain as Trustees, despite relinquishing their Officer roles. We will vote on replacements for Brendan, Helen and Jackie at the AGM.

I hope that you will enjoy reading this Annual Report, which summarises our work during the year. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to thank Chris and the Autism Jersey team, our donors, supporters and volunteers for making Autism Jersey so successful.

# Message from Chris Dunne

## Chief Executive Officer



Despite all the turmoil of both national and international events over the last year, that appear to have taken over all our lives, I am proud that Autism Jersey remains a consistent and effective source of support to autistic children and adults and their families. Whether that is through the Boutique, our family support services, the amazing response we give through our single point of contact, the counselling service, or the provision of short break services and long-term supported living services, the quality of what we do is exceptional. This is evidenced by the inspection reports we receive through the Jersey Care Commission, and our achievement of attaining 'Specialist Award Advanced Status' for our accreditation with the National Autistic Society, the highest award achievable.

This is a true reflection of the quality of our staff across the Charity.

Over the last year, we have had several important new appointments that have helped us to further develop and improve what we do as a charity, across both our charitable services and our commissioned services.

Firstly, we developed a new post of Head of Charitable Services and appointed Lesley Harrison. Lesley has made an immediate impact and is doing a great job in helping to shape and develop the Charitable Services Team, with some very exciting ideas and outcomes.

We then appointed James Devon as a second Service Manager for our Adult Services. This was essential to help us to manage the growth in demand for the volume of adult services required. Again, James has settled immediately and brings with him a wealth of experience in social care.

In May this year we were sad to say goodbye to Dania Healy, who has retired from her post as Head of Finance. Although this is outside of the time scale for this annual report, it is important to acknowledge, as Dania has been with Autism Jersey for over 6 years, and in that time has made a significant impact on improving our financial management and reporting. However, I am pleased to report that we have been able to appoint Vikki Pennington as our new Head of Finance, and, again, Vikki has stepped in and is immediately doing a great job.

Overall, our biggest challenge remains the recruitment of front-line support staff with the personal qualities, experience and or qualifications that we need to maintain our

standards and deliver excellent support to people and their families. This is an issue across all areas of health and social care and was immediately impacted following Brexit, and then the impact of the covid pandemic. More recently, the impact of the cost of living is now adding to this problem. We continue to work hard to address this. Consequently, I would like to express my sincere thanks to our Board of Trustees for their support in the work we completed in the first quarter of this year, where we reviewed the role and responsibilities and completed a pay review for all the Operational staff. This resulted in us being able to implement our pay increase from 1st April, all a part of trying to improve the terms and conditions for staff, and, therefore, improve our recruitment

We have, subsequently, reviewed the role and responsibilities and completed a pay review for staff within the Charitable Service Team.

Along with the pay review and increase, we have also been renegotiating our contracts commissioned by the Government of Jersey, due to the increased expenditure. We have had a very positive response from the Children's Services, and we continue to negotiate with the Adult Services, accordingly. We are hoping for a positive outcome with Adult Services very soon.

Once again, I must thank all our staff across both the Charitable Services and the Provider Services, for their continued hard work and dedication to autistic people and their families. Their commitment to the work we do, as a charity, is outstanding. A final thanks to our Board of Trustees, whose dedication and support are greatly appreciated by all in Autism Jersey.

# Message from Lionel Gomes

## Head of Operations



As expected, another busy year for Operational Services 2021/22. We continue to grow and expand our services and now provide over 1200 hours of direct face-to-face support per week.

To ensure we have the capacity within the organisation to meet this ever-increasing demand, we looked at our organisational structure; including reviewing roles, responsibilities, and remuneration, and aligned these with the needs of the service.

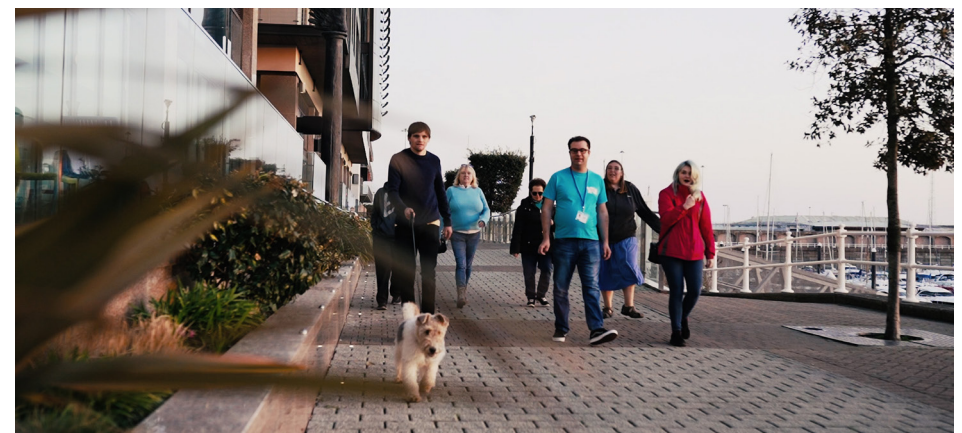
The restructure included increasing the on-call management team from a core team of 5 to a much more sustainable core team of 12. Service Manager caseloads were reviewed, and we added a new manager to the team, James Devon, who comes to Autism Jersey with a wealth of experience and has already proved himself a great asset and settled well into the team.

I am incredibly proud of all we do at Autism

Jersey, and at the same time, very aware that there is much more to be done. We are continuously striving for better outcomes for autistic people and are committed to working across the community to help make this happen.

We have already started working with the Government and other support agencies to ensure children with needs that challenge services, and their families have access to some form of holiday club. The service is off to a very promising start, and we will work closely with our partners to foster a can-do approach and encourage innovative solutions to challenges as they arise.

In December, we were awarded the Advanced Status for our accreditation with the National Autistic Society. This is the highest award that we can receive and reflects all of the hard work and dedication of everyone in Autism Jersey - big congratulations to every member of our team on this great achievement.



## Message from Danielle Wharton and James Devon *Adult Services Managers*



### Adult Services

The adult service has provided support for 23 adults in the last year. Two adults receive support 24/7 in their own homes. One of these adults receives support on a 1:1 staff ratio and the other is supported on a 2:1 staff ratio. 15 adults are supported under the Short Breaks Service which has grown in the last year.

We have worked in partnership with other agencies in the last year to enable adults to access a wide range of activities and opportunities in the community. One adult continues to help out at the Pond Project with Mencap on a weekly basis with their support worker. Another adult accesses Acorn to continue to get experience in a work-based environment. They have been able to work at the allotments and greenhouses at Acorn, who have been very supportive. Several of our adults have

been out on Wet Wheels boat trips. Healing Waves have been able to provide sessions to enable adults to access surfing in the sea which for many of our adults is out of their comfort zone. One adult access's the Jersey Employment Trust who have been supportive in helping the individual to apply for jobs and access work experience opportunities.

We continue to provide inclusive support for adults to live as independently as possible and access social and work opportunities. The adult service enables individuals to access a wide range of fitness opportunities such as swimming, going to the gym and playing racquet sports. Several individuals have enjoyed learning and developing their cooking skills enabling them to make a wide range of dishes. One adult has been able to move out of their family home in the last year to live independently in the community in an Andium property.



## Message from Niki Cross *Children's Services Manager*

3649 hours of direct support were provided to children and their families in the past year through our Short Breaks Service, and a further 786 within our specialist holiday club provision across Summer, Christmas, and Easter.

That is a mind-blowing total of 4435 direct hours of specialist support; all of which we could not do without the dedication and commitment of staff to providing the best experiences and promotion of personal growth for every child and young person we meet.

Collaboration across the sector has again been strengthened with an increase in joined-up thinking and working, to ensure all the support we provide is person-centred and follows the most up-to-date practice and professional input at all times. Without this sharing of information, a lot of the work that we do would not be possible to accomplish. When we can see and share the progress of an individual we support and realise the positive impact we can successfully have on a young person's life – as well as their families – it is evident that partnership working has become more of a priority than ever.

With the opening of more and more activities post-Covid, we have seen an increase in uptake of adaptive and inclusive activities that are available to all children (and adults) on the island, and we now see quite a few budding surfers, cyclists, sailors and trampolinists! Healing Waves, Cycle Without Limits, Wet Wheels and Jump Jersey have been invaluable in rebuilding weakened relationships and social skills during the tenuous time of Covid last year; all whilst providing immeasurable fun and personal



development – something I'm sure all our staff have greatly benefited from too. It would take too long to list all the facilities our children and young people make use of, but, without the level of engagement and positivity demonstrated by all our staff and the wider community, we would not have the privilege to support anyone to achieve their full potential in whatever they choose to do.

We have also been working with the Government to be part of the Children (Convention Rights) (Jersey) Law (202-) (This is now lodged au Greffe for debate and hopefully passing into law next year). This new legislation will indirectly incorporate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into Jersey law using a model of 'due regard'. We have engaged throughout the process and proffered Autism Jersey as public authority duty-bearers who, as such, will be required to have due regard (a balanced consideration of children's rights and all other relevant issues) to the UNCRC when making key decisions, promote knowledge and understanding of the UNCRC within our sphere of influence, ensure our complaints systems are child-friendly, take the views of children who may be impacted by a decision into account, and report on how we have fulfilled our duty to have due regard each year. We hope to be able to update further once the law is passed.

# Message from Cheryl Ferey

## Head of Training & Development



As always at Autism Jersey the quality of our staff is key to establishing, providing and evidencing good quality support and we continue to be committed to investing in and empowering our staff to reach their full potential.

Mandatory training is important because it enables support workers to achieve the standards set by regulatory authorities and meet organisational obligations. The training is renewed every three years and ensures that staff have the skills and knowledge they need to carry out their roles safely and effectively.

### Specialist/Client-specific training

We continue to ensure staff receive training specific to the individuals they support. This includes diet and nutrition,

diabetes, eating disorders, epilepsy awareness and seizure training, and pathological demand avoidance.

### SPELL and Autism Awareness

This training is delivered by Assumpta Finn and Heather McClelland of All About Autism. It is not only open to staff but to parents of autistic individuals, family members, carers, professionals, teaching staff and any organisation that simply wants awareness training for their staff.

Between May 2021 and January 2022, a total of 72 staff and parents have undertaken this training.

### Professional Qualifications

We currently employ 68 staff to provide support, this includes service managers, contracted staff and zero-hour employees.

At present we have 31 professionally qualified staff who possess either a level 2, 3 or 5 NVQ/QCF or RQF, with another 18 staff currently studying for their qualifications. Of the current ongoing learners, 11 were enrolled between May 2021 and January 2022. All learners are assessed in-house for their written assignments and observations in practice within their work setting.

### Mental Health First Aid

In May 2021 we were lucky enough to be awarded a grant from the Greville Bathe Trust in order to enable us to train managers and team leaders in mental health first aid with Mind Jersey. The training is covered over a two-day period.

Mental health problems at work are common. At least one in six workers is experiencing common mental health problems, including anxiety and depression. At Autism Jersey we understand that it is extremely important for our managers, coordinators, and team leaders to be able to recognise early signs of mental health problems in the staff they manage in order to be able to support them as best as possible. Since receiving the grant in May 2021 up until April 2022 we have been able to place 18 staff on this valuable training.

### Continued Professional Development

We promote and encourage continuous professional development and strive to support our staff to reach their full potential whilst gaining new knowledge and skills.

In January 2022, our Children's Services Manager Niki Cross undertook and

successfully completed an Effective Motivational Leadership programme with Leadership Management International.

Also in January, our Short Break Services coordinator Lisa Robinson began studying for her Level 4 diploma in "Working with Children, Individuals and Families".

Our team leaders and coordinators were able to attend a bespoke Interview Skills course in February with Mary Curtis from Calmera UK and are now involved with the recruitment and selection of new members of staff for their teams.

In March 2022 our managers attended the National Autistic Society's webinar conference "Autism and Mental Health".

Lionel Gomes, our Head of Operational Services, began studying for his Level 5 diploma in Positive Behavioural Support in May 2021.



# Message from Kerry O'Donovan

## Support Services Coordinator and Counselling Service Coordinator



### Support Service

Providing personalised support for individuals and families continues to be an essential part of what we do at Autism Jersey.

Our support is diverse, and we continue to support individuals and families pre and post-diagnosis. Going through the assessment and diagnosis process can often be a daunting and very confusing time for individuals or for family members, and we aim to alleviate this by providing support with every step of the way.

Our charitable services are free at the point of delivery and provide autistic individuals and their families, with a range of ongoing support and services that are not funded by the Government.

We support individuals and families by making contact for early intervention, providing advice, guidance, and information, as well as signposting, and referral to other external services and organisations. We also help individuals and their families to understand autism,

navigate the system, as well as assisting them in getting the support that they need. This may be in areas including diagnostic assessment, employment, housing, school and education, respite, mental health, or social participation.

**We continue to work collaboratively and in partnership with other agencies and organisations to ensure a shared approach, working together effectively to ensure that individuals and their families can access the right support from the right services.**

### The number of new contacts to Autism Jersey has significantly increased.

- During the period 1st May 2021 to 30th April 2022, there has been a total of 309 new individuals and families contacting Autism Jersey. This compares to 195 new contacts during the same period the previous year.
- The number of new contacts to Autism Jersey can range from 1-6 per day.
- The age range of individuals who have been supported ranges from 2 – 83 years.
- We continue to provide ongoing support to over 220 individuals and families.

### Counselling Service

We offer a free counselling service for family members of individuals on the autism spectrum, or for those whose family members are awaiting diagnostic

assessment. The service is also open to other adult family members including siblings, Grandparents, and partners.

- During the period from 1st May 2021 to 30th April 2022, there was a total of 49 new referrals into the service. This compares to 25 new referrals during the same period last year.
- Whilst referrals to the service can be made from a number of sources, the majority of individuals (88%) accessed the service via self-referral.
- A total of 433 appointments were arranged during this period. Of these, a total of 292 were attended, giving an overall attendance rate of 68%.

- The number of counselling sessions delivered has increased, with 292 counselling sessions attended during this period. This compares to 234 counselling sessions during the same period in the previous year.
- The service has not had a waiting list since the end of 2019.

100% of individuals said that counselling had been beneficial for them.

100% of individuals rated their overall experience of the service as 'excellent'.

100% of individuals said they would recommend the service to others.

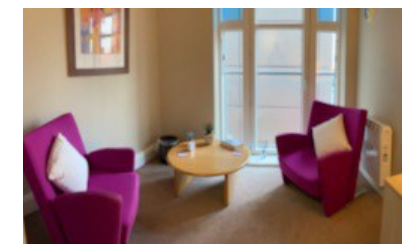
Comments from individuals who have accessed the counselling service include:

**"The service is a credit to the organisation. It was so valuable. Thank you, Autism Jersey. You change our lives for the better"**

**"Thank you very much for giving me these sessions, it was just what I needed. Thanks again to this service from Autism Jersey"**

**"The experience was amazing, and the sessions were very beneficial. Thank you for everything"**

**"This service came at the perfect time for me. I really appreciated being able to let out my feelings without judgement and in a warm and safe environment, and I appreciate Autism Jersey for providing this service to me, thank you"**





# Message from Cheryl Hanlin

## Family Events & Mentoring Coordinator



### Family Days

We have had 11 family events in the last year with nearly 700 attendees, including events which took place at Cineworld, the Aquadome at the Merton Hotel, the aMaizin’Maze, and activities included tennis, bowling, crazy golf and a firm favourite - Jump Jersey!

The Family Christmas Party at the Grand Hotel and Spa was a fantastic success, we had some new families who met with our current families and both parents and children chatted and played well. Some families swapped contact details to arrange future play dates, and it was fantastic to have these relationships develop, which is the main reason for these brilliant events.

The Christmas Party also included a private viewing of the children’s favourite movies in the hotel cinema complete with popcorn and pop. We also split the huge ballroom into two areas to enable us to have one room for over sensory children with a great big bouncy castle and the other room with sensory lights, toys equipment and books for children and parents who wanted a quiet space.

The children, parents and carers have been going to the Grand Hotel and Spa for our Christmas parties for over the last 4 years and have had so much fun, the staff are very caring, patient and understanding. We are extremely grateful to the Grand Hotel and Spa and their staff for their support and commitment to ensure that our families have a wonderful experience.

Covid presented us with many challenges, however, in order to overcome some of those challenges we provided vouchers for families where restrictions prevented us from grouping them together for our family days, so our families were still able to get out and about and enjoy these fantastic activities.



We received a lot of positive feedback from our members to tell us how much they appreciated getting out to these places with the vouchers during those challenging times, however, they were very happy to get back to our usual family says so they could meet up with other parents and carers and children and enjoy the events together in a non-judgmental and relaxed environment.

We have recently been working with the lovely staff from Jersey Boat Tours, who arrange sailings round the west coast of the island on the wonderful Jersey Duchess, giving our families a fantastic experience and opportunity to see the wildlife – including dolphins. They provide refreshments, and interesting information on the island, and the Captain has been known to let the children ‘steer’ the boat, much to everyone’s delight.

### Love Bird Studio

Charlie Langley, the Manager of Love Bird Studio, and I have been meeting to create some Art Therapy sessions we are looking to work long-term which Charlie both at her studio and other locations to provide a series of Therapy Workshops for both children, adults, and parents/carers.

### Coffee Mornings

We are coming to the end of our partnership with the Grand Hotel and are in dialogue with potential new partners, however it has been amazing to have worked with all the staff and enjoy such a beautiful environment for our coffee mornings. Every first Friday of the month we have had between 6 and 10 guests sometimes more throughout the year.

We introduced our first new monthly Saturday coffee mornings in January which were requested mainly by parents who worked all week and cannot make our Friday mornings. These are gaining momentum and we have a regular cohort turning up.

In April we had some special guests attend our coffee mornings, the lovely Carole Stockill and the girls from Laugh, Move

& Groove. We had a session of laughter yoga, soft sit-down drumming and teas and coffees which our parents thoroughly enjoyed, so we are looking to repeat these positive sessions later in the year.



The remaining three Fridays of each month we enjoy our Walking, Talking Coffee mornings which are proving to be extremely successful. Sometimes we have parents who enjoy meeting walking and chatting, and sometimes identified parents who have needed support, who in turn we are able to introduce to Kerry O’Donovan, Support Services Co-Ordinator.

### Healing Waves

We continue to work with Max and Dom, the team from another charity, Healing Waves and their Ocean Therapy Activity with our existing and new families to Autism Jersey. Max and Dom are always thankful for our support and referrals each year, and this is a great collaboration which delivers positive outcomes for our families. Parents tell us how much their children enjoy their sessions laughing, session familiar faces knowing who their instructor are and just having fun!

## Siblings Days

In total we held 6 events ranging from Pizza making at Pizza Express to Tennis at St Clements Golf and Tennis club. These numbers have halved due to some of the siblings in our group receiving a diagnosis. However, we will increase in numbers throughout the year as now we are receiving a lot of new family referrals which is great for this lovely group.



## Mentoring

Our Mentoring Scheme continues with our brilliant Mentees and Mentors. One mentor has paused due to her studies, another wishes to volunteer with Family and Siblings days.

I have been working with Joe Langtree who is the manager of Rooms to Reward, a charity that works with hotels in the UK, Channel Islands and some in Europe. You can nominate your volunteer and if they are successful, they can choose a hotel for 1 or 2 nights with breakfast. The only one in Jersey at the moment is the Atlantic hotel, if successful the volunteer/mentor can choose one of these hotels.

## Additional activities

### Finni's Arc

Lara, her family, and team from Finni's Arc continue to welcome our families to the Arc, where they can enjoy a wander around the working farm, feeding the animals or having a picnic.

### Dog Therapy

Jane Fletcher advised that Balthazar had sadly passed away which was a shock to everyone and he will be sadly missed. We are now looking to work with Pets Therapy Jersey and once Agnes is back in September, we will hopefully have a new and free programme for our families to enjoy.



# Message from Lesley Harrison

## Head of Charitable Services, including Fundraising & Marketing



We wanted to strengthen our relationship with corporate partners, and the local business community, therefore a series of presentations were delivered which gave insight into autism and the support and services provided by Autism Jersey. This will continue as a regular and ongoing activity throughout 2022 and beyond.

We also took positive steps towards developing a strategy for autism in Jersey with our Government of Jersey partners, and we intend to have an action plan in place by the end of 2022, which will form the basis of a three-year strategy for 2023-2025.

This has been an extremely busy but positive year for the team, and foundations have been put in place to enable us to build and grow in a structured way that will support resource and capability and deliver our key objectives, giving positive outcomes for autistic individuals.

We look forward to another successful and positive year ahead.

### Fundraising

We were super pleased to find ourselves in the position, after the impact of Covid, to once again be able to arrange fundraising events within the community.

**L'Etacq and Back** was the first event, post-pandemic, and we were delighted to reach just over 200 participants, each setting off on staggered starts from Le Braye and walking to L'Etacq...and back! Finishers were welcomed back by the Jersey Ghostbusters and Stormtroopers as well as receiving medals, photo opportunities and a voucher

*continued*

# Message from Lesley Harrison

## continued



to exchange for some delicious food from Arepera Tricolor who were generous with their support. We were delighted to raise over £4000 in total from the event and there was such a wonderful and positive vibe to the event as so many of us were simply delighted to be part of a community event for the first time in a long time!

Our annual **Golf Day** is always the biggest event on our fundraising calendar, and we were delighted this was able to go ahead at a solo venue (once again) in August 2021 where we welcomed 100 guests to La Moye Golf Club for breakfast, before heading out to play an 18-hole Stableford competition, followed by a delicious lunch in the Clubhouse. We were donated some wonderful and somewhat exclusive prizes for our raffle and auction and combined with the main event, we raised over £25,000 – which is truly amazing, and we express our very sincere thanks to each and every person involved in Golf Day.



**World Autism Acceptance Week** was held nationally from 28th March until 3rd of April 2022 and we had a full week of activity. We launched a short video in partnership with JT, entitled JT presents Autism Jersey which gives a little insight into autism and the service

provision of the Autism Jersey team. To date this video has received over 87 thousand views on YouTube.



We embraced the opportunity to host a stall in Brook Street, St Helier, enabling us to engage and talk to members of the public in order to promote information about autism and increase knowledge, awareness and acceptance of autism amongst our local community. Throughout the week we were joined by various members of our Autism Jersey teams, who were able to chat and discuss their roles within our organisation as well as answer any questions the public may have. Jersey Youth Service gladly attended the stall which was a wonderful addition, and we are super grateful for their contribution of both time and resources. Jersey Adult Autism Service (JAAS) were also consulted and attended where they could whilst struggling with limited resources – oh how the pandemic continues to make its impact! Nonetheless, JAAS are always at hand should any of our team or the public would like more information. Autism Social Communication Inclusion Team (ASCIT) were also heavily involved in World Autism Acceptance Week by contributing information and more to local primary and secondary schools with the hope that this would be shared amongst

their communities. Working closely with educational departments is something we deem of high importance in order to work collaboratively across the island.

You may have also noticed Fort Regent “turn blue” on the 2nd of April, this was all down to us! Blue has historically been associated with autism and is the main colour of our branding, we felt it would be a lovely idea to “light it up blue” for autism! We hope this will be an annual occurrence for World Autism Awareness Day.

All of these activities were supported by tailored presentations delivered to: Highlands College, Jersey Youth Service, JAAS, JT, KMPG

April 2022 also saw the return of our **Easter Saturday Duck Race** at Le Perquage stream, Sandybrook, which was kindly sponsored by Romerils. We are truly grateful for the support of the Parishes, the Infrastructure Housing and Environment department and everyone who bought tickets and attended this popular family event, local businesses who kindly supplied raffle prizes and Autism Jersey volunteers who gave up their time to support us – including the KPMG Team. Guests were able to enjoy various activities along the Perquage such



as hook-a-duck, face painting and enjoying delicious snacks from Rustic Jersey and the event itself raised almost £2000.00.

Aside from these major events, there have been many individuals, families, schools, corporates, and other communities raising funds for Autism Jersey. To mention just a few:



### Rhonas Café

The wonderful Rhona who is a stable part of the beautiful Gorey coastline decided she would make Autism Charity her chosen charity for the year 2021. Each year, Rhona selects a local charity to be the main beneficiary of the price of her famous “fish finger butties” and my goodness these are popular! Aside from the butties, Rhona also sold various items from her café, some donated, some created (cake!) and we cannot express how wonderfully kind Rhona has been to us, as well as other local charities. She is an honest and modest person with a heart of gold, and definitely #awesomeforautism!

# Message from Lesley Harrison

## continued



### Gregor Wake – cyclist extraordinaire!

Gregor decided to take on the Deloitte Ride Across Britain challenge in September 2021, which saw him and fellow cyclists Alan, Helen, Gavin and Karyn, form a team from Jersey to take on the massive 980-mile cycle over 9 consecutive days. We followed Gregor's progress from start to finish, having been delighted and inspired by his positivity, strength, modesty, and personal achievements in this fundraising adventure. One of Gregor's quotes that really reflects this is:

"I remind myself that I am simply riding a bike, an absolutely enjoyable experience to do at any time, and nothing in comparison to the challenges families with autistic children may face on a daily basis"

Having raised a fabulous amount through personal fundraising and from his employer, Gregor's time, effort, and fundraising journey has been inspiring.

### Vikki Stafford - Ultra X Jordan (previously the Wadi Rum Ultra)

Vikki decided she would embrace this Ultra X race, being held in October 2021, for Autism Jersey and we are astounded by the dedication and training that plays a huge part in such an adventure.

The Run takes place over 5 days in the land of Lawrence of Arabia and competitors run or trek through the desert, past historic sites, into dramatic wadis and over magnificent sand dunes over the period of 5 days, averaging anything from 40km – 70 km each day. An Ultra X race is the ultimate test of preparation and in order to be a successful one, participants must calculate their water, electrolyte, and food requirements. Each night, competitors will camp in locations chosen to showcase the very best of the local area, where they can take advantage of osteopathy/ physiotherapy treatment, medical care, and hot water. After the final stage on Friday, participants will have a chance to enjoy their first taste of 'real food' that week, as the race organisers host a big BBQ around the campfire. Sounds delightful but this is certainly something that should not be approached lightly, no matter how effortless Vikki made it seem!

### Angie Connolly & Debbie Duarte – White Collar Boxing

These two ladies both embraced white-collar boxing matches in the autumn of 2021. Weeks of training took place to ensure candidates have the right level of fitness and skills to embrace the final boxing match, all in the name of charity. The evening events themselves offer the opportunity for many to witness first-hand, the results of such dedicated training and fundraising efforts by our local community.

Angie told us: "It was an amazing evening, I ended up having to fight my best friend in the end, which was very hard. It was a very close fight and in the end, she just got those few extra punches in and won. It was so good though that it didn't matter and I was so pleased for my friend".

We are sure Angie is also pleased with the amount of fundraising she was able to achieve.

Debbie entered the arena with a great walk-in dance and even picked up the prize for this! However, only seconds into the match, she ended up injuring her shoulder and had to withdraw. We followed her recovery and have continued to receive her support for Autism Jersey into 2022 via her role within the Insurance Institute of Jersey. We hope Debbie will once again be "Debbie Does Damage Duarte" in the amateur boxing world!

### Helen Day and Suzanne Morley – Marathon runners

Helen and Suzanne both completed running events – Helen took on the local Cannacord half marathon after deciding to allow herself time to focus on an activity she previously enjoyed before being a busy working mum got in the way. Despite a knee injury, the event was a success and Helen finished in 1hr 53 mins which she was pleased with. We have no doubt that Helen's family were as proud of her as we are, for being such an awesome mum and fundraiser.

Suzanne took on the Liverpool Rock 'n' Roll marathon in memory of her late friend James Keating, and was delighted to complete the race in 3hrs 56 mins. James' family requested all donations in his memory to be sent to Autism Jersey, a charity close to their hearts and the donations received are a clear example of how well loved and respected James was. Our appreciation and compassion for such an act from both Suzanne and of James' family are immeasurable, thank you from our hearts.

### Looking ahead to 2022...

Following recent organisational changes within our Charitable Services and Fundraising teams, we are looking forward to approaching the next 12 months with fresh ideas, ventures and events resulting in a more substantial position within the community and amongst local charities' fundraising calendars.

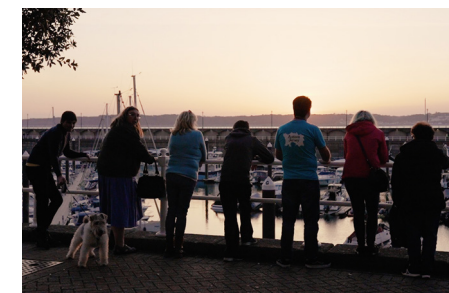
We cannot express how grateful we are to each and every one of our supporters, for their commitment, dedication and support, we simply could not continue to provide our Charitable Services to so many islanders without you. You are all truly #awesomeforautism!

### Adult Social Club

Club base is at St. Thomas' Church and they meet every Tuesday and Thursday evening.

Activities include, Quiz nights, trips to the cinema, bowling nights, and this year we introduced a league for pool which is kindly sponsored by Baker Tilly.

Club provides a valuable social outlet for members and a grant from the Roy Overland Trust is supporting plans for activities and events throughout the year.



# Message from Karen Gallichan & Catherine Tubb *Boutique Managers*



## Our volunteers are simply the best!

We could not run the Boutique without our awesome team. Week in, week out, the team give us hundreds of hours to fundraise for Autism Jersey. We think we have created a team, full of support, fun and friendship. Indeed, one of the pleasures of our job, is seeing new friendships flourish between our team.

Whilst, this period hasn't given us any official lockdowns, Covid-19 has still made its presence felt. Just about every one of us has had Covid now, some more than once & volunteers have stepped up time and time again to keep the shop open. At times, when just about everyone seemed to be a direct contact, we have taken the decision to run the Boutique with only the two of us, but that is not sustainable for more than a week or so.

We participated in the Workplace Lateral Flow testing programme and provided lateral flow tests to all our volunteers weekly. This has now changed, and we ask our volunteers to use an LFT at home

before coming to the Boutique. We know that some volunteers are more vulnerable than others and we have managed this risk by asking everyone to be very open about their exposure to Covid and following the recommended guidance.

Our takings are strong and continue to build. This is the most normal period of trading we have had since the pandemic affected us all. It is really heartening to see how our takings are growing. We feel firmly established at 13 The Parade now, a property we moved into towards the end of 2019 & we feel this sustained increase is indicative of how we can grow and build our revenue, as life hopefully returns to normal. Earlier in 2022, we were gifted some additional retail hanging units for the centre of the shop. The units have made a phenomenal difference to the amount of stock we can have out for sale & we saw a correlation in the increase in our takings, with the arrival of the new units.

Just as we couldn't run the Boutique without our volunteers, we also couldn't

run it without the very generous donations we receive. We are extremely lucky in that we receive such good quality donations. We find that people donate "what they see". Our windows have such a prominent position in town, and we take great pride in creating window displays that are both eye-catching and showcase the variety of looks that can be achieved with pre-loved and recycled clothing.

We have long provided work experience for people with Autism. We are delighted that one of our volunteers, who has been with us for several years, has secured employment in the hospitality sector. She truly is a success story & we are incredibly proud of her. She acknowledges that this wouldn't have been possible without all the experience she gained at the Boutique. We miss her greatly, but she still volunteers with us when she can and it is wonderful to see a young woman blossom and earn her own money and all the benefits that come with being in employment.

As well as offering work experience for around 5 autistic people weekly, we also provide support via a drop-in service for parents and carers of people with autism. Sometimes, this can be very distressing as families struggle and often, we are the first people (outside of family) they have confided their worries to. We also have people who will pop in regularly for a chat and update us on what is happening with their family member; we do like building an ongoing relationship as that means we can be a friendly & reassuring presence, available without an appointment (when the Boutique is open!)

So, what can you do to help us?

You can find us on Facebook at **Autism Jersey Boutique** and on Instagram at **autismjsyboutique**. Please follow us and share our posts to help us build awareness and increase our online presence. If you would like information on donations or volunteering within the Boutique, or if you would like to drop in and see us, the Boutique phone number is **01534 871678** or we can be contacted via email: **k.gallichan@autismjersey.org** and **c.tubb@autismjersey.org** or via our Facebook page.



# Message from Brendan Dowling

## Treasurer

The management team at Autism Jersey have done a fantastic job this year managing the charity through another challenging year. The effects of the pandemic were felt in terms of our ability to recruit staff so as to be able to provide much-needed support and services to our membership.

Despite these challenges we have managed to increase the level of services we provide to our members. The most important number for Autism Jersey will always be the number of hours of support we are able to provide to our members and the families of our members.

Our focus continues to be to deliver as much support as we possibly can and to fund more of our charitable objectives through the support services we provide to families and individuals affected by Autism. We are grateful to the many families and Health & Social Services (H&SS) for placing their trust in our services and for their support throughout the year which has helped ensure we remained financially sustainable as a charity.

### Income and Expenditure

Throughout this year we have benefitted from the plan of action implemented by the management team in conjunction Health and Social Services in 2020 which looked closely at the services provided alongside a review of all fixed and variable costs of the charity. The review led to some very positive outcomes which enabled us to have a much more positive year from a financial perspective despite the impact of Covid. In

2022 Autism Jersey managed to generate a surplus of income over expenditure of £293,378 from an increase in income from services provided of £408,522 and an increase in donations of £139,160.

We are very grateful to all those trusts, foundations, individuals, and companies who have helped us by giving so generously throughout the year. Without the generosity of our donors and the determination of our fundraisers we would not be able to maintain the charity or provide the services we do to support families. In 2022 we raised or received donations or fundraising contributions of £289,904 compared to £134,943 in 2021.

Expenditure in the period was higher, largely due to the salary costs associated with delivering additional services in 2021 at £2,025,668 compared to £1,642,735 in 2020. A wages bill of £1,717,840 accounts for almost 85% of total expenditure.

Our financial strategy continues to be to achieve a surplus each year whilst ensuring we can continue to grow and support our charitable objectives through the extension of our services.

Our cash flow remains strong with cash held at the end of the year of £1,120,690 (2020- £776,123). We can and have for a number of years now been able to demonstrate financial stability and we will continue to look for opportunities to reinvest in services and programmes which support our members. I would like to finish by thanking Dania Healy who retired as our finance manager for her exceptional work throughout the years in managing and controlling the finances of Autism

Jersey. I wish her every happiness in her well-deserved retirement. We welcome Vikki Pennington as our new finance manager, and we wish Vikki every success and happiness in her new role. This year will be my last as Treasurer of Autism Jersey, after 10 years in post, it is time for me to hand over the role. I have enjoyed working with so many committed Trustees and members of the Autism Jersey team who give of their time so willingly and selflessly because they believe so passionately in Autism Jersey as a charity and want to ensure it delivers for our membership. It has been an amazing journey to watch the charity grow from strength to strength over the last 10 years and I have taken so many positive learnings from that experience. Thank you Autism Jersey.



# Independent Reviewers' Report to The Trustees of Autism Jersey

We have reviewed the accounts of Autism Jersey, which comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 April 2022, the Statement of Financial Activities for the year then ended, and notes 1 to 13 to the accounts, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

## Respective responsibilities of trustees and reviewer

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The trustees are also responsible for ensuring that the requirements of the Association's constitution with regard to accounts and independent examination of those accounts are complied with. Responsibility is to perform an independent review of the accounts and express a conclusion thereon. We conducted our review in accordance with International Standard on Review Engagements (ISRE) 2400 (Revised) 'Engagements to Review Historical Financial Statements'. This standard requires us to conclude whether anything has come to our attention that causes us to believe the accounts, taken as a whole, are not prepared in all material respects in accordance with the applicable reporting framework. This standard also requires us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

The report is made solely to the Association's trustees as a body. Our review work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Association's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in the review report and for no other purpose. To the fullest

extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Association's trustees as a body, for our review work, for this report, or for the conclusions we have formed.

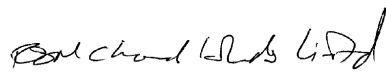
## Scope of the review of the accounts

A review of accounts in accordance with ISRE 2400 (Revised) is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of trustees and others within the Association, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less than those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on these accounts.

## Conclusion

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the accompanying accounts are not prepared in all material respects in accordance with the Association's stated accounting policies.



**RSM Channel Islands Limited**  
Chartered Accountants  
Jersey, C.I.

# Trustees' Responsibilities

*With regard to the Accounts year end 30 April 2022*

The Trustees have elected to prepare accounts for the financial year that show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of Autism Jersey (the "Association") and of the income and expenditure of the Association in accordance with FRS 102 Section 1A.

In preparing the accounts the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- Prepare the accounts on an ongoing concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Association will continue in operation for the foreseeable future.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the Association and enable the Trustees to ensure that the accounts comply with applicable accounting standards and the Association's constitution.

The Trustees are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Association and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees confirm that the accounts comply with these requirements.

Autism Jersey is the leading charity in Jersey dedicated to the assistance and support of people on the autism spectrum. Our mission is to enable people with autism to achieve their potential by advocating for an inclusive community and providing personalised services to individuals, families and carers.

# Statement of Financial Activities

## For the year ended 30 April 2022

	Unrestricted General Fund	Restricted Ringfenced Fund	Total Funds 2022	Unrestricted General Fund	Restricted Ringfenced Fund	Total Funds 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income and endowments</b>						
Donations	120,318	125,000	245,318	94,158	12,000	106,158
Activities for generating funds	6,024	38,562	44,586	753	28,032	28,785
Finance income	40	430	470	25	1,351	1,376
Income from charitable activities / services provided	1,957,546	-	1,957,546	1,549,025	-	1,549,025
Other income	71,126	-	71,126	54,247	-	54,247
<b>Total incoming and endowments</b>	<b>2,155,054</b>	<b>163,992</b>	<b>2,319,046</b>	<b>1,698,208</b>	<b>41,383</b>	<b>1,739,591</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>						
Raising funds	13,160	8,901	22,061	756	18,683	19,439
Charitable activities	2,003,607	-	2,003,607	1,623,296	-	1,623,296
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>2,016,767</b>	<b>8,901</b>	<b>2,025,668</b>	<b>1,624,052</b>	<b>18,683</b>	<b>1,642,735</b>
Net movement in funds	138,287	155,091	293,378	74,156	22,700	96,856
Funds brought forward at 1 May	256,302	476,673	732,975	182,146	453,973	636,119
<b>Funds carried forward at 30 April</b>	<b>394,589</b>	<b>631,764</b>	<b>1,026,353</b>	<b>256,302</b>	<b>476,673</b>	<b>732,975</b>

Notes and full accounts can be viewed online at [www.autismjersey.org](http://www.autismjersey.org)

# Statement of Financial Position

## As at 30 April 2022



	2022	2021
	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Tangible fixed assets	16,963	21,204
	<b>16,963</b>	<b>21,204</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Debtors	130,733	140,791
Cash at bank and in hand	1,120,690	776,123
	<b>1,251,423</b>	<b>916,914</b>
<b>Creditors:</b> amounts falling due within one year	242,033	205,143
<b>Net current Assets</b>	<b>1,009,390</b>	<b>711,771</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>1,026,353</b>	<b>732,975</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>		
Ringfenced Fund	631,764	476,673
	<b>631,764</b>	<b>476,673</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>		
General Fund	394,589	256,302
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>1,026,353</b>	<b>732,975</b>

Approved by the board of Trustees of Autism Jersey and signed on its behalf by:

**Brendan Dowling**  
Treasurer

**Nicholas Winsor MBE**  
Chairman



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**Autism Jersey is the leading charity in Jersey dedicated to the assistance and support of people on the autism spectrum. Our mission is to enable people with autism to achieve their potential by advocating for an inclusive community and providing personalised services to individuals, families and carers.**

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## GET IN TOUCH

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Call us: 01534 871888 Email us: [ajadmin@autismjersey.org](mailto:ajadmin@autismjersey.org)

Write to us: Autism Jersey, Century Buildings, Patriotic Place, St Helier, Jersey, JE2 3AF

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[autismjersey.org](https://autismjersey.org)

