

**21 years
of making the
ordinary possible
for children and young
people with autism**

Annual Report and
Accounts 2017–18



**Ambitious
about Autism**





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Donate to Ambitious about Autism



About autism

One in 100 people in the UK are autistic. Autism affects the way a person communicates and how they experience the world around them and is described as a spectrum condition.

This means that while people with autism, including Asperger's Syndrome, share certain characteristics, they will be highly individual in their interests, needs and preferences. As the saying goes, "If you've met one person with autism, then you've met one person with autism."

Children and young people with autism face enormous barriers due to a lack of understanding of their needs. Ambitious about Autism exists to make the ordinary possible for children and young people with autism.

“

Autistic people aren't broken or weird or anything to be scared of. We're just ordinary people like you. Our brains are just wired a bit differently that's all.

Sam Ahern and Georgia Harper,
Youth Patrons, speaking
on BBC Breakfast







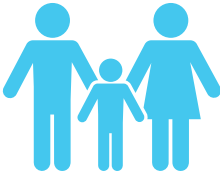
One in 100
people in the UK are autistic

Four times as many boys as girls are diagnosed with autism, although this ratio may change as the needs of girls on the spectrum become better understood.



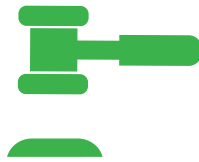
Access

Getting the right support to meet children's needs is far too difficult

Nearly **40%** 

of parents whose child has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) waited over 18 months for this assessment for vitally needed support in school, at home and in the community.

For nearly **90%** of parents, the stress of getting their child the right support at school caused them to lose sleep.




Over 2,000 parents

are forced to take legal action every year to get the appropriate educational support for their child.

Support

School staff need more support to help autistic children thrive

Nearly **120,000 pupils**  with special educational needs are autistic. Every teacher will teach a child with autism at some point, so all teachers must understand their needs and how best to support them.

42% of classroom teachers say their training doesn't prepare them to meet the needs of children with autism.

60–70%

of autistic people will also have a learning disability.

The lack of support for autistic people and their families costs society

£32 billion
a year.



Exclusions

Thousands of autistic children are missing from our education system

Formal exclusions of children with autism in England have risen by almost

60%
in five years.



56%

of autistic children have been sent home illegally or denied a full education, increasing from 45% in 2016.



Almost

one third

of parents of autistic children have given up their job due to school exclusions.

Progression

Autistic young people deserve a fair chance to continue their learning and progress to employment

Only

19%

of young people with autism say they have had good careers advice.



Fewer than

one in four

autistic young people access education or training beyond school.

77% want to work, but only

16%

of autistic adults are currently in full-time paid employment.



Ambitious highlights of our 21st year

We turned 21 this year and launched our We Need an Education campaign in the House of Lords, gaining more than 1,000 supporters within 48 hours. We followed this with a policy report on school exclusions, with media coverage on BBC Breakfast, BBC London News, Sky News and local media across the country.



For the fourth year, we ran our Autism Exchange work experience placements across the Civil Service, and expanded the programme to many new employers. This year, more than 50 young people accessed support.



We completed the refurbishment of our second Pears campus at West Thames College.



This year, we trained over 2,000 professionals to better support children and young people with autism in education and employment.



We were delighted to secure our second Outstanding Ofsted rating and to open our new Saplings horticulture resource.



This year, we had over 1.6 million visits to our website, and more than 11,000 members of our Talk about Autism online forum accessed support and information about our work. We have improved our resources and published our online guide to help parents understand and challenge unlawful exclusions.



The Minister for Children, Nadhim Zahawi MP, visited The Rise School to discuss support in schools, and progression to further education and employment. For the first time our pupils also celebrated their GCSE results.



Pears Foundation and Ambitious about Autism have partnered for 13 years to make the ordinary possible for children and young people with autism. This journey has seen the establishment of the Pears National Centre for Autism Education, two Ambitious College campuses and the Centre for Research in Autism Education (CRAE).



Two members of our Youth Council presented Channel 4's Are You Autistic? programme, which was watched by 1.1 million viewers and trended on Twitter. Our Youth Patrons were also involved in the production of content and filming for the show.



Our charity partners Rapha hit the £1 million mark through their amazing cycling efforts in their annual Manchester to London ride. Our Night of Ambition gala dinner in partnership with TalkTalk raised a vital £430k for our work.



Ambitious about Autism

Ambitious about Autism is the national charity for children and young people with autism. We provide services, raise awareness and understanding, and campaign for change. Through TreeHouse School, The Rise School and Ambitious College, we offer specialist education and support.

Our vision

A world where the ordinary is the everyday experience of children and young people with autism.

Our mission

To make the ordinary possible for children and young people with autism.

Our values

Children and young people with autism are at the centre of all that we do.

Investing in our staff team to make sure our work has the biggest impact on children and young people with autism.

We are ambitious



We value difference

We value difference and, given how unique every experience of autism really is, we work hard to develop personalised solutions for the children and young people we work with.

Our values

We are experts



We believe in the talent of our staff and bring this expertise together as an organisation to challenge the status quo for children and young people with autism.

We are open

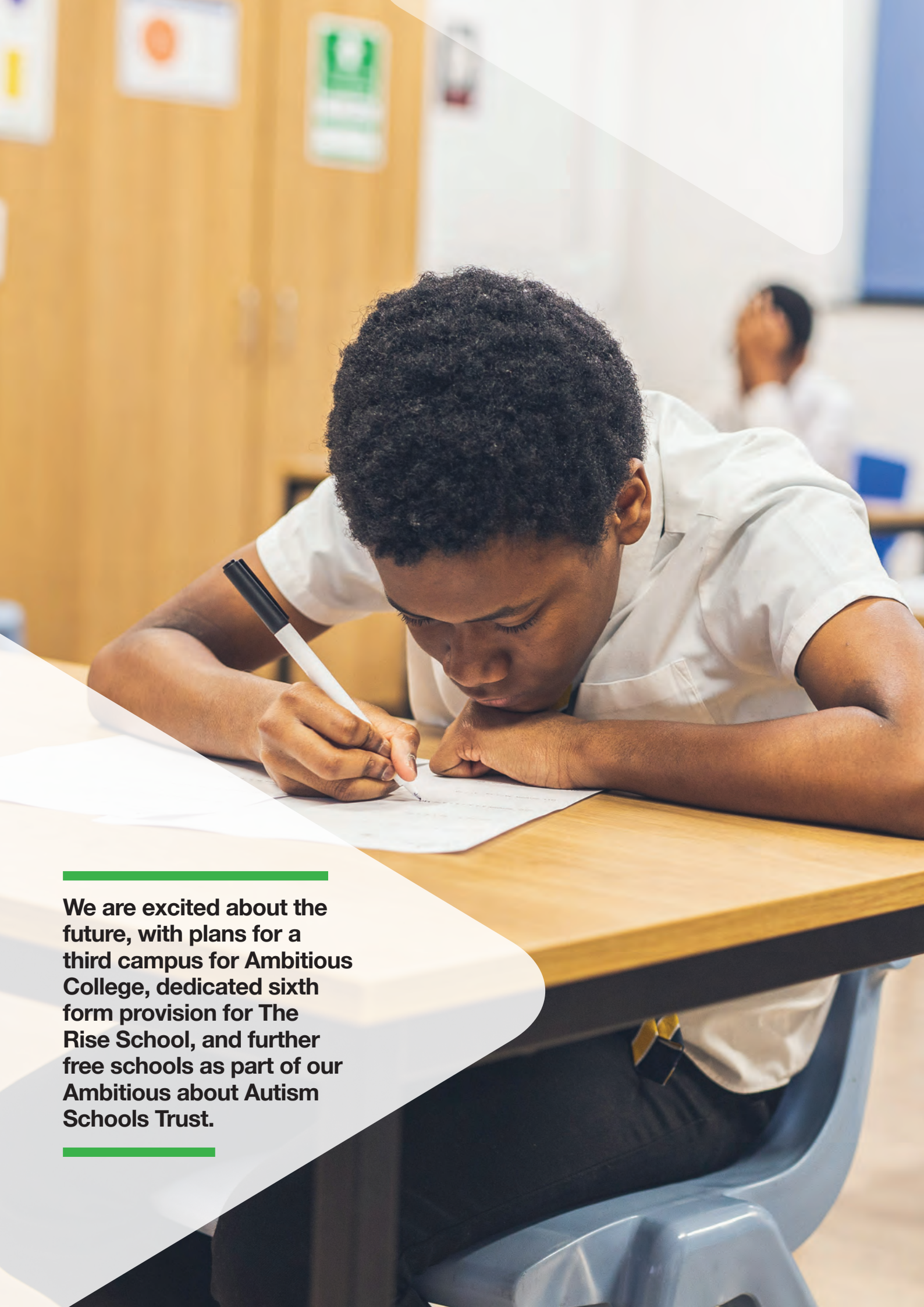


We are open to new ideas, in how we work and how we make decisions.

We are team players

We are team players in how we work within the organisation, with children and young people, with parents and carers, and with our partners.





We are excited about the future, with plans for a third campus for Ambitious College, dedicated sixth form provision for The Rise School, and further free schools as part of our Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust.

Foreword

Chief Executive and Chair of Trustees

This year, Ambitious about Autism celebrated 21 years since our charity was established in 1997.

We've achieved a lot since 1997 in the development of education for children and young people with autism. However, many children and young people still face enormous barriers and a fight to access the education they need and are entitled to. We work alongside young people, parents and the education sector in that fight. This year, we launched our We Need an Education campaign, for which more than 1,000 people showed their immediate support. We will continue to strive for an education system that works for every autistic child.

Our charity continues to live up to its name, delivering on ambitious plans with children and young people with autism. We do this in what is still a challenging external environment. We are proud to have completed the refurbishment of our second Ambitious College Pears Campus at West Thames College; secured our second Outstanding Ofsted rating for TreeHouse School; and developed our Ambitious Approach across all our educational provision.

We also expanded our participation work with young people and continued our endeavours to improve policy and practice nationally.

We are excited about the future, with plans for a third campus for Ambitious College, dedicated sixth form provision for The Rise School, and further free schools as part of our Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank every one of our partners and supporters, including Pears Foundation, TalkTalk and Rapha, for their continued support for our work. We would also like to thank our dedicated staff, volunteers, Trustees and Governors, who ensure our work has impact and brings about change for autistic children and young people. Most importantly, we would like to thank our wonderful children, young people, parents and carers for sharing their experience and expertise with us, and working in partnership with us to make the ordinary possible.



Jolanta Lasota
Chief Executive



Neil Goulden
Chair of Trustees

Vice-Chairs of Youth Council

The Youth Council has gone from strength to strength this year. We've received two awards so far – the British Youth Council 'Inspiring Project Award' for our Youth Council, and the University College London's Provost's 'Public Engagement Team of the Year' for our Know Your Normal campaign.

We recruited a new diverse cohort of Youth Council members and increased our representation of young autistic people who have a learning disability or additional support needs. Applications for the Youth Council were so numerous this year that we decided to create the Ambitious Youth Network, an online forum where we share opportunities and ideas on a national scale.

We were also instrumental as a group in the Channel 4 documentary 'Are You Autistic?' The programme had 1.1 million viewers on the night and the resulting media coverage has increased awareness of our work as Ambitious Youth Patrons.

All of this was made possible through the generosity of funders such as Prospero World and Comic Relief. We are delighted to partner with such passionate funders who share our vision for participation.

We look forward to expanding our work in the coming year: enabling more autistic young people like us to have their voices heard; influencing policy and practice; and producing resources for use locally and nationally.



Sam Ahern
Vice Chair of
Ambitious about
Autism's Youth Council



Jack Welch
Vice Chair of
Ambitious about
Autism's Youth Council



Strategic report

Our strategy – Ambitious about Autism’s four strategic objectives in 2017–18 were to:



develop more and better services that effectively meet the needs of children and young people with autism



ensure policy at national and local level considers the needs of children and young people with autism



increase awareness and understanding of the needs of children and young people with autism, and how best to meet these needs



ensure Ambitious about Autism has the resources and capacity to deliver impact.

This report will outline our progress against these strategic objectives in two sections:



Education



External affairs



Education

“

As a champion of children and young people, I'm a proud supporter of Ambitious about Autism's work.

The charity is a hugely valued part of the local community in Haringey – with TreeHouse School and Ambitious College providing outstanding opportunities for children and young people with autism to access a rich and meaningful education.

Councillor Gina Adamou, Mayor of Haringey

Education

We know that early help, education and support are critical if children and young people with autism are to learn, thrive, achieve and live fulfilling lives as adults.

We develop and manage pioneering and replicable education services, including schools and colleges. All of our education services address gaps where there is a need for autistic children and young people; and are developed as creative partnerships with funders and local communities.

Our Ambitious Approach is our model of education practice, developed over years of direct work with autistic children and young people and other research evidence.

Ambitious about Autism runs two specialist schools serving children aged three to 19 from London and the Home Counties. TreeHouse School is a non-maintained special school, established in 1997, educating children with autism and learning disabilities. The Rise School is a free school established by the Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust in 2014. Pupils at The Rise School access the national curriculum at approximately the same level as their peers, and succeed because of our approach to learning and support.

The Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust was established as a Multi-Academy Trust to develop new free schools. The Trust shares our vision and mission. Through the Trust, we intend to develop more schools to reach the children and young people with autism who need our specialist support.

Ambitious about Autism developed and runs Ambitious College – London's only

Quality is at the top of the agenda in everything we do, with a focus on meeting the individual needs of autistic children and young people to succeed in education and prepare for adulthood.

registered college for young people aged 16 to 25 with autism and learning disabilities. The college opened in 2014 with much assistance from our partner, Pears Foundation. There are now two Pears campuses, based within the College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London (CONEL) and West Thames College.

We welcome opportunities and partnerships to achieve our aim of more children and young people with autism accessing high-quality education and making outstanding progress.

Quality is at the top of the agenda in everything we do, with a focus on meeting the individual needs of autistic children and young people to succeed in education and prepare for adulthood.

Ambitious Approach

Our approach to education practice

Ambitious about Autism's mission is to make the ordinary possible for children and young people with autism. We believe all children and young people with autism have a right to the best education that meets their needs and enables them to learn, thrive and achieve. In addition to our direct work in schools and colleges, we work to transform policy and practice in autism education nationally.

We have high aspirations for our pupils and learners. Our goal for all our pupils and learners is that when they leave our settings, they will have the opportunity to access employment, further education or training, and to live as part of the communities of their choice.

Our Ambitious Approach across all our educational settings is person-centred, values based, trans-disciplinary and underpinned by a whole-organisational Positive Behaviour Support framework.

We offer a broad and balanced curriculum that is relevant to each of our pupils and learners and is highly personalised. We advocate for and deliver learning that is enjoyable, age appropriate, individualised and designed to respond to the particular needs, talents and interests of all our pupils and learners. We place importance on the development of communication, interaction, attention and 'learn to learn' skills, as well as fostering as much independence as possible.

We recognise and respect everyone's individuality and support pupils and learners based on their individual needs. We use a Positive Behaviour Support framework to underpin learning across our settings with the overall aim of improving and enhancing our pupils' and learners' quality of life so that they are better able to learn.

We are constantly developing, searching for and open to new approaches where there is robust evidence that they help young people and are ethical. We share our experience and evidence with others to enhance knowledge and expertise in the field of autism education.


Participation

Pupils and learners are involved in decisions about their learning, support and future. Their voices and opinions are valued. For many pupils, communication can be difficult, so we invest skills and resources in enabling their participation in a variety of ways.

We also recognise the enormous importance of working together with parents and carers as co-producers, to ensure that the partnership between school or college and home works for the child or young person, and helps them to plan for the future.

Our expert trans-disciplinary team

We employ skilled, experienced and dedicated staff. Qualified teachers, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists and behaviour and employment specialists work closely together to provide pupils and learners with specialist, integrated and appropriate support. Our specialists are on site and embedded in services.



All staff receive regular training and support to ensure that they have the skills, knowledge and understanding to work effectively with all pupils and learners. Staff are regularly supervised and supported. We also invest in continuous professional development, including an in-house autism-specific training programme (based on a competency framework), teacher training via Schools Direct, training and talks from external experts and the opportunity for post-graduate study.

Personal development, behaviour and safety

The safety and wellbeing of pupils and learners is paramount. We have child and adult safeguarding policies and processes in place, which are implemented holistically and rigorously, and reviewed at least annually to ensure they reflect the latest requirements and best practice. We focus on creating a whole-organisation approach to safeguarding, which includes checks, training, information and briefings for all Trustees, Governors, staff and volunteers. Pupils and learners are also supported to understand these issues via the curriculum.

Progress and attainment

Children and young people in our education settings mostly have Education, Health and Care Plans, which outline their aspirations, outcomes, needs and support. Our trans-disciplinary teams work collaboratively with the young people and their parents/carers to input into and develop these plans and ensure they are implemented. Progress is regularly and comprehensively monitored, evaluated and reported. We tailor how we teach to match the individual needs of the child or young person. We also measure whether the approach is working.

This helps to ensure that pupils and learners make the best progress they can. Pupils and learners have access to a range of qualifications, as well as non-accredited learning, depending on their interests, desired outcomes and abilities.

Accountability

Each service has a Governing Body comprising a range of people with the knowledge, skills and experience needed to support and challenge our services, including parents/carers. The Governing Bodies meet regularly and visit the services to review and monitor their performance. Information on progress and outcomes is made available at annual reviews, to parents/carers and Local Authorities, and reported termly to the Governing Bodies.

We also have a board-level Education Committee that oversees performance across all of our services. We welcome visitors to our services and regularly hold open days for parents/carers and professionals.

“We’ve loved being able to get creative with the Year 12 class. The opportunity to take time out of our normal routine, getting to know the children and the school, has been both rewarding and fun.”

Year 12 pupil from
Highgate School

“Ever since she joined TreeHouse, she adores going to school, does not display anxiety or self-injurious behaviour, and is making amazing progress in terms of her social, emotional wellbeing, inclusion, education, self-awareness and confidence.”

Parent of TreeHouse School pupil

“Things I like at TreeHouse School are maths, I don’t like winter, I also like red and when I am bigger I want to drive a bus.”

TreeHouse School pupil



TreeHouse School

This year, TreeHouse School secured our second Outstanding rating from Ofsted. The school is based in the heart of a thriving community within the Pears National Centre for Autism Education in North London. Here, we educate up to 100 pupils aged four to 19 with autism and learning disabilities from across London and the Home Counties.

It’s a very special place to work and to learn. Using our Ambitious Approach to education, all pupils have individual plans. Our specialist staff develop these with pupils and parents. Our highly skilled team work together to achieve outstanding outcomes. They have a range of specialisms and include qualified teachers, behaviour analysts, speech and language specialists and occupational therapists.

The school works hand in hand with parents and carers, local schools, community groups and employers to maximise opportunities for pupils to enjoy school, succeed in their learning and transition to a fulfilling and rewarding adult life.



This year we...

- supported 95% of pupils to achieve their targets
- introduced the Duke of Edinburgh Award for older pupils
- developed our teaching and learning methodology through our Ambitious Approach to education
- continued our reverse inclusion programme with local schools – Muswell Hill Primary, Highgate School and Glendower School
- held our annual art exhibition, displaying the work of our talented artists
- introduced a football league with other local special schools
- held residential trips for our pupils to Avon Tyrell outdoor activity centre in Hampshire
- successfully delivered our end of year performance 'The Wizard of Oz' with pupils and staff participating



Ofsted – Outstanding, 2017

- Staff share an unwavering commitment to improving pupils' life chances, irrespective of their starting points.
- Parents use words such as 'wonderful' and 'amazing' to describe their children's experiences at TreeHouse School.

Case Study

In 2017-18, our reverse inclusion programme with local schools entered its fifth year and continues to be a success. TreeHouse School is working in partnership with Muswell Hill Primary, Highgate School and Glendower School to provide an opportunity for pupils from local schools to meet and spend time with TreeHouse School pupils.

The pupils come together to participate in activities that are rewarding and fun; they share meals, play and participate in sport. The friendships and bonds that have emerged between the pupils is a testament to the project's success.



“We are delighted to work in partnership with Ambitious about Autism and welcome their learners into our classes and our college environment. By working together, we are able to offer young people with autism a highly inclusive programme that allows them to achieve and progress. This is an important partnership for West Thames, bringing real benefits to learners, staff and more broadly to our two organisations.”

Tracy Aust, Principal at West Thames College

“I have never known my son to be so motivated, stimulated and happy at his education placement!”

Parent of Ambitious College learner

“To be honest, I don’t think there’s anywhere else for my son where he would be so well looked after with such determination and energy for improvement, along with a huge emphasis on fun and a keen eye to the lives of parents/carers and how they can also be improved.”

Parent of Ambitious College learner

Ambitious College

Ambitious College is London’s only specialist day college, set up by Ambitious about Autism in September 2014, with much assistance from our partners, especially Pears Foundation.

Ambitious College provides specialist and integrated further education and support to enable learners to gain vocational, life and employability skills and work experience. The college serves young people aged 16 to 25 with autism from across London and the Home Counties. It has two campuses based within the College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London, and West Thames College.

We are aspirational and ambitious for our learners and believe that many of them, with the right support, can access opportunities alongside their mainstream peers and community. For this reason, we have co-located our campuses within mainstream further education colleges. This enables us to extend our curriculum significantly. It enables young people to access local learning, and social, employment and leisure opportunities, while receiving the specialist support they need.

Our curriculum is framed around the four themes in the Preparing for Adulthood agenda: Employment, Independent Living, Better Health, and Friends, Relationships and Community.



This year we...

- supported more than 90% of our learners to achieve their targets
- expanded our learner voice programme, including establishing Student Councils on both of our campuses
- received television coverage of Ambitious College with a feature on BBC London News
- welcomed the Deputy Mayor of London with responsibility for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM, who saw our chocolate-making social enterprise at work
- hosted a visit from the London Assembly's Education Panel for its Special Educational Needs and Disability inquiry; the Panel showcased the College in their report, 'Together: Transforming the lives of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities in London'
- completed the refurbishment of our second Pears campus at West Thames College.

“

Learners are taught to be proud of who they are and what they have achieved, and to socialise with their peers, even if it does not always happen as planned. Our community access programmes like swimming, spin class and going to the gym support our learners to be fit physically.

Staff member, Ambitious College

Lucky's story



When I first started working with Lucky in January 2017, she had a range of basic cooking techniques. She could stir, weigh, roll and mix with gestural and verbal prompts. She understood to wash her hands and wear an apron. She knew a few recipes and how to prepare some steps independently, but the majority of her recipes required a lot of verbal, physical and gestural support.

Fast forward to May 2018 and Lucky has greatly developed her independence. She can now stir, weigh, mix and roll dough on her own. She can also cut different ingredients with increasing independence. She understands a lot more about staying safe in the kitchen and can find recipes and complete most steps without help. Currently, Lucky can make veggie sausage rolls, samosas and sandwiches all by herself.

In our community access lessons, Lucky's been learning about the local area and how to access different places using transport links. She's developed independence in her travelling and understands 'stranger danger' and who is a trusted stranger. She's also identified who she could go to if she gets lost. As part of our art curriculum, Lucky made a map of go-to locations in the community in case she ever needs help, along with people she may encounter in these places, and what questions to ask to get the assistance she needs.

Teacher at Ambitious College

Lucky, Winner of the Paul Head Achievement Award



Making the ordinary possible for children and young people with autism



Kieran's story



I had to be taken out of the school I was in about halfway through year seven due to getting inadequate support for the difficulties that autistic people face in secondary education, such as bullying, sensory needs or even knowing what to do or where to go, and that's all on top of having no 1:1 support.

I heard that The Rise was going to open soon and that it was a special needs school, which would give me help. The alternative was a behaviour referral unit but, rather than being 'problematic', I just wasn't being supported properly. I am so glad I managed to go through the rest of my secondary education at The Rise.

What the right support looked like to me was that I could always have the choice to work 1:1 outside the class, a supportive network of teachers and teaching assistants, and a consistent routine throughout the week that breaks up lessons to stop them becoming tedious. Not too long ago, I got my GCSE results, including an A in English! I am so proud of them and I credit it directly to the school's endless assistance for the last four years.

Kieran, The Rise School pupil and Ambitious about Autism Youth Patron





“It’s brilliant to return to the school to celebrate Sport Relief and see first-hand the progress pupils are making.”

Ade Adepitan MBE, Paralympian wheelchair basketball player

“I couldn’t be happier with all the support you give and couldn’t wish for a better school for my son!”

Parent of a pupil at
The Rise School

“I’m proud of myself for supporting a pupil back into full-time education.”

Staff member at
The Rise School

The Rise School

The Rise School is the first school set up by the Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust.

Established in September 2014, The Rise is a special school, educating pupils aged four to 16. It had 77 pupils by the end of this academic year.

The Rise School is located in West London on the same campus as the Springwest Academy, a thriving secondary mainstream school. This enables pupils to access learning and social opportunities alongside their mainstream peers, while receiving the specialist support they need.

Pupils at The Rise School access the national curriculum at approximately the same ages as their peers. The school works hand in hand with parents and carers, the Springwest Academy and other local schools, community groups and employers to maximise opportunities for pupils to enjoy and succeed in their learning at the school and to transition to a fulfilling and rewarding adult life.

Our curriculum gives all pupils the opportunity to learn and develop in a creative and supportive learning environment with a clear focus on recognising achievement, supporting progression and where pupils feel happy and safe. The curriculum is personalised, innovative, creative and flexible to help us meet each pupil’s needs.



This year we...

- celebrated the success of our first cohort of pupils completing their GCSEs
- welcomed Children's Minister, Nadhim Zahawi MP, to the Rise School, where he was given a tour by a pupil followed by a policy discussion about support in schools, progression to education and employment and our Autism Exchange Programme
- established a sensory room with the generous support of the Heathrow Communities Fund
- made our school's television debut on BBC Breakfast and BBC London News
- hosted Paralympian Ade Adepitan MBE for Sport Relief
- elected our first Student Council
- were awarded the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools 'School Mental Health Award' – Gold Status; one of only four in the UK. This approach ensures that mental health difficulties do not limit success at school and beyond.



Ofsted – Good, 2017

- Pupils flourish in school because their personal development, including their mental well-being, is nurtured.
- Pupils quickly make up for lost ground when they join the school, academically and personally. As a result, better rates of progress are now being made by all current pupils.



External affairs



External affairs

Autism is often described as a hidden disability and can be misunderstood. We aim to increase awareness and understanding of autism, and effectively support children and young people with autism so they can learn, thrive and achieve in education and beyond.

By drawing on Ambitious about Autism's expertise in providing high-quality education and support to children with autism, we use our external affairs function to achieve a wider impact than we could through direct services alone.

- provides information and resources for families to support their children to get the best educational outcome
- raises awareness and the profile and reach of our organisation through good-quality coverage about autism in traditional and social media.

Our external affairs work...

- puts participation at its heart, empowering young people and parents/carers to have a voice
- is evidence based, drawing on the lived experience of autistic people, international research, commissioning new research and evaluating our own service model
- influences national and local policy, shaping decisions that affect the lives of children with autism and their families
- increases understanding of autism so that professionals and organisations are 'autism confident'

...we use our external affairs function to achieve a wider impact than we could through direct services alone.

Participation

- Ambitious about Autism's Youth Council and Youth Patrons are at the heart of what we do. Our Youth Council consists of young people aged 16 to 25 who ensure that all our work reflects the views and needs of children and young people with autism.
- Our Youth Patrons contribute to our work in a variety of ways. Some are members of our Youth Council, while others have been involved in our work through projects such as myVoice and the Autism Education Trust Youth Panel.
- Our Youth Council has continued to grow and thrive this year. Youth Patrons have continued to reclaim the use of the word 'normal' through their Know Your Normal research and campaign. Unhappiness and depression are not the 'normal' state for young autistic people. Youth Patrons said: "We want to remind people that everyone's normal is different and that

those quirks and idiosyncrasies that everyone has are what makes them who they are. And that is the same for people with autism."

- The Youth Council won the University College London's Provost's 'Public Engagement Team of the Year' award for the campaign, and Youth Patrons have continued to speak at events, disseminate the guide and offer training. With support from the policy team, the Youth Council responded to the Government's Mental Health Green Paper and briefed MPs for a House of Commons debate.
- Youth Patrons continue to use their voice to raise awareness and understanding of autism. In November, Youth Patrons Jasmine Bigden and Sam Ahern recorded an episode of Ambitious about Autism's podcast with Anne Hegerty during a visit to TreeHouse School. They discussed receiving a late autism diagnosis as an adult and her career in the public eye.
- In March, Jasmine worked with our communications team and author David Mitchell. They started the day with a radio interview, followed by a live Twitter Q&A, culminating in a panel discussion event. The panel event also featured The Times journalist and author Jessie Hewitson, and author Laura James discussing 'How to Understand Autism'.





Case Study

In March our Youth Patrons took their ambassadorial role to another level through their involvement in the **Channel 4 primetime television programme Are you Autistic?**

During the research and development phase of the programme, the Youth Council wrote to producers to offer their views on its content and working title. The producers met and filmed seven of our Youth Patrons and, ultimately, worked with Sam Ahern and Georgia Harper to present the show.

Alongside neuro-typical presenter Anna Richardson, Sam and Georgia took viewers on a journey challenging some of the myths about autism and exploring diagnosis, particularly for women and girls.

The show also revealed research findings from autism expert (and Ambitious about Autism Expert Adviser) Professor Simon Baron Cohen from the University of Cambridge. This online study of over three quarters of a million people measured how autistic traits are spread across the population.

Are You Autistic? was watched live on 28 March 2018 by more than 1.1 million viewers and trended on Twitter. It was very positively received, and has helped raise awareness of the condition. The Mail Online worked with us on a feature answering questions and debunking some of the common myths around autism.

We also supported Sam and Georgia to give media interviews for newspapers and TV magazines and they appeared live on the BBC Breakfast sofa.

Policy, media and campaigns

As part of our celebrations focusing on 21 years since our charity was established, we reflected on how much has been achieved in the development of education for children and young people with autism. We used this opportunity to highlight the fact that many children still face barriers to access and thriving in education and beyond.

We Need an Education

Children are being denied an education simply because they're autistic. This year, we worked closely with a group of our partners, supporters and friends, including creative agency, The&Partnership, to create a strong visual concept and campaign – We Need an Education. We used an empty iconic school photo frame to assert our campaign message – to put children back in the picture – and urged supporters to sign up and share their stories.

We officially launched our 21st anniversary campaign to our closest supporters at the House of Lords in May, followed by a public launch. The overwhelming and immediate public response to this campaign has underscored our belief that these are important and urgent issues.

Focusing on unlawful exclusions

This year, we focused on exclusions as an indicator of how the school system is treating children with autism. In September 2017, we published 'When will we learn? Your guide to getting justice for all unlawfully excluded children.' The guidance sets out what an unlawful exclusion is, whose responsibility it is that schools act within the law, and ways parents and others can report unlawful exclusions. Parents have used this guidance to challenge unlawful exclusions successfully, and, as a result, are now more aware of what an unlawful exclusion is.

Subsequently, Ofsted stated that there has been 'an alarming number of parents [who] said that some school leaders asked them to take their children home...It is illegal.' We received coverage of unlawful exclusions in the Times, the Independent and the Mail Online.

In June 2018, we published research based on Department for Education data on permanent and fixed-term exclusions obtained using a Freedom of Information request. We found that exclusions for children with autism have risen by almost 60% across England in five years. In every English region,



exclusions of children with autism have increased by at least 44%. In contrast, overall exclusions have only risen by 4% in the same period.

Our press work was timed to influence the start of the Government's independent review of school exclusions, led by former Children's Minister, Edward Timpson. He held a roundtable at TreeHouse School, bringing together experts to discuss exclusions of pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, followed by a private meeting with our Chief Executive. This will form part of the Review, which is due to report in early 2019.



While much progress has been made, many children with autism still face huge challenges in accessing a full education, with 45% having been sent home from school illegally. We were delighted to work with Ambitious about Autism to help raise awareness of such an important issue. Our campaign used the simple motif of the immediately recognisable school photo frame; the key difference being that the frame was conspicuously empty to highlight those children who are denied their right to a full education. It was heartening to see the positive responses to the campaign, both from the charity's core supporters and from people getting involved across social media who shared and commented on the powerful image of the empty school photo frame.

Sarah Golding, CEO, The&Partnership

Our We Need an Education campaign tackles:

Access: Getting the right support to meet children's needs is far too difficult. Every child deserves to get the best start at school. But many families struggle to get their child's needs assessed promptly and the right educational support put in place.

Exclusion: Thousands of autistic children are missing from our education system. Children with autism are disproportionately at risk from exclusion from school. Exclusions damage young people and their family's lives.

Support: School staff need more support to help autistic children thrive. Nearly 120,000 pupils with special educational needs have autism. Every teacher will teach an autistic child at some point and so all teachers must understand their needs. Young people and teaching staff need more support.

Progression: Young people with autism deserve a fair chance to continue their learning. Fewer than one in four young autistic people access education or training beyond school. This isn't because they don't want to, or don't have the ability, but because the right opportunities and support to enable them to do this are missing.

Training, development and information

We work with a range of people to share knowledge and skills to improve educational practice for children and young people with autism. We provide information, training, assessment, outreach and development for individuals and organisations. These are available to professionals, parents and carers, schools, colleges, local authorities, services and partners.

Our team of experts run training across the country to improve autism understanding, and this year trained over 2,000 professionals.

Education

We believe staff training is an important and valuable way of increasing understanding of autism, enabling people to become 'autism confident'. This is vital for the education workforce to help children and young people with autism thrive and achieve their full potential.

We are strategic partners of the Autism Education Trust, funded by the Department for Education. Our Chief Executive chairs the Trust's programme board. We deliver training for schools and post-16 settings across London and the East of England. We also run a national project with post-16 providers

to increase the reach of the Autism Education Trust and share best practice across England.

As a result of our training, 96% of professionals feel better equipped to support children and young people, and 97% receive knowledge pertinent to their role.

Referring to his visit to Ambitious about Autism, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Education, Nadhim Zahawi MP, stated in the House of Commons in June 2018: "I witnessed at first hand the work of the Autism Education Trust at The Rise School in Feltham, in helping to train school teachers, receptionists, caretakers and others across the teams in schools. About 175,000 people have been trained to recognise and help children with autism."

Giving young people a voice is an important part of our work with the Autism Education Trust. Our Participation team runs the Trust's Youth Panel, advising on training content and the website, speaking at events and working towards accreditation through individually earned UK Youth awards. The Youth Panel advised on the Trust's Progression Framework, a tool to help schools measure young people's achievement of important non-academic skills, such as safety and independence.





Employment

Only 16% of adults with autism are currently in full-time paid employment, and the employment gap costs society £9 billion a year. Our training and consultancy for employers improves their understanding of autism and how best to support someone on the spectrum in the workplace. Evaluation shows that 92% feel more empowered to influence better support for people with autism in their workplace.

Employers benefit by creating a neuro-diverse workforce, reaching untapped talent. Through our consultancy services, we advise on reasonable adjustments and how recruitment processes can be adapted and improved to become more accessible.

Development support

We also provide outreach and development support to organisations that need specific training and advice in order to become 'autism confident'. We provide a valuable service to organisations that deal directly with the public. Some of our clients who have benefited from this support this year have included travel and utility companies. Our Youth Council is also involved in providing development support, and has recently worked with sports clubs, museums and hospitals to support them to become more inclusive for young people with autism.

Information

We know families and carers often find it difficult when they receive a diagnosis. They aren't sure what their rights are and what kind of support they might be entitled to, particularly in education. Through our website, we provide up-to-date information and run the UK's largest online community about autism.

This year, we had over 1.6 million website visits, and more than 11,000 members of our Talk about Autism online forum. We have improved our resources and published our online guide, 'When will we learn?' to support parents to understand and challenge unlawful exclusions.



I witnessed at first hand the work of the Autism Education Trust at The Rise School in Feltham, in helping to train school teachers, receptionists, caretakers and others across the teams in schools.

Nadhim Zahawi MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Education

Autism Exchange

Our award-winning Autism Exchange programme aims to ensure autistic young people have the careers advice and work experience they need to prepare them for the workplace, and employers have the training and understanding to recruit and support people on the autism spectrum.

The development of the programme originated from Ambitious about Autism's Youth Council's Employ Autism campaign. We worked in partnership with the Civil Service in 2015 to pilot the programme. Since then, it has grown each year with more employers joining the programme.

Young people can access work placements in different disciplines, including HR, finance, communications, media, recruitment and IT.

The programme has a number of strategic partners, including the Civil Service, Deutsche Bank, the Association of Colleges, NATSPEC, Business Disability Forum, UK Youth and the Careers Development Institute.

In March 2018, we hosted a roundtable with the Civil Service, entitled 'Unlocking potential: Autism and Employability'. It was designed to increase understanding of the employment issues autistic people face. The event had engagement from nearly 40 senior business leaders, exploring the benefits of neuro-diversity. Speakers included the Disability Minister, Sarah Newton MP and Ravina, a young person who had been on an Autism Exchange placement in the Civil Service.

Our most recent evaluation demonstrates the impact on employers and young people.

100% of employers increased their understanding of autism and **94%** of employers are more confident working alongside autistic colleagues.

100% of interns told us that taking part in the programme had a positive impact on their confidence and wellbeing, and **100%** felt their line manager understood their autism and provided appropriate support.



The Autism Exchange programme clearly demonstrates that with the right training and support we can unlock the potential of young people with autism in the workplace, while helping employers reap the benefits of a neuro-diverse workforce. Innovative schemes like Autism Exchange are hugely important, as we strive to make workforces more inclusive and get one million more disabled people into work.

Sarah Newton MP,
Minister for Disabled People,
Health and Work





Tom's story

Santander – diversity and inclusion

Tom is 21 and lives in Yorkshire. He had recently completed a Higher National Diploma in information technology when he applied to be part of Autism Exchange to gain first-hand experience of the world of work.

In 2017, Tom took part in a six-week Autism Exchange placement at Santander's Bradford offices.

The first few days in a new job can be a daunting experience for anyone, not to mention a young person with autism coming into the workplace for the first time. But Tom settled in really well and soon became a valued and respected member of the team.

He developed rapidly, taking on additional responsibilities, including advanced data analysis. Following a national news headline, and on his own initiative, Tom used a Santander software programme to identify how many Santander customers may be impacted as well as working out any potential financial liabilities the bank may face. With his manager's consent, he carried out a full data analysis, providing a comprehensive report that was used by the business the same working day.

Tom's manager was very impressed with his performance and keen for him to stay. Tom was offered a formal six month contract, which was followed by another.

Tom said: "The experience it's providing me will be very valuable in the future and I hope I continue to add value and make a difference."



Research

Ambitious about Autism is committed to using evidence from research and practice to develop the best educational approach for children and young people with autism. We use international research findings, alongside commissioned studies and in-house research and evaluation of our own service model, as the foundations of our work.

This year, we've continued our professional development of staff by funding post-graduate research opportunities for Masters or Doctoral study. Additionally, working with the University of Warwick we have secured a PhD studentship that will focus on the implementation and outcomes of Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) in special education settings. The PhD student will also carry out further studies of school-wide PBS implementation in other special school contexts and gather larger scale survey data to inform policy influencing and uptake of PBS models across the UK.

We have also secured research funding through our new Right from the Start project, thanks to the generosity of Sarah Yamani and Professor Dr Malik Dahlan, to examine the pathways and barriers in accessing post-diagnostic support in the early years; and through the Autism Education Trust to look at progression into education post-16 for young people with autism.

We also make use of existing research evidence, and previously unpublished government data, to campaign for change and provide information through our website.

We also make use of existing research evidence, and previously unpublished government data, to campaign for change and provide information through our website.

Fundraising

Ambitious supporters who make this all possible

We rely heavily on the generosity of the people, trusts, foundations and companies who care as much as we do about changing outcomes for children and young people with autism. It is only because of you that we can do what we do.

In a challenging financial environment, it is all the more impressive that you have donated a staggering £2.2 million. To each and every one of you, we say a heartfelt 'thank you'.

With your support, we can set up new services, grow existing services and deliver groundbreaking programmes to help young people with autism be ready for work. Because of you, families feel better supported and young people with autism have a voice and can shape their own futures.

You have given money, time, expertise, space and goods. You have cycled, run, baked, bid and so much more!

We wish we could acknowledge every amazing thing each of you has done, but here are some highlights:

The academic year started in heroic style as a record number of cyclists rode from Manchester to London in a day for this year's M2L in partnership with Rapha. They were joined by Rapha Founder and CEO, Simon Mottram, and none other than Sir Bradley Wiggins. This event has now raised an astonishing £1.2 million for Ambitious about Autism – another triumph for this iconic event.

Night of Ambition in partnership with TalkTalk Group raised a wonderful £430,000 in November. Over 400 guests enjoyed the sumptuous setting of Supernova in the Embankment Gardens, alongside moving speeches, live music and a nail-biting auction.

A number of individuals, trusts and foundations showed their unwavering commitment to further education for young people with autism, by pledging generous support for Ambitious College. We were thrilled to complete the capital phase of this Appeal and commence the refurbishment of the Pears campus at West Thames. Particular thanks must go to the Pears Foundation, Garfield Weston Foundation, The Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation and The Baily Thomas Charitable Fund.

Many of you showed us just how ambitious you are, by running, cycling, sky-diving and tackling the muddiest of obstacle courses. Special mention must go to the amazing Benjamin Marcu, who cycled 2,000 miles from London to Romania, raising more than £1,800, and Dan Mulkerrin, who climbed Mount Kilimanjaro and raised over £3,400.

We also salute those of you who gave time, expertise and hard graft to improve the environment for our learners and help us in many other ways. Our allotments are blooming and our libraries are full of books because of your hard work!





Fulfilling a shared vision

– working with strategic partners

Our proud partnership with Pears Foundation

Pears Foundation and Ambitious about Autism have been partners for the past 13 years to make the ordinary possible for children and young people with autism. This journey has seen the establishment of the Pears National Centre for Autism Education, two Ambitious College campuses and the Centre for Research in Autism Education (CRAE) with University College London (UCL).

Pears Foundation has supported us to achieve legislation change, making further education available to young people with autism up to the age of 25. The partnership has also given rise to greater ministerial engagement and a louder voice in influencing professionals, influencers and decision-makers.

The partnership has leveraged substantial funds to establish Ambitious College and use the learnings from this pioneering model to influence practice on a nationwide scale.

And perhaps, most of all, the scale and sincerity of the Pears Foundation partnership has given us the confidence to grow and be truly ambitious.

We remain forever grateful to the founders for sharing our vision and striving to make this a reality.

Pears
Foundation

Our proud partnership with Talk Talk

We are proud to be the charity partner of TalkTalk Telecom Group. Together this year, we have broken the £4 million mark in funds raised for Ambitious about Autism, our 12th year of working together.

Communication is central to TalkTalk's business. It is also an important theme for young people with autism. United behind a single social mission to improve communication within the autism community, we work together to deliver a truly strategic partnership with profound benefits for autistic young people and their families.

TalkTalk supports us in many important ways, through governance support, campaign development, telephony assistance, participation in Autism Exchange and our online forum – Talk about Autism.

But the jewel in this partnership crown is the wonderful Night of Ambition – a sparkling gala event and the biggest fundraiser in our calendar.

We are immensely grateful to TalkTalk and look forward to working together to take this partnership from strength to strength.

TalkTalk



Our proud partnership with Rapha

In 2014, Simon Mottram, Rapha's CEO and founder, created a 220 mile cycling challenge, which has since raised £1.2 million for Ambitious about Autism. There is a personal connection that lays at the heart of this event with Simon's son Oscar, a much-loved pupil of both TreeHouse School and Ambitious College.

2018 was the fifth year of the Manchester to London cycle ride, with 150 riders setting off from the Manchester Velodrome at dawn, riding down the spine of the country through the Peak District, Midlands and the Chilterns, before finishing at the London Velodrome. This year's ride also featured a brand new 80-mile route, starting half way down the country at Castle Ashby and finishing at the Velodrome, opening the ride up to more riders.

Throughout the year, we work collaboratively with the Rapha marketing and membership team to recruit and communicate with participants.

Rapha uses this challenge to its benefit and includes the main event, and all annual activity around it – including training rides, information evenings and a fundraising quiz night at their Soho Clubhouse - as part of their offer to their members. We are incredibly grateful for the fantastic exposure this offers us.

It's always an incredibly inspiring event as riders push themselves to the limit to make a huge difference to the lives of children and young people with autism and we are with them every step of the way.

Rapha®



Future plans

This year, we embarked on the first year of our new Ambitious Futures 2020 Strategy, outlining our ambitions for making the ordinary possible for children and young people with autism.

Ready for school

We will research, design and deliver an early years campaign in order to:

- raise awareness of the needs of young children with autism
- disseminate international evidence base on interventions to meet these needs
- influence policymakers to promote early intervention in the UK
- run an assessment service and provide information on training for parents and carers.

Achieving at school

We will seek to extend our role in providing services to school-age children and influence schools more widely by:

- continuing our work with the Autism Education Trust to improve the education of all children and young people with autism
- continuing to influence policy and practice in autism education
- ensuring the development and sustainability of TreeHouse School and the Rise School
- developing the Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust and exploring the possibility of opening further schools where there is the greatest need.

Preparing for adulthood

We will seek to develop our post-19 work for young people with autism, including:

- developing Ambitious College, London's first specialist day college for young people with complex autism
- growing our Autism Exchange programme, which looks to explore the barriers to employment facing young people aged 18 to 25
- developing our Succeeding at College programme
- developing housing partnerships for the people who use our services.

In so doing, we will enable young people to transition to life and work, as part of their local communities, while creating a model capable of replication elsewhere in the UK.

Building a community of support

We will raise voluntary income to significantly develop our information, participation, training, support and policy work in order to further increase the voice of those affected by autism, as well as building the capacity of education settings and change policy by:

- continuing our youth participation work nationally to ensure the views and experiences of young people shape decisions made



- developing our website and online community
- delivering training and development to educational professionals to reach more children and young people with autism
- continuing to influence education policy and campaigning for change.

Building the evidence

We will build evidence of the quality of our work and of its outcomes by:

- developing practice leadership to ensure our work has greater reach for children and young people with autism outside of our services
- commissioning independent outcomes research to make sure we achieve the greatest possible impact for children and young people with autism
- reporting on our impact through our annual report and accounts.

In so doing, we hope to provide evidence to underpin our future plans and influence policy and practice across the UK.

...we will enable young people to transition to life and work, as part of their local communities

Developing our organisational capacity

We will develop and align our people, culture, infrastructure, systems and processes to support delivery of the strategy. Our key objectives for this programme of work are to:

- continue to recruit and develop committed and talented staff from diverse backgrounds to support our work
- continue to develop as an 'autism confident' organisation
- grow our income so we can expand our existing programmes of work and develop more pioneering opportunities for children and young people with autism
- ensure efficiency and cost effectiveness to make sure we have the greatest possible impact.



Financial report

Financial review

This is the first year in which the annual accounts have been prepared for our new financial year, for the 12 months from 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018, for the group, Ambitious about Autism and the Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust.

Our total income for the year was £16.5m and our overall expenditure was £15.2m, giving us a net income of £1.2m for the year. With net gains on our investment and pension position taken into account, there was a positive net movement in funds of £1.5m, taking net assets at 31 August 2018 to £14.4m, compared with net assets of £12.9m at 31 August 2017.

This strong financial performance was as a result of the growth in learner and pupil numbers at Ambitious College, TreeHouse School and The Rise School, as well as the generosity of our funders and supporters. The refurbishment of the Ambitious College

West Thames campus was completed over the summer of 2018 and was funded from our College Appeal.

During the year, the charity invested in leasehold improvements of £0.3m, furniture and equipment of £0.1m and computer equipment of £0.1m.

The investment portfolio performed to benchmark during the period and was valued at £1.7m as at 31 August 2018.

Investment policy

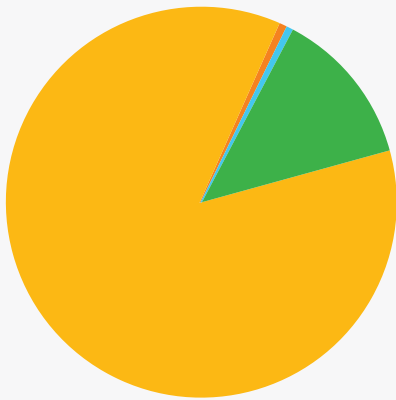
The charity's investment policy was approved by the Board of Trustees in July 2018. It aims to produce the best financial return within an acceptable level of risk.

The risk profile is agreed with the investment manager and is regarded as medium. The policy is reviewed at least annually. The Trustees have set a target return of inflation (CPI) + 3% per annum, averaged over three to five years. This was not achieved in the year and the Investment Committee is keeping the position under close review



Income

£16.5 million

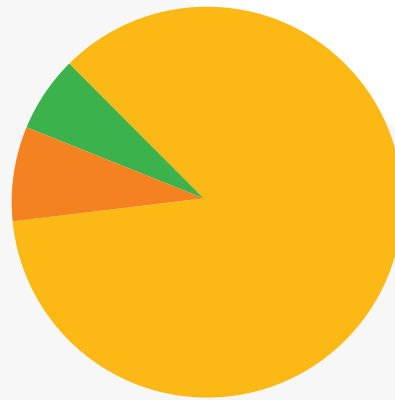


Income:

- £14.1m**
Charitable activities: education services
- £0.1m**
Charitable activities: external affairs
- £2.2m**
Gifts and donated service
- £0.1m**
Investments

Expenditure

£15.2 million



How our money was spent:

- £13.4m**
Charitable activities: education services
- £1.0m**
Charitable activities: external affairs
- £0.8m**
Raising Funds

Reserves policy and going concern

Free reserves exclude restricted funds, designated funds and any parts of unrestricted funds not readily available, such as tangible fixed assets. At Ambitious about Autism, we hold free reserves to mitigate against risks resulting from unexpected drops in fundraising income, a downturn in pupil and learner numbers or unexpected short term increases in expenditure. Our reserves policy is reviewed by the Trustees annually and was last reviewed in November 2018.

Based upon an evaluation of income and expenditure risks and working capital requirements, the Trustees have agreed that free reserves should be in the range of £1.4m and £1.8m. As at 31 August 2018, free reserves were £1.9m, just above the target range. The Trustees will continue to monitor the reserves position closely throughout the year as the organisation grows and risks in the external environment change.

In addition to the free reserves, Ambitious about Autism has a number of designated funds totalling £5.2m as at 31 August 2018.

These are:

- **fixed assets that totalled £4.6m**
- **Cyclical Maintenance Fund** – a sinking fund, based upon 30-year life-cycle costs was established for major repairs to the Pears National Centre for Autism Education. As at 31 August 2018, the fund stood at £0.6m.
- **School Development Fund** – a designated fund was created in 2013 for broader school development. The fund has a balance of £5,000 as at 31 August 2018.

The policy of the Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust is to hold sufficient reserves to provide a working balance to mitigate

the impact of uneven cash flows, provide a contingency in respect of unexpected events, and plan for potential development, including set-up of The Rise School sixth form. Funds balances as at 31 August 2018 totalled £6.6m. This comprised £0.2m of unrestricted funds, £1m of restricted funds, a £0.7m pension liability and £6.1m of restricted fixed asset funds. The funds balance at 31 August 2018, excluding the pension deficit, totalled £7.3m.

Risks and uncertainties

Risks are managed in accordance with the risk policy approved by the Board of Trustees, which was reviewed and updated in November 2018.

The aim of the policy is to:

- understand as fully as possible the risks being faced or taken
- take appropriate action, where possible, to manage those risks cost effectively
- minimise the risk of new initiatives adversely affecting existing work
- accept a higher level of uncertainty, if appropriate, when taking advantage of new opportunities.

Ambitious about Autism and the Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust have risk registers that are reviewed annually by the Scrutiny and Audit Committee (SAC), Finance and Resources Committee and the Board of Trustees. Risks are scored according to likelihood, impact and the organisation's attitude to that risk. The changes to risks are reviewed termly by the SAC and Board, together with actions taken or proposed to manage them. The table on page 47 identifies the three key strategic risks that have been identified by the Board of Trustees and explains how these risks are being managed.

Risk

Mitigation

Learner and pupil numbers:

Within an uncertain policy environment in times of austerity, there is an increased risk on pupil and learner numbers in our education services, and this uncertainty then impacts our ability to plan.

To manage the risk, we monitor pupil and learner numbers so that we can proactively manage admissions. We maintain good relationships with commissioners, ensuring timely assessment dates to enable a fast turnaround of consultations, and support parents through the admissions process. We also host a number of Open Days to maximise opportunities for parents and commissioners to see our services first hand.

Fundraising:

Our ability to operate and grow as set out in our strategy depends upon our ability to fundraise for impact generating projects across Ambitious about Autism.

We are working hard to ensure our existing partners are well supported and spread the word with new partners.

Recruitment and retention:

The failure to recruit and retain the quantity and quality of specialist staff poses a significant risk to services operating as planned.

Our staff are critical to our work and in order to recruit and retain staff, we have invested in a dedicated recruitment team to support this critical area of work in a time of organisational growth. To retain staff, we look to develop and articulate career paths and have a programme of skills and knowledge management development topics that are available to our staff. We have an annual staff survey to gather staff views and develop an action plan to make Ambitious about Autism a better place to work.



Our approach to fundraising

Fundraising practices

Meeting the highest fundraising standards is important to us, and we recognise that this is essential to retaining the trust and support of our much-valued donors.

Ambitious about Autism pays the voluntary levy to be registered with the Fundraising Regulator, and we take care to ensure that our practices comply with the Code of Fundraising Practice and the Fundraising Promise. We are also a member of the Institute of Fundraising.

We maintain up-to-date policies for Fundraising Code of Conduct, Compliments and Complaints and Whistleblowing, and ensure that all team members understand and comply with these policies. Our Board of Trustees reviews these policies, alongside our compliance with fundraising regulations, annually.

We have ensured that our privacy policy is updated in line with data protection legislation and regulation, and that it is accessible to all on our websites. We have

Meeting the highest fundraising standards is important to us, and we recognise that this is essential to retaining the trust and support of our much-valued donors.

reviewed our data and our practices in acquiring data in line with new legislative requirements to ensure that we are General Data Protection Regulation compliant.

In the period under review, there have been no instances of non-compliance with the requirements of the Code of Fundraising Practice. Likewise, no complaints have been received by Ambitious about Autism regarding fundraising activities.

As a charity set up to protect and champion vulnerable people, it is important that these values are echoed in our fundraising. Our close adherence to fundraising regulations, scrutiny on the part of the Executive Leadership Team and transparency with donors ensure that we: do not unreasonably intrude on a person's privacy; are not unreasonably persistent; and do not place undue pressure on a person to give money or other property.





Our approach to fundraising

The fundraising activities of Ambitious about Autism are largely directed to a limited rather than mass audience. We engage in no face-to-face or telephone direct marketing; our regular giving programme is largely reactive, with one small Christmas appeal to a limited data set; we conduct no street or public site collections; and we have no mass-participation activities in place.

Most of our fundraised income is generated through partnerships with individuals with an interest in our cause, as well as trusts, foundations and corporate partners. The remainder is raised through community members carrying out fundraising activities of their own volition; individuals who participate in established sporting events such as the Virgin Money London Marathon; employee-led corporate partnerships and individuals making ad hoc or regular donations.

Ambitious about Autism partners with corporate organisations, TalkTalk and Rapha respectively, to deliver two major events: Night of Ambition and the Manchester to London cycle ride.

TalkTalk sells tickets for Night of Ambition and assists with auction items. However, all collateral material for the event and all fundraising activities are designed and

closely monitored by the Ambitious about Autism team, ensuring that every aspect of the event meets the high fundraising standards we set for ourselves.

Rapha leads on the recruitment of cyclists for Manchester to London, but all fundraising activities are again designed and delivered by Ambitious about Autism.

In addition, we use the services of online fundraising platforms, JustGiving, VirginMoneyGiving, BTDonate and Givergy, which have been vetted to ensure compliance and high standards.

Most of our fundraised income is generated through partnerships with individuals with an interest in our cause, as well as trusts, foundations and corporate partners.



West Thames
College

St Joseph Banks
Building
← North Entrance
Ambitious College

Our governance, leadership and organisation

Governance

Ambitious about Autism is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 25 May 1997 (company number 3375255) and registered as a charity on 2 July 1997 (charity number 1063184). 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. Ambitious about Autism is governed by a Board of Trustees who also act as the directors of the company for the purposes of company law.

Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust is a multi-academy trust and company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. It was founded and incorporated on 18 December 2012 (company number 08335297) to support the development and running of The Rise School and further free schools. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Trust. The members of the company are Ambitious about Autism, the Chair of Ambitious about Autism, the Chair of the Trust and the Chief Executive. The Trust is governed by a Board of Trustees who also act as the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The Board acts as the Governing Body for The Rise School.

Both Boards of Trustees follow a regular cycle of termly meetings and have at least one away day with the Executive Leadership Team each year.

The Boards also have a number of sub-committees:

- The Scrutiny and Audit Committee meets termly in advance of board meetings and is responsible for the general oversight and scrutiny of systems, planning, financial and resource management, and reporting internal controls and risk

management for Ambitious about Autism. The Finance and Resources Committee performs the same role for the Trust.

- The Remuneration Committee reviews and agrees remuneration and terms and conditions of employment for the Executive Leadership Team and staff across the charity and Trust. It meets termly.
- The Governance Committee oversees governance planning and policy for the charity and Trust and trustee renewal, support and review. It meets termly.
- The Investment Committee monitors the performance of the charity's investment portfolio and meets at least twice per year.
- The Education Committee meets termly and is responsible for our education services. It also oversees the Governing Bodies and advisory groups in each service.
- All matters related to the educational performance of TreeHouse School and Ambitious College are examined by their Governing Bodies. The Rise School has two sub-committees – Pupil, Parent, Wellbeing and Engagement; and Quality. The Governing Bodies and sub-committees are chaired by Trustees, among them Governors and members who are not Trustees who perform the roles required.



The Ambitious about Autism Youth Council is comprised of 15 autistic young people aged 16 to 25. Members of the Youth Council are encouraged to shape and influence our work and make presentations to the Board of Trustees.

Management of the charity and Trust is delegated to the Chief Executive, who is the Accounting Officer for the Trust and Executive Leadership Team. They attend Board and sub-committee meetings.

Trustee recruitment, induction and training

The aim of the charity and Trust is to build a Board that has the optimum range of skills, experience and perspectives to ensure we have the appropriate level of support, scrutiny and oversight. People with lived experience of autism are involved in the governance and decision-making of the charity and Trust, including the Board of Trustees, the Governing Bodies and advisory groups.

The recruitment and induction policy works to promote this goal. New Trustees are recruited openly through a variety of channels, including search, advertising and through networks. Once recruited, Trustees are supported with an induction programme and handbook in the first few months and then ongoing training as required. Recruitment, induction and appraisal of Trustees are overseen by the Governance Committee.

All Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 7 to the accounts (page 72).

Our people

Ambitious about Autism and the Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust are committed to being great organisations to work and volunteer for.


Employees

A recent survey shows that 96% of staff are proud to be part of Ambitious about Autism and Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust. Our skilled and dedicated staff and volunteers are vital to the delivery of our objectives. It is critical that we are able to attract, motivate, develop and retain staff and volunteers with the right skills, talents and knowledge so we can run the charity as efficiently and effectively as possible. Our focus this year was to invest in recruitment, development and retention, and ensuring managers have the skills and capabilities to lead and manage to a high standard.

We engage and communicate with staff on a regular basis, using a range of methods, including whole staff and team face-to-face meetings and briefings, newsletters, senior management team cascades and management meetings. We also run an annual staff survey to allow staff to share their views and ideas.

We have a Staff Council, with representatives from across the organisation. The Council meets regularly so that the views of staff can be taken into account when making decisions regarding people, policies and practices, and to contribute to the continuous improvement of the organisation and its working environment.

We encourage the involvement of staff across the organisation in our performance through a range of activities, including



participating in fundraising events and supporting activities and events for our pupils and learners.

All staff joining Ambitious about Autism and the Trust have a comprehensive induction covering our values, plans and policies, including safeguarding, whistleblowing and data protection. We engage and update staff during the year on our performance, successes and challenges. As part of this process, we discuss Ambitious about Autism and the Trust's financial performance, as well as opportunities and risks. We are proud that, across the group, 98% of staff understand vision, mission and values.

Remuneration policy for key management personnel

We have a Remuneration Committee comprising Trustees, which reviews our total reward strategy for staff and executive pay. The committee meets termly. Recommendations are made to the Boards of Trustees for approval.

Policy for employment of disabled persons

As a charity for children with disabilities, we are fully committed to ensuring all staff with disabilities who apply to work for Ambitious about Autism and the Trust are treated fairly. All recruiting staff are trained to ensure potential applicants with disabilities are fully and fairly considered and are supported with relevant adjustments made during the recruitment process, and in the workplace.

We are proud to have achieved Level 3 Disability Confident Leader status. As part of this scheme, we guarantee to interview candidates with a disability whose application meets the minimum criteria for the role as detailed under the person specification.

We ensure that all staff, including those with disabilities, have the right training, career development and promotion opportunities put in place. This process starts at induction and is managed through supervisions, annual performance and development reviews.

We have access to advice from Occupational Health support, an on-site physiotherapist and an Employee Assistance Programme to enable us to support any member of staff who becomes disabled during employment. Our wellbeing offer is extensive and this year we were a finalist in the CIPD Health and Wellbeing Awards, achieved Healthy Workplace Charter Level 2 and signed the Time to Change Pledge in order to demonstrate our commitment to supporting improved mental health and wellbeing across the organisation.



General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

We have always been fully committed to protecting details of all the people we work with and who support us. This year, with the General Data Protection Regulation coming into force on 25 May 2018, we rolled out a plan to ensure we comply with the new law. This has involved conducting an information audit to look at how we handle the personal data of our beneficiaries, supporters and staff, and to make sure we're always thinking about privacy and how to keep data safe and secure. We invested in increasing our staff's knowledge and understanding, refreshed our policies and made sure our systems are robust and secure. We never stop working on this.

Public benefit

Ambitious about Autism works to support children and young people with autism and their families throughout the UK. TreeHouse School supports pupils aged four to 19 years and Ambitious College supports learners aged 16 to 25 based on

their needs. Placements of learners are funded by a combination of funding from the Education and Skills Funding Agency and local authorities. Other activities are funded through voluntary income or fees earned from providing a service. For example, providing specialist training or support to parents, teachers and other professionals.

In overseeing the provision of education and the support of children, young people and their families, the Trustees of Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust have complied with their duty regarding the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties.

The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the aims and objectives of the charity and in planning its future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives set.

Connected organisations

Ambitious about Autism is an active member of the Autism Education Trust, Autism Alliance, The Communications Trust, Council for Disabled Children, Disabled Children's Partnership, National Association for Non-Maintained and Independent Special Schools, The Association of National Specialist Colleges, Positive Behaviour





Support Alliance and the Steering Group of the Special Education Consortium. Our education provision is co-located at Spring West Academy, West Thames College and the College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London. These are all independent organisations and their results are not included in the financial statements of Ambitious about Autism and the Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust.

Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust

The Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust (AaAST) is a separate exempt charity. On 1 April 2017, Ambitious about Autism became the sole corporate member. AaAST is actively considering the development of further schools.

People with lived experience of autism are involved in the governance and decision-making of the charity

Our key people and advisers

Trustees of Ambitious about Autism

The Trustees are directors and members of the charitable company. They each guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31 August 2018 was nine (2017:12). The Trustees have no beneficial interest in the charitable company.

Koral Anderson

Jonathan Andrews

Maria Chambers
(until 31 December 2017)

John Constantine
(until 13 July 2018)

Martyn Craddock

Paul Disley-Tindell
(Chair of Remuneration Committee)

Michael Fiddy
(until 21 May 2018)

Neil Goulden
(Chair of the Board of Trustees)

Lesley Longstone
(Chair of the Education Committee and Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees)

Elizabeth Stanton
(Treasurer and Chair of the Scrutiny and Audit Committee)

Philippa Stobbs
(Chair of TreeHouse School Governing Body)

Charlotte Warner

Trustees of Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust

Lesley Longstone
(Chair)

Neil Goulden
(Vice-Chair)

Mark Paulson
(Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee)

Jolanta Lasota
(Accounting Officer)

Joanna Healey

Lucy Nutt

Elizabeth Stanton

Charlotte Warner

The Trustees are supported in their work by the President and Vice Presidents who all support the work of our charity.

President

Lord Tim Clement-Jones CBE

Vice Presidents

Peter Carroll

Nick Baldwin CBE

Virginia Bovell OBE

Tristia Clarke

Katharine Doré OBE

Karen Edwards OBE

Alex Hatter

Richard Hatter

Nick Hornby

Matthew Punshon

Sid Wells

Expert advisers

Our team of expert advisers are leading academics, clinicians, lawyers, communications professionals and young people – all with an interest in autism and a passion to raise awareness and understanding.

They provide advice and guidance on specific projects and campaigns and all work on a voluntary basis. We are honoured to be able to draw on the expertise of:

Judith Barnard
Prof. Simon Baron Cohen
James Partridge OBE
Nick Peacey
Steve Broach
Leo Capella
Prof. Tony Charman
Prof. Richard Hastings
Prof. Pat Howlin
Jonathan Meth
Emran Mian OBE
David Nicholson
Dr Liz Pellicano
Mark Schmid
Dr Rowie Shaw
Fiona Slomovic
Su Thomas
Richard Townley
Gaby Zein

Ambassadors

Our team of Ambassadors come from all walks of life, but all share an interest in autism and a passion to raise awareness and understanding. Our Ambassadors are:

Jon Snow
Sarah Cawood
Michelle Collins
Niamh Cusack

Jonny Gould
Kathy Lette
Simon Mottram
Lucy Mottram
Hayley Ronson
Luke Treadaway

Parent Patrons

Our team of Parent Patrons are all people whose lives have been touched by autism.

Our Parent Patrons are:

Rt Hon John Bercow MP
Sally Bercow
Nicky Clark
Claire Coombe-Tennant
John Coombe-Tennant
Matthew Davis
Keith Duffy
Eliza Mishcon
Charlotte Moore
Claire Ryan
Sophie Walker

Executive Leadership

The Trustees delegate day-to-day management of the charity to the Executive Leadership.

Jolanta Lasota
Chief Executive

Vivienne Berkeley
Principal, Ambitious College

Paul Breckell
*Interim Director of Strategy and Transformation
(from 20 August 2018)*

Maria Chambers
*Director of Education
(from 30 April 2018)*

Danae Leaman-Hill
*Director of Fundraising
(from 27 September 2017)*

Louise Posocco
*Director of Finance & Planning and Company Secretary
(on maternity leave from 24 July 2018)*

Helen Ralston
*Headteacher of The Rise School
(from 1 September 2018)*

Kerry Sternstein
Headteacher of TreeHouse School

Zoe Weaver
Director of People

Alison Worsley
*Director of External Affairs
(from 11 September 2017)*



The Executive Leadership and Board of Trustees are supported by a number of external organisations:

Bankers

National Westminster Bank Plc

190 Muswell Hill, Broadway,
London, N10 3TF

Clydesdale Bank Plc

88 Wood Street, London,
EC2V 7QQ

CAF Bank

Kings Hill, West Malling,
Kent, ME19 4TA

Nationwide Building Society

Nationwide House

Pipers Way

Swindon, SN38 1NW

Solicitors

DLA Piper UK LLP

160 Aldersgate Street
London, EC1A 4HT

Farrer & Co LLP

66 Lincoln's Inn Fields,
London, WC2A 3LH

Stone King LLP

Boundary House, 91
Charterhouse Street,
London, EC1M 6HR

Investment managers

Rathbone Bros Plc

1 Curzon Street,
London, W1J 5FB

Auditor

Sayer Vincent LLP

**Chartered Accountants and
Statutory Auditors**

Invicta House, 108-114
Golden Lane, London,
EC1Y 0TL

Registered office and operational address:

**The Pears National Centre
for Autism Education**

Woodside Avenue, London,
N10 3JA



Statement of responsibilities of the Trustees

The Trustees, who are also Directors of Ambitious about Autism for the purposes of company law, are responsible for preparing the report of the Trustees, including the strategic report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and group, and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the group for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that at any time disclose with reasonable accuracy 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 group and hence for taking

reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware
- the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Sayer Vincent LLP was reappointed as the auditor to the charitable company during the year and has expressed its willingness to continue in that capacity.

The report of the Trustees, which includes the strategic report, has been approved by the Trustees on 29 March 2019 and signed on their behalf by

Neil Goulden
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Independent auditor's report to the members of Ambitious about Autism

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Ambitious about Autism (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiary (the 'group') for the year ended 31 August 2018, which comprise the consolidated statement of financial activities, the group and parent charitable company balance sheets, the consolidated statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and of the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2018, and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

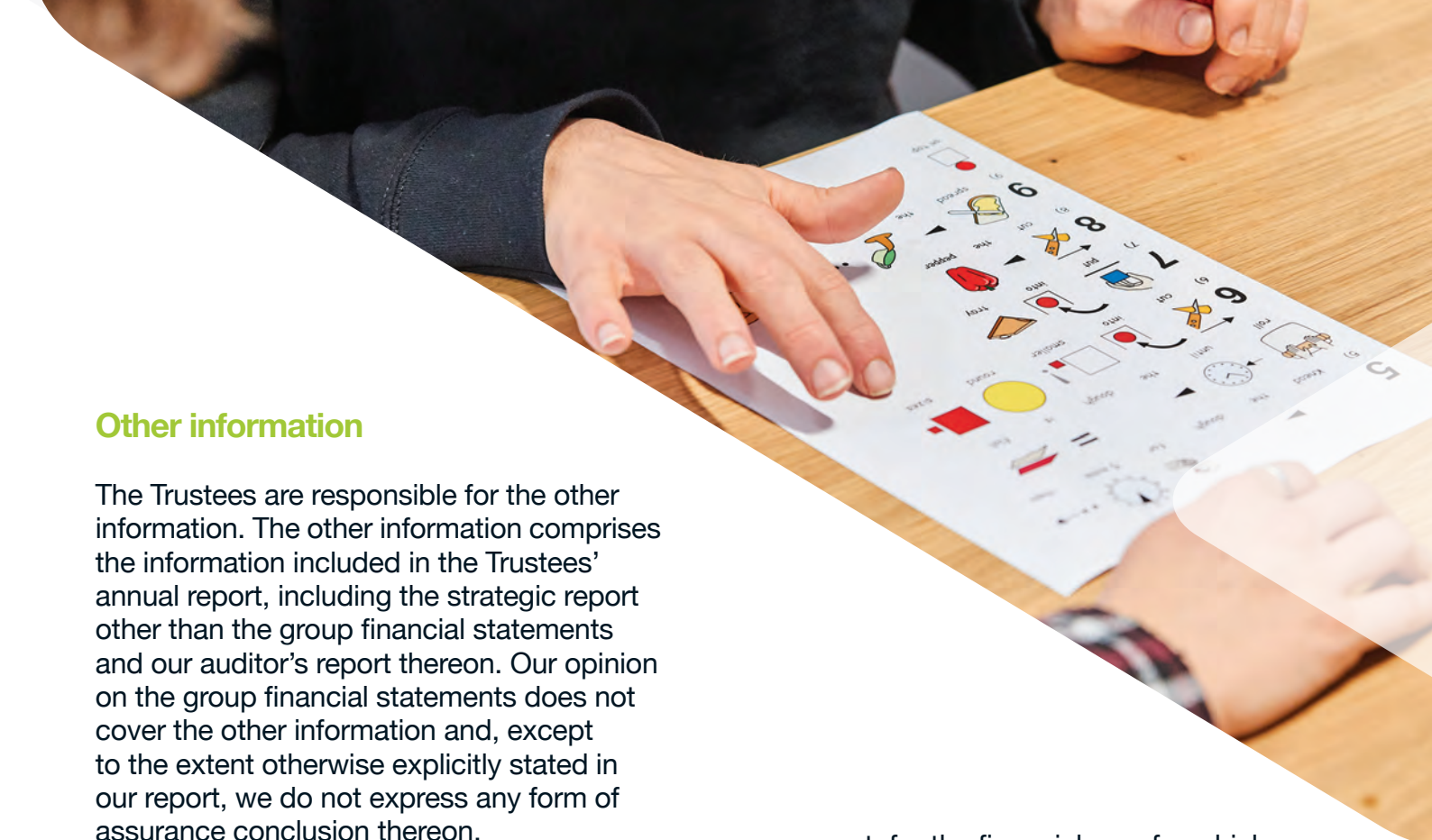
Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the group financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group and parent charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the Finance and Resources Committee's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the group financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Trustees have not disclosed in the group financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the group's or the parent charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least 12 months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.



Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' annual report, including the strategic report other than the group financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the group financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the group financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the group financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the group financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' annual report, including the strategic

report, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared, is consistent with the financial statements

- the Trustees' annual report, including the strategic report, has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and the parent charitable company and their environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' annual report, including the strategic report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or



- the parent charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of responsibilities of the Trustees set out in the Trustees' annual report, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the parent charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the group's and the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the group or the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed auditor under the Companies Act 2006 and section 151 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with those Acts.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the group's or the parent company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the group's or the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the group or the parent charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Helen Elliott
Senior statutory auditor

Date: 10 April 2019
for and on behalf of Sayer Vincent LLP, Statutory Auditor
Invicta House, 108-114 Golden Lane, LONDON, EC1Y 0TL

Sayer Vincent LLP is eligible to act as auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

Consolidated statement of financial activities

(incorporating an income and expenditure account)
For the year ended 31 August 2018

	For the year ended 31 August 2018						For the 17 month period to 31 August 2017	
	Note	Unrestricted £'000	Ambitious about Autism Restricted £'000	Sub-Total £'000	Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust Restricted £'000	Total £'000	Total £'000	
Income from:								
Donations and legacies:								
Gifts and donated services	2	827	1,310	2,137	34	2,171	2,769	
Net assets transferred from Ambitious About Autism Schools Trust*	24	-	-	-	-	-	6,082	
Charitable activities:								
Educational services	3	11,048	90	11,138	3,000	14,138	13,827	
External affairs	3	-	61	61	-	61	356	
Other trading activities:	4	38	2	40	-	40	97	
Investments:		52	-	52	-	52	78	
Total income		11,965	1,463	13,428	3,034	16,462	23,209	
Expenditure on:								
Raising funds:								
Fundraising activities		736	25	761	-	761	1,143	
Investment management costs		14	-	14	-	14	18	
Charitable activities:								
Educational services		10,449	391	10,840	2,632	13,472	15,452	
External affairs		741	236	977	-	977	1,270	
Total expenditure	5	11,940	652	12,592	2,632	15,224	17,883	
Net income before other gains		25	811	836	402	1,238	5,326	
Net gains on investments		4	-	4	-	4	272	
Net gain/(loss) on pension deficit		-	-	-	253	253	(85)	
Net income for the year	6	29	811	840	655	1,495	5,513	
Transfers between funds	19	502	(348)	154	(154)	-	-	
Net movement in funds	19	531	463	994	501	1,495	5,513	
Reconciliation of funds:								
Total funds brought forward								
As originally stated		6,557	235	6,792	6,096	12,888	7,441	
Prior year adjustment	25	-	-	-	-	-	(66)	
As restated		6,557	235	6,792	6,096	12,888	7,375	
Total funds carried forward	19	7,088	698	7,786	6,597	14,383	12,888	

* This transfer of net assets is the result of Ambitious about Autism becoming the sole organisational member of the Ambitious About Autism Schools Trust as at 1 April 2017 (see note 24 for further information).

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 19a to the financial statements.

Balance sheets

As at 31 August 2018

	Group		Ambitious about Autism		
	Note	31 August 2018 £'000	31 August 2017 £'000	31 August 2018 £'000	31 August 2017 £'000
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	11	17,517	17,796	11,197	11,341
Investments	12	1,710	1,719	1,710	1,719
		19,227	19,515	12,907	13,060
Current assets:					
Debtors	13	703	463	648	383
Cash at bank and in hand		3,973	2,088	2,439	1,349
		4,676	2,551	3,087	1,732
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(3,510)	(2,758)	(2,861)	(2,272)
Net current assets/(liabilities)		1,166	(207)	226	(540)
Total assets less current liabilities		20,393	19,308	13,133	12,520
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	16	(5,347)	(5,728)	(5,347)	(5,728)
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	17	(663)	(692)	-	-
Total net assets	18	14,383	12,888	7,786	6,792
Funds					
Restricted funds:					
Ambitious about Autism		698	235	698	235
Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust		6,597	6,096	-	-
Total restricted funds		7,295	6,331	698	235
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated funds		5,222	5,286	5,222	5,286
General funds		1,866	1,271	1,866	1,271
Total unrestricted funds		7,088	6,557	7,088	6,557
Total Funds	19	14,383	12,888	7,786	6,792

Approved by the Trustees on 29 March 2019 and signed on their behalf by

Neil Goulden

Chair of the Board of Trustees



Consolidated statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 August 2018

	For the year ended 31 August 2018		For the 17 month period to 31 August 2017		
	Note	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash provided by operating activities	20		2,766		1,669
Cash flows from investing activities					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		52		78	
Interest payable		(100)		(179)	
Purchase of fixed assets		(465)		(1,322)	
Proceeds from the sale of investments		107		293	
Change on cash held for investment		54		(62)	
Purchase of investments		(148)		(223)	
Net cash used in investing activities			(500)		(1,415)
Cash flows from financing activities					
Repayments of borrowing		(381)		(472)	
Net cash used in financing activities			(381)		(472)
Change in cash and cash equivalents			1,885		(218)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year			2,088		1,823
Change on acquisition of Ambitious About Autism Schools Trust			-		483
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year			3,973		2,088

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2018

1. Accounting policies

Ambitious About Autism is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is incorporated in the United Kingdom. The registered office address is Woodside Avenue, London, N10 3JA.

a. Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (March 2018) and the Companies Act 2006.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

b. Basis of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements of the charity incorporate the financial statements of Ambitious About Autism Schools Trust, a UK company limited by guarantee (company registration number 8335297) that is also an exempt charity. Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust's results and net assets at 31 August 2018 are consolidated within these accounts on a line by line basis. Intercompany transactions and balances between charity companies are eliminated. Consistent accounting policies have been adopted across the group.

c. Public benefit entity

The charitable company meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

d. Going concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

The Trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

e. Income

Income is recognised when the group has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably. Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the group has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred. Fees are recognised as services are rendered, deferring until criteria are met.

School and college fee income received in advance of the provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

f. Donations of gifts, services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the group has control, over the item or received the service, any conditions associated with

the donation have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the group of the item is probable and that the economic benefit can be measured reliably.

On receipt, donated gifts, professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the group which is the amount the group would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in the expenditure in the period of receipt.

g. Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the group; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

h. Fund accounting

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Trustees for particular purposes.

i. Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds relate to the costs incurred by the charitable company in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with a fundraising purpose
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of delivering services, and other educational activities undertaken to further the purposes of the group and their associated support costs.

Ambitious About Autism became VAT registered on 1st May 2018. As the charity provides a mixture of taxable and exempt supplies, VAT on expenditure that cannot be directly attributed to either type of supply is partially recoverable.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

j. Allocation of support costs

Resources are expended and allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, the cost of overall direction and administration of each activity, comprising the salary and the overhead costs of the central function, is apportioned on the following bases which are estimates, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity.

<u>Central function</u>	<u>Main basis for allocation</u>
Leadership	Time spent
Finance	Staff head count
Human resources	Staff head count
IT	Staff head count
Facilities management	Area occupied
General administration	Staff head count
Premises and office costs	Area occupied

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2018

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Where information about the aims, objectives and projects of the group is provided to potential beneficiaries, the costs associated with this are allocated to charitable expenditure.

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the group. These costs are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and include any costs associated with the strategic management of the group's activities.

The management charge for the Ambitious About Autism support provided to Ambitious About Autism Schools Trust is eliminated on consolidation of the group accounts.

k. Operating leases

Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

l. Tangible fixed assets

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £5,000. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset except land to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The useful lives are as follows:

Freehold building at Woodside Avenue	50 years
Long leasehold	50 years
Leasehold improvements	over the lease term
Computer equipment and software	3 years
Educational, office furniture and equipment	3-10 years
Motor vehicles	5 years

m. Listed investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. Any change in fair value will be recognised in the statement of financial activities and any excess of fair value over the historic cost of the investments will be shown as a fair value reserve in the balance sheet. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and shown in the heading "Net gains on investments" in the statement of financial activities. The group does not acquire put options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments.

n. 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.

o. 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.

p. Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the group has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due

to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due. The group 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.

q. Pensions

Ambitious about Autism has a defined contribution pension scheme available to all staff.

Ambitious about Autism also contributes to the Teachers' Pension Scheme. The pension available to teaching staff is a defined benefit, multi employer scheme and the assets and liabilities of the scheme cannot be split out for individual employers. Further information is given in note 17.

On 1 July 2014, and in compliance with Government legislation on Auto Enrolment, a defined contribution group personal pension scheme was opened. Employees were able to join on inception or under the rules of Auto Enrolment with a deferred period of 3 months.

The pension costs charged in the Statement of Financial Activities represent the contributions payable by the group in the year to all pension schemes.

Retirement benefits to employees of the Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ('TPS') and the Local Government Pension Scheme ('LGPS'). These are defined benefit schemes.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. TPS is a multi-employer scheme and there is insufficient information available to use defined benefit accounting. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

The LGPS is a funded scheme and the assets are held separately from those of Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust in separate Trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2018

2. Income from donations and legacies

	For the year ended 31 August 2018					For the 17 month period to 31 August 2017
	Ambitious about Autism			Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust	Total £'000	
	Unrestricted £'000	Restricted £'000	Sub-total £'000	Restricted £'000		
Gifts	788	1,310	2,098	34	2,132	2,698
Donated services	39	-	39	-	39	71
	827	1,310	2,137	34	2,171	2,769

3. Income from charitable activities

	For the year ended 31 August 2018					For the 17 month period to 31 August 2017
	Ambitious about Autism			Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust	Total £'000	
	Unrestricted £'000	Restricted £'000	Sub-total £'000	Restricted £'000		
Local authorities	9,692	17	9,709	2,289	11,998	12,519
Education Skills Funding Agency	1,356	73	1,429	711	2,140	1,308
Sub-total for Educational services	11,048	90	11,138	3,000	14,138	13,827
Autism Education Trust	-	61	61	-	61	172
Department for Health	-	-	-	-	-	184
Sub-total for External affairs	-	61	61	-	61	356
Total income from charitable activities	11,048	151	11,199	3,000	14,199	14,183

4. Income from other trading activities

	For the year ended 31 August 2018					For the 17 month period to 31 August 2017
	Ambitious about Autism			Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust	Total £'000	
	Unrestricted £'000	Restricted £'000	Sub-total £'000	Restricted £'000		
Training and consultancy	38	2	40	-	40	97



Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2018

5. Analysis of expenditure

	Staff costs (note 7) £'000	Direct costs £'000	Finance (incl loan interest) £'000	Human Resources £'000	Information Technology £'000	Premises and office costs £'000	Leadership £'000	Support costs £'000	Governance costs £'000	For the year ended 31 August 2018 £'000	For the 17 month period to 31 August 2017 £'000
Ambitious about Autism:											
Cost of generating funds	349	315	-	-	-	18	-	88	5	775	1,161
Educational services	6,890	391	-	-	-	487	-	2,855	217	10,840	14,535
External affairs	547	287	-	-	-	23	-	111	9	977	1,270
	7,786	993	-	-	-	528	-	3,054	231	12,592	16,966
Support costs	1,126	203	489	315	345	549	27	(3,054)	-	-	-
Governance costs	211	19	-	-	-	-	1	-	(231)	-	-
Sub-total Ambitious about Autism costs	1,337	222	489	315	345	549	28	(3,054)	(231)	-	-
Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust	1,693	800	-	-	-	139	-	-	-	2,632	917
Total expenditure 2018	10,816	2,015	489	315	345	1,216	28	-	-	15,224	
Total expenditure 2017	12,483	1,959	627	297	630	1,782	105	-	-		17,883

Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, the cost of overall direction and administration of each activity, comprising the salary and the overhead costs of the central function, is apportioned based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity.

All AaAST Support costs are paid through management fees, which are eliminated on consolidation, any other costs are allocated directly to AaAST.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2018

6. Net income for the year

This is stated after charging:

	For the year ended 31 August 2018 £'000	For the 17 month period to 31 August 2017 £'000
Depreciation	744	675
Interest payable	100	179
Auditors' remuneration (excluding VAT):		
Audit	28	27
Other services	3	6
Payments under operating leases:		
Property	100	100
Equipment	41	67

7. Analysis of group staff costs, Trustee remuneration and expenses, and the costs of key management personnel

Staff costs were as follows:

	For the year ended 31 August 2018 £'000	For the 17 month period to 31 August 2017 £'000
Salaries and wages	9,446	10,920
Redundancy and termination costs	-	61
Social security costs	855	1,031
Employer's contribution to pension schemes	515	471
	10,816	12,483

The tables below show a breakdown of staff earnings above £60k. Due to the longer reporting period of 17 months in the 2016-17 accounts, two tables are disclosed: one comparing to the 17 month period to 31 August 2017 and one for the 12 month year to 31 August 2017 which gives more meaningful comparison to the 2017-18 figures.

The following number of employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) during the year to 31 August 2018, between:

	For the year ended 31 August 2018 No.	For the 17 month period to 31 August 2017 No.
£60,000-£69,999	1	6
£70,000-£79,999	3	4
£80,000-£89,999	4	3
£90,000-£99,999	2	3
£100,000-£109,999	1	0
£110,000-£119,999	0	2
£120,000-£129,999	0	1
£130,000-£139,999	1	1



Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2018

7. Analysis of group staff costs, Trustee remuneration and expenses, and the costs of key management personnel (continued)

The following number of employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) during the 12 month period to 31 August 2018, between:

	For the year ended 31 August 2018 No.	For the 12 month period to 31 August 2017 No.
£60,000-£69,999	1	5
£70,000-£79,999	3	3
£80,000-£89,999	4	0
£90,000-£99,999	2	3
£100,000-£109,999	1	2
£110,000-£119,999	0	0
£120,000-£129,999	0	0
£130,000-£139,999	1	0

The total employee benefits including pension and National Insurance contributions of the key management personnel were £917,015 for the 12 month period to 31 August 2018. For the 17 month period to 31 August 2017 it was £1,061,394 (12 month year to 31 August 2017: £712,519).

Jolanta Lasota, Chief Executive of Ambitious About Autism, was paid an annual salary of £110,000 to 31 August 2018 (2017: £105,000).

The charity Trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2017: £nil). No charity Trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2017: £nil).

Trustees' expenses represents the payment or reimbursement of travel and subsistence costs totalling £169 (2017: £878) incurred by 2 Trustees relating to duties as Chair of the College Governing Body and attendance at meetings of the Trustees (2017: one member relating to attendance at meetings of the Trustees).

8. Staff numbers

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed) during the period was as follows:

	For the year ended 31 August 2018 No.	For the 17 month period to 31 August 2017 No.
Raising funds	9	9
Educational services	328	284
External affairs	13	13
Support	32	31
	382	337

The increase of staff numbers is due to the planned growth across education services.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2018

9. Related party transactions

Some members of the Board of Trustees are parents of children attending TreeHouse School. The places are funded in the same way as all other places at the school and the children receive the same service and benefits as other children.

The charity purchased £1,608 of office furniture from Assman Office Furniture during the reporting year. Assman Office Furniture is managed by the partner of Vivienne Berkeley, Principal at Ambitious College. At the balance sheet date £773 (2017:£333) was owed to Assman Office Furniture.

Charlotte Warner, a Trustee of the charity, is also a director of Tudor Park Education Trust, which runs Spring West Academy. The Rise School holds a contract with the Spring West Academy with respect to the procurement of curriculum placements, provision of caretaker services and space. During the year, the Trust made payments totalling £59k (2017: £27k) to the Spring West Academy.

The vice chair of Ambitious About Autism and Chair of the Schools Trust Lesley Longstone is employed by the Department for Education but was seconded to the Independent Police Complaints Commission and Crown Prosecution Service. During the year, no income had been received from the Department of Education (2017:£nil), however the Trust did receive grant income totalling £2,140k (2017: £1,308k) from the Education Skills Funding Agency, an executive agency sponsored by the Department of Education.

During the reporting period Trustees either personally donated or donated through entities where they have significant control a total of £23,425 (2017: £58,572) to the charity. None of the donations were restricted.

10. Taxation

The group is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2018

11. Tangible fixed assets

Group	Freehold land and buildings	Long leasehold £'000	Leasehold improvements £'000	Educational, office furniture and equipment £'000	Computer equipment and software £'000	Motor Vehicles £'000	Total £'000
Cost							
At the start of the year	11,741	6,416	1,212	380	898	132	20,779
Additions in the year	-	-	9	60	110	-	179
Construction in progress	-	-	252	3	31	-	286
At the end of the year	11,741	6,416	1,473	443	1,039	132	21,244
Depreciation							
At the start of the year	2,057	55	84	245	427	115	2,983
Charge for the year	239	131	126	43	198	7	744
At the end of the year	2,296	186	210	288	625	122	3,727
Net book value							
At the end of the year	9,445	6,230	1,263	155	414	10	17,517
At the start of the year	9,684	6,361	1,128	135	471	17	17,796

Ambitious about Autism	Freehold land and buildings	leasehold improvements £'000	Educational, office furniture and equipment £'000	Computer equipment and software £'000	Motor Vehicles £'000	Total £'000	
Cost							
At the start of the year		11,741	1,212	323	831	132	14,239
Additions in the year		-	9	33	95	-	137
Construction in progress		-	252	3	31	-	286
At the end of the year		11,741	1,473	359	957	132	14,662
Depreciation							
At the start of the year		2,057	84	239	403	115	2,898
Charge for the year		239	126	28	167	7	567
At the end of the year		2,296	210	267	570	122	3,465
Net book value							
At the end of the year		9,445	1,263	92	387	10	11,197
At the start of the year		9,684	1,128	84	428	17	11,341

Land with a cost of £834,000 (2017: £834,000) is included within freehold property and is not depreciated.

All of the above assets are used for charitable purposes.

Included in construction in progress are assets of £273k for the West Thames Summer Build, which was completed in September 2018, and equipment of £13k relating to the Hybrid project that wasn't set-up and ready to use until September 2018.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2018

12. Investments

Group and Ambitious about Autism	31 August 2018 £'000	31 August 2017 £'000
Fair value at the start of the year	1,633	1,431
Additions at cost	148	223
Disposal proceeds	(107)	(293)
Net gain/(loss) on change in fair value	4	272
Fair value at the end of the year	1,678	1,633
Cash held in investments	32	86
Total investments held	1,710	1,719

Investments comprise:	31 August 2018 £'000	31 August 2017 £'000
Listed securities		
Fixed interest	244	264
Direct UK equities	650	607
Direct overseas equities	564	536
Alternatives	220	226
Cash held for re-investment	21	75
Cash	11	11
Fair value at the end of the year	1,710	1,719

13. Debtors

	Group		Ambitious about Autism	
	31 August 2018 £'000	31 August 2017 £'000	31 August 2018 £'000	31 August 2017 £'000
Trade debtors	209	209	221	191
Other debtors	76	72	27	25
Prepayments	350	118	346	104
Accrued income	68	64	54	63
	703	463	648	383



Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2018

14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Ambitious about Autism	
	31 August 2018 £'000	31 August 2017 £'000	31 August 2018 £'000	31 August 2017 £'000
Bank loans	371	362	371	362
Trade creditors	224	289	163	236
Taxation and social security	249	220	231	194
Other creditors	494	222	414	133
Accruals	527	395	506	381
Deferred income (Note 15)	1,645	1,270	1,176	966
	3,510	2,758	2,861	2,272

15. Deferred income

	Group		Ambitious about Autism	
	31 August 2018 £'000	31 August 2017 £'000	31 August 2018 £'000	31 August 2017 £'000
Deferred income comprises fees received in advance:				
Balance at the beginning of the year	966	66	966	66
Amount released to income in the year	(966)	(66)	(966)	(66)
Amount deferred in the year	1,645	1,270	1,176	966
Balance at the end of the year	1,645	1,270	1,176	966

Deferred income as at 31 August 2018 relates to autumn 2018 term fees that were received in advance of the new school year.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2018

16. Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

Group and Ambitious about Autism	31 August 2018 £'000	31 August 2017 £'000
Loans to finance the permanent building	3,929	4,225
Loan to finance Ambitious College	1,418	1,503
Balance at the end of the year	5,347	5,728

The charity has a loan from Futurebuilders which commenced in October 2008 and is repayable over 25 years. Interest is chargeable at 1.25% above the Bank of England base rate for five years from August 2014 thereafter it is subject to agreement between Futurebuilders and Ambitious about Autism. The loan is secured over the freehold land and buildings at Woodside Avenue.

The charity also has loan from National Westminster Bank Plc, in tranches of £1.1m and £1.9m, which commenced in November 2008 and April 2012 respectively. Interest is chargeable at 0.75% above LIBOR and 1.25% above LIBOR respectively. The loan is repayable from November 2013 over 22 years. One tranche of the loan (£1.1m) is capped at an interest rate of 4%. The loan is secured over the freehold land and buildings at Woodside Avenue.

The capital amounts repayable under each loan are:	1-2 years £'000	2-5 years £'000	Over 5 years £'000
Futurebuilders	247	767	2,044
NatWest £1.1m tranche	45	162	664
NatWest £1.9m tranche	87	273	1,058
Balance at the end of the year	379	1,202	3,766

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2018

17. Pension scheme

Ambitious about Autism makes contributions to the Aegon Pension Scheme, The People's Pension and into one employee's pension scheme. Both Ambitious about Autism and Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust pay into the Teacher's pension scheme.

Contributions to these previously existing schemes were £515k (2017: £504k).

Defined Contribution Schemes

The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of Ambitious about Autism. Pension costs charged in the statement of financial activities represent the contributions payable by Ambitious about Autism for the year.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pensions Regulations (2010) and, from 1 April 2014, by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for full-time teachers in academies and, from 1 January 2007, automatic for teachers in part-time employment following appointment or a change of contract, although they are able to opt out.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a 'pay as you go' basis – these contributions along with those made by employers are credited to the Exchequer. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

Not less than every four years the Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2012 and in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 9 June 2014. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 16.48% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% employer administration charge);
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £191,500 million, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £176,600 million giving a notional past service deficit of £14,900 million;
- an employer cost cap of 10.9% of pensionable pay will be applied to future valuations; and
- the assumed real rate of return is 3.0% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.75%. The assumed nominal rate of return is 5.06%.

The TPS valuation for 2012 determined an employer rate of 16.48%, which was payable from September 2015. The next valuation of the TPS will be as at March 2016, whereupon the employer contribution rate is expected to be reassessed and will be payable from 1 April 2019.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS by AaA in the year amounted to £133k (2017: £165k).

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS by AaAST in the year amounted to £78k (2017: £75k).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website.

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is a multi-employer pension scheme. The Trust has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The Trust has set out above the information available on the scheme.

18 AaA employees were members of the scheme at 31 August 2018 (2017: 15).

10 AaAST employees were members of the scheme at 31 August 2018 (2017: 12).

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate Trustee-administered funds. The total contributions made for the year ended 31 August 2018 were £169k (2017: £117k), of which employer's contributions totalled £128k (2017: £82k) and employees' contributions totalled £45k (2017: £35k). Contribution rates for employees increase with salary and during the year ended 31 August 2018 employee primary contribution rates were between 5.5 per cent and 12.5 per cent of pensionable salary. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 14.4 per cent for employers, and for employees a minimum of 5.5 per cent to a maximum of 12.5 per cent of pensionable salary. During the year ended 31 August 2018 no employees took advantage of the 50/50 option, where employees can pay 50 per cent of normal contributions to build up half the normal pension.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of academy closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2018

17. Pension scheme (continued)

38 employees were members of the scheme at 31 August 2018 (2017: 35).

	At 31 August 2018		At 31 August 2017
	£'000		£'000
Principal actuarial assumptions			
Rate of increase in salaries		3.80%	4.20%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation		2.30%	2.70%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities		2.70%	2.60%
Inflation assumption (CPI)		2.30%	2.70%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums		50.00%	50.00%
Sensitivity analysis	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adjustment to discount rate	+0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Present value of total obligation	1,086	1,129	1,174
Projected service cost	256	266	276
Adjustment to long term salary increase	+0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Present value of total obligation	1,129	1,129	1,129
Projected service cost	266	266	266
Adjustment to pension increases and deferred revaluation	+0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Present value of total obligation	1,174	1,129	1,086
Projected service cost	277	266	256
Adjustment to life expectancy assumptions	+ 1 Year	None	- 1 Year
Present value of total obligation	1,165	1,129	1,094
Projected service cost	274	266	258

The current mortality assumptions include sufficient allowance for future improvements in mortality rates. The assumed life expectations on retirement age 65 are:

	At 31 August 2018		At 31 August 2017
	£'000		£'000
Retiring today			
Males		21.5	21.4
Females		25.2	25.1
Retiring in 20 years			
Males		23.7	23.6
Females		27.5	27.4



Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2018

17. Pension scheme (continued)

The estimated asset allocation as at 31 August 2018 is as follows:

	31 August 2018 £'000	%	31 August 2017 £'000	%
Equities	287	61%	182	65%
Gilts	23	5%	10	3%
Other bonds	37	8%	32	11%
Property	23	5%	14	5%
Absolute return funds	85	18%	41	14%
Cash	11	2%	4	1%
Total market value of assets	466	100%	283	100%
Present value of scheme liabilities - funded	(1,129)		(975)	
Deficit in the scheme	(663)		(692)	100%

The Trust's share of the assets of the fund is less than 1%.

The actual return on scheme assets was £14,000 (2017: £26,000).

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities	31 August 2018 £'000	31 August 2017 £'000
Current service cost (net of employee contributions)	(332)	(266)
Net interest cost	(16)	(15)
Total operating charge	(348)	(281)

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as follows:	2018 £'000	2017 £'000
At 1 September	975	481
Current service cost	332	266
Interest cost	26	15
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(249)	185
Benefits paid	-	(7)
Employee contributions	45	35
At 31 August	1,129	975

Changes in the fair value of the group's share of scheme assets:	2018 £'000	2017 £'000
At 1 September	283	189
Interest on assets	10	6
Return on plan assets (excluding net interest on the defined pension liability)	4	22
Other actuarial losses	-	(44)
Employer contributions	124	82
Employee contributions	45	35
Benefits paid	-	(7)
At 31 August	466	283

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2018

18. Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances as at 31 August 2018 are represented by:

Group	Ambitious about Autism			Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust	Total funds £'000
	General unrestricted £'000	Designated £'000	Restricted £'000	Restricted £'000	
Tangible fixed assets	-	11,197	-	6,320	17,517
Investments	1,710	-	-	-	1,710
Net current assets/(liabilities)	156	(628)	698	940	1,166
Long term liabilities	-	(5,347)	-	(663)	(6,010)
	1,866	5,222	698	6,597	14,383

Ambitious about Autism	General unrestricted £'000	Designated £'000	Restricted £'000	Total funds £'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	11,197	-	11,197
Investments	1,710	-	-	1,710
Net current assets/(liabilities)	156	(628)	698	226
Long term liabilities	-	(5,347)	-	(5,347)
	1,866	5,222	698	7,786

Fund balances as at 31 August 2017 are represented by:

Group	Ambitious about Autism			Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust	Total funds £'000
	General unrestricted £'000	Designated £'000	Restricted £'000	Restricted £'000	
Tangible fixed assets	-	11,341	-	6,455	17,796
Investments	1,719	-	-	-	1,719
Net current assets/(liabilities)	(448)	(327)	235	333	(207)
Long term liabilities	-	(5,728)	-	(692)	(6,420)
	1,271	5,286	235	6,096	12,888

Ambitious about Autism	General unrestricted £'000	Designated £'000	Restricted £'000	Total funds £'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	11,341	-	11,341
Investments	1,719	-	-	1,719
Net current assets/(liabilities)	(448)	(327)	235	(540)
Long term liabilities	-	(5,728)	-	(5,728)
	1,271	5,286	235	6,792



Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2018

19a. Movement in funds

For the 12 month year ended 31 August 2018:	At the start of the period £'000	Incoming resources and gains £'000	Outgoing resources and losses £'000	Transfers £'000	At the end of the period £'000
Restricted funds:					
a) Ambitious about Autism					
Ambitious College	65	505	(318)	-	252
Autism Exchange	0	79	(56)	-	23
Family Support	21	25	(38)	-	8
Participation	45	32	(59)	-	18
Succeeding at College	24	48	(72)	-	-
Right from the Start	-	188	(10)	-	178
TreeHouse School	27	96	(58)	(5)	60
Other	26	99	(41)	(56)	28
	208	1,072	(652)	(61)	567
Capital					
Ambitious College	27	391	-	(287)	131
Total Ambitious about Autism restricted funds	235	1,463	(652)	(348)	698
b) Ambitious about Autism Schools					
Trust	6,096	3,287	(2,632)	(154)	6,597
Total group restricted funds	6,331	4,750	(3,284)	(502)	7,295
Ambitious about Autism unrestricted funds:					
Designated funds					
Fixed assets	4,779	-	(567)	419	4,631
School development	5	-	-	-	5
Cyclical Maintenance Fund	502	-	-	84	586
Total designated funds	5,286	-	(567)	503	5,222
General funds	1,271	11,969	(11,373)	(1)	1,866
Total Ambitious about Autism unrestricted funds	6,557	11,969	(11,940)	502	7,088
Total group funds	12,888	16,719	(15,224)	-	14,383

Transfers

£419k has been designated to the Fixed Asset funds to cover the depreciation of fixed assets. £348k was transferred from restricted funds (£287k for the Ambitious College build, £51k for the IT equipment and £10k for smartboards for the TreeHouse School) following the completion of these projects and the subsequent capitalisation of these assets. £55k was transferred from unrestricted funds for the IT Hybrid Project (£30k), IT Equipment (£13k) and the new HR System (£13k).

£100k has been designated from unrestricted funds to the Cyclical Maintenance Fund for future investment from this fund. £16k was transferred from the Cyclical Maintenance Fund for cost of air conditioning installed at Treehouse School.

£154k was transferred from AaAST to general funds to reflect the intercompany management charge.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2018

19a. Movement in funds (continued)

For the 17 month period ended 31 August 2017:	At the start of the period £'000	Net assets transferred to the group £'000	Incoming resources and gains £'000	Outgoing resources and losses £'000	Transfers £'000	At the end of the period £'000
Restricted funds:						
a) Ambitious about Autism						
Ambitious College	-	-	259	(194)	-	65
Autism Exchange	-	-	30	(30)	-	-
Family Support	55	-	62	(96)	-	21
MyVoice	10	-	184	(194)	-	-
Participation	48	-	70	(73)	-	45
Succeeding at College	-	-	172	(148)	-	24
TreeHouse School	129	-	86	(145)	(43)	27
Other	8	-	49	(31)	-	26
	250	-	912	(911)	(43)	208
Capital						
Ambitious College	76	-	898	-	(947)	27
Total Ambitious About Autism restricted funds	326	-	1,810	(911)	(990)	235
b) Ambitious about Autism Schools						
Trust	-	6,082	1,060	(1,002)	(44)	6,096
Total group restricted funds	326	6,082	2,870	(1,913)	(1,034)	6,331
Ambitious about Autism unrestricted funds:						
Designated funds						
Fixed assets	4,047	-	-	(588)	1,320	4,779
School development	147	-	-	(142)	-	5
Transformation fund	20	-	-	(20)	-	-
Cyclical Maintenance Fund	502	-	-	-	-	502
Total designated funds	4,716	-	-	(750)	1,320	5,286
General funds	2,333	-	14,529	(15,305)	(286)	1,271
Total Ambitious about Autism unrestricted funds	7,049	-	14,529	(16,055)	1,034	6,557
Total group funds	7,375	6,082	17,399	(17,968)	-	12,888



Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2018

19b. Summary movement in funds

Purpose of restricted funds:

Ambitious College	The charity continues its work to develop Ambitious College, London's first independent specialist day college for young people with complex autism aged 16-25 years. Both campuses are co-located and developed in partnership with two general further education colleges.
Autism Exchange	The Autism Exchange programme aims to ensure young people with autism are given the careers advice and work experience they need to prepare them for the work place, and employers have the training and understanding to recruit and support people on the autism spectrum. The programme has developed a unique partnership between young people, employers and post 16 education providers. It is tailored to support young people with autism from across the spectrum, including those with complex needs. Young people can access work placements in all different disciplines, including HR, finance, communications and IT.
Family Support	The family support function sits across our services and aims to secure strong and timely direct advice and support to families and carers of young people through periods of transition, such as from school to further education, training or other placement, and to adulthood.
Participation	A programme to give young people a direct voice so that all of our work reflects the views and needs of children and young people with autism. Our Youth Council, Youth Patrons and Ambitious Youth Network give opportunities for young people to act as ambassadors for the charity directly influencing policy and decision makers, raising awareness and providing consultancy and training. We believe that better decisions are made and better outcomes achieved when people are involved in decisions made about their lives.
Succeeding at College	Succeeding at College is a project funded by the Department for Education through the Autism Education Trust. It aims to support more young people with autism to continue their education beyond school through engaging more post-16 education providers in a national face-to-face training programme on understanding autism. The project also includes a research component.
Right from the Start	Right from the Start is a national programme to examine early years support for children with autism and their parents. The programme will commission a major piece of research to examine the needs of parents, carers and early years professionals, taking into account stress points, barriers and potential interventions to understand what works. The programme will produce a highly accessible information pack for parents, to walk them through the process from the point at which they feel they need to seek advice about diagnosis. The research and toolkit will be used to influence policy and practice.
Treehouse School	Funding provided to support a range of specific activities across the school.
Other	Other funds represent a number of small funds.

Purpose of designated funds:

Fixed assets	This fund represents the net book value of the fixed assets, net of the loans used to purchase them, which are not, by the nature of fixed assets, readily available for other purposes.
Schools development	The school fund has been established to fund school development.
Transformation Fund	The transformation fund was established to fund the future development of technology, transformation of the resources team, the 2014-17 Strategic Plan, and a governance review.
Cyclical Maintenance fund	The sinking fund has been established to provide for major repairs to the building based on 30 year life cycle costings prepared by external consultants.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2018

20. Net cash provided by/(used in) group operating activities

	2018 £'000	2017 £'000
Net income	1,495	5,513
Fair value of assets transferred on acquisition of Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust (note 24)	-	(6,082)
Depreciation charges	744	675
(Gains) on investment	(4)	(272)
Dividends, interest and rent from investments	(52)	(78)
Interest payable	100	179
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(240)	1,045
Increase in creditors	752	538
Increase/(decrease) in pension deficit	(29)	151
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	2,766	1,669

21. Operating lease commitments

The group's total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases is as follows for each of the following periods:

	Property		Equipment	
	2018 £'000	2017 £'000	2018 £'000	2017 £'000
Less than one year	100	100	6	23
One to five years	296	405	9	15
Over five years	196	250	-	-
	592	755	15	38

22. Capital commitments

At the balance sheet date, the group had committed to £400k (2017: £869k).

23. Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of winding up is limited to £1.



Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2018

24. Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust

On 1 April 2017, Ambitious about Autism became the sole member of Autism Schools Trust, a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity (company number 8335297).

Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust operates independently from Ambitious about Autism and as such Ambitious about Autism has no right or access to the assets (cash and non-cash) of Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust. In the group accounts all income and reserves of Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust are treated as restricted.

£6,082k was brought into the consolidated accounts in the period ended 31 August 2017, considered to be the fair value of Ambitious About Autism Schools Trusts's net assets at the date of transfer.

Fair value as at 31 March 2017	Building asset £'000	Non-building assets £'000	Total £'000
Fixed assets	6,254	286	6,540
Current Assets	-	1,178	1,178
Liabilities	-	(1,095)	(1,095)
Pension liability	-	(541)	(541)
Fair value of net assets	6,254	(172)	6,082

Included in fair value of net assets as above were results at the date of transfer relating to the 2016-17 period:	£'000
Operational deficit	(11)
Depreciation on restricted assets	(107)
Pension liability movement	(122)
Fair value of net assets	(240)

The fair value of net assets is treated as a non-cash donation into the group accounts.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2018

24. Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust (continued)

Balance Sheet	2018 £'000	2017 £'000
Fixed Assets		
Tangible assets	6,320	6,455
Current Assets		
Debtors	133	80
Cash at bank and in hand	1,534	739
	1,667	819
Liabilities		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(727)	(486)
Net current (liabilities)/assets	940	333
Net assets excluding pension liability	7,260	6,788
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	(663)	(692)
Total net assets	6,597	6,096
Funds of the Academy Trust:		
Restricted funds		
Fixed asset fund	6,032	6,169
Restricted income fund	995	377
Pension Reserve	(663)	(692)
Total restricted funds	6,364	5,854
Unrestricted income funds	233	242
Total Funds	6,597	6,096



Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2018

24. Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust (continued)

A summarised extract of AaAST SoFA for the reporting period:	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset Fund £'000	Total £'000
Income from:				
Donations and capital grants	6	3	25	34
Charitable activities	-	3,000	-	3,000
	6	3,003	25	3,034
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	15	2,609	162	2,786
Net surplus/(deficit)	(9)	394	(137)	248
Other recognised gains	-	253	-	253
Net movement in funds	(9)	647	(137)	501
Funds brought forward	242	(315)	6,169	6,096
Funds carried forward	233	332	6,032	6,597

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2018

25. Prior year statement of financial activities

Statement of financial activities
(incorporating an income and expenditure account)

For the 17 month period to 31 August 2017

	Ambitious About Autism			Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust	Total £'000	Restated for the 12 month period to 31 March 2016
	Unrestricted £'000	Restricted £'000	Sub-Total £'000	Restricted £'000		Total £'000
Income from:						
Donations and legacies:						
Gifts and donated services	1,326	1,430	2,756	13	2,769	1,769
Net assets transferred from Ambitious About Autism Schools Trust*	-	-	-	6,082	6,082	-
Charitable activities:						
Educational services	12,756	24	12,780	1,047	13,827	8,478
External affairs	-	356	356	-	356	390
Other trading activities:	97	-	97	-	97	80
Investments:	78	-	78	-	78	67
Total income	14,257	1,810	16,067	7,142	23,209	10,784
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds:						
Fundraising activities	1,143	-	1,143	-	1,143	1,059
Investment management costs	18	-	18	-	18	-
	1,161	-	1,161	-	1,161	1,059
Charitable activities:						
Educational services	14,149	386	14,535	917	15,452	9,703
External affairs	745	525	1,270	-	1,270	1,218
Total expenditure	16,055	911	16,966	917	17,883	11,980
Net income/(expenditure) before other gains/(losses)	(1,798)	899	(899)	6,225	5,326	(1,196)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	272	-	272	-	272	(85)
Net gain on pension deficit	-	-	-	(85)	(85)	-
Net income/(expenditure) for the period	(1,526)	899	(627)	6,140	5,513	(1,281)
Transfers between and from funds	1,034	(990)	44	(44)	-	-
Net movement in funds	(492)	(91)	(583)	6,096	5,513	(1,281)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward						
As originally stated	7,115	326	7,441	-	7,441	8,717
Prior year adjustment	(66)	-	(66)	-	(66)	(61)
As restated	7,049	326	7,375	-	7,375	8,656
Total funds carried forward	6,557	235	6,792	6,096	12,888	7,375

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2018

26. Statement of financial activities for 12 month period to 31 August 2018

Statement of financial activities (unaudited)
(incorporating an income and expenditure account)

Due to the longer reporting period of 17 months in the 2016-17 accounts, an additional Statement of Financial Activities is disclosed, with comparatives for the 12 month period to 31 August 2017, which gives more meaningful comparison to the 2017-18 figures.

	Unrestricted £'000	Restricted £'000	For the year ended 31 August 2018 £'000	For the 12 month period to 31 August 2017 £'000
Income from:				
Donations and legacies:				
Gifts and donated services	827	1,310	2,137	1,933
Charitable activities:				
Educational services	11,048	90	11,138	9,646
External affairs	-	61	61	198
Other trading activities:	38	2	40	67
Investments:	52	-	52	63
Total income	11,965	1,463	13,428	11,907
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds:				
Fundraising activities	736	25	761	823
Investment management costs	14	-	14	18
	750	25	775	841
Charitable activities:				
Educational services	10,449	391	10,840	10,222
External affairs	741	236	977	896
Total expenditure	11,940	652	12,592	11,959
Net income/(expenditure) before other gains/(losses)	25	811	836	(52)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	4	-	4	138
Net income/(expenditure) for the period	29	811	840	86
Transfers between and from funds	502	(348)	154	-
Net movement in funds	531	463	994	86
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	6,557	235	6,792	6,723
Total funds carried forward	7,088	698	7,786	6,809

Get involved

Join our circle of Ambitious Friends



Our Ambitious Friends form the backbone of Ambitious about Autism: making a generous, annual commitment to our work; making the ordinary possible for children and young people with autism.

We are always looking to increase this special group of our most generous and influential supporters.

The membership is £1,200 (£100 a month), but we are delighted that a number of our Ambitious Friends are kind enough to make five- and six-figure donations

Partner with us



Nothing we do would be possible without our partners. A lot of people will have a connection to someone with autism or be impacted by autism. There are many ways you can support us. You might want to fund one of our projects, organise an event in aid of Ambitious about Autism or support employees who want to volunteer for us.

Leave us a legacy



By leaving a legacy, you can support the next generation of children with autism.

Donate online



Donate online via our secure website page and make a lasting difference to the lives and futures of children with autism, today.

Campaign with us



We know it's a real challenge that children and young people with autism and their families face.

We campaign to change policy and practice, as we want to make sure all children with autism can get the help they need to succeed at school and achieve their potential as young adults.

Families are the most powerful campaigners of all and we hope you will be inspired to get involved in our campaigning work.

If you are interested in finding out more information about the many ways you can support us, please visit ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk/get-involved

Huge thanks to our proud partners and supporters

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I want to Gift Aid this donation/my donation of £_____ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past four years to Ambitious about Autism. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signature _____

Date

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Please notify us if your circumstances change.

Contacting you:

You can change your mind about hearing from Ambitious about Autism at any time by writing to us at **Ambitious about Autism, The Pears National Centre for Autism Education, Woodside Avenue, London N10 3JA**, emailing fundraising@ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk or calling **020 8815 5444**. Or if you do not wish to hear from us now, please tick the box below:

I do not wish to receive any further correspondence or information about the work of Ambitious about Autism.

We are Ambitious about Autism

Ambitious about Autism is the national charity for children and young people with autism.

We provide services, raise awareness and understanding, and campaign for social and policy change. Through TreeHouse School, The Rise School and Ambitious College, we offer specialist education and support.

Our ambition is to make the ordinary possible for more children and young people with autism.

Contact us

The Pears National Centre for Autism Education
Woodside Avenue, London N10 3JA

☎ 020 8815 5444

✉ info@ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk

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about Autism**

Ambitious about Autism is a registered charity in England and Wales: 1063184 and a registered company: 3375255.

Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust is an exempt charity in England and Wales and a registered company: 08335297.

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