



**Ambitious  
about Autism**

**Report and Financial Statements  
31 March 2014**

Company No. 3375255 - Charity No. 1063184

# Reference & administrative details

For the year ended 31 March 2014

## Status

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 25 May 1997 and registered as a charity on 2 July 1997.

## Governing document

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.

## Company number

3375255

## Charity number

1063184

## Registered office & operating address

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

## President

Lord Tim Clement-Jones CBE

## Vice Presidents

Peter Carroll  
Virginia Bovell OBE  
Tristina Clarke  
*(Appointed 20 June 2014)*  
Katharine Doré  
Karen Edwards

Alex Hatter  
Richard Hatter  
Nick Hornby  
Matthew Punshon  
Sid Wells

## Trustees

Nick Baldwin  
*(Chair of Board of Trustees and Nominations Committee)*  
Tristia Clarke  
*(resigned 20 June 2014)*  
John Constantine  
*(Vice Chair of Trustees from 24 May 2013 & Treasurer)*  
Clare Coombe-Tennant  
Martyn Craddock  
Paul Disley-Tindell  
*(appointed Trustee 24 May 2013 & Chair of Remuneration Committee from 20 June 2014)*  
Paul Fallon OBE  
Michael Fiddy  
*(appointed 24 May 2013)*

Fenella Gentleman  
Jonathan Meth  
*(resigned 5 December 2013)*  
Emran Mian OBE  
*(resigned 14 March 2014)*  
Lorraine Petersen OBE  
*(Chair of TreeHouse School Governing Body)*  
Matthew Punshon  
*(resigned 24 May 2013)*  
Fiona Slomovic  
*(resigned 14 March 2014)*  
Philippa Stobbs  
*(Vice Chair of TreeHouse School Governing Body)*  
Richard Townley  
*(resigned 24 May 2013)*

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 2014 was 11(2013:14). The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charitable company.

## Reference & administrative details For the year ended 31 March 2014

### Executive Management

Jolanta Lasota - *Chief Executive*

### Management

Viv Berkeley - *Principal Ambitious College (from 19 May 2014)*  
 Rachel Dufton - *Director of External Affairs (from 6 January 2014)*  
 Becky Jones - *Headteacher, Treehouse School (from 11 April 2014)*  
 Anne Shinkwin - *Director of Fundraising*  
 Zoe Weaver - *Director of People and Operations*  
 John Whiterow - *Director of Finance & Business (from 1 September 2014)*

### Company Secretary

John Whiterow (*appointed 1 September 2014*)

### Principal Advisers

#### Bankers

NatWest  
 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

#### Statutory Auditors

Sayer Vincent LLP  
 Chartered Accountants  
 8 Angel Gate  
 City Road  
 London EC1V 2SJ

#### Solicitors

Macfarlanes  
 10 Norwich Street  
 London EC4A 1BD

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

DLA Piper  
 3 Noble Street  
 London EC2V 7EE

#### Investment Managers

Rathbone Bros plc (*from 20 June 2014*)  
 1 Curzon Street  
 London W1J 5FB

#### Expert Advisers

Irving Anderson  
 Judith Barnard  
 Prof. Simon Baron Cohen  
 Steve Broach  
 Leo Capella  
 Prof. Tony Charman  
 Prof. Richard Hastings  
 Prof. Pat Howlin  
 Jonathan Meth (*Nov 2013*)  
 Emran Mian OBE (*March 2014*)

James Partridge OBE  
 Nick Peacey  
 Dr. Liz Pellicano  
 Mark Schmid  
 Dr. Rowie Shaw  
 Fiona Slomovic (*March 2014*)  
 Su Thomas  
 Richard Townley (*May 2013*)  
 Gaby Zein

# Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2014

The trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2014.

Reference and administrative information set out on pages 2-3 form part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the articles of association and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

## 1. Structure, governance and management

Ambitious about Autism is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. It is governed by a Board of trustees who also act as the directors of the company. Management of the charity is delegated to the Chief Executive and the Executive Leadership Team. The governing instrument is the articles of association. TreeHouse School is a Non-Maintained Special School (NMSS).

A governance review, based upon the Good Governance Code for the Voluntary Sector produced by the National Governance Hub, was undertaken this year. The governance review resulted in policies and procedures being updated.

There are five sub-committees of the Board: Scrutiny and Audit Committee; Investment Committee; Remuneration Committee; Nominations Committee; TreeHouse School Governing Body.

Adults with autism, and parents of TreeHouse School children are involved in the leadership of Ambitious about Autism as trustees on the Board and its sub-committees, including governors on the TreeHouse School Governing Body.

Our Youth Council enables young people with autism to influence the work of the charity.

### 1.1. Trustee recruitment, induction and training

The charity aims to build a Board with the range of skills, experience and perspectives needed to provide effective direction and oversight. Ambitious about Autism has a recruitment and induction policy for trustees, all of whom receive a handbook and an induction programme in their first few months, followed by ongoing training as required.

The Nominations Committee oversees the recruitment, induction and appraisal of trustees. Trustees are recruited openly through a variety of channels including search, advertising and networks. During 2013, an independent consultant undertook an audit of the collective skills and competencies of trustees. Recruitment of trustees since then has taken account of the results of the audit, and will continue to do so in the future.

### 1.2. Organisational structure

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

The Scrutiny and Audit Committee (SAC) meets quarterly in advance of the Board meetings and is responsible for general oversight and scrutiny of systems of planning, financial and resource management and reporting, internal controls and risk management. The TreeHouse School Governing Body examines all matters relating to the educational performance of TreeHouse School.

The Remuneration Committee reviews and agrees remuneration and terms and conditions of employment for the Executive Leadership Team and meets as required. The Investment Committee monitors the performance of the charity's investment portfolio. The Nominations Committee deals with trustee renewal, support and review and meets as required. The SAC, Remuneration and Nomination Committees comprise trustees with relevant expertise; the TreeHouse School Governing Body includes some Governors who are not trustees who perform the roles required for a non-maintained special school.

Ambitious about Autism has an Executive Leadership Team (ELT) headed by the Chief Executive that reports to the trustees and attends the Board and sub-committee meetings.

## 2. Objectives and activities

The charity was established in 1997 as The TreeHouse Trust by a group of parents who knew that education was the key to transforming the lives of children and young people with autism and the lives of their families. TreeHouse School now provides nearly 90 children and young people with autism, the specialist, intensive and integrated education they need to learn, thrive and achieve.

The objects of the charity, as defined in its articles of association, updated in February 2011, are to promote, maintain, improve and advance the education, health, welfare and care of people with autism and/or other related impairments and disabilities.

### 2.1. Our vision

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

### 2.2. Our mission

To enable children and young people with autism to learn, thrive and achieve.

### 2.3. Our aims

**More and better services:** to continue to develop TreeHouse School and a wider range of services for children and young people with autism.

**Awareness and understanding:** to build understanding about the needs of children and young people with autism and evidence of how best to support them to achieve good outcomes.

**Influencing policy:** to ensure that the needs of children and young people with autism are heard and considered at every stage of policy development. To ensure Ambitious about Autism has the capacity to deliver its strategy.

### 2.4. Our values

Children and young people with autism are at the centre of all that we do; their well-being and safety is our number one priority. We will be ACTIVE in meeting their needs.

#### **A** Ambitious

We are ambitious for children and young people with autism and their families. We are ambitious for our work.

#### **C** Collaborative

We work in collaboration with children and young people with autism and their families and in partnership with other organisations to maximise our impact and reach.

#### **T** Transparent and Accountable

We are open, transparent and accountable to our users and other stakeholders.

#### **I** Inclusive

We strive to be accessible to all communities and to empower children and young people with autism across the UK.

#### **V** Evidence based

We aim to build knowledge and skills and base our work on evidence of what works.

#### **E** Effective

We strive to provide the highest quality and value in all our activities, services and resources.

### 2.5. Public benefit

Ambitious about Autism works to support children and young people with autism throughout the UK. Our work aims to reach a range of children and families. TreeHouse School supports pupils aged 4 to 19 years based on their needs. Pupil placement is funded by local authorities. Other activities are funded through voluntary income or fees earned from providing a service, for example, providing specialist training or consultancy 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 charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

## 3. Strategic report

### 3.1. Achievements and performance

#### 3.1.1. Autism Services

Ambitious about Autism continues to operate TreeHouse School, an outstanding, non-maintained special school for children and young people with autism aged 4 to 19 years, based in North London. The school provides specialist, intensive and integrated support to enable pupils to learn, thrive and achieve their potential. Pupils come from diverse backgrounds from local authority areas in and around London.

During 2013-14, TreeHouse School continued to work with Bangor University to carry out research into pupil progress, which informs the practice of the school and others more widely. This year, the school has continued to benefit from the enhanced facilities to support vocational learning for older pupils. TreeHouse School has Autism Accreditation.

To support young people and their families to navigate the many barriers that face them, the charity provides a Family Support Service. It provides information, training and guidance to the parents and carers of children and young people with autism that use its services and in other settings.

The charity has been working to develop its services for young people aged 19-25. Our first post-19 service, Ambitious Support, is located within Barnet & Southgate College of Further Education, enabling service users to access further education as part of their person-centred plan.

We continue the development work to establish Ambitious College - London's only autism-specific registered day college, which opened in its temporary accommodation at Barnet and Southgate College in September 2014. Our appeal to fund the permanent site for the College continues to progress successfully.

We also founded the Autism Schools Trust, in partnership with Dimensions, to support the opening of our first special free school, the Rise School. The Rise School, which opened in September 2014, supports pupils with autism in West London to learn and thrive. The Autism Schools Trust is also exploring the development of further schools.

Our work around supporting young people as they transition to adulthood continued apace. We secured funding from the Department for Education to establish the Finished at School programme, to develop new and innovative models of support to enable young people with autism to access education beyond school. Working with further education colleges in four pilot sites, our project aims to develop staff skills, improve person-centred planning and ensure learners with autism are able to access all aspects of college life.

The charity continued to develop and provide a training and consultancy service which supports parents of children with autism, teachers, schools and other professionals. As part of this work, the charity is an Autism Education Trust Training (AET) Hub for schools and post-16 settings. Throughout the year over 1,000 professionals attended AET training events provided under this arrangement. Ambitious about Autism's Chief Executive continues to serve on the AET Programme Board.

#### 3.1.2. Communications, policy & research

This year, the charity has continued to influence legislation affecting children and young people with autism. We worked with families, young people and parliamentarians to successfully amend the Children and Families Act in several key areas. We secured assurances around support being available up to the age of 25 for those young people who remain in education and require such support and ensured that parents of children with SEN are entitled to the same support as parents of adults with disabilities.

Ambitious about Autism's Youth Council has grown significantly over the past year and now includes fifteen young people who help to guide and influence the work of the organisation. Our Youth Patrons were instrumental in helping to devise and launch our new campaign, Ruled Out, which aims to stop children with autism missing out on their education. Particular highlights for the Youth Patrons include producing their own campaign film and hosting the launch of the campaign to an audience of MPs and Peers at the Houses of Parliament.

Ambitious about Autism's online presence continued to grow with visits to our website increasing by 33% on 2012-13 figures. Our online community, Talk about Autism, continued to provide a lifeline for thousands of families. 2,000 new members joined last year to access information and support, generating over 16,000 topics of conversation. This vital service was recognised at the TalkTalk Digital Heroes Awards as an example of how digital technology could be harnessed to bring about positive social change.

The charity continued to attract considerable media coverage for both our policy and campaigns work. Our Ruled Out campaign generated record levels of media coverage with more than 100 articles and broadcast interviews.

Several new resources were produced over the last year including our Schools Report, Impact Report and a series of parent and carer publications to help families navigate changes in legislation.

### 3.1.3. Fundraising and voluntary income

Voluntary income for the year was £2.8 million, significantly higher than last year due to the increase in income from events and for the Ambitious College appeal. Following the launch last year of the private phase of our £5 million appeal for Ambitious College, donations and pledges were secured from many major donors and charitable trusts including Garfield Weston Foundation, Henry Smith Charity, Baily Thomas Charitable Trust, the Chapman Charitable Trust, and the Gerald Ronson Foundation. Support was also received from the Investment and Contract Readiness Fund. We continue to be supported by longstanding partners such as Pears Foundation, TalkTalk, the Maurice Hatter Foundation and Help a Capital Child. The Clothworkers' Foundation provided the seed funding for our post-19 service Ambitious Support, whilst the City Bridge Trust provided support for an employment specialist. BBC Children in Need, St James' Place Foundation and Evan Cornish Foundation all contributed towards funding for our Family Support service and Give it Away Ltd funded our youth participation work. In addition we received the support of many major donors for our work.

New grants and donations were received from the John Horniman Children's Charity, Awards for All, TalkTalk, The Band Trust, 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust, Barbara Ward Children's Foundation, Javon Charitable Trust and Snowbilly.

We secured a two-year grant from the Department for Education to deliver our Finished at School programme and also bid successfully for Autism Education Trust contracts to deliver autism training in schools and to develop materials for the post-16 sector.

Our Digital Heroes Celebration with TalkTalk raised over £300,000 thanks to the generosity of TalkTalk, their partners and suppliers. In addition, TalkTalk very kindly seconded their Head of Sustainability to our Fundraising team for a year and are providing our internet service for three years. MacFarlanes and DLA Piper continued to provide valuable legal services as gifts in kind.

In July 2013, A Curious Night at the Theatre, led by our Ambassador actor Luke Treadaway and director Katy Rudd, raised over £100,000 for the charity and The National Autistic Society. In September 2013, Rapha Racing raised over £190,000 by hosting the Bordeaux-Paris cycle race and an online auction of money-can't-buy prizes. The cycle challenge featured 12 teams of four riders who completed the 617km route.

Our income has increased through the generous support of our challenge event participants. This year saw us achieve our highest amount ever for the London marathon and we have broadened our portfolio with a wider variety of events including running, cycling, skydiving and trekking.

### 3.1.4. Organisational development

The organisation continued to invest in the development of its people and infrastructure to support its existing and new activities. Staff recruitment and development remains a key priority in ensuring that we are able to deliver high quality services.

## 3.2. Financial review

### Total income for the year increased to £10 million

(2013: £8.6 million), mainly due to restricted income of £0.88 million for Ambitious College which has been carried forward to 2014-15 and £314,000 for the first year of the Finished at School project. TreeHouse School fees and grants slightly decreased to £6.7 million in the year (2013: £6.9 million), principally as a result of a decrease in the number of pupils to 85 (2013: 88). Voluntary income was £2.8 million (2013: £1.3 million).

### Total charitable expenditure was £8.3 million

(2013: £7.6 million). The increase was driven by the development of the new Ambitious Support service and the Finished at School programme.

### The surplus for the period was £1 million

(2013: £400,000). This arose from net restricted surplus of £0.8 million (2013: deficit of £400,000), and an unrestricted surplus of £200,000 (2013: surplus of £0.8 million).

### Net assets at 31 March 2014 rose to £8.6 million

(2013: £7.6 million), with net current assets of £3.6 million (2013: £2.6 million).

### Loans for the Pears National Centre for Autism Education and the Ambitious College Project totalled £7.3 million

(2013: £7.5 million) including accumulated interest. Further details are shown in note 11 to the accounts.

### 3.3. Plans for the future

The charity's plans for 2014-15 reflect the four pillars of our strategic plan which are to provide more and better services, increase awareness and understanding of autism, influence policy and ensure we have the capacity to deliver. More detail of the charity's strategy can be found on the Ambitious about Autism website.

Priorities for the coming year include:

- ▶ continuing to develop TreeHouse School as an 'outstanding' school
- ▶ developing the charity's services for young people aged 19 and over and opening Ambitious College on its temporary site at Barnet and Southgate College
- ▶ through the Autism Schools Trusts, opening The Rise School in September 2014
- ▶ growing our training and consultancy support services
- ▶ supporting parents through the transition to the new Children and Families Act and the revised SEN Code of Practice
- ▶ increasing voluntary income and securing partnerships
- ▶ strengthening organisational capacity & capability.

### 3.4. Principal risks and uncertainties

Risks are managed in accordance with the risk policy approved by the Board of trustees, which was reviewed and updated in 2013. 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 and impact. Changes in risks and emerging risks, together with actions taken or proposed to manage them, are reviewed quarterly by SAC and approved annually by the Board of Trustees.

In common with other organisations, the current economic and political environment remains a potential risk for Ambitious about Autism. All current projects have appropriate funding agreements in place. The potential risk associated with the development of new services is mitigated through ensuring that all new services are only developed once funding has been agreed, unless there has been specific approval by trustees and in accordance with the annual operating budget and reserves policy. Key risks, and their potential impact on income and the use of the charity's services, are monitored continually and reviewed regularly by executive management and reported at each meeting of the Scrutiny and Audit Committee.



## 4. 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), Every Disabled Child Matters campaign, 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.

The Board approved an updated reserves policy in June 2013 based upon an evaluation of income and expenditure risks, working capital requirements and the need to establish a fund for new service development opportunities. The policy also took account of the potential impact on income of the recession by providing further protection for core activities. Taking account of these factors, the target range for free reserves was set between £1.27 million and £1.47 million. As at 31 March 2014, there was a deficit of £300,000 (2013: £260,000) against this target.

## 5. Reserves policy

Unrestricted reserves included:

- ▶ Fixed assets which, net of loans, totalled £0.8 million (2013: £0.7 million). Since this portion of reserves is not readily available for use, the balance has been transferred to a designated fund for fixed assets as shown in note 13 to the accounts.
- ▶ Cyclical Maintenance Fund - A sinking fund, based upon projected 30 year life cycle costs, was established for major repairs to the Pears National Centre for Autism Education. £100,000 (2013: £150,000) was transferred to the fund at the end of the year. Major items of repair and maintenance are charged to this fund.
- ▶ School Development Fund - a designated fund of £185,000 was created in 2013 for broader school development. The Board agreed an additional allocation of £175,000 towards this fund, to be spent from 2014-15 mainly on Autism Schools Trust and Treehouse school development.
- ▶ Transformation fund - a further designated fund was also created in 2013, with £200,000 to be spent in 2014-15 on Management Information Systems and financial modelling, website development and trustee and school governor recruitment.
- ▶ The revaluation reserve recognises the unrealised increase in value of investments. Excluding designated funds and the revaluation reserve, Ambitious about Autism had free reserves at 31 March 2014 of £0.97 million (2013: £1.09 million).

## 6. Investment policy

The charity's investment policy was approved by the Board of trustees in March 2014 and is linked closely to the risk and reserves policies. The policy aims to improve returns above variable bank interest rate from funds representing free reserves while taking a low to medium risk approach to the loss of capital and optimise the return from excess working capital held as cash with minimum risk to its capital value by placing it in a highly rated cash fund.

This policy is reviewed as and when required and at least annually.

The trustees have set a target to exceed the returns available from bank deposits, and this has been achieved in the period.

## 7. Statement of the trustees' responsibilities

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 and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. 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; and
- ▶ 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 proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- ▶ there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- ▶ 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 auditors are 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.

## 8. Auditors

Sayer Vincent LLP were re-appointed as the charitable company's auditors during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

The report of the trustees which includes the strategic report has been approved by the trustees on 26 September 2014 and signed on their behalf by **Nick Baldwin** - Chair.

# Independent auditors' report

For the year ended 31 March 2014

To the members of

## **Ambitious about Autism**

We have audited the financial statements of Ambitious about Autism for the year ended 31 March 2014 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, cashflow statement and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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. 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 auditors' 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.

## **Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors**

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities set out in the report of the trustees, the trustees (who are also the directors of the 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.

Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

## **Scope of the audit of the financial statements**

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charitable company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the trustees; and the overall presentation of the financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the report of the trustees to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

## **Opinion on financial statements**

In our opinion the financial statements:

- ▶ give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2014 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- ▶ have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- ▶ have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

### **Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion the information given in the report of the trustees, including the strategic report, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- ▶ adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- ▶ the 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.

#### **Catherine Sayer**

*(Senior statutory auditor) 2 October 2014  
for and on behalf of Sayer Vincent LLP, Statutory Auditors  
8 Angel Gate, City Road, LONDON EC1V 2SJ*

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

For the year ended 31 March 2014

	Note	Restricted £'000	Unrestricted £'000	Year ended 31 March 2014 Total £'000	Year ended 31 March 2013 Total £'000
<b>Incoming resources</b>					
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>					
Voluntary income	2a	1,778	492	2,270	946
Activities for generating funds	2b	-	532	532	330
		<b>1,778</b>	<b>1,024</b>	<b>2,802</b>	<b>1,276</b>
Investment income		-	77	77	104
<b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b>					
TreeHouse School fees and grants		34	6,709	6,743	6,978
Other services & capacity building		-	378	378	239
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>1,812</b>	<b>8,188</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>8,597</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
Costs of generating funds			714	714	572
<b>Charitable expenditure</b>					
TreeHouse School		581	5,703	6,284	6,369
Other services & capacity building		344	1,037	1,381	745
Communications, policy & research		122	408	530	466
Governance costs		-	67	67	69
<b>Total charitable expenditure</b>		<b>1,047</b>	<b>7,215</b>	<b>8,262</b>	<b>7,649</b>
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1,047</b>	<b>7,929</b>	<b>8,976</b>	<b>8,221</b>
Net incoming resources before other recognised gains and losses	4	765	259	1,024	376
Realised loss on investments	8	-	(44)	(44)	-
<b>Net Income for the Year</b>		<b>765</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>376</b>
<b>Other recognised gains and losses</b>					
Unrealised gains on investments	8	-	18	18	68
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>765</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>998</b>	<b>444</b>
<b>Funds at the start of the year</b>		<b>4,836</b>	<b>2,779</b>	<b>7,615</b>	<b>7,171</b>
<b>Funds at the end of the year</b>		<b>5,601</b>	<b>3,012</b>	<b>8,613</b>	<b>7,615</b>

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 13 to the financial statements.

## Balance sheet

Company No 3375255

For the year ended 31 March 2014

	Note	2014 £'000	2013 £'000
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible fixed assets	7	10,570	10,818
Investments	8	1,468	1,494
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		<b>12,038</b>	<b>12,312</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	9	874	301
Short term deposits		1,900	1,900
Cash at bank and in hand		1,891	998
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>4,665</b>	<b>3,199</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	(1,096)	(632)
Net current assets		3,569	2,567
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<b>15,607</b>	<b>14,879</b>
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	11	(6,994)	(7,264)
Net assets	12	8,613	7,615
<b>Funds</b>			
Restricted funds		5,601	4,836
Unrestricted funds			
Designated funds		1,976	1,589
General funds		965	1,093
Revaluation reserve		71	97
<b>Total charity funds</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8,613</b>	<b>7,615</b>

Approved by the trustees on 26th September 2014 and signed on their behalf by **Nick Baldwin** - Chair

## Cashflow statement

For the year ended 31 March 2014

	Year ended 31 March 2014 £'000	Year ended 31 March 2013 £'000
<b>Net incoming resources for the year</b>	<b>1,024</b>	<b>376</b>
Investment income	(77)	(104)
Vehicle disposal	26	-
Interest payable	231	212
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	335	350
Increase in debtors	(573)	(136)
Decrease in creditors	435	(711)
<b>Net cash outflow from operating activities</b>	<b>1,401</b>	<b>(13)</b>
<b>Returns on investments and servicing of finance</b>		
Investment income	77	104
Interest paid	(231)	(212)
	(154)	(108)
<b>Capital expenditure</b>		
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	(113)	(36)
Payments to acquire investments	(800)	-
Proceeds on disposal of investments	800	-
	(113)	(36)
<b>Financing</b>		
Receipt of loan finance	-	1,900
Repayment of loans	(241)	(180)
	(241)	1,720
<b>Net cash inflow</b>	<b>893</b>	<b>1,563</b>

	At 31 March 2014 £'000	Cashflow	At 31 March 2013 £'000
<b>Analysis of changes in net debt</b>			
<b>Cash</b>			
Cash at bank and in hand	998	893	1,891
Short Term Deposits	1,900	-	1,900
	2,898	893	3,791
<b>Debt</b>			
Loans due within one year	(241)	(29)	(270)
Loans due after one year	(7,264)	270	(6,994)
	(7,505)	241	(7,264)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(4,607)</b>	<b>1,134</b>	<b>(3,473)</b>

# Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2014

## 1. Accounting policies

- a) The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the revaluation of investments and in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Companies Act 2006. They follow the recommendations in the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities.
- b) Voluntary income is received by way of grants and donations and is included in the statement of financial activities when receivable.
- c) Revenue grants are credited to the statement of financial activities when received or receivable whichever is earlier, unless they relate to a specific future period, in which case they are deferred.
- d) School fees and event income are credited to the statement of financial activities on a receivable basis for the period to which they relate.
- e) Capital grants are credited to the statement of financial activities when received as a restricted fund. Depreciation of the asset is charged to the fund to write off the cost of the asset over its life.
- f) Restricted funds are used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.
- g) Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for use for any of the purposes of the charity.
- h) Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.
- i) Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred. Resources expended include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered. Resources expended are allocated to a particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, the costs of overall direction and administration of each activity, comprising the salary and overhead costs of the central functions, are apportioned on the following bases:
- | <b>Central Function</b>   | <b>Main Basis for Allocation</b> |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 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                    |
- j) The costs of generating funds relate to the costs incurred by the charity in raising funds for the charitable work and capital projects.
- k) Governance costs include the management of the charitable company's assets, organisational management and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.
- l) Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than land, at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value, over their expected useful life once the assets are in use. The useful lives generally applicable are:
- |                                      |          |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Playground equipment                 | 3 years  |
| Computers and office equipment       | 3 years  |
| Website development                  | 3 years  |
| Pod                                  | 15 years |
| Motor vehicles                       | 5 years  |
| All-weather sports pitch             | 10 years |
| Freehold building at Woodside Avenue | 50 years |
- Items are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £5,000.
- m) Rental costs under operating leases and the payments made under them are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.
- n) Gifts in kind and donated services are valued and brought in as incoming resources and the appropriate resources expended. The values attributable to gifts in kind are based on a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity.
- o) 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 on the scheme is given in Note 16.
- The pension costs charged in the statement of financial activities represent the contributions payable by the charity in the year to all pension schemes.
- p) Investments held as fixed assets are revalued at mid-market value at the balance sheet date. Investment gains or losses for the period, including any gain or loss on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value, are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.
- q) Connected charities are independent autonomous bodies and not controlled by the charity and therefore are not consolidated.



## Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 March 2014

2. Incoming resources from generated funds	Restricted £'000	Unrestricted £'000	Year ended 31 March 2014 £'000	Year ended 31 March 2013 £'000			
<b>a Voluntary income</b>							
Grants and donations	1,699	492	2,191	898			
Gifts in kind	79	-	79	48			
	<b>1,778</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>2,270</b>	<b>946</b>			
<b>b Activities for generating funds</b>							
Events	-	532	532	327			
Merchandising	-	-	-	2			
Sponsorship	-	-	-	1			
	<b>-</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>330</b>			
<b>3. Total resources expended</b>							
	Direct costs £'000	Support costs £'000	Year ended 31 March 2014 £'000	Year ended 31 March 2013 £'000			
Costs of generating funds	613	101	714	572			
Charitable activities							
TreeHouse School	4,253	2,031	6,284	6,369			
Other services & capacity building	1,200	181	1,381	745			
Communications policy & research	435	95	530	466			
Governance	33	34	67	69			
	<b>6,534</b>	<b>2,442</b>	<b>8,976</b>	<b>8,221</b>			
<b>Support costs comprise:</b>							
	Costs of generating funds £'000	TreeHouse School £'000	Other services & capacity building £'000	Comms policy & research £'000	Governance £'000	Year ended 2014 £'000	Year ended 2013 £'000
Finance (incl. loan interest)	23	411	54	21	-	509	496
Human resources	21	366	48	19	-	454	347
IT	13	222	29	11	-	275	172
Premises and office costs	10	919	39	10	-	978	900
Leadership	34	113	11	34	34	226	194
Marketing and general admin	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>2,031</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>2,442</b>	<b>2,112</b>

## Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 March 2014

4. Net incoming resources for the year	Year ended 31 March 2014 £'000	Year ended 31 March 2013 £'000
<b>Depreciation</b>		
Owned assets	335	350
<b>Trustees</b>		
Remuneration	-	-
Expenses (4 trustees for travel and seminar (2013: 4))	1	2
<b>Auditors' remuneration</b>		
Audit	12	12
Other services	7	10
<b>Interest payable on loans</b>	231	212

5. Staff costs and numbers	Year ended 31 March 2014 £'000	Year ended 31 March 2013 £'000
Salaries and wages	5,443	5,105
Social security costs	517	476
Pension contributions	234	238
	<b>6,194</b>	<b>5,819</b>

The average weekly number of employees (full time equivalent) during the period was as follows:	2014 No.	2013 No.
TreeHouse School	158	161
Other services & capacity building	23	9
Communications, policy & research	9	11
Fundraising	10	9
Central functions	17	17
	<b>217</b>	<b>207</b>

Employee emoluments at annual rate of:	2014 No.	2013 No.
£60,000 - £70,000	3	2
£70,001 - £80,000	2	3
£80,001 - £90,000	1	1
	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>

	Year ended 31 March 2014 £'000	Year ended 31 March 2013 £'000
Employer's pension contribution for employees earning over £60,000	44	63

## 6. Taxation

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

## 7. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land £'000	Freehold building at Woodside Avenue £'000	Computer equipment & software £'000	Website development £'000	Office Furniture & equipment £'000	Motor vehicles £'000	Total £'000
<b>Cost</b>							
At 31 March 2013	834	10,779	206	169	208	131	12,327
Additions	-	105	-	-	8		113
Disposals						(35)	(35)
<b>At 31 March 2014</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>10,884</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>12,405</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>							
At 31 March 2013	-	1,010	168	165	114	52	1,509
Charge for the period	-	234	20	4	60	17	335
Depreciation on disposal						(9)	(9)
<b>At 31 March 2014</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,244</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>1,835</b>
<b>Net book value</b>							
At 31 March 2014	834	9,640	18	-	42	36	10,570
At 31 March 2013	834	9,769	38	4	94	79	10,818

All fixed assets are used for direct charitable purposes. The cost of the building includes finance costs incurred of £277,000.

<b>8. Investments</b>	2014 £'000	2013 £'000
<b>Market value at beginning of year</b>	1,494	1,426
Disposals	(800)	-
Additions	800	-
Realised loss on disposals	(44)	-
Unrealised gain on revaluation	18	68
<b>Market value at 31 March</b>	<b>1,468</b>	<b>1,494</b>
<b>Historic cost at the end of the year</b>	<b>1,397</b>	<b>1,397</b>

**Investments comprise**

UK Common Investment Funds	1,468	1,494
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**Investments representing over 5% by value of the portfolio comprise:**

COIF Charities Fixed Interest Fund	147	737
COIF Charities Investment Fund	575	164
The Charibond Charities Fixed Interest Common Investment Fund (Charibond)	149	421
The Equities Investment Fund for Charities	597	172

<b>1,468</b>	<b>1,494</b>
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<b>9. Debtors</b>	2014 £'000	2013 £'000
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Prepayments	228	140
Accrued income	204	37
Other debtors	57	11
Trade Debtors	385	113
	<b>874</b>	<b>301</b>

<b>10. Creditors : amounts falling due within one year</b>	2014 £'000	2013 £'000
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Loans to finance the permanent building	194	203
Loan to finance Ambitious College project (pending)	77	38
Trade Creditors	179	74
Fees received in advance	323	63
Taxation and social security	169	134
Other creditors	43	23
Accruals	111	97
	<b>1,096</b>	<b>632</b>

11. Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	2014 £'000	2013 £'000
Loans to finance the permanent building	5,208	5,402
Loan to finance Ambitious College project (pending)	1,786	1,862
	<b>6,994</b>	<b>7,264</b>

The charity has a loan from Futurebuilders which commenced in October 2008 and is repayable over 25 years. Interest is chargeable at 3.5% until 31 July 2014, and at 1.25% above Bank of England base rate for five years, renewable in July 2019. Thereafter, it is subject to agreement between Futurebuilders and Ambitious about Autism. The loan is secured over the freehold land and buildings at Woodside Avenue.

The charity also has a loan from National Westminster Bank Plc, in two tranches, which commenced in November 2008 and April 2012. Interest only is payable for the first 5 years. From November 2013 the loan is repayable over 22 years. Interest is chargeable at 0.75% above LIBOR. One tranche of the loan (£1.1 million) is capped at 4% by means of an interest rate cap derivative entered into in February 2011. The loan is secured over the freehold land and buildings at Woodside Avenue.

Total loan repayments excluding future interest:	2014 £'000	2013 £'000
Under 1 year	270	241
Between 1-2 years	457	270
Between 2 and 5 years	1,306	828
Over 5 years	5,231	6,166
	<b>7,264</b>	<b>7,505</b>

12. Analysis of net assets between funds	Restricted funds £'000	Designated funds £'000	Revaluation reserve £'000	General funds £'000	Total funds £'000
Tangible fixed assets	4,367	6,203	-	-	10,570
Investments	-	501	71	896	1,468
Net current assets / (liabilities)	1,234	480	-	1,855	3,569
Long term liabilities	-	(5,208)	-	(1,786)	(6,994)
	<b>5,601</b>	<b>1,976</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>965</b>	<b>8,613</b>

## Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 March 2014

13. Movements in funds	At 1 April 2013 £'000	Incoming resources / gains £'000	Outgoing resources / losses £'000	Transfers £'000	At 31 March 2014 £'000
<b>Restricted funds: TreeHouse School</b>					
NMSS grants	-	34	(34)	-	-
Physical education material	-	-	-	-	-
Vocational skills	-	15	(12)	-	3
Early years play scheme	1	-	-	-	1
Outings	11	65	(31)	-	45
Parent school association	9	-	-	-	9
Post 16 resources	1	36	(7)	-	30
	22	150	(84)	-	88
<b>Other services &amp; capacity building</b>					
Schools kit	63	-	(11)	-	52
Ambitious College	82	875	(22)	-	935
ABA competencies	2	-	(2)	-	-
Post 16 feasibility project	-	106	(81)	-	25
Ambitious Support	-	106	(88)	-	18
Fund raising and resources	-	79	(79)	-	-
Transition project	20	10	(30)	-	-
Family Support	57	54	(31)	-	80
Finished at School	-	314	(314)	-	-
	224	1,544	(658)	-	1,110
<b>Communications, policy &amp; research</b>					
Pears annual lecture	10	-	(5)	-	5
Research	2	41	(41)	-	2
Youth Patron project	22	-	(20)	-	2
Talk about Autism website	6	77	(56)	-	27
	40	118	(122)	-	36
<b>Capital</b>					
Website development	9	-	(4)	-	5
People carriers	35	-	(14)	-	21
HACC 6th Form Centre	45	-	-	-	45
Outdoor school equipment & resources	123	-	(15)	-	108
Ambitious Support	72	-	(58)	-	14
Woodside Avenue	4,245	-	(72)	-	4,173
Thames Water Project	21	-	(20)	-	1
	4,550	-	(183)	-	4,367
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>4,836</b>	<b>1,812</b>	<b>(1,047)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,601</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>					
<b>Designated funds</b>					
Fixed assets	663	-	(155)	294	802
School development	185	-	-	175	360
Transformation fund	200	-	-	-	200
Cyclical Maintenance fund	541	-	(27)	100	614
	1,589	-	(182)	569	1,976
Revaluation reserve	97	-	(26)	-	71
General funds	1,093	8,188	(7,747)	(569)	965
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>2,779</b>	<b>8,188</b>	<b>(7,955)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,012</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>7,615</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>(9,002)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,613</b>

## Purposes of restricted funds

### TreeHouse School

<b>NMSS grants</b>	As a Non-Maintained Special School (NMSS), TreeHouse School is eligible for government grants towards the costs of running the school.
<b>Physical education material</b>	Physical education is a vital part of the pupil curriculum and funding has facilitated provision of a wide range of sports related opportunities.
<b>Vocational skills</b>	Funding to provide equipment for new vocational skills classroom.
<b>Early years play scheme</b>	Funding has contributed towards specific play opportunities for younger primary age pupils.
<b>Outings</b>	Funding from a number of donors has contributed towards outdoor activity opportunities at Scout Park, a local resource, residential trips and activities such as horse-riding.
<b>Parent school association</b>	The parent school association (PSA) organises a variety of fundraising activities, the proceeds of which are used to enhance school life.
<b>Post 16 resources</b>	Resources for the sixth form common room.

### Other services & capacity building

<b>Schools kit</b>	ICAP has supported the development of a resource for 17,000 primary schools throughout the UK to support awareness of autism.
<b>Ambitious College</b>	The charity continues its work to establish Ambitious College, London's only specialist day college for young people with complex autism aged 16 - 25 years. It will be co-located and developed in partnership with a general further education college.
<b>ABA competencies</b>	The project developed a shared framework of competencies, training and practice for practitioners in the UK engaged in the education of children and young people using the principles of ABA (Applied Behavioural Analysis).
<b>Post 16 feasibility project</b>	Funding being utilised to develop services for young people between the ages of 16 and 25 with autism.
<b>Ambitious Support</b>	The charity's community learning disability service for 19 - 25's opened in August 2012, and is registered with the Care Quality Commission. It is located within Barnet & Southgate College of Further Education, enabling its service users to access further education as part of their person-centred plan.
<b>Fundraising and resources</b>	Gifts in kind to support fundraising and resources.
<b>Transition project</b>	The project prepares pupils for transition from school to adult life. Through this project we have been able to share good practice and research with others.
<b>Family Support</b>	We have received funding for our family support function, which aims to secure strong and timely direct advice and support to families and carers of young people through periods of transition, such as from primary to secondary school, from school to further education, training or other placement, and to adulthood.
<b>Finished at School</b>	Finished at School is a national campaign which aims to secure more and better educational options for all young people with autism aged 16 - 25 to enable them to develop skills, gain employment, live more independently and ultimately to live the life they choose.

### Communications, policy & research

<b>Pears Annual Lecture</b>	The aim of the annual lecture is to bring together a diverse audience and engage in important and controversial issues affecting people with autism. Funding has been provided by Pears Foundation.
<b>Research</b>	Ambitious about Autism has an established partnership with the Institute of Education and the Centre for Research in Autism Education.
<b>Youth patron project</b>	Funding has been received from Give it Away to develop youth participation, including a Youth Council and team of Youth Patrons. The youth participation work ensures the needs and views of young people with autism are central to Ambitious about Autism's work. The work also creates platforms for young people with autism to raise awareness of autism and campaign for change.
<b>Talk about Autism website</b>	TalkTalk supported the original launch of Talk about Autism and continues to provide funding as they recognise that families are increasingly harnessing the power of the internet to gain better information for, and have more discussions about, their family needs. The Big Lottery Fund's Awards for All funded the development of a mobile-compatible version of the forum, which will enable us to offer a better service and reach even more people.

### Capital funds

<b>Website development</b>	This fund represents the value of restricted funds invested in the development of the charity's website. Depreciation is provided on a straight line basis over an expected useful life of three years.
<b>People carriers</b>	Donations specifically for the purchase of people carriers were received in previous periods, from a number of donors. Depreciation is provided on a straight line basis over an expected useful life of five years.
<b>HACC 6th Form Centre</b>	Funding was received from Help a Capital Child to create a 'virtual' Sixth Form centre by constructing and equipping a number of learning hubs in various places in the school: a retail kiosk, an art/creative space, a sound-proofed music and radio room, an animation and photography suite. Depreciation is provided on a straight line basis over an expected useful life of three years.
<b>Outdoor school equipment &amp; resources</b>	Funding to build an all-weather multi-use games area in the grounds of the Pears National Centre for Autism Education was secured from various funders. Depreciation is provided on a straight line basis over an expected useful life of ten years.
<b>Ambitious Support</b>	See information above. Depreciation is provided on a straight line basis over an expected useful life of three years on Ambitious Support capital items.
<b>Woodside Avenue</b>	Funding from many donors has contributed to the creation of the Pears National Centre for Autism Education at Woodside Avenue, which was completed in October 2008. Depreciation is provided on the building over fifty years.
<b>Thames Water Project</b>	We have secured a lease for adjoining land from Thames Water on a peppercorn rent which will enable the horticulture, landscaping and retail curricula to be considerably extended. We have been awarded a grant by Help a Capital Child to work with pupils to develop this resource and pathway for young people.



**Purpose of designated funds****Fixed assets**

This fund represents the value of unrestricted funds invested in fixed assets which are not, by the nature of fixed assets, readily available for other purposes.

**Schools development**

The school fund has been established to fund future schools 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. We have undertaken some activity in these areas from normal recurring income. The fund will be used for Management Information Systems and financial modelling, website development and trustee and school governor recruitment.

**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.

**Revaluation reserve**

The revaluation reserve represents the accumulated unrealised gains made on Ambitious about Autism's investment portfolio.

#### 14. 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 the other places at the school and the children receive the same service and benefits as other children. Lorraine Peterson, AaA Trustee, was the Chief Executive of NASEN which is a partner of the Finished at School Project

#### 15. Connected Charity - Autism Schools Trust (AST)

Ambitious about Autism and Dimensions (UK) Ltd are members of Autism Schools Trust (AST) which is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 18 December 2012; it is a multi-academy trust and an exempt charity and as such it is not permitted to make distributions. The company's object is to advance, for the public benefit, education in the UK, including establishing and managing schools or alternate provision Academies offering a broad and balanced curriculum, or schools specially organised to make special education provision for the needs of their students. Each member of the Trust undertakes to contribute to the assets of the charitable company in the event of it being wound up while they are a member, or within one year after they cease to be a member, such amount as may be required not exceeding £10 for the debts and liabilities contracted before they ceased to be a member. John Constantine (current Vice Chair) and Jolanta Lasota (Chief Executive) are directors of AST, and Kevin O'Brien (Director of Autism Services to 28 March 2014) resigned as director of AST on 28 March 2014.

AST opened its first special free school for children with Autism in September 2014, called the Rise School. The pre-opening costs for the Rise School have been funded mostly by the DfE, although Ambitious about Autism and Dimensions have agreed to contribute to the full development costs. Since 31 March 2014 Ambitious about Autism has transferred £100k to AST in respect of such costs. AST has plans to open further special free schools and in anticipation of the additional costs that would be involved the trustees have transferred a further £125k to the School development designated fund.

#### 16. Pension costs

Pension costs comprised contributions to one defined contribution Group Pension, one Teachers Pension Scheme and one other defined contribution scheme. Contributions to these schemes were (2014: £157K, £58K and £19K) respectively with the following numbers of members respectively: (80,10,and 1). Contributions to these schemes for (2013 were, £171K , £49K and 18K) respectively with the following numbers of members respectively: (81,10,and 1).

##### *Defined Contribution Schemes*

The charity makes contributions to the Aegon Pension Scheme and into one employee's pension scheme. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of Ambitious about Autism. Pension costs charged in the SOFA represent the contributions payable by Ambitious about Autism for the year.

##### *Teachers Pension Scheme*

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 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.

#### 17. Capital commitments

	2014 £'000	2013 £'000
Authorised and committed	-	87