

Making the ordinary possible

for children and young people with autism

Annual Report and Accounts 2016/17



**Ambitious
about Autism**



About Autism

Autism is a lifelong developmental disability which **affects one in 100** people in the UK.

It affects the way a person communicates and how they experience the world around them. Autism 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 needs and preferences. Some people with autism are able to live relatively independent lives, but others may face additional challenges, including learning disabilities, which affect them so profoundly that they need support in many areas.

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

Statistics

ONE in **100**
people in the UK have autism

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

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

45% of children with autism have been sent home illegally or denied a full education

Between 40% and 63% of children with autism have been bullied at school

Fewer than **ONE** in **FOUR** young people with autism access education or training beyond school

Over 1,000 parents are forced to take legal action every year to get the appropriate educational support for their child

Only **16%** of adults with autism are currently in full-time paid employment

The **lack of support** for children, young people and their families **costs society £32 billion a year.**

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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. That's why:

- **We are ambitious** – investing in our staff team to make sure our work has the biggest impact on children and young people with autism
- **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
- **We are open** – to new ideas, in how we work and how we make decisions
- **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 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.



Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust

Ambitious about Autism established the Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust, a multi-academy trust that runs and supports the development of new special schools to enable children and young people with autism to learn, thrive and achieve

The Trust is led by an experienced team of people passionate about education being the path to transform the life chances of children and young people with autism. With the right levels of both support and challenge at school, we know that they can go on to make a successful transition to adult life.

The Rise School was the first school set up by the Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust in September 2014. It is a special school dedicated to educating pupils with autism aged 4 to 18, inspected by Ofsted.



Ambitious highlights



The former Minister for Vulnerable Children and Families, **Edward Timpson MP, officially opened the Pears Campus of Ambitious College** at the College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London, alongside Sir Trevor Pears of Pears Foundation. Ambitious College was inspected by Ofsted and received a good rating in all areas. It highlighted the “experienced leadership team... which drives a culture of continuous improvement.” It also said “Learners enjoy their time at the college and make good progress. They improve their social skills and learn to communicate more effectively.”

The Rise School was inspected by Ofsted and received a good rating in all areas. It was praised in their report as a school in which “pupils flourish.” **Ade Adepitan MBE opened The Rise School's brand new, bespoke building** alongside local MPs Seema Malhotra and Ruth Cadbury. He celebrated with a game of basketball with the pupils.



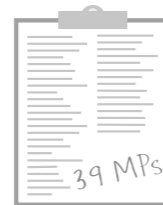
We launched our award-winning Autism Exchange programme to businesses. The programme aims to ensure young people with autism are given the careers advice and work experience they need to prepare them for the work place and employers have the training and understanding to recruit and support people on the autism spectrum. We ran the programme for the third year in partnership with five Civil Service departments.



TreeHouse School welcomed ITV News London to their school alongside the author David Mitchell.



We became a Disability Confident Employer at Level 3 Disability Confident Leader, which recognises that we go the extra mile to make sure disabled people get a fair chance.



We launched our education campaign at parliament, highlighting how the education system was failing children and young people with autism. **Thirty-nine MPs and representatives from the House of Lords signed up** to show their support and the campaign received both national, broadcast and local media coverage. The pressure put on government led to a consultation on school exclusions in March 2017. We continue this campaign to further strengthen guidance and local implementation.



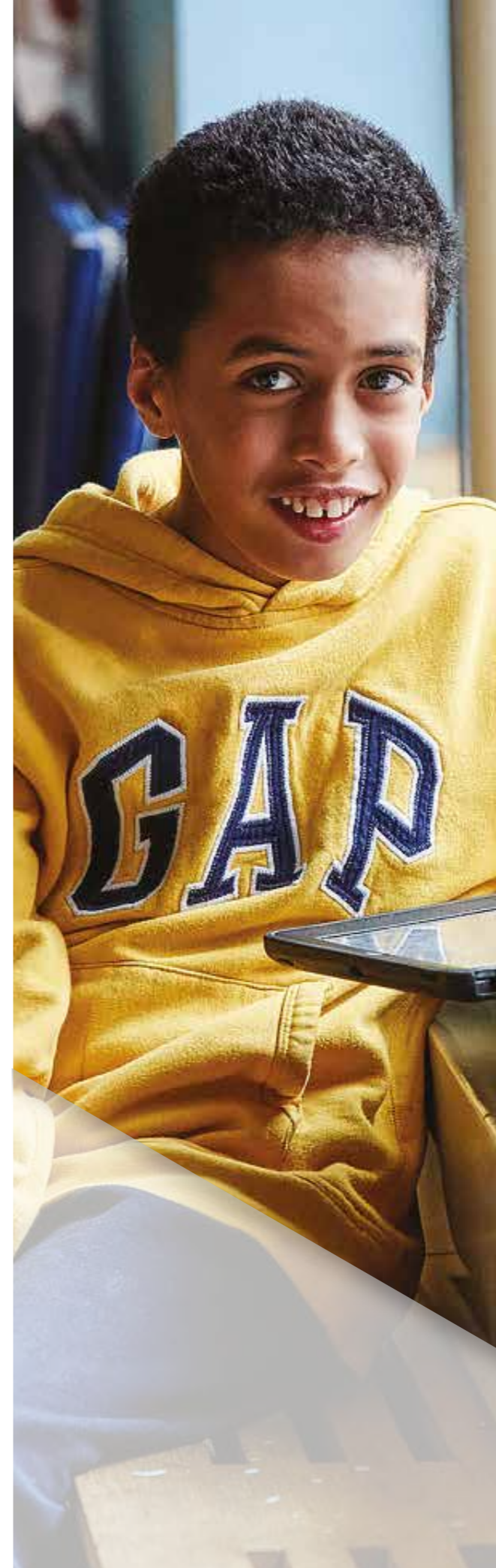
Our Youth Council and volunteers reclaimed the word 'normal' for World Autism Awareness Month and launched their Know Your Normal campaign, which focused on mental health in young people with autism. Their toolkit has been included in the 'autism toolkit,' available from The Royal College of General Practitioners (GPs).



We celebrated training over 100,000 school staff, as part of the Autism Education Trust, at the House of Commons.



We celebrated with our partners, TalkTalk, who reached a new milestone for the charity by **raising just over £3 million since the partnership began** and over £402,975 for us in a single night at our Night of Ambition Gala Dinner. Over 200 riders took on the third Rapha Manchester to London ride for us where they cycled 220 miles in a single day. This coming year we hope to hit the £1million mark.



Foreword

Chief Executive

It's been a record-breaking year for Ambitious about Autism. Working with our partners and supporters, we have made real strides in helping to make the ordinary possible for children and young people with autism. Ambitious about Autism exists to help children and young people with autism to learn, thrive and achieve. This can only be attained if children and young people are safeguarded and protected from abuse and neglect and this remains a top priority for us.

Our schools and college continued to go from strength to strength and we celebrated the official opening of both The Rise School and Ambitious College, as well as the opening of our second Ambitious College campus at West Thames College.

We increased our national reach through our campaigning work. Our education campaign published ground-breaking research regarding the failure of the education system to support children and young people with autism to learn, thrive and achieve. It led to a government consultation on school exclusions and we are confident that it will result in a change in the way these are recorded. Our Youth Patrons hosted a conference for 200 young people, professionals and families as part of their first youth-led campaign, Know Your Normal.

We trained more educational professionals than ever through our partnership with the Autism Education Trust and our own training programme. Our Succeeding at College programme trained over a quarter of all colleges in England on improving the transition from school to college for young people with autism. The training programme aims to address the fact that fewer than one in four people with autism go on to further education or training beyond school.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank every one of our partners, including Pears Foundation, TalkTalk and Rapha, for their continued support for our work. I would also like to thank our dedicated team of staff, Trustees and Governors who ensure our work achieves impact and change for children and young people with autism. Most importantly, I 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,
Ambitious about Autism

Chair of Trustees



Neil Goulden
Chair of Trustees
Ambitious about Autism

Over the past few years as a Trustee of Ambitious about Autism, and now in my newly appointed role as Chair of the Board of Trustees, I have greatly enjoyed watching the charity live up to its ambitious name. It's a difficult time for charities with a challenging funding climate and austerity, but we have not let this dampen our commitment to making the ordinary possible for children and young people with autism.

This past year we have seen the charity achieve some important milestones in its services and it has grown both in size and profile. Staff are enthused by the new strategy which sets out how Ambitious about Autism plans to get closer to achieving its vision for children and young people with autism. It focuses on all the stages around ensuring a child can learn, thrive and achieve in from being ready for school, to being supported to achieve at school and to being prepared for adulthood. It also focuses on growing its enthusiastic community of supporters through its online activities, youth participation, training and fundraising efforts.

We will continue to grow our services for children and young people with autism, and develop our Pears Campus of Ambitious College at West Thames College.

As we move into 2018 and beyond, I am proud of what Ambitious about Autism has achieved and remain passionate about what we hope to achieve for children and young people with autism. Our amazing staff team, partners, funders and supporters are ambitious and determined and I know that together we can make the ordinary possible.



Chair of Youth Council



Jonathan Andrews
Chair of Youth Council
Ambitious about Autism

As well as being Youth Council Chair, I lead on work with the Autism Exchange Programme, a ground-breaking initiative offering paid quality work experience to young people with autism, and autism awareness training for employers.

Co-developed with the Civil Service, this year the scheme rolled out among several more departments, and had private sector involvement for the first time – something which looks to continue to grow in the years ahead, offering young people with autism a wide variety of jobs and roles so they can best decide what works for them.

It was also brilliant to see Know Your Normal, a campaign aimed at tackling barriers to proper mental health support, and encouraging greater self-understanding and mental wellbeing among autistic people (and non-autistic people). The campaign was truly grassroots with the original concept being developed entirely by youth patrons. It has been a great success so far, earning support among the wider public and charity sector.

I'm also happy to see the Youth Council increase in prominence – I became a Trustee this year and I look forward to building on this in the future.

Strategic report

Our strategy

Ambitious about Autism's four strategic objectives in 2016/17 were:



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



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



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



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

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

- Education Services
- External Affairs

Education services

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

We set up and manage pioneering education services, including schools and colleges, for children and young people with autism. Since setting up TreeHouse School in 1997 we have gone on to set up the Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust and open Ambitious College, London's only registered college for young people aged 16 to 25 with complex autism.

This year we focused on developing the Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust, our multi-academy trust that runs and supports the development of new special schools, and the opening of both the north and west Pears Campuses of Ambitious College. We also worked hard to ensure our existing services grow and go from strength to strength.





TreeHouse School

98%

of pupils achieved their targets

86%

of pupils graduating from TreeHouse have confirmed funding to enter training or further education in comparison to the national average of fewer than 25%

100%

of pupils participated in their annual review and plans

80%

of parents and carers were satisfied with the service received

80%

of parents and carers feel their child or young person is making the appropriate progress

80%

of parents and carers feel better equipped to support their children and young people

TreeHouse School is the first special school set up by Ambitious about Autism in 1997. Based in the heart of a thriving community in North London, it educates an average of 85 pupils aged 3 to 19 with complex autism from across London and the Home Counties. Pupils are supported by the school's own highly skilled team of qualified teachers, behaviour analysts, speech and language therapists, and occupational therapists working together to enable them to achieve outstanding outcomes.

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...

- **Welcomed a new Head Teacher to the school**, Kerry Sternstein. Kerry has over 30 years' experience of working with children, young people and adults in a range of settings.
- **Welcomed many guests to TreeHouse School**, including musical prodigy and jazz pianist, Derek Paravicini; bestselling author David Mitchell; the award-winning Ballet Boyz and a set of chicks and ducks!
- **Ran the Duke of Edinburgh Programme for the first time**, which supported our learners out in the community and developed their social skills
- **Celebrated winning awards in sports and horticulture**, finishing as Gold Medallists in the Budding Gardener Competition and making the final of the Panathlon Challenge
- **Saw more pupils than ever accessing sport, arts, culture and leisure activities** in the local community. Pupils explored the work of Rauschenberg in partnership with the Tate Exchange at the Tate Modern
- **Saw our art work featured on ITV National News.**

*To protect the privacy of certain individuals the names and identifying details have been changed.



Case study: Sarah*

"Sarah started at TreeHouse School when she was nine. She had been in two schools prior to that – one mainstream, the other a special school. Neither of these schools was right for her. Sarah, who had very little speech at the time, would throw herself on the floor and hurt herself because she didn't understand what was being asked of her. The teachers couldn't help her and didn't know how to communicate with her. They would say that she couldn't do things when I knew she could.

"When Sarah arrived at TreeHouse School, she was still self-injuring. The teaching staff quickly formed a strong bond with her and introduced strategies to reduce this. The teachers understood Sarah and worked with her strengths and passions to rebuild her trust in them, and in herself. It was only then that Sarah started to speak more. TreeHouse is definitely the right school for Sarah because it makes her believe in her achievements. The staff give her the confidence that the other schools didn't. I help by telling her teachers what she likes, so they can personalise their teaching to meet her needs. Sarah's in the lower sixth and she was able to choose her three favourite vocational pathways: horticulture, sport and art. She's always in the garden at home and the school is looking at opportunities for her to work in a garden centre when she graduates. It's great to think that Sarah could gain employment and play an active part in her local community.

"We're relieved we can send Sarah to a school that's aspirational for her. She is so happy at TreeHouse School and is always smiling and giggling."

Work-related learning is a core part of the curriculum at TreeHouse School. It is concerned with the world of work, work experience and careers education. Many of our pupils take part in work experience placements in our local community of Muswell Hill, London.



"We are so delighted to be working with TreeHouse School and look forward to welcoming some of its pupils to complete work experience in our store. This is not just a fantastic opportunity for the pupils, but also for the colleagues and managers within the store. Having seen the amazing work that the school does for its pupils first hand, it's wonderful to provide further learning and development opportunities for the pupils in a store environment such as Sainsbury's. We are really excited about the prospect of helping such a great project within our local community."

Sainsbury's, Muswell Hill



Overall **91.5%**
of learners achieved their targets

100% of our learners moved
to their agreed destinations

88% parents rated us as good
or outstanding service in informing
them of their young person's progress
and learning

82% rated us as good or
outstanding in relation to their young
person's progress

80% can see positive changes
in their young person outside of college
as a result of attending college

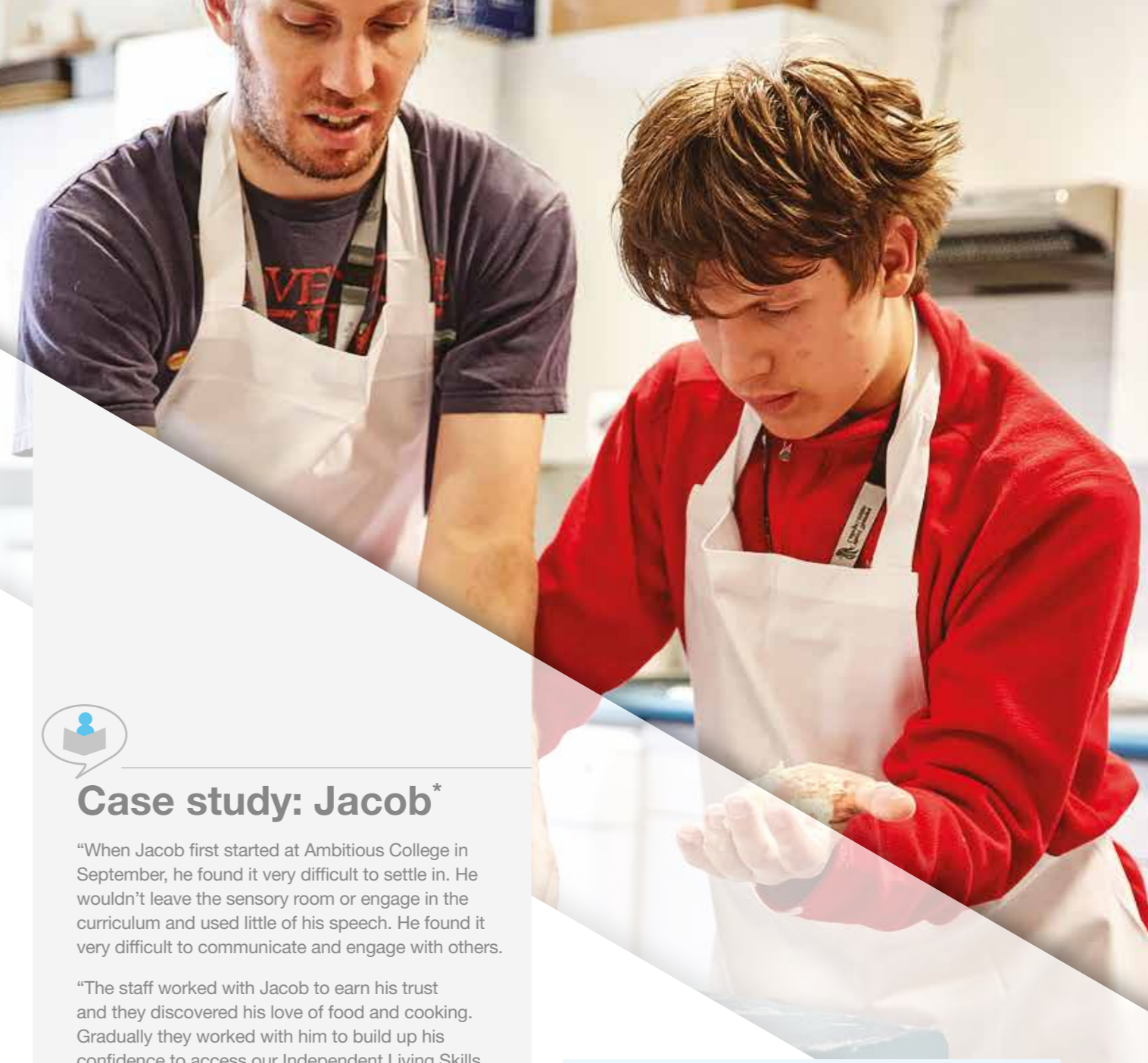
Ambitious College was rated 'good' by
Ofsted in April 2017

Ambitious College is London's only specialist day college set up by Ambitious about Autism in September 2014. It is dedicated to providing further education and training to young people aged 16 to 25 with complex 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 with 44 learners across the two campuses at the end of the 2016/17 academic year.

Ambitious College provides specialist and integrated further education and support to enable learners to gain vocational, life and employability skills and work experience. Being located on mainstream campuses in the heart of thriving communities is key to the college's successful model. It enables young people to access learning, social, employment and leisure opportunities alongside their mainstream peers, whilst receiving the specialist support they need.

This year we...

- **Welcomed the then Minister for Vulnerable Children and Families, Edward Timpson MP**, who officially opened the Pears Campus of Ambitious College at the College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London. We celebrated the official opening with learners and key partners including the Pears Foundation
- **Achieved a "good" rating in all areas following an Ofsted Inspection.** The report highlighted the "experienced leadership team...which drives a culture of continuous improvement"
- **Announced the first winner of the inaugural Paul Head Learner Achievement Award**, Stacey Lynn, a second year learner
- **Received coverage** of Ambitious College in The Guardian, The Independent, London Evening Standard and ITV News
- **Won the Haringey Community Impact Award** as a Voluntary and Community Sector newcomer for our work to improve the lives of Haringey residents.



Case study: Jacob*

"When Jacob first started at Ambitious College in September, he found it very difficult to settle in. He wouldn't leave the sensory room or engage in the curriculum and used little of his speech. He found it very difficult to communicate and engage with others.

"The staff worked with Jacob to earn his trust and they discovered his love of food and cooking. Gradually they worked with him to build up his confidence to access our Independent Living Skills Kitchen. Initially, he enjoyed playing with the switches and buttons but had little understanding of their function. Staff taught Jacob how to make a cheese sandwich and toast it using the switches and he was delighted. His confidence grew as did his use of speech.

"Since then he has learned how to use the microwave, the washing machine and the dishwasher. All of these skills are important for Jacob's independence and he enjoys them. He often looks to staff for feedback and is now excited to start his cooking lessons when he comes into College."

"As a parent of a child with autism, I know how difficult it is to secure the right education. I support Ambitious College for giving young people and their families a lifeline that can be trusted."

Rt. Hon John Bercow MP,
Speaker of the House of Commons and
Ambitious about Autism Parent Patron.



The Rise School

80%

of pupils achieved their targets

100%

of pupils and parents participated in their annual review and plans

97%

parents say their child is happy at school

97%

of parents believe their child is taught well at school

97%

believe the school is well led and managed

The Rise School was rated 'good' by Ofsted

The Rise School was the first school set up by the Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust. Established in September 2014, it had 60 pupils by the end of the 2016/17 academic year. It is a special needs day school, dedicated to educating pupils aged 4 to 16 with autism. 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 whilst receiving the specialist support they need.

Pupils at The Rise School access the national curriculum at approximate age appropriate levels. 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.



"An incredible new build – what visionaries! All staff looked genuinely dedicated, excited and had joyful vision"

Parent

This year we...

- **Achieved a 'good' rating in all areas following our first Ofsted Inspection.** It was praised in their report as a school in which "pupils flourish"
- **Welcomed Paralympian Ade Adepitan, MBE to officially open our new building.** He even played a game of basketball with the pupils
- **Elected our first ever Student Council.** The whole school community took part, learnt how to be fair and work together
- **Built some wonderful relationships with the local community in Feltham,** including inviting the residence of Lavender Court, a local sheltered residential home, to the school for afternoon tea
- **Developed our Wellbeing Garden** which is now home to two guinea pigs – Ginger and Spice.



Ade Adepitan MBE, said:

"I was absolutely delighted to have been invited by the pupils of The Rise to officially open their new school. It's fantastic to know that children with autism are receiving an education where their special educational needs can be met so they can reach their full potential."



Lord Nash, Parliamentary under Secretary of State for the School System, said:

"It is wonderful to witness how the free schools programme can facilitate such innovative, specialised schools that are able to serve the local community in the best way possible. I am delighted that through being co-located alongside Springwest Academy, The Rise School will give pupils with autism a large range of learning opportunities and the chance to thrive, both educationally and socially, in an environment suited to them."



External affairs

Autism is a hidden disability and is often misunderstood. We work to increase awareness and understanding of autism and to effectively support children and young people with autism so they can learn, thrive and achieve.

To increase understanding of autism, we provide **training and support** for individuals including professionals, parents, schools, colleges, health trusts and employers. **We do this to share knowledge and skills to improve practice and outcomes for children and young people.** This is how we maximise reach and impact with our limited resources.

We also run our Autism Exchange programme which 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. Through this programme we run training in understanding autism for employers and managers and offer work experience opportunities for young people with autism.

Our website provides parents, professionals and the public with a good source of up-to-date, accurate information on autism, how to seek support and ways to get involved in our work.

To increase awareness of autism and improve practice, we work to influence policy and campaign to ensure that national and local policy and practice considers the needs of children and young people with autism. **We do this by proactively raising issues affecting children and young people with autism in education** and by responding to proposed changes in policy and coverage in the media.

We also work closely with the media across the UK to increase good quality coverage about autism, and we push our online profile via our website and social media.

Children and young people with autism are at the heart of everything we do. All our work is informed by the views and experiences of young people with autism through our Youth Council, Learner and Family Support team and wider participation programme.

Increased awareness and understanding Training and consultancy

97% of professionals and **96%** of parents felt they had gained knowledge in supporting children with autism

96% felt the delivery of the training was high quality

Our team of experts run training across the country to improve autism understanding.

We believe staff training is an important and valuable way of increasing an understanding of autism. A well-trained workforce is crucial to helping children and young people with autism thrive and achieve their full potential. We also recognise that parents often feel overwhelmed when their child receives a diagnosis of autism. We delivered training for both parents and professionals to improve educational practice and outcomes for children and young people with autism. We also ran training in partnership with the Autism Education Trust for schools and post-16 settings across London and the south-east.

We ran courses on understanding autism which provided a comprehensive overview of the autism spectrum, and explored how autism presents itself differently in individuals and how people with autism experience the world around them. We ran training for employers on how to improve their understanding of autism and how best to support someone on the spectrum in the work place. We also ran training on Positive Behaviour Support (PBS).

This year as a leading partner in the Autism Education Trust we...

- **Celebrated at the House of Commons** for reaching the milestone of training over 100,000 education professionals
- **Delivered training to 1,259 people** in schools and colleges across the country

This year we also...

- **Trained staff working in a variety of settings,** including education professionals, employers, healthcare professionals, social workers, community workers and international clients seeking best practice
- **Trained over a quarter of all colleges in England** on improving the transition from school to college for young people with autism through our Succeeding at College training programme
- **Trained 544 professionals** from a variety of organisations, including, but not limited to, Bromley Mencap, the NHS, Santander, Deutsche Bank, NASEN, Kobe University of Japan, North London Scouts and a number of departments across the Civil Service
- **Trained 245 parents and carers on understanding autism.**

Parent feedback

“Great, explained clearly from a professional view.”

“Clear, calm, made to feel comfortable.”

“Very worthwhile, impressed with the content and delivery.”

Professional feedback for our AET training

“Excellent trainer, very useful ideas and strategies. I really enjoyed it.”

“A fantastic presenter – engaging and knowledgeable.”

“Very well organised. The delivery was very, very good (easy to understand) good examples.”

Case study: Dogs Trust

Dogs Trust has a campaign called ‘Be Dog Smart’ which aims to help children and families understand how to behave around dogs and keep safe. Dogs Trust approached us to learn how they could become more autism friendly and to ensure their campaign message reached children and families with autism.

We began by working with Dogs Trust to redesign the ‘Be Dog Smart’ leaflet to make it more accessible for children and families with autism and this will be freely available to download from the Dogs Trust website. We also delivered a one day understanding autism training for the education team. This team visits schools and young offender institutions throughout the country to educate children and young people about staying safe around dogs. The team was really keen to learn how to engage effectively with children with autism in a classroom and a one-to-one setting.

The training was enthusiastically received and the Dogs Trust decided to tailor future lessons to the individual and adapt their content to ensure it was inclusive.

“

“Really engaging and interesting.”

“Up to date and away from old stereotypical views.”

“Excellent delivery – clear and positive.”

“Very informative with good pace and ideas for practical application.”

Autism Exchange

Every young person participating in the programme reported that their **knowledge of the work place had increased because of completing their placement.**

Every employer participating in the programme reported that their **knowledge of autism and the way it affects young people had increased because of participating in the Autism Exchange programme.**

The award-winning 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 Autism Exchange 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 different disciplines, including HR, finance, communications and IT.

The programme was developed in partnership with the Civil Service in 2015 and 2016. In 2017, the programme was expanded to include other employers.

This year the programme:

- **Won the Extending Reach award** at RIDI (Recruitment Industry Disability Initiative)
- **Expanded the programme to new businesses**, including TalkTalk and Guidant Group



“I am so pleased that our Autism Exchange programme, delivered with our partner Ambitious about Autism, continues to grow in strength and that the Civil Service has been able to offer work insight experience to more young people this year. It is heartening, too, that companies from other sectors are keen to learn from our approach so that more young people might be helped in future.”

Janet Hill, CBE
Programme Director of the Civil Service
Disability Inclusion Team

The former Minister for Disabled People, Work and Health, Penny Mordaunt MP, said:

“Businesses have been missing out on the huge talent and insight that people with autism can bring to the workforce, and for too long this group has been excluded from the benefits and opportunities that having a job can bring.

“I urge employers across London to sign up to this innovative programme and continue to build on its success.”



Case study: Amy*

“I gained skills in presenting information to a team, condensing that information down to a short pitch, research, conducting oneself and communicating in a professional office environment. I also gained experience of what it’s like to work in a corporate style hierarchy, what meetings are like with the top people in a department, what kind of language one uses in the Civil Service, as well as about the competencies, and the different commercial and political considerations one has to make when working in government.

“I was able to put my skills in research and analysis to great use in the project I was asked to complete. I was also able to use my communication skills which I have built up over the years during my degree and with help from Balance charity in Surbiton.

“The placement was extremely useful in confirming my interest in the Civil Service as a career, as well as in giving me a good overview of other employees’ career history and how they used experience from other jobs to inform their role in the civil service.

“It was an enjoyable, enlightening, enabling and emboldening experience.”

Manager at the Civil Service

“There has been enormous support across my directorate, and appreciation of the great work that [the young person] did. I think awareness of the value that people with autism can bring to the work place has been greatly raised. On a more practical level, Amy’s tremendous output ensured my team hit their demanding targets during a time of tight resources.”



Learner and family support

109 supportive interactions with families at TreeHouse School and Ambitious College

8 events held across TreeHouse School and Ambitious College for parents and carers

Currently, fewer than one in four children and young people with autism continue their education beyond school. However, at TreeHouse School,

71% of this year's learners have gone on to college, and the remainder are either at day centres or being assessed for home or day opportunity packages.



Our learner and family support service recognises that the families of children who attend our services are likely to need additional support as many of the young people have complex needs. We know that through additional support and guidance at key steps - like transitioning in and out of school or college - learners can greatly improve the outcomes for young people and reduce stress and anxiety for the family.

We support families online on our website in the 'Understanding Autism' section and through our online community 'Talk about Autism', which has over 11,500 members. We support the families of children and young people who access our services at annual review meetings, parent's evenings, coffee mornings, sports days and group visits to college open days and care services. We focus our support on families and young people in a transition year and/or crisis.

This year we...

- **Supported young people and their families in attending events** such as Tavistock Open Evening, Share Community Open Day, North London SEN LA Conference, Share Community Learner Awards Event, National Careers Guidance Show, Aspire Careers Event at West Thames, Hounslow Autism Social Group Meeting, Wave Pop Up Café Evening Social, The Autism Show, Neurodiversity Social Event (Autism Hounslow), The Leighton Project Open Morning, LDN Camden Open Morning and Holmewood Sixth Form Careers Fair
- **Met with 74 parents at our Transition Events, which ran three times.** The event has a series of presentations for families and hosts different organisations, further education providers and specialists to support families and young people in looking at next steps post school or college
- **Received coverage of our work** and approach to careers advice for young people with autism in the magazine Career Matters.



"All three presentations were very informative indeed. They covered a wide range and a substantial amount of information which enriched my knowledge and perspective in this world of autism and other SEN issues."

Parent after attending a Transition Event



Case study: Neil*

Skills London is the UK's biggest careers event and welcomes over 33,000 visitors over two days. Accessing an event like this is challenging for our TreeHouse School pupils as the loud noises, volume of people and need to use public transport to attend the event can make it inaccessible. This year, we worked with Skills London and secured a quiet room at the event for our pupils. We also prepared them in advance using travel training, social stories and photos and videos of how the day would run. For the first time, one of our sixth form pupils was able to attend the event.

Neil is in year 13 and had previously stated that he was keen to study ICT and languages. Neil planned his journey to the event independently using Google Maps. The journey to the event was an opportunity for him to practice his travel skills. At first Neil was a little uncertain of which directions to take, but with some support from his teachers, he eventually gained confidence and was able to navigate through the transport system fairly independently.

In the 'Get Skilled' area which has stands where students can engage in fun activities, Neil was able to interact with other students and professionals. He listened to music in a 'Silent Disco' and also created his own track. Neil really enjoyed the sound system and was so motivated that he spontaneously asked lots of questions.

Following the event Neil answered feedback questions which gave him the opportunity to reflect on his experience. He said that he had lots of fun at the event and particularly "...loved travelling independently." Neil also said that he liked talking to people and making music. He particularly wants to visit City of Westminster College in the future because of the Retail and Enterprise course available there.

Neil was able to develop his social and communication skills and gain an understanding of the next steps he would like to take after leaving TreeHouse School.

Information

1,667,970

website visits

27,121 Twitter followers

15,836 Facebook likes

11,728
community members on
Talk about Autism

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...

- Expanded our 'Understanding Autism' section of the website to include up-to-date information on education and diagnosis
- Launched our podcast for young adults with autism, parents and professionals.



"It is just great to have somewhere to go to get practical advice from people who know what you are going through. Sharing experiences has certainly helped me."

Member of Talk about Autism community



Matt Davis Parent Patron on Talk about Autism

"When a child gets diagnosed with autism it's quite an emotionally impactful, scary time. A paediatrician diagnosed our son Isaac at three and a little bit and we were given a certain amount of information, but you are then left kind of alone and a little bit at sea. So it was a case of going online and finding out about an organisation that could help and Ambitious about Autism seemed to be the most resourceful, interesting and relevant one.

"Talk about Autism has this ever-expanding community that's always on and as a parent you want to obtain information and then you are very happy to give it away as well. This could be anything from wanting to get a haircut, to wanting to go to the dentist, the day-to-day things that are massive challenges with autism, to the bigger, long term impactful incidences like education and independence.

"I'm now five and a half years into the journey of acquiring this knowledge and experience and a load of that has come via Ambitious about Autism, specifically Talk about Autism. It's a living, breathing, ever-changing community that's on hand. It's a lifeline for a lot of people and it is critical that it carries on."

Participation

- Youth Patrons designed and undertook research on mental health with the Centre for Research in Autism and Education (CRAE). CRAE consider our research an exemplar of inclusive research and is holding a special seminar to introduce its students to how it was undertaken
- Young people volunteered over 1,067 hours of their time towards campaigns and governance
- Close to 1,000 people tweeted after the launch of the Know your Normal campaign, reaching an audience of more than 2.3 million
- The Royal College of General Practitioners (GPs) agreed to make the Know your Normal toolkit and animation available as part of their 'autism toolkit' for GPs
- Young people have developed training for professionals on Know Your Normal which they will be delivering to NHS staff and to the members of Children and Young People's Mental Health Coalition run by the Mental Health Foundation

It is important that children and young people with autism have their views and experiences heard regarding decisions that affect them. Our core value is ensuring that children and young people with autism are at the heart of everything we do.

This year we...

- Ensured young people play a critical role in our governance. They have their own Youth Council which feeds into our Board of Trustees. The Chair of the Youth Council, Jonathan Andrews, was appointed to the Board of Trustees in July 2017
- Supported our Youth Volunteers to publish the Know Your Normal report and toolkit, which was launched at their Youth Lecture to over 200 people at the Wellcome Collection in London. Since then we have delivered training to numerous healthcare professionals and the video has had 40,590 views
- Supported the Autism Education Trust (AET) to develop a Youth Panel, which informs the development of its programme of work, including training for practitioners.

Dr Laura Crane, from the Centre for Research in Autism Education, said:

"Young autistic people felt that their 'normal' was different to that of other people and, strikingly, rather negative in nature. For example, young people highlighted how they generally felt unhappy and depressed, worthless, under strain, unable to overcome their difficulties, unable to face up to problems, and lacked confidence.

"It is not acceptable for unhappiness and depression to be seen as the 'normal' state for young autistic people. Indicators of the presence of a mental health problem can be subtle – this may make it difficult for the young autistic people, and other people who know them, to identify that they are experiencing mental health problems. This is a particular issue since young autistic people often reported finding it difficult to express their needs."



Chris's story

"I am grateful for the help Ambitious about Autism has given me and how it has changed me. I am more than just a person with autism: I am a disability advocate. Ever since I came to Ambitious about Autism it was a good feeling to help the community; for example, I went and reviewed Whittington Hospital to make sure it was autism friendly. I also helped give feedback on what Ambitious College should be like when it was being developed. I could go on with the other projects I have got on well with, but my thanks to Ambitious about Autism is just as important as is my thanks to the staff who participated within the myVoice project and the staff who have helped me there. One last thing to add it was thanks to Ambitious about Autism that I got employed at Red Brick Road, a job that not just went well with my skills but that helped my passion with the disability community, and that I was within my local authority for my disability awareness work, thanks to Ambitious."

Policy and campaigns

We work to ensure that national and local policy, practice and campaigns consider the needs of children and young people with autism. We do this by proactively raising issues affecting children and young people with autism in education and by responding to proposed changes in policy and coverage in the media.

This year we launched our education campaign with our research report on how the education system is failing children and young people with autism. As part of this report we said we believed the education system would improve if:

- **We get it right for children with autism from the start** – by making sure their educational needs are assessed after they get a diagnosis
- **We meet the needs of every child with autism** – by having the right mix of services and support available
- **We support schools to do a great job** – by making sure everyone who works in schools receives training to support children with autism
- **We protect the rights of children with autism** – by preventing illegal exclusions and supporting school governors to fulfil their legal responsibilities to children with autism.

Our research report was...

- **Launched at Parliament and 39 MPs and representatives from the House of Lords signed up to show their support**
- **Covered exclusively with The Times** and then on LBC News and the BBC's Victoria Derbyshire Show
- **Influential in the government's decision to launch a review into the guidance on exclusions** in mid-March.

We are working closely with the government to implement the recommendations outlined in the report and plan to publish a practical guide on exclusions. The guide is intended to help those responsible for children's education to understand their responsibilities and the scale of this issue to ensure that fewer children are unlawfully deprived of their right to a full education. It will contain a step-by-step process for parents to follow and include template letters they can adapt and send to relevant decision-makers.

This year we also responded to consultations released by the government that will positively impact on the opportunities for children and young people with autism in education, including the Schools that Work for Everyone Green Paper in December 2016; Early years funding formula in February 2017; Improving Lives: The Work, Health and Disability Green Paper - February 2017; and High Needs National Funding Formula and other reforms.

Minister of State for Vulnerable Children and Families, Edward Timpson MP, said in his opening speech:

"It is a real pleasure to come and open Ambitious College today and meet the young learners, their parents and staff. The college is doing amazing work in terms of providing learners with the vital support they need to access learning and employment opportunities as well as preparing them for adulthood.

"Ambitious about Autism should be congratulated for leading the way in providing this type of education provision for young people with autism in London. I hope that there are many more colleges like Ambitious College in the coming years. It is crucial that every young student with autism has the same opportunities as their peers so they can become active members of their communities."



Case study: School exclusions

A parent's story

"My daughter was sent home from school early as it was suggested that this would help to make the day easier for her. This was not a formal arrangement; I received no form of documentation. This arrangement meant that she missed an entire 30 minutes of her education every day. Sadly, she missed story time and saying goodbye to her classmates and teachers. She found this confusing and it did not have a positive impact on her education. It also had a negative impact on me and my family. As I had to go to the school early and also attend regular meetings, I was unable to get a paid job."

We work with the media across the UK to increase good quality coverage of autism and raise the profile of our services.

This year we secured coverage in:

- The Times, The Guardian, The Independent, The Daily Mail, The Sun, The Daily Telegraph, The Daily Mirror, The Metro, The I, The London Evening Standard
- ITV News, LBC News, BBC Victoria Derbyshire Show
- Bella, Candis, Woman's Own
- Autism Eye, Children and Young People Now, Enable Magazine, SEN Magazine, Education for Everyone Magazine
- Ham and High, Wood and Vale, Enfield Independent, Tottenham and Wood Green Independent
- And many other regional publications.

Excerpt from The Times article published on 17 October 2016

"Nearly half of all children with autism in England are likely to have been illegally excluded from schools that struggle to meet their needs, a charity has said.

"A report, shown exclusively to The Times, reveals that 45% of families with a child with autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) – about 20,000 children – had experienced unofficial exclusions where they were sent home because the school could not deal with their behaviour."



Future plans

This year we launched our new three-year 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 year's 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 policy makers** to promote early intervention in the UK
- Run an assessment service and information and **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:

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

Preparing for adulthood

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

- **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 24
- **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 whilst creating a model capable of replication elsewhere in the UK.

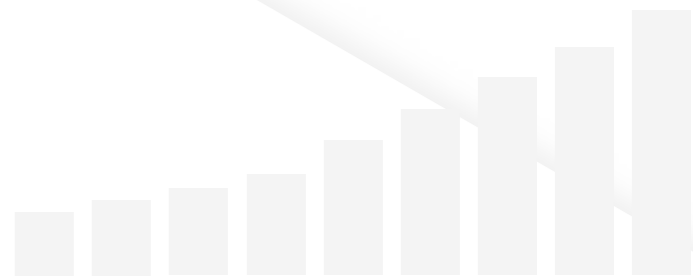


In 2018,
we are celebrating our
21st birthday

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 build the capacity of education settings and change policy by:

- **Developing our website and online community** to provide useful and engaging information for young people with autism and their families and professionals
- **Growing our Learner and Family Engagement Service** to support young people and families to access the right services in their communities
- **Continuing our youth participation programme** with young people with autism to ensure their views and experiences shape decisions made about their lives
- **Delivering training and development to educational professionals** to reach more children and young people with autism, including with the Autism Education Trust
- **Continuing to influence education policy** and campaign 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.

Fundraising report

The impact Ambitious about Autism can make each year is achieved as a result of the enormous generosity of a wide range of supporters. We depend heavily on this and are truly grateful to everyone who helped us raise **£2,769,000** last year. In addition, we raised government grants for our participation and training programmes which continue to be an absolute lifeline in helping us continue our work to improve the lives of children and young people with autism.

In January 2016 the charity sector welcomed the creation of the new Fundraising Regulator and we have used this as an opportunity to improve the transparency and effectiveness of our communications, making the supporter experience as positive and rewarding as possible.

During 2016/17 we saw our annual flagships events flourish and grow.

We held our annual gala dinner, 'Night of Ambition' in partnership with TalkTalk Group, and raised **£402,975**. Hosted again at Supernova, a stunning pop-up venue in the Embankment Gardens, Victoria, the event continues to attract guests from some of the UK's most successful telecom companies. Over 400 guests enjoyed a three-course dinner, live music and an exciting auction.

This event gave us the opportunity to celebrate our long-standing partnership with TalkTalk Group, and the amazing £3 million that has been raised since the inception of the partnership.

In partnership with Rapha, our third 'Manchester to London' bike ride was a huge success and remains without doubt the toughest event on our calendar.

The journey began at the Manchester Velodrome before dawn on 7 September, when 160 of Britain's bravest cyclists, including Rapha CEO Simon Mottram, set off on a 220 mile journey towards London's Olympic Park. Stretching through the Peak district, the Midlands and the Chiltern Hills, many cyclists were on the road for up to 17 hours.

ambitious about Autism
Ambitious Futures Appeal



Friends and relatives of the cyclists responded generously, taking overall donations through the three-year history of the event to an incredible £770,000. In September 2017 we hope to reach an astonishing **£1m** through this partnership with Rapha.

Every year we aim to offer our supporters the opportunity to participate in a diverse range of challenging events. This includes the chance to cycle, skydive, and run at a variety of locations across the country. This year was no different and our ambitious supporters ran, cycled and sky-dived their way to raising **£117,173**. The families and volunteers who cheered for them must also be commended, and we were delighted that one of our marathon runners raised the loudest cheer as he successfully proposed to his partner at our cheer point!

While we have many fundraising superheroes among our supporters, a particular mention must go to Trustee, **Martyn Craddock**, whose 'medal-a-month' fundraising escapades have left us in awe.

By the end of 2016/17 we had received **£3million** towards our fundraising target of **£4.5million** for Ambitious College.

Donations included a lead gift from Pears Foundation and generous donations from individuals, trusts and foundations who are acknowledged at the end of this report with our immense gratitude for their support.

Our fundraising efforts are now focused on establishing a second campus, co-located at West Thames College. Work commenced with a generous gift from the Foyle Foundation that led to the creation of a sensory room and IT suite. Recent

pledges have enabled us to progress to the second stage of the build, and we are now in a final push to secure the remaining income to complete the appeal and ensure the long-term sustainability of Ambitious College.

Other funding secured this year enabled us to deliver services that improved the employability of the young people we work with, and our thanks go to those supporters – also referenced at the end of this report – who have provided funding to help us to prepare our young people for adulthood.

Ambitious about Autism depends on the generosity of its funders to carry out essential work in educating and empowering young people with autism and their families. In an increasingly challenging funding environment, the support we receive from our funding partners is appreciated more than ever. As we look to the future, and the bold ambitions set out in our Ambitious Futures strategy, we aim to increase our levels of voluntary income over the next five years to develop and ensure that children and young people have a consistent pathway from early diagnosis to adulthood.

We are hugely grateful to the growing number of individuals, organisations and grant giving bodies that continue to support us in improving the lives of every child and young person with autism. Helping us to make the ordinary possible for these children and young people drives us and will keep us all working hard to realise their ambitions.



Financial report



Income
£23.2 million
 (including the transfer of net assets for AaAST)

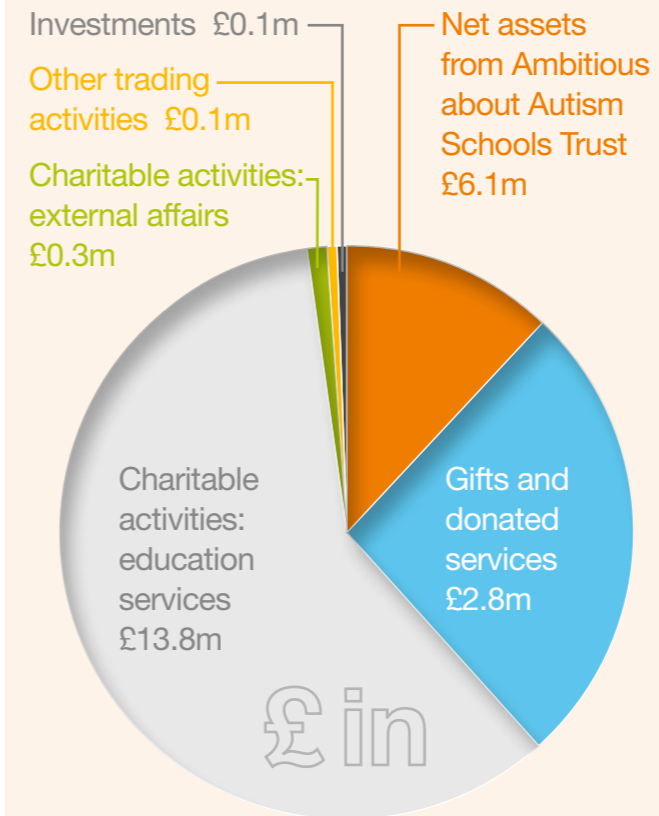
Expenditure
£17.9 million

Charitable services delivered growth, especially in the college

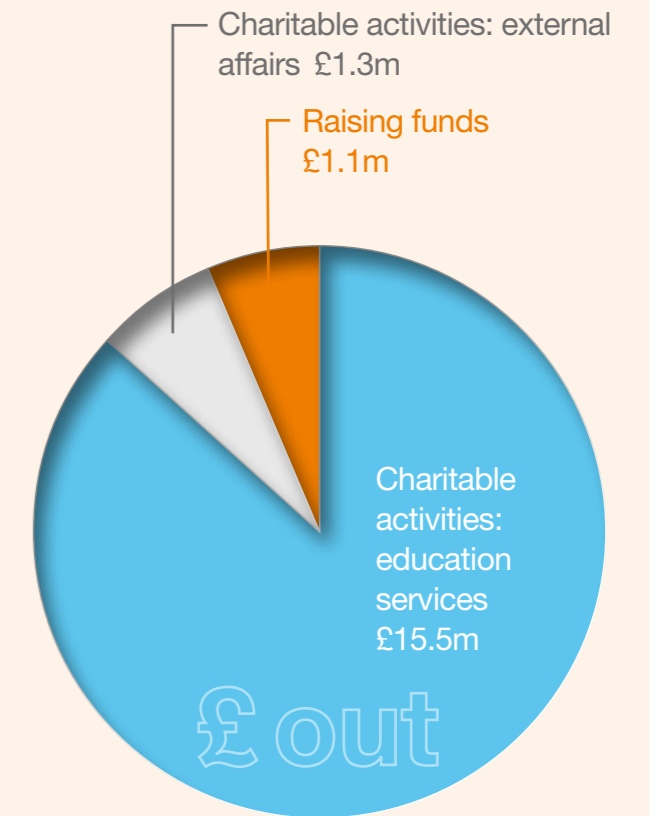


Financial report

Where our money comes from



How our money was spent



Financial review

The 17 months from 1 April 2016 to 31 August 2017 has been an exceptional time for Ambitious about Autism (AaA). On 1 April 2017 AaA became the sole organisational member of the Autism Schools Trust (AST). This resulted in the transfer of restricted net assets of £6.1m being included in the group accounts. In addition, restricted income of £1.1m and restricted expenditure of £1.0m has been included in the group accounts for the five month period to 31 August 2017.

As a consequence of AaA becoming the sole member of the Autism Schools Trust, AaA has changed its year end from April to August so that there is a common year-end across the group. Therefore, AaA's standalone accounts for 2016/17 present a 17 month period from 1 April 2016 to 31 August 2017. The standalone result for the 17 month period to 31 August was revenue of £16.1m and a net result of (£0.6m). The results for the 12 months to 31 March 2017 included income of £12.3m (2016: £10.8m) and a net result of £0.6m (2016: (1.3m)). The improved performance in 2017 was a result of the growth in pupil numbers at Ambitious College and fundraising initiatives. The details are included in note 27 in the financial statements. Furthermore, as outlined in note 26, the 12 months to 31 August 2017 report income of £11.9m and a net result of £0.1m. This is a positive result due to good pupil and learner numbers in the school and college, combined with a reduction in fundraising income in comparison to the 12 months ended 31 March 2017.

The five months from 1 April 2017 to 31 August 2017 produced income of £3.8m and a net result of (£1.3m). This period is unusual as it includes school and college fee income for one term and five twelfths of salary costs due to the summer holidays. During this period the school and college continued to perform well.

During 2016/17 the charity invested in leasehold improvements of £0.8m, furniture and equipment of £0.1m and computer equipment of £0.1m at Ambitious College. £0.3m was invested in IT and a new finance system which will reduce operating costs in the future.

The investment portfolio performed well during the period being valued at £1.7m as at 31 August 2017 including unrealised gains of £0.3m.

Investment policy

The charity's investment policy was approved by the Board of Trustees in June 2017. 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. This policy is reviewed at least annually. The Trustees have set a target return of inflation (CPI) + 3%, and this has been achieved in this period.

Reserves policy and going concern

Free reserves exclude restricted funds, designated funds and any parts of unrestricted funds not readily available such as long term fixed assets. At Ambitious about Autism we hold free reserves to mitigate against risks resulting from unexpected drops in fundraising income, a downturn in learner numbers or unexpected short term increases in expenditure. Our reserves policy is reviewed by the Trustees annually and was last reviewed in November 2017.

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 £1.2m and £1.7m. As at 31 August 2017, free reserves were £1,270k, which is slightly higher than the target position. Our budget for 2017/18 and five year finance model then projects free reserves to increase year on year which will take free reserves to well within target range. The Trustees will continue to monitor the reserves position closely throughout the year.

In addition to the free reserves, Ambitious about Autism has a number of designated funds totalling £5.3m as at 31 August 2017. These are:

- **Fixed assets which totalled £4,779k**
- **Cyclical maintenance fund** - a sinking fund, which is based upon projected 30 year life cycle costs, was established for major repairs to the Pears National Centre for Autism Education totalling £502k
- **School Development Fund** - a designated fund was created in 2013 for broader school development. Most of this fund was used in 2016/17 as a result of the AST transition, and the fund had a balance of £5k as at 31 August 2017
- **The Transformation Fund** to grow the capacity and capability of the organisation was fully utilised in 2016/17.

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, plan for potential major items of expenditure including set-up of the sixth form, and cover the lagged learner growth.

Fund balances as at 31 August 2017 totalled £6,096k. This comprised £242k of unrestricted funds, which equates to 36 days of expenses, a £315k deficit on restricted funds of which £692k relates to the pension liability and £6,169k of restricted fixed asset funds.

The funds balance at 31 August 2017, excluding the pension deficit, totalled £6,788k.



Risks and uncertainties

Risks are managed in accordance with the risk policy approved by the Board of Trustees, which was reviewed and updated in 2017.

The aim of the policy is:

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

Ambitious about Autism has a risk register which is reviewed annually by the Scrutiny and Audit Committee (SAC) 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 quarterly by the SAC and Board, together with actions taken or proposed to manage them.

The table below 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
<p>Learner numbers</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>To manage this 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.</p>
<p>Fundraising</p> <p>Our ability to operate and grow as set out in our strategy depends upon our ability to fundraise, both in terms of our £4.5m College Appeal where we have £1m to go, and general fundraising which we depend on for other impact generating projects across Ambitious about Autism.</p>	<p>We are working hard to ensure our existing partners are well supported and spread the work with new partners.</p>
<p>Recruitment and retention</p> <p>The failure to recruit and retain the quantity and quality of specialist staff poses a significant risk to services operating as planned.</p>	<p>Our staff are critical and in order that we can 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 we have a programme of skills and knowledge management development topics that are available to our staff. We have an annual staff survey to gain staff views and develop an action plan of how to make Ambitious about Autism a better place to work. We have also achieved Level 3 Disability Confident Leader.</p>



Structure, governance and management

Structure

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 which also acts as the directors of the company. Management of the charity is delegated to the Chief Executive and Executive Leadership Team (ELT).

The Board of Trustees has seven sub-committees: Scrutiny and Audit Committee; Investment Committee; Remuneration Committee; Governance Committee; Impact Committee; TreeHouse School Governing Body and the Ambitious College Governing Body.

Ambitious about Autism runs TreeHouse School, a non-maintained special school, and Ambitious College, a registered day college for young people aged 16 to 25 with autism, which was opened in 2014.

People with lived experience of autism are involved in the governance and decision making of the charity including the Board of Trustees and the Governing Bodies for TreeHouse School and Ambitious College.

The Youth Council is comprised of young people with autism and is chaired by Jonathan Andrews, a Trustee of Ambitious about Autism. Members of the Youth Council are encouraged to shape and influence our work and make presentations to the Board of Trustees.

Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. It was incorporated on 18 December 2012 (company number 08335297) The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust.

Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust is governed by a Board of Trustees, which also acts as the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. Management of the Trust is delegated to the Accounting Officer and Executive Management Team.

The Board of Trustees has four sub-committees: Finance and Resources Committee, a Rapid Improvement Group, Wellbeing and Engagement Committee, and a Governance Committee. Following a review after the Ofsted 2017 inspection, the Trustees approved the formation of a Curriculum and Standards Committee, which will replace the Rapid Improvement Group.

Employees

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, bi-monthly newsletters, senior management team cascades and management meetings. We also run an annual staff survey to allow staff to give upward feedback to senior managers.

We have a Staff Council, with representatives from across the organisation, which meets regularly so that the views of staff can be taken into account when making decisions regarding people policies and practices.

We encourage the involvement of staff across the organisation in its performance through a range of activities including staff participating in a range of fundraising events and supporting activities and events for our pupils and learners in our school and college.

All staff joining Ambitious about Autism have a comprehensive induction into the organisation. As part of this process the financial performance of the organisation and economic challenges and risks are discussed. We engage and update staff during the year on our performance, successes and challenges.

Remuneration policy for key management personnel

- We have a Remuneration Committee comprising Trustees, which reviews our executive performance and pay at least annually in line with our Total Reward Policy. Recommendations are made to the Trustee board for approval. In 2015 we commissioned an external independent review of Executive Leadership Team pay against the market, which last year informed the pay review (and future recruitment).
- We have extended the remit of the Remuneration Committee this year to review all staff pay issues alongside executive pay.

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 are fully and fairly considered and are treated fairly. All recruiting staff are trained to ensure potential applicants with disabilities are fully and fairly considered and are fully supported with relevant adjustments made during the recruitment process. We 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 and annual performance and development reviews.

We have access to advice from Occupational Health support and onsite physiotherapists to enable us to support any member of staff who becomes disabled during employment.

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 4 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.

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.

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.

Connected organisations

Ambitious about Autism is an active member of the Autism Schools Trust, Autism Education Trust, Autism Alliance, Communications Trust, Council for Disabled Children (CDC), National Association for Non-Maintained and Independent Special Schools (NASS), The Association of National Specialist Colleges (Natspec), the Steering Group of the Special Education Consortium (SEC), and the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Consortium. These are independent organisations and their results are not included in the financial statements of Ambitious about Autism.

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. The Rise School opened in September 2014, supporting pupils with autism in West London to learn, thrive and achieve. It is co-located with Spring West Academy, a mainstream secondary school, to enable pupils to access learning and social opportunities alongside their peers. AaAST is considering the development of further schools.



Governance and management

Organisational structure

The Board of Trustees follows a regular cycle of quarterly meetings and has at least one away day with executive leadership each year.

The Scrutiny and Audit Committee (SAC) meets quarterly in advance of the 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.

The Impact Committee meets quarterly and is responsible for oversight of our influencing work, quality of our services and our reputation.

All matters related to the educational performance of TreeHouse School are examined by the TreeHouse School Governing Body. Similarly, the educational performance of Ambitious College is overseen by the Ambitious College Governing Body.

The Remuneration Committee reviews and agrees remuneration and terms and conditions of employment for the Executive Leadership Team and meets at least once per year. The Investment Committee monitors the performance of the charity's investment portfolio. The Governance Committee deals with trustee renewal, support and review and meets quarterly. The SAC, Remuneration and Governance Committees comprise Trustees with relevant expertise. The TreeHouse School and the College Governing Bodies include some governors who are not Trustees who perform the roles required.

Ambitious about Autism has an Executive Leadership Team, headed by the Chief Executive, which reports to the Trustees and attends the board and sub-committee meetings.

Trustee recruitment, induction and training

The aim of the charity is to build a Board which has the optimum range of skills, experience and perspectives to ensure that the charity has the appropriate level of support, scrutiny and oversight.

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. During 2016/17 Neil Goulden became the Chair of the Board of Trustees and Lesley Longstone the Vice Chair. Lesley Longstone also became the Chair of the Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust. Jonathan Andrews and Charlotte Warner were appointed as Trustees of Ambitious about Autism.

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.

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 March 2017 was 12 (2016:11). The Trustees have no beneficial interest in the charitable company.

- Koral Anderson
- Jonathan Andrews (from 30 June 2017)
- Maria Chambers
(Chair of Ambitious College Governing Body)
- John Constantine
(Chair of the Board of Trustees until 30 June 2017)
- Martyn Craddock
- Paul Disley-Tindell (Chair of Remuneration Committee)
- Michael Fiddy
- Neil Goulden (Vice Chair until 30 June 2017 and Chair from 30 June 2017)
- Lesley Longstone (Chair of Impact Committee and Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees from 30 June 2017)
- Elizabeth Stanton
(Treasurer and Chair of the Scrutiny and Audit Committee)
- Philippa Stobbs
(Chair of TreeHouse School Governing Body)
- Charlotte Warner (appointed 16 December 2017)

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

Trustees of Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust

- Neil Goulden
(Chair to 27 June 2017, then Vice-Chair from 27 June 2017)
- Lesley Longstone
(appointed 1 April 2017 and Chair from 27 June 2017)
- Helen Baker (Vice-Chair until 1 April 2017)
- Mark E Paulson (Accounting Officer until 1 April 2017)
- Jolanta Lasota
(Accounting Officer from 1 April 2017)
- Joanna Healey
- Jennifer L A Nutt
- Kevin R Oakhill (until 27 June 2017)
- Stephen W Scown (until 1 April 2017)
- Elizabeth Stanton (from 1 April 2017)
- Charlotte E Warner

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

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

Expert Advisors

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
- Steve Broach
- Leo Capella
- Prof. Tony Charman
- Prof. Richard Hastings
- Prof. Pat Howlin
- Jonathan Meth
- Emran Mian OBE
- David Nicholson
- James Partridge OBE
- Nick Peacey
- 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. They are willing to lend their name to our ambitions and help us to attract support from a wide and varied audience. Our team of Ambassadors will grow over time as we find new people keen to champion Ambitious about Autism and eager to help us raise our profile and much needed funds. Our current team of Ambassadors is:

- Jon Snow
- Sarah Cawood
- Michelle Collins
- Niamh Cusack
- Jonny Gould
- 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. This team will grow over time as we recruit more parents who want to champion Ambitious about Autism and improve understanding and awareness of the condition. Our team of 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

- Jolanta Lasota - Chief Executive
- Vivienne Berkeley - Principal, Ambitious College
- Danae Leaman-Hill - Director of Fundraising (from 27 September 2017)
- Louise Posocco - Director of Finance & Planning and Company Secretary
- Sarah Roscoe - Headteacher of The Rise School
- Kerry Sternstein - Headteacher of TreeHouse School (from 29 August 2016)
- 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

Solicitors

Macfarlanes LLP
10 Norwich Street, London, EC4A 1BD

DLA Piper UK LLP
3 Noble Street, London, EC2V 7EE

Farrer & Co LLP
66 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3LH

Investment managers

Rathbone Bros Plc
1 Curzon Street, London, W1J 5FB

Auditors

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 which 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 23 March 2018 and signed on their behalf by

Neil Goulden
Chair of the Board of Trustees



Independent Auditor's report

We have audited the financial statements of Ambitious about Autism (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the period ended 31 August 2017 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 2017 and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the period 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 financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC'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 financial statements is not appropriate or
- The Trustees have not disclosed in the 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 twelve 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 financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the 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 financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the 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 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 period 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 its 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 Trustees' responsibilities 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

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.

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 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.

Helen Elliott (Senior statutory auditor)

Date: 26 March 2018

for and on behalf of Sayer Vincent LLP, Statutory Auditors
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

Financial statements

Consolidated statement of financial activities

(incorporating an income and expenditure account)

For the period ended 31 August 2017

	Note	For the 17 month period to 31 August 2017				Total £'000	Restated for the 12 month period to 31 March 2016 Total £'000
		Ambitious about Autism		Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust	Sub-total £'000		
		Unrestricted £'000	Restricted £'000	Restricted £'000			
Income from:							
Donations and legacies:							
Gifts and donated services	2	1,326	1,430	2,756	13	2,769	1,769
Net assets transferred from Ambitious About Autism Schools Trust*	24	-	-	-	6,082	6,082	-
Charitable activities:							
Educational services	3	12,756	24	12,780	1,047	13,827	8,478
External affairs	3	-	356	356	-	356	390
Other trading activities	4	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	5	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 loss to pension deficit		-	-	-	(85)	(85)	-
Net income/(expenditure) for the period	6	(1,526)	899	(627)	6,140	5,513	(1,281)
Transfers between and from funds	19	1,034	(990)	44	(44)	-	-
Net movement in funds	19	(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	25	(66)	-	(66)	-	(66)	(61)
As restated		7,049	326	7,375	-	7,375	8,656
Total funds carried forward	19	6,557	235	6,792	6,096	12,888	7,375

* 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 2017

Company no. 3375255

	Note	Group		Ambitious about Autism	
		31 August 2017 £'000	Restated 31 March 2016 £'000	31 August 2017 £'000	Restated 31 March 2016 £'000
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	11	17,796	10,609	11,341	10,609
Investments	12	1,719	1,455	1,719	1,455
		19,515	12,064	13,060	12,064
Current assets:					
Debtors	13	463	811	383	811
Cash at bank and in hand		2,088	1,823	1,349	1,823
		2,551	2,634	1,732	2,634
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(2,758)	(1,105)	(2,272)	(1,105)
Net current (liabilities)/assets		(207)	1,529	(540)	1,529
Total assets less current liabilities		19,308	13,593	12,520	13,593
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	16	(5,728)	(6,218)	(5,728)	(6,218)
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	17	(692)	-	-	-
Total net assets	18	12,888	7,375	6,792	7,375
Funds					
Restricted funds:					
Ambitious about Autism		235	326	235	326
Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust		6,096	-	-	-
Total restricted funds		6,331	326	235	326
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated funds		5,286	4,716	5,286	4,716
Fair Value reserve		259	-	259	-
General funds		1,012	2,333	1,012	2,333
Total unrestricted funds		6,557	7,049	6,557	7,049
Total net assets	19	12,888	7,375	6,792	7,375

Approved by the Trustees on 23 March 2018 and signed on their behalf by

Neil Goulden
Chair

Statement of cash flows

For the period ended 31 August 2017

	Note	For the 17 month period to 31 August 2017		Restated for the 12 month period to 31 March 2016	
		£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	20		1,669		(1,034)
Cash flows from investing activities					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments			78		67
Interest payable			(179)		(128)
Purchase of fixed assets			(1,322)		(469)
Proceeds from sale of investments			293		99
Change on cash held for investment			(62)		-
Purchase of investments			(223)		(99)
Net cash used in investing activities			(1,415)		(530)
Cash flows from financing activities:					
Repayments of borrowing			(472)		(377)
Net cash used in financing activities			(472)		(377)
Change in cash and cash equivalents			(218)		(1,941)
Change in cash held for investment			1,823		3,764
Change on acquisition of Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust	24		483		-
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year			2,088		1,823

Notes to the financial statements

For the period ended 31 August 2017

1. Accounting policies

a) Statutory information

Ambitious about Autism is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Pears National Centre for Autism, Woodside Avenue, London N10 3JA.

b) 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) (September 2015) 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.

c) Basis of consolidation

On 1 April 2017, by decision of the Board of Trustees, Ambitious about Autism acquired control of Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust, a UK company limited by guarantee (company registration number 3375255) that is also an exempt charity, for no consideration. The accounts of Ambitious about Autism consolidate Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust's accounts using the acquisition method. The net assets of Ambitious about Autism Schools Trusts on 1 April 2017 have been brought in at fair value as a donation. Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust's results subsequent to that date and Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust's net assets at 31 August 2017 are consolidated within these accounts on a line by line basis.

d) Public benefit entity

Both Ambitious about Autism and Ambitious about Autism School Trust meet the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

e) Going concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the group'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.

f) 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 and deferred until criteria are met.

g) 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.

h) 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.

i) 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.

j) 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 group 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.

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

k) Allocation of support costs

Resources are allocated to a particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, the support costs relating to each activity, comprising the salary and the overhead costs of the central function, are apportioned on the following basis which are an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity.

Central Function	Main Basis for Allocation
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

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

Notes to the financial statements For the period ended 31 August 2017

1. Accounting policies (continued)

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 AaA support provided to AaAST is eliminated on consolidation.

l) Operating leases

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

m) 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
Short leasehold	over the lease term
Computer equipment and software	3 years
Educational, office furniture and equipment	3-10 years
Motor vehicles	5 years

n) 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/(losses) on investments" in the statement of financial activities. The group does not acquire put options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments.

o) 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.

p) 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.

q) 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.

r) 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 period ended 31 August 2017

2. Income from gifts and donated services

	For the 17 month period to 31 August 2017					Restated for the 12 month period to 31 March 2016 Total £'000
	Ambitious about Autism			Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust		
	Unrestricted £'000	Restricted £'000	Sub-total £'000	Restricted £'000	Total £'000	
Gifts	1,255	1,430	2,685	13	2,698	1,769
Donated services	71	-	71	-	71	-
	1,326	1,430	2,756	13	2,769	1,769

3. Income from charitable activities

	For the 17 month period to 31 August 2017					Restated for the 12 month period to 31 March 2016 Total £'000
	Ambitious about Autism			Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust		
	Unrestricted £'000	Restricted £'000	Sub-total £'000	Restricted £'000	Total £'000	
Local Authorities	11,782	12	11,794	725	12,519	7,627
Education Skills Funding Agency	974	12	986	322	1,308	851
Sub-total for Educational Services	12,756	24	12,780	1,047	13,827	8,478
Autism Exchange Trust	-	172	172	-	172	-
Department for Education	-	-	-	-	-	229
Department of Health	-	184	184	-	184	161
Sub-total for External Affairs	-	356	356	-	356	390
Total income from charitable activities	12,756	380	13,136	1,047	14,183	8,868

4. Income from other trading activities

	For the 17 month period to 31 August 2017					Restated for the 12 month period to 31 March 2016 Total £'000
	Ambitious about Autism			Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust		
	Unrestricted £'000	Restricted £'000	Sub-total £'000	Restricted £'000	Total £'000	
Training and consultancy	97	-	97	-	97	80

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 £'000	For the 17 month period to 31 August 2017 £'000	Restated for the 12 month period to 31 March 2016 £'000
Ambitious about Autism:											
Cost of generating funds	565	291	-	-	-	165	-	125	15	1,161	1,059
Educational services	8,993	814	-	-	-	656	-	3,747	325	14,535	9,703
External affairs	755	250	-	-	-	59	-	181	25	1,270	1,218
	10,313	1,355	-	-	-	880	-	4,053	365	16,966	11,980
Support costs	1,257	383	627	297	630	786	73	(4,053)	-	-	-
Governance costs	312	21	-	-	-	-	32	-	(365)	-	-
Sub-total Ambitious about Autism costs	1,569	404	627	297	630	786	105	(4,053)	(365)	-	-
Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust	601	200	-	-	-	116	-	-	-	917	-
Total expenditure 2017	12,483	1,959	627	297	630	1,782	105	-	-	17,883	-
Total expenditure 2016	7,713	1,655	512	274	385	1,339	102	-	-	-	11,980

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.

5. Analysis of expenditure continued...

	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
Allocation of support and governance costs								
Support costs for the period:	1,257	383	627	297	630	786	73	4,053
Governance costs for the period:	312	21	-	-	-	-	32	365
Basis	Head count	Head count	Head count	Head count	Head count	Area occupied	Time spent	-
Total	306	306	306	306	306	1,000	100	-
By activity								
Cost of generating funds	9	9	9	9	9	25	15	-
Educational services	284	284	284	284	284	948	50	-
External affairs	13	13	13	13	13	27	35	-
Percentage								
Cost of generating funds	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%	15%	-
Educational services	93%	93%	93%	93%	93%	95%	50%	-
External affairs	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	3%	35%	-
Support costs allocated								
Cost of generating funds	37	11	18	9	19	20	11	125
Educational services	1,167	355	582	276	585	745	37	3,747
External affairs	53	17	27	12	26	21	25	181
	1,257	383	627	297	630	786	73	4,053
Governance costs allocated								
Cost of generating funds	9	1	-	-	-	-	5	15
Educational services	290	19	-	-	-	-	16	325
External affairs	13	1	-	-	-	-	11	25
	312	21	-	-	-	-	32	365

6. Net income/(expenditure) for the period

This is stated after charging:

	For the 17 month period to 31 August 2017 £'000	Restated for the 12 month period to 31 March 2016 £'000
Depreciation	675	328
Interest payable	179	128
Auditors' remuneration (excluding VAT):		
Audit	27	12
Other services	6	4
Payments under operating leases:		
Property	100	58
Equipment	67	41

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

Staff costs were as follows:

	For the 17 month period to 31 August 2017 £'000	Restated for the 12 month period to 31 March 2016 £'000
Salaries and wages	10,920	6,794
Redundancy and termination costs	61	18
Social security costs	1,031	599
Employer's contribution to pension schemes	471	302
	12,483	7,713

The following number of employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) during the 17 month period to 31 August 2017, between:

	For the 17 month period to 31 August 2017 No.	Restated for the 12 month period to 31 March 2016 No.
£60,000-£69,999	6	-
£70,000-£79,999	4	1
£80,000-£89,999	3	3
£90,000-£99,999	3	1
£110,000-£119,999	2	-
£120,000-£129,999	1	-
£130,000-£139,999	1	-

7. Analysis of group staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel continued...

The following number of employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) during the 12 month period to 31 March 2017, between:

	For the 12 month period to 31 March 2017 No.	Restated for the 12 month period to 31 March 2016 No.
£60,000-£69,999	2	-
£70,000-£79,999	2	1
£80,000-£89,999	3	3
£90,000-£99,999	1	1

The tables above 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 for the 17 month period to 31 August 2017 and one for the 12 month period to 31 March 2017 which gives more meaningful comparison to the 2015/16 figures.

The total employee benefits including pension and National Insurance contributions of the key management personnel were £1,061,394 for the 17 month period to 31 August 2017. For the 12 month period to 31 March 2017 it was £686,297 (2016: £445,709).

Jolanta Lasota, Chief Executive of Ambitious about Autism, was paid an annual salary to 31 August 2017 of £105,000 (2016: £92,220).

The charity Trustees were not paid and did not receive any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2016: £nil). No charity Trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2016: £nil).

Trustees' expenses represent the payment or reimbursement of travel and subsistence costs totalling £878 (2016: £617) incurred by one Trustee relating to duties in relation to the College Governing Body (2016: two members 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 17 month period to 31 August 2017 No.	Restated for the 12 month period to 31 March 2016 No.
Raising funds	9	10
Educational services	284	227
External affairs	13	9
Support	31	20
	337	266

The increase of staff numbers is due to the planned growth across two college sites, as well as the inclusion of Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust in the group accounts.

Notes to the financial statements For the period ended 31 August 2017

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 £19,715 of office furniture from Assman Office Furniture during the reporting period. Assman Office Furniture is managed by the partner of Vivienne Berkeley, Principal at Ambitious College. At the balance sheet date £333 was still owed to Assman Office Furniture.

Charlotte Warner, a Trustee of the charity, is also the 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 and space. During the year, AaAST made payments totalling £26,747 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. During the year, no income had been received from the Department for Education (2016: £229k), however AaA and AaAST did receive grant income totalling £1,308k (2016: £851k) from the Education Skills Funding Agency (formerly the Education 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 £58,572 to the charity. None of the donations as 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 period ended 31 August 2017

11. Tangible fixed assets

Group	Freehold land and buildings £'000	Long leasehold £'000	Short leasehold £'000	Educational, office furniture and equipment £'000	Computer equipment and software £'000	Motor Vehicles £'000	Total £'000
Cost							
At the start of the period	11,718	-	424	237	406	132	12,917
Transferred from Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust	-	6,416	-	57	67	-	6,540
Additions in the period	23	-	779	78	215	-	1,095
Construction in progress	-	-	9	8	210	-	227
At the end of the period	11,741	6,416	1,212	380	898	132	20,779
Depreciation							
At the start of the period	1,716	-	-	220	273	99	2,308
Charge for the period	341	55	84	25	154	16	675
At the end of the period	2,057	55	84	245	427	115	2,983
Net book value							
At the end of the period	9,684	6,361	1,128	135	471	17	17,796
At the start of the period	10,002	-	424	17	133	33	10,609
Ambitious about Autism							
Cost							
At the start of the period	11,718	-	424	237	406	132	12,917
Additions in the period	23	-	779	78	215	-	1,095
Construction in progress	-	-	9	8	210	-	227
At the end of the period	11,741	-	1,212	323	831	132	14,239
Depreciation							
At the start of the period	1,716	-	-	220	273	99	2,308
Charge for the period	341	-	84	19	130	16	590
At the end of the period	2,057	-	84	239	403	115	2,898
Net book value							
At the end of the period	9,684	-	1,128	84	428	17	11,341
At the start of the period	10,002	-	424	17	133	33	10,609

Land with a cost of £834,000 (2016: £834,000) is included within freehold property and is not depreciated.

All of the above assets are used for charitable purposes.

Included in computer equipment and software construction in progress are IT assets of £100k for the Hybrid project and £110k for equipment that wasn't set-up and ready to use until September 2017. The Hybrid project is the new group operating system for the group and will result in improved working efficiencies and savings in IT costs.

Notes to the financial statements For the period ended 31 August 2017

12. Investments

	Group and Ambitious about Autism	
	31 August 2017 £'000	Restated 31 March 2017 £'000
Fair value at the start of the period	1,431	1,516
Additions at cost	223	99
Disposal proceeds	(293)	(99)
Net gain/(loss) on change in fair value	272	(85)
Fair value at the end of the period	1,633	1,431
Cash held in investments	86	24
Total investments held	1,719	1,455
Historic cost at the end of the period	1,460	1,455
Listed securities		
Fixed interest	264	249
Direct UK equities	607	530
Direct overseas equities	536	495
Alternatives	226	157
Cash held for re-investment	75	24
Cash	11	-
Fair value at the end of the period	1,719	1,455
Historic cost at the end of the period	1,460	1,455

13. Debtors

	Group		Ambitious about Autism	
	31 August 2017 £'000	Restated 31 March 2017 £'000	31 August 2017 £'000	Restated 31 March 2017 £'000
Trade debtors	209	339	191	339
Other debtors	72	17	25	17
Prepayments	118	238	104	238
Accrued income	64	217	63	217
	463	811	383	811

Notes to the financial statements For the period ended 31 August 2017

14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one period

	Group		Ambitious about Autism	
	31 August 2017 £'000	Restated 31 March 2017 £'000	31 August 2017 £'000	Restated 31 March 2017 £'000
Bank loans	362	344	362	344
Trade creditors	289	338	236	338
Taxation and social security	220	181	194	181
Other creditors	222	53	133	53
Accruals	395	123	381	123
Deferred income	1,270	66	966	66
	2,758	1,105	2,272	1,105

15. Deferred income

	Group		Ambitious about Autism	
	31 August 2017 £'000	Restated 31 March 2017 £'000	31 August 2017 £'000	Restated 31 March 2017 £'000
Deferred income comprises fees received in advance:				
Balance at the beginning of the period	66	133	66	133
Amount released to income in the period	(66)	(133)	(66)	(133)
Amount deferred in the period	1,270	66	966	66
Balance at the end of the period	1,270	66	966	66

Deferred income as at 31 August 2017 relates to autumn 2017 term fees that were received in advance of the new school year.

16. Creditors: amounts falling due after one period

Group and Ambitious about Autism:	31 August 2017 £'000	Restated 31 March 2016 £'000
Loans to finance the permanent building	4,225	4,609
Loan to finance Ambitious College	1,503	1,609
Balance at the end of the period	5,728	6,218

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 loans is secured over the freehold land and buildings at Woodside Avenue.

The charity also has loans 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	243	753	2,305
NatWest £1.1m tranche	43	141	740
NatWest £1.9m tranche	85	267	1,151
	371	1,161	4,196

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 £504k (2016: £302k).

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.

17. Pension scheme continued...

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%.

During the previous year the employer contribution rate was 14.1%. 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 period amounted to £165k (2016: £94k).

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS by AaAST in the period amounted to £75k (2016: £65k).

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 Group has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The Group has set out above the information available on the scheme.

15 AaA employees were members of the scheme at 31 August 2017 (2016: 16).

12 AaAST employees were members of the scheme at 31 August 2017 (2016: 10).

Local Government Pension Scheme (relating to Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust only)

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 2017 were £117k (2016: £140k), of which employer's contributions totalled £82k (2016: £114k) and employees' contributions totalled £35k (2016: £26k). Contribution rates for employees increase with salary and during the year ended 31 August 2017 employee primary contribution rates were between 5.5%, and secondary 7.1%, and 6.8% of pensionable salary. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 13.9% for employers, and for employees a minimum of 5.5% to a maximum of 12.5% of pensionable salary. During the year ended 31 August 2017 no employees took advantage of the 50/50 option, where employees can pay 50% 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.

35 employees were members of the scheme at 31 August 2017 (2016: 25).

Notes to the financial statements For the period ended 31 August 2017

17. Pension scheme continued...

Principal actuarial assumptions	At 31 August 2017
Rate of increase in salaries	4.20%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.70%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	2.60%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.70%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	50.00%

Sensitivity analysis

	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adjustment to discount rate	+0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Present value of total obligation	938	975	1,014
Projected service cost	241	251	261
Adjustment to long term salary increase	+0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Present value of total obligation	975	975	975
Projected service cost	251	251	251
Adjustment to pension increases and deferred revaluation	+0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Present value of total obligation	1,014	975	938
Projected service cost	261	251	251
Adjustment to life expectancy assumptions	+ 1 Year	None	- 1 Year
Present value of total obligation	1,006	975	945
Projected service cost	259	251	243

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 2017
Retiring today	
Males	21.4
Females	25.1
Retiring in 20 years	
Males	23.6
Females	27.4

Notes to the financial statements For the period ended 31 August 2017

17. Pension scheme continued...

The estimated asset allocation as at 31 August 2017 is as follows:	At 31 August 2017	
	£'000	%
Equities	182	65%
Gilts	10	3%
Other bonds	32	11%
Property	14	5%
Absolute return funds	41	14%
Cash	4	1%
Total market value of assets	283	99%
Present value of scheme liabilities	(975)	
Deficit in the scheme	(692)	

The Trust's share of the assets of the fund is less than 1%. The actual return on scheme assets was £26,000 (2016: £21,000).

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities

	At 31 August 2017
	£'000
Current service cost (net of employee contributions)	(266)
Net interest cost	(15)
Total operating charge	(281)

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as follows:

	At 31 August 2017
	£'000
At 1 September	481
Current service cost	266
Interest cost	15
Actuarial loss	185
Benefits paid	(7)
Employee contributions	35
At 31 August	975

Changes in the fair value of the group's share of scheme assets:

	At 31 August 2017
	£'000
At 1 September	189
Interest on assets	6
Return on plan assets (excluding net interest on the defined pension liability)	22
Other actuarial losses	(44)
Employer contributions	82
Employee contributions	35
Benefits paid	(7)
At 31 August	283

Notes to the financial statements For the period ended 31 August 2017

18. Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances as at 31 August 2017 are represented by:

Group	Ambitious about Autism			Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust Restricted	Total funds £'000
	General unrestricted £'000	Designated £'000	Restricted £'000	£'000	
Tangible fixed assets	-	11,341	-	6,455	17,796
Investments	1,719	-	-	-	1,719
Net current (liabilities)/assets	(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 (liabilities)/assets	(448)	(327)	235	(540)
Long term liabilities	-	(5,728)	-	(5,728)
	1,271	5,286	235	6,792

Fund balances as at 31 August 2016 are represented by:

Group and Ambitious about Autism	Ambitious about Autism			Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust Restricted	Total funds £'000
	General unrestricted £'000	Designated £'000	Restricted £'000	£'000	
Tangible fixed assets	-	10,609	-	-	10,609
Investments	1,455	-	-	-	1,455
Net current assets	878	325	326	-	1,529
Long term liabilities	-	(6,218)	-	-	(6,218)
	2,333	4,716	326	-	7,375

Notes to the financial statements For the period ended 31 August 2017

19a. Movement in funds

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)	-	-
Ambitious College	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cyclical Maintenance Fund	502	-	-	-	-	502
Total designated funds	4,716	-	-	(750)	1,320	5,286
Fair value reserve	-	-	259	-	-	259
General funds	2,333	-	14,270	(15,305)	(286)	1,012
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 period ended 31 August 2017

19a. Movement in funds continued...

Transfers

£1.32m has been designated to the Fixed Asset funds to cover the depreciation of fixed assets. £990k was transferred from restricted funds (£947k for the Ambitious College build, £31k for the IT equipment and £12k for playground equipment for the TreeHouse School) following the completion of these projects and the subsequent capitalisation of these assets. £330k was transferred from unrestricted funds, the majority of which relates to the new PS Financials system (£141k) and the IT Hybrid project (£100k).

£44k was transferred from AaAST to general funds to reflect the intercompany management charge.

Movement in funds for the 12 month period ended 31 March 2016:

	At the start of the period £'000	Net assets transferred to the group £'000	Incoming resources and gains £'000	Outgoing resources and losses £'000	Adjustments £'000	Restated outgoing resources and losses £'000	Transfers £'000	At the end of the period £'000
Ambitious about Autism restricted funds:								
Ambitious College	387	-	444	(816)	(15)	(831)	-	-
Family Support	42	-	27	(53)	39	(14)	-	55
myVoice	20	-	162	(172)	-	(172)	-	10
Succeeding at College	-	-	229	(222)	(7)	(229)	-	-
TreeHouse School	18	-	19	(26)	118	92	-	129
Other	109	-	171	(89)	(135)	(224)	-	56
	576	-	1,052	(1,378)	-	(1,378)	-	250
Capital								
Ambitious College	250	-	250	-	-	-	(424)	76
Total restricted funds	826	-	1,302	(1,378)	-	(1,378)	(424)	326

The adjustments are in respect of the re-allocation of prior years expenditure and losses charged against the charity's restricted funds.

Ambitious about Autism unrestricted funds:

Designated funds								
Fixed assets	5,158	-	-	(177)	-	(177)	(934)	4,047
School development	460	-	-	(313)	-	(313)	-	147
Transformation fund	100	-	-	(80)	-	(80)	-	20
Ambitious College	300	-	-	(300)	-	(300)	-	-
Cyclical Maintenance Fund	714	-	-	(212)	-	(212)	-	502
Total designated funds	6,732	-	-	(1,082)	-	(1,082)	(934)	4,716
Fair value reserve	85	-	-	(85)	-	(85)	-	-
General funds	1,074	-	9,482	(9,520)	(61)	(9,581)	1,358	2,333
Total unrestricted funds	7,891	-	9,482	(10,687)	(61)	(10,748)	424	7,049
Total group funds	8,717	-	10,784	(12,065)	(61)	(12,126)	-	7,375

Notes to the financial statements For the period ended 31 August 2017

19b. Summary movement in funds

For the 17 month period ended 31 August 2017:

	At the start of the period £'000	Net expenditure for the period £'000	Transfers £'000	At the end of the period £'000
Restricted funds:	326	7,039	(1,034)	6,331
Unrestricted funds:				
Designated funds	4,716	(750)	1,320	5,286
Fair value reserve	-	259	-	259
General funds	2,333	(1,035)	(286)	1,012
Total unrestricted funds	7,049	(1,526)	1,034	6,557
Total funds	7,375	5,513	-	12,888

For the 12 month period ended 31 March 2016:

	At the start of the period £'000	Net expenditure for the period £'000	Transfers £'000	At the end of the period £'000
Restricted funds:	826	(76)	(424)	326
Unrestricted funds:				
Designated funds	6,732	(1,082)	(934)	4,716
Fair value reserve	85	(85)	-	-
General funds	1,074	(99)	1,358	2,333
Total unrestricted funds	7,891	(1,266)	424	7,049
Total funds	8,717	(1,342)	-	7,375

19c. 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 to 25 years. Both campuses are co-located and developed in partnership with two other 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.

19c. Purpose of restricted funds continued...

myVoice	myVoice was a three year project funded by the Department of Health. It was a youth volunteering project for 16 to 25 year olds with autism. Volunteers represented young people with autism and can review local services, engage their local community and connect with each other online. This project completed in June 2017.
Participation	A project working with children and young people with autism. We believe that better decisions are made, better outcomes achieved when people are involved in decisions made about their lives, and responding to the people we exist to support is the most practical way to ensure we do the right things for the right reasons.
Succeeding at College	Succeeding at College is a project that works to support more young people with autism to continue their education beyond school. It involves delivering a national face-to-face training programme.
TreeHouse School	Funding provided to support a range of specific activities across the school.
Other	Other funds represent a number of small funds.

Purposes of designated funds:

Fixed assets	This fund represents the net book value of the fixed assets, which are not, by the nature of fixed assets, readily available for other purposes.
Schools development	The school fund was 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.
Ambitious College	The charity continues its work to establish Ambitious College. This fund was established to support this aim, assisting the noted restricted funding.
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.
Fair value reserve	The fair value reserve represents the accumulated unrealised gains made on Ambitious about Autism's investments.

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

	2017 £'000	Restated 2016 £'000
Net income/(expenditure)	5,513	(1,281)
Fair value of assets transferred on acquisition of Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust (note 24)	(6,082)	-
Depreciation charges	675	328
(Gains)/losses on investments	(272)	85
Dividends, interest and rent from investments	(78)	(67)
Interest payable	179	128
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	1,045	(220)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	538	(7)
Pension costs less contributions payable	151	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	1,669	(1,034)

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	
	2017 £'000	Restated 2016 £'000	2017 £'000	Restated 2016 £'000
Less than one year	100	71	23	41
One to five years	405	222	15	31
Over five years	250	16	-	-
	755	309	38	72

22. Capital commitments

At the balance sheet date, the group had committed to £869k (2016: £553k).

A total of £45k had been contracted (£35k for an IT project and £10k for mobile phones).

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 period ended 31 August 2017

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 has 100% control of Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust as per SORP 2015 and Autism Schools Trust changed its name from Autism Schools Trust to Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust as of 1 April 2017. Due to Ambitious about Autism having control of Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust as identified by SORP 2015, consolidated accounts have been prepared, bringing in £6,082k, which is considered the fair value of Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust's net asset transfer.

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.

	Building asset £'000	Non-building assets £'000	Total £'000
Fair value as at 1 April 2017			
Fixed assets	6,254	286	6,540
Current Assets	-	1,178	1,178
Liabilities	-	(1,095)	(1,095)
Net Assets	-	83	83
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)
	(240)

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

A summarised extract of AaAST's SoFA for the 12 month period ended 31 August 2017

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Restricted fixed asset fund £'000	Total £'000
Income from:				
Donations and capital grants	-	13	-	13
Charitable activities	-	1,047	-	1,047
	-	1,060	-	1,060
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	-	877	84	961
Net surplus/(deficit)	-	183	(84)	(99)
Other recognised gains	-	85	-	85
Net movement in funds	-	98	(84)	14
Funds brought forward	242	(413)	6,253	6,082
Funds carried forward	242	(315)	6,169	6,096

Notes to the financial statements For the period ended 31 August 2017

25. Prior year statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2016 (restated)

The prior year adjustment relates to a monthly grant from ESFA for school and college funding that is paid one month in advance. In prior years the last receipt in the reporting period was included as income and the restatement is to correctly defer the income to the relevant reporting period.

Consolidated statement of financial activities

Statement of financial activities	Unrestricted £'000	2016 Restricted £'000	Total £'000
Income from:			
Donations and legacies:			
Gifts and donated services	857	912	1,769
Charitable activities:			
Educational services	8,478	-	8,478
External affairs	-	390	390
Other trading activities:	80	-	80
Investments:	67	-	67
Total income	9,482	1,302	10,784
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	816	243	1,059
Charitable activities:			
Educational services	8,811	892	9,703
External affairs	975	243	1,218
Total expenditure	10,602	1,378	11,980
Net income/(expenditure) before other gains/(losses)	(1,120)	(76)	(1,196)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	(85)	-	(85)
Net income/(expenditure) for the period	(1,205)	(76)	(1,281)
Transfers between and from funds	424	(424)	-
Net movement in funds	(781)	(500)	(1,281)
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward			
As originally stated	7,891	826	8,717
Prior year adjustment	(61)	-	(61)
As restated	7,830	826	8,656
Total funds carried forward	7,049	326	7,375

25a. Prior year adjustment

	31 March 2016			31 March 2015		
	Unrestricted £'000	Restricted £'000	Total £'000	Unrestricted £'000	Restricted £'000	Total £'000
Reserves position						
Funds previously reported	7,115	326	7,441	7,891	826	8,717
Correction of income error	(66)	-	(66)	(61)	-	(61)
Funds restated	7,049	326	7,375	7,830	826	8,656

	31 March 2016		
	Unrestricted £'000	Restricted £'000	Total £'000
Correction of prior year income error	61	-	61
Net income/(expenditure) as previously reported	(776)	(500)	(1,276)
Correction of income error	(66)	-	(66)
Net income/(expenditure) as restated	(781)	(500)	(1,281)

26. Statement of financial activities for 12 month period to 31 August 2017 (unaudited)

Statement of financial activities (unaudited) (incorporating an income and expenditure account)	Unrestricted £'000	Restricted £'000	For the 12 month period to 31 August 2017	For the 12 month period to 31 August 2016
			Total £'000	Total £'000
Income from:				
Donations and legacies:				
Gifts and donated services	835	1,098	1,933	2,392
Charitable activities:				
Educational services	9,627	19	9,646	6,716
External affairs	-	198	198	253
Other trading activities:	67	-	67	93
Investments:	63	-	63	68
Total income	10,592	1,315	11,907	9,522
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds				
Fundraising activities	823	-	823	797
Investment management costs	18	-	18	-
	841	-	841	797
Charitable activities:				
Educational services	9,893	329	10,222	9,646
External affairs	504	392	896	1,003
Total expenditure	11,238	721	11,959	11,446
Net income/(expenditure) before other gains/(losses)	(646)	594	(52)	(1,924)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	138	-	138	49
Net income/(expenditure) for the period	(508)	594	86	(1,875)
Transfers between and from funds	298	(298)	-	-
Net movement in funds	(210)	296	86	(1,875)
Reconciliation of funds:				
As restated	6,089	634	6,723	8,598
Total funds carried forward	5,879	930	6,809	6,723

27. Statement of financial activities for 12 month period to 31 March 2017 (unaudited)

Statement of financial activities (unaudited) (incorporating an income and expenditure account)	Unrestricted £'000	Restricted £'000	For the 12 month period to March 2017 Total £'000	For the 12 month period to March 2016 Total £'000
Income from:				
Donations and legacies:				
Gifts and donated services	995	1,202	2,197	1,769
Charitable activities:				
Educational services	9,607	20	9,627	8,477
External affairs	-	316	316	390
Other trading activities:	65	-	65	80
Investments:	51	-	51	67
Total income	10,718	1,538	12,256	10,783
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds				
Fundraising activities	820	-	820	1,059
Investment management costs	-	-	-	-
	820	-	820	1,059
Charitable activities:				
Educational services	9,843	321	10,164	9,703
External affairs	463	403	866	1,218
Total expenditure	11,126	724	11,850	11,980
Net income/(expenditure) before other gains/(losses)	(408)	814	406	(1,197)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	226	-	226	(85)
Net income/(expenditure) for the period	(182)	814	632	(1,282)
Transfers between and from funds	938	(938)	-	-
Net movement in funds	756	(124)	632	(1,282)
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	7,048	326	7,374	8,656
Total funds carried forward	7,804	202	8,006	7,374



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.

Thanks to our proud partners

Pears Foundation
 Andrew and Nicola Loftus
 Andy Forkgen
 Atass Foundation
 Awareness Fund
 BBC Children in Need
 Bernard Abrahamsen
 Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation
 Bill and Diana Tyler
 British Compressed Air Society
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 The Leathersellers' Company Charitable Fund
 The M And C Trust
 The PIMCO Foundation
 The Screwfix Foundation
 The Wolfson Foundation
 Universities Superannuation Scheme
 Wilmington Trust SP Services

And many more individuals and organisations who helped us to make the ordinary possible for children and young people with autism.



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



Ambitious about Autism

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

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