

Company No. 3375255  
Charity No. 1063184

**Ambitious about Autism**  
**Report and Financial Statements**  
**31 July 2011**

**sayer vincent**

consultants and auditors

## Ambitious about Autism

### Reference & administrative details

#### For the year ended 31 July 2011

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<b>Status</b>	The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated as The TreeHouse Trust on 25 May 1997 and registered as a charity on 2 July 1997. The company changed its name to Ambitious about Autism on 10 February 2011.
<b>Governing document</b>	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.
<b>Company number</b>	3375255
<b>Charity number</b>	1063184
<b>Registered office and operating address</b>	The Pears National Centre for Autism Education Woodside Avenue London N10 3JA
<b>President</b>	Lord Tim Clement-Jones CBE
<b>Vice Presidents</b>	Peter Carroll Virginia Bovell OBE Katharine Doré OBE Karen Edwards Alex Hatter Richard Hatter Nick Hornby Simon Wells
<b>Trustees</b>	Nick Baldwin (Chair) Judith Barnard ( <i>resigned 3 December 2010</i> ) Tristina Clarke (Chair of Remuneration Committee) John Constantine (Chair of Scrutiny and Audit Committee) Clare Coombe-Tennant Martyn Craddock ( <i>appointed 21 September 2011</i> ) Paul Fallon ( <i>appointed 3 December 2010</i> ) (Chair of Impact Committee) Bruce Fraser ( <i>resigned 3 December 2010</i> ) Jonathan Meth Emran Mian OBE Lorraine Petersen OBE ( <i>appointed 1 October 2010</i> ) Matthew Punshon Dr Rowena Shaw (Chair of TreeHouse School Governing Body) Fiona Slomovic ( <i>appointed 21 September 2011</i> ) Richard Townley Simon Wells ( <i>resigned 21 September 2011</i> )
<b>Executive Management</b>	Jolanta Lasota - Chief Executive Mark Atkinson - Director of Communications, Policy & Research Louise Jagger - Director of Fundraising ( <i>until 26 August 2011</i> ) Alan Larsen ACA - Director of Resources ( <i>from 10 January 2011</i> ) Andy Lusk - Director of Autism Services ( <i>from 4 January 2011</i> ) Dr Julie O'Sullivan - Headteacher, TreeHouse School Zoe Weaver - Director of People
<b>Company Secretary</b>	Alan Larsen ACA

## **Ambitious about Autism**

### **Reference & administrative details**

**For the year ended 31 July 2011**

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#### **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  
Chartered Accountants  
8 Angel Gate  
City Road  
London EC1V 2SJ

##### **Solicitors**

Macfarlanes  
10 Norwich Street  
London  
EC4A 1BD

##### **Investment Managers**

CCLA Investment Management Limited  
80 Cheapside  
London EC2V 6DZ

M&G Securities Limited  
Laurence Pountney Hill  
London EC4R 0HH

##### **Expert Advisers**

Dr Gillian Baird OBE  
Judith Barnard  
Professor Simon Baron-Cohen  
Virginia Bovell OBE  
Steve Broach  
Professor Tony Charman  
Phillip Cullum (*until 30 August 2011*)  
Fenella Gentleman  
Professor Richard Hastings  
Julia Hobsbawm  
Johnny Hornby  
Professor Pat Howlin  
James Partridge OBE  
Nick Peacey  
Professor Bob Remington  
Mark Schmid  
Su Thomas  
Gaby Zein

## **Ambitious about Autism**

### **Report of the trustees**

#### **For the year ended 31 July 2011**

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The trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2011.

Reference and administrative information set out on pages 1 and 2 form part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the memorandum and articles of association and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

#### **1. Objects, Vision, Mission, Outcomes, Values and Objectives**

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 gives nearly 90 children and young people with autism the specialist, intensive and integrated education they need to learn, thrive and achieve.

In February 2011 the charity changed its name to Ambitious about Autism and launched its new strategy as the national charity for children and young people with autism.

The objects of the charity, as defined in its memorandum and articles of association which were 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.

#### **Our Vision:**

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

#### **Our Mission:**

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

#### **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.

#### **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.

## **Ambitious about Autism**

### **Report of the trustees**

#### **For the year ended 31 July 2011**

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**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 adults 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.

### **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 old 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 Board of trustees has referred to the guidance provided by the Charity Commission to ensure that the aims, objectives and activities of Ambitious about Autism are for the public benefit.

## **2. 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 memorandum and 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 in 2009. The Code of Governance Checklist was completed to identify areas of compliance and non-compliance. The governance review resulted in a new governance structure being put in place and policies and procedures being updated.

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

Parents and adults with autism are involved in the leadership of Ambitious about Autism as trustees on the Board and governors on the TreeHouse School Governing Body.

A Youth Council has also been formed to enable young people with autism to influence the work of the charity.

## **Ambitious about Autism**

### **Report of the trustees**

#### **For the year ended 31 July 2011**

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#### **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 was established in 2010 to oversee the recruitment, induction and appraisal of trustees. Trustees are recruited openly through a variety of channels including search, advertising and networks. During 2010, 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.

#### **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 Impact Committee monitors the overall reach and impact of Ambitious about Autism. The TreeHouse School Governing Body examines all matters relating to the 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 Nominations Committee deals with trustee renewal, support and review and meets as required. The SAC, Impact, Remuneration, and Nomination Committees comprise trustees with relevant expertise; the TreeHouse School Governing Body includes 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 who reports to the trustees and attends the Board and sub-committee meetings. Other members of the ELT are: Director of Autism Services, Headteacher of TreeHouse School, Director of Communications Policy and Research, Director of Resources, Director of People, and Director of Fundraising.

#### **Risk statement**

Risks are managed in accordance with the risk policy approved by the Board of trustees, which was reviewed and updated in July 2011. 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). 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 presented annually to the Board of trustees.

## **Ambitious about Autism**

### **Report of the trustees**

#### **For the year ended 31 July 2011**

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The principal risk facing Ambitious about Autism is the continuing uncertainty in both the economic and political environment, and its potential impact on income and the use of services provided by the charity. The situation is continually monitored by executive management and reported to each meeting of SAC. Service development and other projects currently in progress have appropriate funding agreements in place. The development of a new service does not commence until funding has been agreed, unless specifically approved by trustees and in accordance with the annual operating budget and reserves policy.

### **Connected organisations**

Ambitious about Autism is an active member of Autism Education Trust, Autism Alliance, Council for Disabled Children (CDC), the steering group of the Special Education Consortium (SEC), National Association for Non-Maintained and Independent Special Schools (NASS), Every Disabled Child Matters campaign, Communications Trust, and the World Autism Awareness Day consortium.

## **3. Highlights of the year**

### **TreeHouse School**

Ambitious about Autism continues to run TreeHouse School, a 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 up to 90 pupils to learn, thrive and achieve their potential. Pupils come from diverse backgrounds from 17 different local authority areas in and around London.

TreeHouse School had a successful Ofsted Inspection in 2009, achieving an overall rating of 'good', with 'outstanding' for care, support and guidance, safeguarding, and governance. TreeHouse School continues to work with Bangor University to carry out research into pupil progress, which will inform the practice of the school and others more widely.

This year the charity built a new all-weather sports pitch and enhanced the facilities within the school to support vocational work with older pupils.

TreeHouse School has also been awarded Autism Accreditation, an autism-specific quality assurance programme established by the National Autistic Society.

### **Other services & capacity building**

Young people with autism face many barriers transitioning into adult life. In order to support them and their families, the Transition Support Service set up by the charity in 2010 continues to provide vital information, training and advice on pathways to further education, training, employment, housing and finances to the parents of young people with autism at TreeHouse School.

This service also continues to inform the charity's plans to develop its own provision for young people aged 19 plus.

## **Ambitious about Autism**

### **Report of the trustees**

#### **For the year ended 31 July 2011**

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Ambitious about Autism is committed to helping others develop their skills and knowledge around supporting young people with autism. To achieve this, the charity continued to develop and provide a training and consultancy service which aims to support parents of children with autism, teachers and other professionals.

A first draft of the '*UK ABA Autism Education Competence Framework*' was published during the year. This important project led by Ambitious about Autism, working with the support and collaboration of key stakeholders from the ABA and autism communities across the UK, will provide a professional development pathway, compatible with the internationally recognised Behaviour Analyst Certification Board, for those wishing to pursue a career in ABA working with children with autism.

The charity also ran two professional conferences during the year.

### **Communications, policy & research**

Ambitious about Autism has continued to influence and shape policy affecting children and young people with autism. Over the past year much of our work has been in response to the Department for Education's Green Paper: '*Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability*'. The charity consulted with parents, carers, professionals and young people to capture their concerns and ideas about the reform of Special Education Needs.

In addition, the policy team at Ambitious about Autism worked in partnership with other charities to influence the passage of the Education Bill. This resulted in securing two important changes that provide more effective safeguards around exclusion policy, where children with autism and other special educational needs are concerned.

The Pears Annual Lecture was held in July 2011 and explored how the changing schools landscape will affect children and young people with autism. The lecture was chaired by our President, Lord Tim-Clement Jones, and attracted more than 120 guests including many young people and their families, policy and decision-makers, and professionals. The lecture was the first in a series of three supported by Pears Foundation.

Over the past twelve months many policy and decision-makers have visited the Pears National Centre for Autism Education, including parliamentarians, councillors, and journalists. In June 2011, the London Mayor, Boris Johnson, and the Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, together with Paralympian, Ade Adepitan, visited Ambitious about Autism to launch the third annual report of the London 2012 Equality and Diversity Forum: '*Working towards an inclusive Games*'. Five open days were also held during the year, allowing over 50 professionals to learn more about the work of Ambitious about Autism and TreeHouse School.

In June the charity was honoured to host a visit from Dr Temple Grandin, the renowned autism campaigner. During her visit, Temple Grandin observed the work of TreeHouse School, took part in a live web chat on *Talk about Autism*, and participated in a Q&A session with the charity's staff, parents and other supporters.

*Talk about Autism* - the charity's online community - continued to grow in the past year with over 180,000 visitors to the website. *Talk about Autism* hosted seven live Q&A sessions with leading academics and politicians. In February 2011, coinciding with the change of name of the charity to Ambitious about Autism, a new website was launched, which has received much positive feedback and increased visitor numbers.

## **Ambitious about Autism**

### **Report of the trustees**

#### **For the year ended 31 July 2011**

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Ambitious about Autism continued its partnership with Bangor University to build and foster a research culture across the charity. The research partnership supports TreeHouse School to measure pupil progress and the impact of various interventions. The charity also continues to work in partnership with the Institute of Education to support the work of the Centre for Research in Autism and Education (supported by the Clothworkers Foundation and Pears Foundation), which was established with the objective of improving the research evidence for effective interventions, education and outcomes for children and young people with autism.

The Parent Participation Project funded by the Department for Education came to a successful conclusion during the year. This project has supported parents and carers across four local authority areas to be able to campaign locally and engage with policy-makers.

#### **Organisational development**

The new Executive Leadership Team structure approved by the trustees in July 2010, as part of the three year strategy, was completed during the year with the appointment of the Director of Autism Services and the Director of Resources who both started in January 2011. The Executive Leadership Team has been working with users, trustees, governors, staff and other key stakeholders to implement the three year strategy that was launched in February 2011.

Staff were supported through a continuing training and development programme.

#### **4. Financial review**

Total income increased to £7.92m (2010: £7.68m).

TreeHouse School fees and grants increased to £6.40m (2010: £5.67m) as a result of an increase in the number of pupils to 83 (2010: 77). However, this was offset by a reduction in voluntary income to £1.37m (2010: £1.95m), which arose partly because several years of statutory funding came to an end, as well as from the continuing uncertain economic climate.

Total charitable expenditure rose by 14% to £7.31m (2010: £6.41m) due mainly to the increase in pupil numbers, but also due to planned investment in the development of services and increased communications and policy activity.

The surplus for the year of £0.14m (2010: £0.82m) arose from net restricted income carried forward of £0.16m (2010: £0.51m). There was an unrestricted deficit of £0.02m (2010: surplus of £0.31m), which arose from the reduction in unrestricted voluntary income.

Net assets at 31 July 2011 rose to £6.79m (2010: £6.65m). However, the charity has net current liabilities at the end of the year of £0.03m. This has arisen in part from a transfer of £0.6m to investments during the year. Notwithstanding the net current liabilities, the trustees are confident that the charity can meet its liabilities as they fall due, both from income as it arises during the coming year as well as because investments are readily realisable.

Loans for the Pears National Centre for Autism Education totalled £5.90m (2010: £6.07m) including accumulated interest. Further details are shown in note 11 to the accounts.

## **Ambitious about Autism**

### **Report of the trustees**

#### **For the year ended 31 July 2011**

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##### **5. Reserves policy**

Unrestricted reserves at 31 July 2011 were £1.67m (2010: £1.68m). This included fixed assets which, net of loans, totalled £0.53m. 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. In addition, a sinking fund, based upon projected 30 year life cycle costs, has been established for major repairs to the Pears National Centre for Autism Education. £0.1m (2010: £0.2m) was transferred to the fund at the end of the year, which is at the level required to build up the fund to the projected requirement. Major items of repair and maintenance will be charged to this fund. A revaluation reserve has also been established to recognise the unrealised increase in value of investments.

Excluding designated funds and the revaluation reserve, Ambitious about Autism had free reserves at 31 July 2011 of £0.83m (2010: £1.19m).

The Board of trustees approved an updated reserves policy in December 2010 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 for free reserves was set at £1.35m. As at 31 July 2011 there is a deficit of £0.52m. The policy remains unchanged at 31 July 2011.

##### **6. Investment policy**

The charity's investment policy was approved by the Board of trustees in December 2009 and is linked closely to the risk and reserves policies. The policy aims to:

- improve returns from funds representing free reserves while taking a low risk approach to the loss of capital;
- 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 will be reviewed as and when required and at least annually.

During the year, a further £0.60m was transferred from cash to investments in order to optimise returns.

The trustees have reviewed the implementation of the policy and are satisfied with the returns achieved during the year, which, including unrealised gains, far exceeded what would have been earned by simply holding cash.

##### **7. Future plans**

The charity's future plans reflect its main aims outlined above of providing more and better services,

The focus during the coming year will be in the following areas:

- continuing to support TreeHouse School to grow and develop;
- developing the charity's services for young people aged 19 plus. This will focus on increasing opportunities for transition to an active and fulfilling life in the community;

## **Ambitious about Autism**

### **Report of the trustees**

#### **For the year ended 31 July 2011**

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- supporting the development of early years, and training & consultancy services;
- the launch of *Finished at School*, a national campaign to secure more and better education options for young people with autism. The main objective of the campaign is to achieve a clear legal right for young people with autism to access educational support up to the age of 25;
- to influence the White Paper that is due towards the end of 2011 as the next stage of policy development following the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Green Paper published in March 2011;
- increasing voluntary income to support the charity's new services and work;
- strengthening the charity's infrastructure to support future development and growth.

#### **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.

## **Ambitious about Autism**

### **Report of the trustees**

#### **For the year ended 31 July 2011**

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#### **Guarantees**

Members of the charitable company 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 July 2011 was 14 (2010:12). The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charitable company.

#### **Auditors**

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

Approved by the trustees on 23 November 2011 and signed on their behalf by

Nick Baldwin - Chair

## **Independent auditors' report**

### **To the members of**

### **Ambitious about Autism**

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We have audited the financial statements of Ambitious About Autism for the year ended 31 July 2011 which comprise 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 the 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. 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 July 2011 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 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.

*Helen Elliott (Senior statutory auditor)*

*2 December 2011*

*for and on behalf of Sayer Vincent, Statutory Auditors*

*8 Angel Gate, City Road, LONDON EC1V 2SJ*

## Ambitious about Autism

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

For the year ended 31 July 2011

	Note	Restricted £'000	Unrestricted £'000	2011 Total £'000	2010 Total £'000
<b>Incoming resources</b>					
<i>Incoming resources from generated funds</i>					
Voluntary income	2a	873	375	<b>1,248</b>	1,929
Activities for generating funds	2b	124	2	<b>126</b>	22
		997	377	<b>1,374</b>	1,951
Investment income		-	72	<b>72</b>	37
<i>Incoming resources from charitable activities</i>					
TreeHouse School fees and grants		105	6,292	<b>6,397</b>	5,671
Other services & capacity building		-	80	<b>80</b>	15
Other income		-	-	<b>-</b>	3
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>1,102</b>	<b>6,821</b>	<b>7,923</b>	<b>7,677</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
<i>Costs of generating funds</i>					
TreeHouse School		-	81	<b>81</b>	15
Other services & capacity building		1	150	<b>151</b>	187
Communications, policy & research		1	205	<b>206</b>	226
Permanent Building		8	-	<b>8</b>	23
Activities for generating funds		-	33	<b>33</b>	5
	3	10	469	<b>479</b>	456
<i>Charitable expenditure:</i>					
TreeHouse School		211	5,921	<b>6,132</b>	5,429
Other services & capacity building		340	64	<b>404</b>	348
Communications, policy & research		384	340	<b>724</b>	564
Governance costs		-	45	<b>45</b>	68
<b>Total charitable expenditure</b>		<b>935</b>	<b>6,370</b>	<b>7,305</b>	<b>6,409</b>
<b>Total resources expended</b>	3	<b>945</b>	<b>6,839</b>	<b>7,784</b>	<b>6,865</b>
<b>Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources before other recognised gains and losses (note 4)</b>		<b>157</b>	<b>(18)</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>812</b>
<b>Other recognised gains and losses</b>					
Unrealised gains on investments		-	2	<b>2</b>	10
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>157</b>	<b>(16)</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>822</b>
<b>Funds at the start of the year</b>		<b>4,969</b>	<b>1,683</b>	<b>6,652</b>	<b>5,830</b>
<b>Funds at the end of the year</b>		<b>5,126</b>	<b>1,667</b>	<b>6,793</b>	<b>6,652</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.

## Ambitious about Autism

### Balance sheet

As at 31 July 2011

	Note	2011 £'000	2010 £'000
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible fixed assets	7	11,138	10,894
Investments	8	<u>1,409</u>	<u>807</u>
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		<b>12,547</b>	<b>11,701</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	9	153	376
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>2,090</u>	<u>2,250</u>
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>2,243</b>	<b>2,626</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>(2,270)</u>	<u>(1,779)</u>
<b>Net current (liabilities) / assets</b>		<b><u>(27)</u></b>	<b><u>847</u></b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<b>12,520</b>	<b>12,548</b>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after one year</b>	11	<u>(5,727)</u>	<u>(5,896)</u>
<b>Net assets</b>	12	<b><u>6,793</u></b>	<b><u>6,652</u></b>
<b>Funds</b>			
Restricted funds			
In surplus		5,126	4,995
In deficit		-	(26)
Unrestricted funds:			
Designated funds		827	480
General funds		828	1,193
Revaluation reserve		<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>
<b>Total charity funds</b>	13	<b><u>6,793</u></b>	<b><u>6,652</u></b>

Approved by the trustees on 23 November 2011 and signed on their behalf by

Nick Baldwin - Chair

## Ambitious about Autism

### Cashflow statement

#### For The Year Ended 31 July 2011

	2011 £'000	2011 £'000	2010 £'000
<b>Net incoming resources for the year</b>		<b>139</b>	812
Interest receivable		(72)	(36)
Interest payable		192	188
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		313	282
Decrease / (Increase) in debtors		223	(269)
Decrease in creditors		491	(219)
<b>Net cash inflow from operating activities</b>		<b>1,286</b>	758
<b>Returns on investments and servicing of finance</b>			
Interest received		72	37
Interest paid		(192)	(188)
		<b>(120)</b>	(151)
<b>Capital expenditure</b>			
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	(557)		33
Payments to acquire investments	(600)		(797)
		<b>(1,157)</b>	(764)
<b>Financing</b>			
Repayment of loans		(169)	(170)
<b>Net cash outflow</b>		<b>(160)</b>	(327)

#### Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 August 2009 £'000	Cashflow £'000	Other changes £'000	At 31 July 2010 £'000	Cashflow £'000	At 31 July 2011 £'000
<b>Cash</b>						
Short term deposits	750	-	(750)	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand	1,827	(327)	750	2,250	(160)	<b>2,090</b>
	<u>2,577</u>	<u>(327)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,250</u>	<u>(160)</u>	<u><b>2,090</b></u>
<b>Debt</b>						
Loans due within one year	(166)	-	(9)	(175)	-	<b>(175)</b>
Loans due after one year	(6,075)	170	9	(5,896)	169	<b>(5,727)</b>
	<u>(6,241)</u>	<u>170</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(6,071)</u>	<u>169</u>	<u><b>(5,902)</b></u>
<b>Total</b>	<u><u>(3,664)</u></u>	<u><u>(157)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>(3,821)</u></u>	<u><u>9</u></u>	<u><u><b>(3,812)</b></u></u>

## **Ambitious about Autism**

### **Notes to the financial statements**

#### **For the year ended 31 July 2011**

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##### **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/area occupied
Human Resources	Staff head count
IT	Staff head count
Facilities Management	Area occupied/staff head count
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.

## Ambitious about Autism

### Notes to the financial statements

#### For the year ended 31 July 2011

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##### 1. Accounting policies (continued)

- 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
Motor vehicles	5 years
All-weather sports pitch	10 years
Freehold building at Woodside Avenue	50 years

Items are generally 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 group personal 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 15.

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.

## Ambitious about Autism

### Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 July 2011

#### 2. Incoming resources from generated funds

	Restricted £'000	Unrestricted £'000	2011 £'000	2010 £'000
a Voluntary income				
Grants and donations	873	335	1,208	1,880
Gifts in kind	-	32	32	41
Gift aid recoverable	-	8	8	8
	<u>873</u>	<u>375</u>	<u>1,248</u>	<u>1,929</u>
b Activities for generating funds				
Ambition auction	124	-	124	10
Merchandising	-	2	2	1
Sponsorship	-	-	-	11
	<u>124</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>126</u>	<u>22</u>

#### 3. Total resources expended

	Direct costs £'000	Support costs £'000	Total 2011 £'000	Total 2010 £'000
<b>Costs of generating funds</b>	404	75	479	456
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
TreeHouse School	4,356	1,776	6,132	5,429
Other services & capacity building	343	61	404	348
Communications policy & research	611	113	724	564
<b>Governance</b>	21	24	45	68
	<u>5,735</u>	<u>2,049</u>	<u>7,784</u>	<u>6,865</u>

#### Support costs comprise:

	Costs of generating funds £'000	TreeHouse School £'000	Other services & capacity building £'000	Comms policy & research £'000	Governance costs £'000	2011 £'000	2010 £'000
Finance (incl. loan interest)	18	426	11	18	-	473	419
Human resources	14	273	10	18	-	315	303
IT	5	97	4	6	-	112	136
Premises and office costs	29	851	12	19	-	911	808
Leadership	8	79	23	24	24	158	155
Marketing and general admini	1	50	1	28	-	80	86
<b>Total</b>	<u>75</u>	<u>1,776</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>113</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>2,049</u>	<u>1907</u>

## Ambitious about Autism

### Notes to the financial statements

#### For the year ended 31 July 2011

#### 4. Net incoming resources for the year

This is stated after charging:	<b>2011</b>	2010
	<b>£'000</b>	£'000
Depreciation:		
- owned assets	<b>313</b>	282
Trustees:		
- remuneration	-	-
- expenses (3 trustees for travel and seminar)	<b>1</b>	-
Auditors' remuneration:		
- audit	<b>13</b>	12
- other services	<b>1</b>	3
Interest payable on loans	<b>192</b>	188

#### 5. Staff costs and numbers

Staff costs were as follows:	<b>2011</b>	2010
	<b>£'000</b>	£'000
Salaries and wages	<b>4,948</b>	4,212
Social security costs	<b>474</b>	397
Pension contributions	<b>177</b>	155
Other staff costs	-	3
	<b>5,599</b>	4,767

The average weekly number of employees (full time equivalent) during the year was as follows:	<b>2011</b>	2010
	<b>No.</b>	No.
TreeHouse School	<b>159</b>	146
Other services & capacity building	<b>11</b>	5
Communications, policy & research	<b>5</b>	5
Fundraising	<b>8</b>	8
Central functions	<b>16</b>	16
	<b>199</b>	180

Employee emoluments	<b>2011</b>	2010
	<b>No.</b>	No.
£60,000 - £70,000	<b>3</b>	5
£70,001 - £80,000	<b>2</b>	-
£80,001 - £90,000	<b>1</b>	1
	<b>6</b>	6

	<b>2011</b>	2010
	<b>£'000</b>	£'000
Employer's pension contribution for these employees	<b>22</b>	31

#### 6. Taxation

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

**Ambitious About Autism**

**Notes to the financial statements**

**For the year ended 31 July 2011**

**7. Tangible fixed assets**

	Freehold land £'000	Freehold building at Woodside Avenue £'000	All-weather sports pitch £'000	Computer equipment & software £'000	Website development £'000	Playground equipment £'000	Work in progress: Fixtures & fittings £'000	Office furniture & equipment £'000	Motor vehicles £'000	<b>Total £ '000</b>
<b>Cost</b>										
At 31 July 2010	834	10,331	3	139	124	31	-	27	21	<b>11,510</b>
Additions	-	254	151	10	45	-	33	9	55	<b>557</b>
<b>At 31 July 2011</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>10,585</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>12,067</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>										
At 31 July 2010	-	380	-	105	52	31	-	27	21	<b>616</b>
Charge for the year	-	212	6	33	57	-	-	3	2	<b>313</b>
<b>At 31 July 2011</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>929</b>
<b>Net book value</b>										
<b>At 31 July 2011</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>9,993</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>11,138</b>
At 31 July 2010	834	9,951	3	34	72	-	-	-	-	10,894

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

## Ambitious about Autism

### Notes to the financial statements

#### For the year ended 31 July 2011

#### 8. Investments

	2011 £'000	2010 £'000
Market value at beginning of year	807	-
Add: additions at cost	600	797
Add: net gain on revaluation	2	10
	<u>1,409</u>	<u>807</u>
Market value at 31 July 2011	<u>1,409</u>	<u>807</u>
Historic cost at the end of the year	<u>1,397</u>	<u>797</u>
Investments comprise	2011 £'000	2010 £'000
UK Common Investment Funds	<u>1,409</u>	<u>807</u>
Investments representing over 5% by value of the portfolio comprise:	2011 £'000	2010 £'000
COIF Charities Fixed Interest Fund	709	406
COIF Charities Investment Fund	146	-
The Charibond Charities Fixed Interest Common Investment Fund	402	401
The Equities Investment Fund for Charities	<u>152</u>	<u>-</u>

#### 9. Debtors

	2011 £'000	2010 £'000
Prepayments	48	91
Accrued income	44	199
Other debtors	61	86
	<u>153</u>	<u>376</u>

#### 10. Creditors : amounts falling due within one year

	2011 £'000	2010 £'000
Loan	175	175
Fees received in advance	1,552	1,275
Taxation and social security	153	119
Other creditors	174	182
Accruals	216	28
	<u>2,270</u>	<u>1,779</u>

## Ambitious about Autism

### Notes to the financial statements

#### For the year ended 31 July 2011

#### 11. Creditors : amounts falling due after one year

	<b>2011</b>	2010
	<b>£'000</b>	£'000
Loans to finance the permanent building	<b>5,727</b>	5,896

The charity has a £5m loan from Futurebuilders which commenced in October 2008 and is repayable over 25 years. Interest is chargeable at 3.5% until 31 July 2015. 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 £1.1m loan from National Westminster Bank Plc, which commenced in November 2009. 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 and 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:	<b>2011</b>	2010
	<b>£'000</b>	£'000
Under 1 year	<b>175</b>	175
Between 1-2 years	<b>175</b>	175
Between 2 and 5 years	<b>621</b>	524
Over 5 years	<b>4,931</b>	5,197
	<b>5,902</b>	6,071

#### 12. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Revaluation reserve	General funds	<b>Total funds</b>
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	<b>£'000</b>
Tangible fixed assets	4,709	6,429	-	-	<b>11,138</b>
Investments	-	-	12	1,397	<b>1,409</b>
Net current assets / (liabilities)	417	125	-	(569)	<b>(27)</b>
Long term liabilities	-	(5,727)	-	-	<b>(5,727)</b>
	<b>5,126</b>	<b>827</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>6,793</b>

## Ambitious about Autism

### Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 July 2011

#### 13. Movements in funds

	At 1 August 2010 £'000	Incoming resources / gains £'000	Outgoing resources £'000	Transfers £'000	At 31 July 2011 £'000
<b>Restricted funds:</b>					
<b>TreeHouse School</b>					
NMSS grants	-	105	(105)	-	-
Dental project	3	-	(3)	-	-
Residential trips	2	2	(6)	2	-
Occupational therapy	-	10	(10)	-	-
Outings	6	7	(6)	-	7
Parent school association	2	4	(1)	-	5
Bicycle activities	1	-	(1)	-	-
Extended day	2	-	-	(2)	-
Post 16 resources	-	3	(1)	-	2
	<u>16</u>	<u>131</u>	<u>(133)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14</u>
<b>Other services &amp; capacity building</b>					
Training and consultancy	57	44	(71)	-	30
Schools kit	-	190	-	-	190
ABA competencies	42	53	(76)	-	19
Post 16 feasibility project	35	50	(53)	-	32
Ambitious support team	-	51	(12)	-	39
Transition project	183	36	(127)	-	92
	<u>317</u>	<u>424</u>	<u>(339)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>402</u>
<b>Communications, policy &amp; research</b>					
Parent support project book	15	-	(15)	-	-
Parent participation project	60	106	(166)	-	-
'Talk about Autism'	(26)	93	(67)	-	-
Pears annual lecture	1	15	(15)	-	1
Research	-	64	(64)	-	-
	<u>50</u>	<u>278</u>	<u>(327)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
<b>Capital</b>					
Website development	70	45	(55)	-	60
People carriers	-	55	(2)	-	53
6th Form centre	-	98	-	-	98
All-weather sports pitch	-	49	(6)	89	132
Woodside Avenue	4,516	22	(83)	(89)	4,366
	<u>4,586</u>	<u>269</u>	<u>(146)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,709</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>4,969</b>	<b>1,102</b>	<b>(945)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,126</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>					
Designated funds					
Fixed assets	280	-	-	247	527
Sinking fund	200	-	-	100	300
	<u>480</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>347</u>	<u>827</u>
Revaluation reserve	10	2	-	-	12
General funds	1,193	6,821	(6,839)	(347)	828
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>1,683</b>	<b>6,823</b>	<b>(6,839)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,667</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>6,652</b>	<b>7,925</b>	<b>(7,784)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,793</b>

## Ambitious about Autism

### Notes to the financial statements

#### For the year ended 31 July 2011

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#### 13. Movements in funds (continued)

##### Purposes of restricted funds

##### TreeHouse School

**NMSS grants** As a Non-Maintained Special School (NMSS), TreeHouse School is eligible for government grants towards the costs of running the school.

**Dental project** This project prepares pupils for dental visits.

**Residential trips** A number of donors contributed towards the cost of a residential trips for some of the older pupils.

**Occupational therapy** Occupational therapy helps pupils with their ability to manage everyday physical activities such as dressing as independently as possible.

**Outings** BBC Children in Need has contributed towards weekly horse riding sessions enjoyed by pupils. Funding from other donors has contributed towards outdoor activity opportunities at Scout Park, a local resource.

**Parent school association** The parent school association (PSA) organises a variety of fundraising activities, the proceeds of which are used to enhance school life.

**Bicycle activities** Funding for cycling related activities and equipment.

**Extended day** Funds have been received from several donors to subsidise half term and summer holiday playschemes run by Resources for Autism which have been made available to all pupils.

**Post 16 resources** Resources for the sixth form common room.

##### Other services & capacity building

**Training and consultancy** Funding for this project has been secured from a number of trusts including The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and The 29<sup>th</sup> May 1961 Charitable Trust. Funding enables a multi disciplinary team of professionals experienced in supporting children and young people with autism to provide targeted training to a wide range of groups, including parents and education and health professionals.

**Schools kit** Funding has been secured from iCap to develop a resource for schools throughout the UK to support awareness of autism.

**ABA competencies** Funding for this project has been secured from a number of trusts including Porticus UK and Stavros Niarchos Foundation. The project is developing 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).

**Post 16 feasibility project** Funding is being utilised towards researching plans for the development of a service for young people between the ages of 19 and 25 with autism.

## Ambitious about Autism

### Notes to the financial statements

#### For the year ended 31 July 2011

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#### 13. Movements in funds - purposes of restricted funds (continued)

**Ambitious support service** Funding has been secured from the Clothworkers' Foundation to develop a specialist domiciliary support service for young people with autism aged 19 plus.

**Transition project** Funding for this project has been secured from several sources including the Social Enterprise Investment Fund and the Paul Hamlyn Foundation. The project works with older pupils at TreeHouse School and their families to prepare pupils for the transition to adult life. The funding also provides for research and the wider dissemination of learning from this transition work undertaken at TreeHouse School.

#### Communications, policy & research

**Parent support project book** *'Shaping Children's Services Together'* has been funded by the Department for Education and is a resource for parents based on the findings of the Parent Support Project that helped parents develop excellent services for children and young people with autism throughout the UK.

**Parent participation project** The aim of this three year project funded by the Department for Education is to transform parent participation in local governance and in the design and delivery of services for children with autism. The project was successfully completed during the year.

**'Talk about Autism' website and information development** This three-year project funded by TalkTalk is to develop a one-stop shop for parents of children with autism, with expert advice and a practical toolkit. The deficit balance at 31 July 2010 arose from timing differences between expenditure and the receipt of income. The development stage of the project was completed as planned in 2010-11.

**Pears annual lecture** 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 for three years.

**Research** Ambitious about Autism has an established partnership with the Institute of Education and the Centre for Research in Autism Education.

#### Capital funds

**Website development** 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 3 years.

**People carriers** Donations specifically for the purchase of people carriers were received from a number of donors.

**6th Form centre** Funding was received from Help a Capital Child to create a 'virtual' 6th 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.

## Ambitious about Autism

### Notes to the financial statements

#### For the year ended 31 July 2011

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#### 13. Movements in funds - purposes of restricted funds (continued)

**All-weather sports pitch** Funding to build an all-weather multi-use games area in the grounds of the Pears National Centre for Autism Education was secured from: the Department for Education, Vitol Charitable Foundation, London Marathon Charitable Trust, Play Sport London, The Lord's Taverners.

**Woodside Avenue** 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 50 years.

#### 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.

**Sinking 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. Another trustee, M Punshon, was for part of the year a partner of EC Harris LLP which provided consultancy services for £2,115 (2010: £4,054) in the year. The trustees were satisfied that this provided best value for money for the charity.

#### 15. Pension costs

##### Introduction

Pension costs comprised contributions to defined contribution schemes of £117k (2010: £102k) and contributions of £60k (2010: £53k) to the Teachers' Pension Scheme.

##### The Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme. The regulations under which the TPS operates are the Teachers' Pensions Regulations 2010. These regulations apply to teachers in schools and other educational establishments in England and Wales maintained by local authorities, to teachers in many independent and voluntary-aided schools, and to teachers and lecturers in establishments of further and higher education. Membership is automatic for full-time teachers and lecturers and from 1 January 2007 automatic too for teachers and lecturers in part-time employment following appointment or a change of contract. Teachers and lecturers are able to opt out of the TPS.

## **Ambitious about Autism**

### **Notes to the financial statements**

#### **For the year ended 31 July 2011**

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#### **15. Pension costs (continued)**

##### **The Teachers' Pension Budgeting and Valuation Account**

Although teachers and lecturers are employed by various bodies, their retirement and other pension benefits, including annual increases payable under the Pensions (Increase) Acts are, as provided for in the Superannuation Act 1972, paid out of monies provided by Parliament. Under the unfunded TPS, teachers' contributions on a 'pay-as-you-go' basis, and employers' contributions, are credited to the Exchequer under arrangements governed by the above Act.

The Teachers' Pensions Regulations require an annual account, the Teachers' Pension Budgeting and Valuation Account, to be kept of receipts and expenditure (including the cost of pensions' increases). From 1 April 2001, the Account has been credited with a real rate of return (in excess of price increases and currently set at 3.5%), which is equivalent to assuming that the balance in the Account is invested in notional investments that produce that real rate of return.

##### **Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme**

Not less than every four years the Government Actuary (GA), using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions.

The contribution rate paid into the TPS is assessed in two parts. First, a standard contribution rate (SCR) is determined. This is the contribution, expressed as a percentage of the salaries of teachers and lecturers in service or entering service during the period over which the contribution rate applies, which if it were paid over the entire active service of these teachers and lecturers would broadly defray the cost of benefits payable in respect of that service. Secondly, a supplementary contribution is payable if, as a result of the actuarial investigation, it is found that accumulated liabilities of the Account for benefits to past and present teachers, are not fully covered by standard contributions to be paid in future and by the notional fund built up from past contributions. The total contribution rate payable is the sum of the SCR and the supplementary contribution rate.

The last valuation of the TPS related to the period 1 April 2001 - 31 March 2004. The GA's report of October 2006 revealed that the total liabilities of the Scheme (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) amounted to £166,500 millions. The value of the assets (estimated future contributions together with the proceeds from the notional investments held at the valuation date) was £163,240 millions. The assumed real rate of return is 3.5% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 1.5%. The assumed gross rate of return is 6.5%.

As from 1 January 2007, and as part of the cost-sharing agreement between employers' and teachers' representatives, the SCR has been assessed at 19.75%, and the supplementary contribution rate has been assessed to be 0.75% (to balance assets and liabilities as required by the regulations within 15 years); a total contribution rate of 20.5%. This translates into an employee contribution rate of 6.4% and employer contribution rate of 14.1% payable. The cost-sharing agreement has also introduced – effective for the first time for the 2008 valuation – a 14% cap on employer contributions payable.

**Ambitious about Autism**

**Notes to the financial statements**

**For the year ended 31 July 2011**

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**16. Capital commitments**

	<b>2011</b>	2010
	<b>£'000</b>	£'000
<b>Authorised and contracted</b>	<b>50</b>	196

Capital commitments relate to the construction of the learning hubs (retail kiosk, art/creative space, sound-proofed music and radio room, animation and photography suite) that will form the 'virtual' 6th Form centre.