

Lothian  
Autistic  
Society



Annual Report and Finance Statements for

**Lothian Autistic Society**

For the year to 31 March 2011

Scottish Charity No: SCO 21439

Company Limited by Guarantee: SC230855

*“providing specialist services for children and young people  
with an autism spectrum condition and their families”*

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## Report of the Directors and Trustees for the Year ended 31 March 2011

### Legal and administrative details

<b>Charity name:</b>	Lothian Autistic Society	
<b>Known as:</b>	LAS	
<b>Scottish Charity No</b>	SCO 21439	
<b>Company Limited by Guarantee</b>	SC230855	
<b>Registered office:</b>	Unit 22 Castlebrae Business Centre 40 Peffer Place Edinburgh EH16 4BB	
<b>Governing Document</b>	LAS is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 26 April 2002.	
<b>Trustees serving in the period 2010/11</b>	Mrs V Bon Ms C Hall Miss C Christie Mrs J Smith Martin J Robertson Mrs D Berry Mrs F Sinclair	Chair Treasurer Acting Vice-Chair Secretary Trustee Vice Chair (to Mar. 2011) Trustee (to October 2011)
<b>Senior Management</b>	Michelle Keenan	Director
<b>Auditors:</b>	Abacus 460 Ltd 7 Burnbrae Road Shotts ML7 5ED	
<b>Bankers:</b>	Clydesdale Bank 6 George Place Bathgate EH48 1NP  Royal Bank of Scotland 177 Portobello High Street Edinburgh EH15 1EU	
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.lothianautistic.org">www.lothianautistic.org</a>	

## Message from the Chair

2012 marks a milestone for the Lothian Autistic Society (LAS) as we celebrate 20 years of providing specialist services to children and young people with an autism spectrum condition (ASC) and their families. The original aims of the Society's founders still remain at its core today and continue to provide a focus for the future.

In 1992 a group of parents of children with an ASC were concerned about the educational provision for their children. It was clear to them that most professionals and the public lacked an understanding of autism and its effects on the individual and family life. Parents knew interventions that helped young people with other additional support needs were not always successful with their own children and could prove to be detrimental. It became their aim to provide their children with opportunities where their unique differences and needs would be appreciated. They also wanted these differences acknowledged and respected by the professionals who they came in contact with and by funding decision makers. That original group of parents decided to meet those aims by forming the Lothian Autistic Society.

While those aims still remain central to the Society today, LAS has changed significantly over the past 20 years. It has grown into a professional charity with approaching 500 family and interested party members. The Society is managed by a group of volunteer Trustees and employs a professional Director and support staff.

However, just as they were 20 years ago, the needs of those with an ASC still today remain largely misunderstood. There are still some that believe an approach that works well with one group of individuals with additional support needs will work well for all. However, since 1992 LAS has developed an in-depth knowledge of autism and an experience based understanding of the approaches that work well for children and young people with ASCs. This knowledge and understanding has been used to shape our specialist autism support services. Parents describe these services as a 'lifeline'. Many of our services are also adaptable to those without an ASC. While the needs of children and young people with autism are still today not always fully appreciated, they do have access to 20 years of experience and expertise in our tailored support services.

In our last annual report I mentioned that the Scottish Government was developing an autism strategy. In November of last year, along with COSLA (Convention of Scottish Local Authorities), the Scottish Government launched the 'Scottish Strategy for Autism' with £13.4 million of funding over the next four years. The strategy is designed to provide a structure for the development and continuation of appropriate services for those with autism and their families. We hope this will be another step in improving the lives of those with an ASC and we will watch its progress with interest.

Over the past year LAS has worked with Pilotlight Scotland who coach charities through the process of planning for growth, development and sustainability. LAS Trustee Jess Smith and LAS Director Michelle Keenan led in the development of our business plan - 'Focus for the Future'. The business plan lights the path we need to follow to ensure a strong future for the Society. We are acutely aware that the current financial climate means significant challenges in future funding. We are responding to this situation to enable us to continue to support those with an ASC. The business plan pulls together all aspects of the Society to provide a joined up working strategy.

I would like to pay tribute to our Director Michelle Keenan and her team for embracing the challenges we have faced while still delivering outstanding services to our children, young people and their families. Thanks also to all the playscheme leaders and deputies, carers and volunteers for their hard work in running playschemes, providing respite and outings. Official observers such as the Care Inspectorate always comment most favourably on the quality and commitment of our staff.

My thanks go to everyone who raised money for LAS over the past year. Your efforts are greatly appreciated and always needed. I am also extremely grateful for the commitment and support I have received from the Committee over the last year. They have worked very hard, on your behalf, to ensure that the Society runs smoothly. It is easy to forget that they give of their time voluntarily.

2012 will be a year of celebration with events to mark our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It is thanks to the vision and determination of those founding parents and all those who have helped shape LAS over the past 20 years that we can today provide specialist support services to those with an ASC and their families. This year will also be a time for looking forward to the next 20 years and the challenges ahead. However, I am confident the experience and expertise that has been built since 1992 puts us in a good position to face the future.



**Vivienne Bon**  
Chair

## **Director's Report**

And so another year has passed and what a year it has been!

LAS has remained in good financial health and our fundraising efforts have been hugely successful this year, which has helped us sustain our existing services and enabled us to increase the number of families receiving our services. We are, however, mindful that the overall economic environment will continue to make fundraising challenging and there is likely to be serious pressure on fee income levels for several years ahead. The current financial climate has been hard for everybody and many challenges lie ahead as tendering becomes a popular mechanism used by local authorities to allocate contracts.

In 2010 we entered the world of competitive tendering and there is a reason why they call it competitive! After 16 years of delivering a high quality playscheme in Midlothian for our children, young people and their families, we were informed by Midlothian Council that all specialist playschemes would be subject to European Union Procurement Regulations. There is no doubt that compiling a tender submission creates a lot of additional work in-house and as a result we were all putting in the extra hours to ensure we did our best to serve the families in Midlothian – the old adage keep calm and carry on became a familiar phrase in the office. It was with disappointment therefore that despite our best efforts we were unsuccessful with our bid and as a result Easter 2011 marked the end of the LAS playscheme in Midlothian as we know it but certainly not the end of our support to members in this area. We are all extremely proud of the playscheme provision that we provided to our families in Midlothian over the many years and thank our past and present members for their fantastic feedback and support.

In West Lothian we worked with the Council in a Best value review exercise. This process is intended to review all funded services to ensure that the Council is receiving good value for their money. A huge amount of work was put into this; however, we were confident that we would succeed given that our organisation ensures that all its activities are run efficiently and effectively. We were delighted to receive an overall 83% rating which has guaranteed us 3 year funding from West Lothian Council.

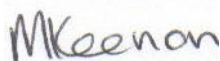
In Edinburgh work is progressing on a commissioning plan for children and families and all services including playscheme and respite will form part this review. As far as we are aware, consultations with parents are progressing. We continue to work with our partner providers and hope to influence and shape the service redesign but would urge our members to have their say. Your local Councillor makes the decisions on how services are funded. Get your voice heard and let your Councillor know how much you value the services and why they make a difference to your families lives.

Our work with Pilotlight commenced and following on from this we now have the beginnings of a 3 year business plan which will serve us well. We thank Pilotlight for all their assistance and are delighted that two of the Pilotlight team has agreed to work with us beyond the Pilotlight process to help us continue to shape and deliver our future focus.

A new service was added to our expanding portfolio – the launch of our new Saturday Club project took place in September 2010. This project managed by LAS in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council and the Yard, provides fortnightly respite for families of children with additional support needs.

We have achieved much in 2010 and I hope that you enjoy reading our Annual Report which showcases some of the exciting, influential and fun things we have been doing over the last year. Our portfolio of services continued to grow, as did our membership evidencing the demand for autism-specific services.

I have enjoyed another busy, exciting, challenging year with you all at LAS and would like take this opportunity to thank the office team - Nicki, Jill, Coleen and Kristin all of whom have been absolutely amazing and work tirelessly on behalf of the organisation. A huge thank you goes out to our trustees for their dedication and expertise; and our care staff and volunteers who are truly inspiring and without whom we would not exist. I believe it's vitally important for LAS to support its members in these tough times and also for members to continue to support LAS. I hope members are proud to be part of such a dynamic and thriving organisation and I look forward to continuing to serve you in the year ahead.



**Michelle Keenan**  
**Director**

## **Our Aims and Objectives**

### **Purpose and aims**

Lothian Autistic Society (LAS) supports children and young people with Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASCs) and their families and carers. Our charity provides specialist play and social opportunities for children and young people and respite and support for their parents and carers.

At Lothian Autistic Society we look to a future where the unique differences of individuals with Autism Spectrum Condition are recognised and respected and there is meaningful participation and choice in all aspects of life for them, their families and their carers.

### **Ensuring our work delivers our aims**

We review our aims and objectives annually to ensure that we remain focused on our stated purposes. LAS has referred to the guidance contained in Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) and the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit in reviewing its aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

### **The focus of our work**

#### **Provide services:**

- autism specific playschemes within the age range 5 – 16 years (up to 18 if in full-time education), which recognise equality of opportunity and enable children on the autism spectrum to flourish as individuals and not have to conform to social pressures;
- respite services, facilitated and developed in liaison with local social work departments, to allow families to participate in community life and assist children to stay in their families;
- opportunities for parent to parent support and carers via monthly meetings, social events, via regular and informative e-mail bulletins and electronic newsletters;
- autism-free days for siblings of children who have an ASC;
- activity trips in the October and February school holidays;
- social clubs for young people with Aspergers Syndrome;
- a weekly judo club for children and young people with an ASC;
- a fortnightly Saturday respite playscheme for children with additional support needs;
- a comprehensive information, resource and helpline service for families and carers and professionals;
- the provision of training on autism awareness and challenging behavior for those working with children and young people with an ASC;
- fundraising activities to provide resources for the expansion and improvement of services.

#### **Promote awareness**

- provide autism-specific training for a variety of client groups to raise awareness of ASC, improve standards of care and enable inclusion;
- build, develop and strengthen partnership working to ensure best practice and quality of care and broaden opportunities for funding partnerships and services;
- promote inclusion by developing group and social skills, which support integration into mainstream activities and settings.

#### **Inform Policy and Practice**

- inform and respond to local and national policy and practice;
- promote the rights and needs of children and young people with an ASC.

#### **Guiding Values and Principles**

Lothian Autistic Society is committed to the following values and principles in all aspects of our work:

1. Individual, parental and guardian choice to ensure that children and young people with an autism spectrum condition are treated with dignity and respect;
2. Partnership with carers, professionals and other agencies;
3. Social inclusion and participation;
4. Child protection;
5. Equal opportunities;
6. Mutual respect for others both in and outside the organisation;
7. Quality and Best Value;
8. Openness and accountability.

## Our Achievements 2010 – 2011

### Membership

Our membership continued to grow demonstrating widespread support for our organisation and demand for autism-specific services:

- **449 'family' members**
- **172 'interested party' members**  
(11% increase from 09/10)

### Parent to Parent Events

Having started as a parent-run charity, supporting parents remains a priority. Many parents find that one of the most valuable sources of support and information is through direct contact with other parents in a similar situation. Parents of children diagnosed with an ASC are particularly vulnerable to feelings of isolation and many do not have the opportunity to meet others who have experienced the personal, social and practical challenges of raising a child with an ASC.

Our LAS Parent-to-Parent service aims to connect parents in their local area and provide opportunities for them to share their experiences and support each other. We provide support through:

**A local telephone service connecting parents across Edinburgh and the Lothians who have children with ASC's.** This service is available to parents of children and young people of all ages. LAS coordinate this service and once a parent calls seeking support we arrange for a Volunteer Support Parent to return their call. All of the volunteers are experienced parents of children with ASC's and have received extensive telephone support training.

**A monthly forum for parents to discuss experiences, strategies and ideas.** LAS coordinate the forum, which is run in consultation with parents. The forum can take many different forms; a specialist may be invited to speak on a current issue related to ASC's, or parents may enjoy an evening trying out alternative therapies. Sometimes parents just wish the opportunity to chat.

**Directing parents to the most suitable source of support or advice.** The LAS resource base provides a wide range of books, videos and other literature for parents, carers and professionals who wish to learn more about ASCs. These can cover challenging behaviours, diet, coping with bullying, transition periods and many other topics. The resources are available for members to borrow on a four weekly basis.

- **10 monthly meetings were provided enabling parents to meet in an informal setting and share experiences/good practice and provide support to one another.**
- **Parents contributed to the planning of these events by suggesting topics and external speakers.**
- **Our Parent to Parent helpline support service connected parents across Edinburgh and the Lothians who have young people with autism or Aspergers, providing a forum for parents to discuss experiences, strategies and ideas.**
- **310 parents called the helpline and were matched with other parents using this service.**

## **One Stop Shop**

LAS actively pursued and established links with other organisations offering related services.

- **Our 'One Stop Shop' Information Service provided a signposting service for parents, carers and professionals to other local and national organisations.**

## **LAS Playschemes**

LAS are committed to supporting the children and young people attending our Social Work Improvement Scotland (SCSWIS) approved playschemes, so that children will thrive, learn and develop skills as well as having fun and making friends over the holidays. Our playschemes have a structured programme of activities and have been carefully constructed based on our expertise and feedback from both parents and children. Every environment we operate in is friendly and safe and we are committed to providing children with the best playschemes in their area.

- **LAS organised and ran a total of 6 playschemes in 2010 covering 3 different geographical areas in line with the school holiday timetable:**

Playschemes in all areas were open for 8 days over the Easter holidays and over the Summer period we were able to offer 23 days in Edinburgh and 20 days in Midlothian and West Lothian.

- **241 places were offered to children and young people in the Easter and Summer of 2010**
- **198 care workers and volunteers were recruited to provide care services at our playschemes**

Training of staff and volunteers for the 2010 schemes took place on the following dates: 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> March and 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

LAS received a contribution towards Playscheme costs from the following Councils: City of Edinburgh, West Lothian and Midlothian.

## **Respite Voucher Scheme**

LAS respite voucher scheme provides respite when it is most needed and is flexible in the way it can be used. This allows families to receive respite when they most need it. LAS continued to administer the respite service on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council, Midlothian Council and West Lothian Council for parents who have a child or children with an Autism Spectrum Condition.

- **87 families were approved by the respective Councils for the Respite Voucher Scheme in 2010/11.**  
(19% increase from 09/10)

## **October and February Holiday Activities 2010**

One aspect of life that families describe as particularly challenging is getting out and about together as a family. Outings can become a stressful experience, rather than something everyone can enjoy. LAS work hard to organise cost effective outings and activities which take into account the unique differences of the family member with ASC and which the whole family can participate in. These outings are offered during the October and February school holidays when there is no LAS playscheme operating.

In 2010, LAS looked to secure funding to expand its October holiday programme of events for families in Edinburgh, Mid and West Lothian. Our exciting programme of activities to keep families entertained at a vastly reduced price led to a huge increase in the number of member families accessing these events.

- **85 children and young people with their families took up the opportunity to enjoy time out during the October holidays.**  
(43% rise in participation from 2009/10)
- **90 children and young people with their families participated in the February programme of events.**  
(63% rise in participation from 2009/10)

## **Social Club for teenagers with Asperger's Syndrome (AS) /High Functioning Autism (HFA) (13 – 18 years)**

Our teenage social club was launched in September 2007 to address the extreme isolation experienced by young people with AS and HFA. The club is attended every Wednesday evening by young people aged thirteen to eighteen years with AS or HFA from across Edinburgh and the Lothians. Named 'OSCOR' (Our Social Club Our Rules) by its members, our weekly Social Club acts as a 'rehearsal' and 'transition' space that enables the young participants to develop the self-assurance to move, if they wish, onto mainstream social clubs.

- **22 young people benefitted from the scheme.**  
(37.5% increase from 09/10)
- **19 volunteers took up the opportunity to work with our young people at the Club on a rota basis.**  
(58% increase from 09/10)

## **Social Club children with Asperger's Syndrome/High Functioning Autism (8 – 12 years)**

Named the "*Crucial Chaos Crew*" by its members, this weekly social club, launched in September 2009, is for children aged 8-12 years. The club aims to enable children with AS or HFA to meet and socialise with their peers once a week independent of parents or carers and to access a range of activities geared towards social interaction. The programme of activities is very much dependent on the wishes of the members. Activities and outings are organised which help towards building members' friendships, co-operation, confidence and self-esteem in various environments and social situations. The confidence the children develop can allow them to be better prepared for major transitional periods in their life.

- **13 children benefitted from the primary social club**  
(31% increase from 2009/10)
- **11 volunteers took up positions offered at the Primary Club**  
(63% increase from 2009/10)

### **Saturday Club**

In September 2010, we launched our first fortnightly Saturday Club. This new service, funded by the City of Edinburgh Council, managed by LAS and hosted at the Yard, provides group respite for children and young people with additional support needs. The Saturday Club, based on our playscheme model, provides children and young people with an opportunity to access community activities and venues whilst progressing their social and emotional learning through play.

- **832 respite hours were provided to 8 families from September 2010 – March 2011**
- **9 existing LAS playscheme care workers were successfully recruited to work regularly at the Saturday Club**

### **Judo Club**

Our Judo Club, led by Jo Imrie, a head coach for the East of Scotland Special Needs Judo Squad takes place every Thursday evening. The children attending have a variety of additional support needs. Our club provides the opportunity for children and young people to take part in an active sport, to socialise with others and to develop a sense of respect for others.

- **22 children and young people accessed the Judo Club.**  
(22% increase from 2009/10)

### **Siblings Club**

Our Siblings Club allows brothers and/or sisters living with a young family member on the Autism Spectrum, the opportunity to meet others in a similar situation in a relaxed and recreational setting. The casual atmosphere and recreational activities promote informal sharing and friendships among participants. Sibling Club Membership is exclusive to siblings. Members meet once a month to participate in various organised activities.

- **44 children accessed our weekly sibling club.**  
(2% increase from 2009/10).

### **Christmas party**

Funds were successfully raised for our annual Christmas activities and this year we were able to offer 3 different events to best serve the needs of our children and young people.

- **59 children, with their families, attended our Christmas Party at Party Planet.**
- **25 children attended our Clownaround Christmas Party**
- **15 siblings and a family member attended the Pantomime.**  
(37% increase from 2009/10)

## Football Events

The 'Kick for Kids' programme continued to support LAS by providing free match tickets from the Hibernian Football Club to enable families who have been unable to attend a football match before to do so.

- **68 children, young people and their families benefitted from this programme during 2010/11**  
(42% increase from 2009/10)

## Dreamnight

In May 2010, our families had the opportunity to receive free tickets to attend 'Dreamnight' held at Edinburgh Zoo for children and young people with additional needs.

- **101 children, young people and their families from LAS took up the opportunity to attend this event.**

## Training

LAS continued to provide specialist autism training to external agencies, parent members and support staff and volunteers. We successfully developed tailor-made training packages to meet specific needs. Our training explores the nature of autism and Asperger's syndrome and examines the varying ways in which an individual's communication, social interaction and behaviour can be affected. The aims of our training courses vary greatly depending on the target audience but at LAS we are passionate in our efforts to encourage empathy and compassion for individuals with ASC's. It is only through developing awareness that the vital need for the provision of specialist services will be understood and appreciated.

- **324 individuals from a variety of child care organisations across Edinburgh and the Lothians accessed our LAS training.**
- **109 staff and volunteers received LAS Autism Awareness and Managing Challenging Behaviour training**
- **45 parents participated in in-house training events offered in Edinburgh and Livingston**  
(12% increase from 2009/10)

## Our Team

We recognise that the quality of our staff and our volunteers and the safety of the children is what make our services so successful. We pride ourselves on having friendly, enthusiastic and highly skilled staff and volunteers with many choosing to commit to LAS year after year. All staff and volunteers are required to undertake LAS training and child protection and have Protection of Vulnerable Group and reference checks. We will continue to provide a working environment where people feel appreciated and respected and to develop individual career progression plans.

- **In 2010/11 the number of volunteers recruited to work on projects for LAS across West Lothian, Edinburgh, and Midlothian reached 99 and this number continues to grow.**  
(8% increase from 2009/10)
- **The added value of using volunteers in the provision of services is immense – using a social return on investment model the value added to the organisation was £70,740.**

## Awards

**Pilotlight** - In January 2010, we submitted an application to work with Pilotlight whose mission is to **enable small, ambitious charities working to alleviate disadvantage to help a greater number of people, more effectively**. They do this by managing teams of senior business people to coach charities through the process of building measurably more sustainable and efficient organisations. We were fortunate to be chosen to work with Pilotlight and benefitted from a team of Pilotlighters who provided strategic business planning, financial expertise and allowed us to think creatively about our future. This entrepreneurial team supported LAS's work by reviewing and further developing our business planning processes and helped shape a business plan for period 2011 - 2013.

- **Pilotlight's consultancy services were provided free of charge, allowing more of our funds to be directed towards front line services.**

**Best Value Review** - In June 2010, we were subject to a Best Value Review conducted by West Lothian Council. The process asked searching questions about what the council, its partners and LAS offer local people and a portfolio of evidence based on LAS work using best value principles was submitted for approval in October 2010.

- **LAS's achieved an impressive rating of 83% by Independent External Assessors.**
- **Our success in the Best Value Review led to a 3 year funding agreement with West Lothian Council.**

**Investors in Volunteers** - In October 2010, we received funding to work towards achieving the Investors in Volunteers Award - the UK quality standard for all organisations which involve volunteers in their work. The Standard enabled us to comprehensively review our volunteer management and in January 2012, following a review of our service, we were awarded the Investors in Volunteer Award.

- **The achievement of the Investors of Volunteer Award publicly demonstrates LAS's commitment to volunteering.**

### **Partnerships**

LAS continue to invest in current partnerships and develop new partnership ventures. Key features of our partners are complementary services with a shared purpose, values and commitment to excellence.

- **Our partnerships enabled us to inform and respond to local and national policy and practice, and promote the rights and needs of children and young people with an autism spectrum condition.**

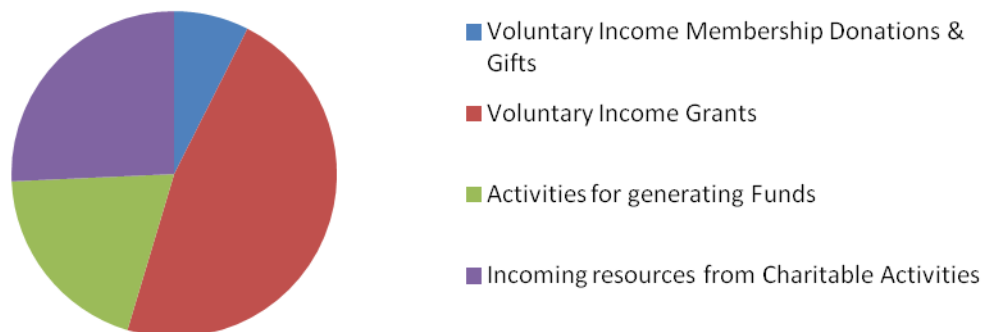
### **Office Support**

- **A vast amount of work continued behind the scenes in participating at meetings and producing the many informative reports requested by our governing, regulatory and funding bodies.**
- **Financial controls have been re-examined and tightened up wherever necessary as part our risk assessment.**

## Financial Review

Lothian Autistic Society Income and Expenditure Account For The year  
1 April 2010- 31st March 2011

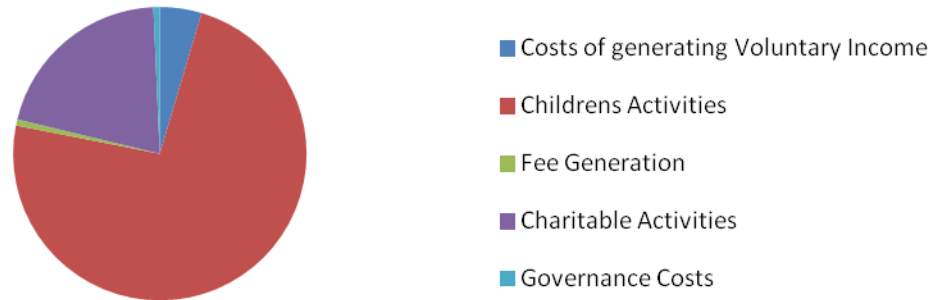
### Incoming Resources 2010-2011



Incoming Resources	£
Voluntary Income Membership Donations & Gifts	32,299.00
Voluntary Income Grants	204,900.00
Activities for generating Funds	85,295.00
Incoming resources from Charitable Activities	111,591.00
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>434,085.00</b>

Grants were received from City of Edinburgh, West Lothian and Midlothian Councils.  
Winning Leishman were employed to assist with fund raising on our behalf.

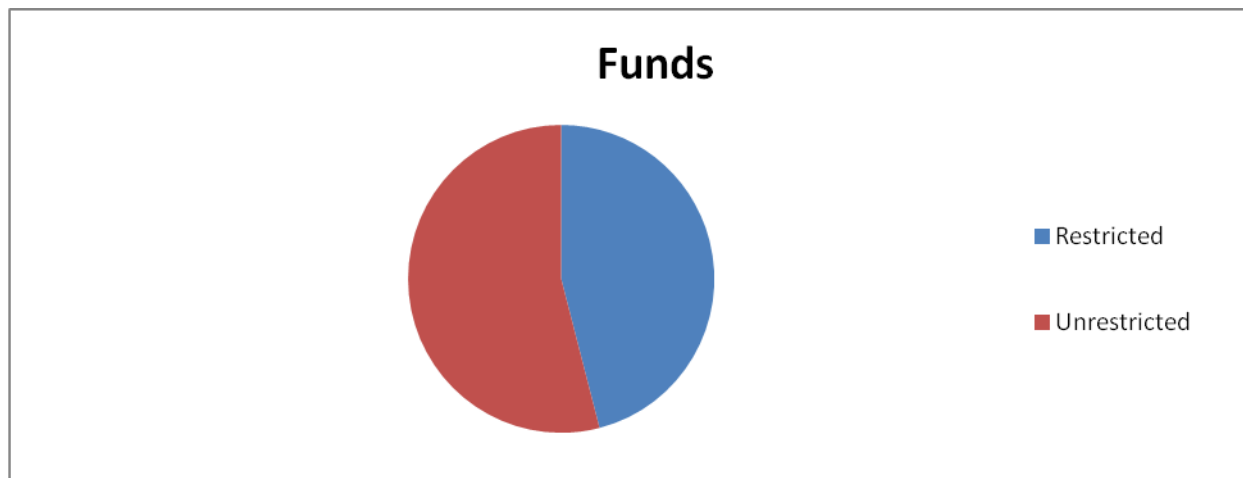
## Resources Expended 2010-2011



Resources Expended	£
Costs of generating Voluntary Income	18,608.00
Childrens Activities	297,762.00
Fee Generation	2,751.00
Charitable Activities	83,186.00
Governance Costs	2,835.00
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<b>405,142.00</b>

94% of the expenditure was spent on the running of the charity's main services.

We must provide an infrastructure that meets all regulatory requirements and fulfill our responsibilities towards all the families we support, as well as our staff and volunteers.



Funds	£
Restricted	106,992.00
Unrestricted	125,652.00
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>232,644.00</b>

There was an increase in funds over the year however 46% of our funds are restricted and for specific project use.

In the present economic climate with uncertainties over funding we continue to review our financial position and secure provision for the continued employment of our staff and the costs associated with the office and the administration of the services we provide.

This was a brief summary of the accounts but may not be sufficiently detailed to allow for a full understanding of the charity's financial affairs.

For further information the full Accounts and the Auditor's unqualified report thereon should be consulted. The documents approved and signed by the Board of Trustees on 15th November 2011 are available for inspection from the registered office.

The full accounts have been filed With Companies House and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator

## Special Thanks to...

... all the families and friends of LAS who organised and participated in events to help us raise much needed funds. Here are some of the contributors in 2010/2011 financial year:

Grattan McGiffin, Julia Walton, Students Action For Autism, Catherine Duns, RBS Trustee Department, Stewarts Melville Primary 5 class, Karen Drever, Cheryl Logan and staff at Edinburgh Airport, Loanhead Ladies Darts Team, Fife & District Bookmakers, D Love and City of Edinburgh Council Property Department, Florence Sinclair, Jess Smith, L Bental, Morag Dobie, P McKinlay, A Ovenston, Jean Innes, Sir Thomas Risk, Ian Knox and the team at HBOS corporate who completed The Walk For Scotland, Dawn Meechan and friends who organized a walk in Craigmillar Castle Park.

We also wish to recognise the following trusts and organisations for their contributions towards our services:

The Brownlie Charitable Trust, The Bruce Trust, The Robertson Trust, Miss M B Reekie Charitable Trust, Walter Scott Trust, Edinburgh Tax Inspectors, Agnes Hunter Trust, Miss I F Harveys Charitable Trust, Royal London Group, J K Young, Widowers Childrens Home, The Casey Trust, Binks Trust, The Lodge of Journeyman Masons, The Henry Smith Charity, The Derek Stewart Trust, The Lynn Foundation, Maxwell- Stuart's Trust, Wilfred & Elsie Elkes. Tillyloss Trust, Sir James Miller, Childrens Aid Scotland, The Robertson Trust, Peoples Postcode Lottery, The Cruden Foundation, Nancie Massie Charitable Trust, David Solomon Trust, Sir Ian Stewart Foundation, W H Mann, Paphitis Trust, The Wessex Trust, Ponton House Trust, Albert Hunt Trust, SMB Trust, The Reuben Foundation, Thirkleby Trust, The Clipper Foundation, Marks and Spencer and The White Stuff Foundation

Our appreciation is also extended to City of Edinburgh, Midlothian and West Lothian Councils who have supported LAS throughout the year.

Finally thank you to Fiona Leishman (professional fundraiser), John Gonella (auditor) and Bruce Harkin (operational support) for all their efforts and support throughout the year.

## Office Staff 2010/11

Michelle Keenan	Director
Jill Scott	Finance Officer (12 hrs pw)
Nicki Latham	Projects Coordinator - Playscheme
<i>Catriona Herd</i>	<i>Projects Coordinator – Activities and Membership (Aug. 2008 - Nov. 2010)</i>
Kristin Armour	Projects Coordinator – Activities and Membership (Oct 2010 - Present)
<i>Anna Bluefield</i>	<i>Projects Coordinator – Volunteer, Training and Information (Sept. 08 - Dec 2010)</i>
Coleen Kelly	Projects Co-ordinator – Volunteer, Training and Information (Dec 2010 - Present)

## **Social Club Staff and Volunteers**

Anna Chrystal            Social Clubs Leader  
Pete McNaughton       Deputy Social Clubs Leader

Social Club Volunteers: Sandy Patterson, Anna Maxwell, Bryn Hale, Debbie Phillips, Ailidh Hutt, Coleen Kelly, Daryn May, Louise McCool, James Collins, Lynne Davies, Murray Bell, Nicki Coleman, Pete McNaughton, Sarah Masson, Sarah Miele, Skye Lindsay, Sophie Macrae, Timothy Cooper, Lucy Barrett, Tania Salway, Nicola Boyd, Jenny Hurst, Andrew Hague, Fahmin Khaleque, Nina Chadwick, Sonal Syke and Ailish Nimo

## **Siblings Club**

Angela Turnbull continued to provide her services voluntarily in leading our popular monthly club.

## **Judo Club**

Jo Imrie                            Head Coach

## **Holiday Playscheme Leaders**

Louise Ferrier                    Edinburgh Sessional Playscheme Leader (Easter 2010, Summer 2010)  
Emma Ballantyne               West Lothian Sessional Playscheme Leader (Easter 2010, Summer 2010)  
Lynsey Mackie                  Midlothian Sessional Playscheme Leader (Easter 2010, Summer 2010)

## **Saturday Club Staff**

Pete McNaughton               Leader

Care Workers:                    Lorna Farquarson, Kirsty Chiffers, Ashley McLaughlin, Katrina Guikan, Dawn Meechan and Andrew Robertson

## **Future Aims**

The trustees are pleased with the achievement of the charitable activities and are committed to the continuing provision of services to children and young people with an ASC and their families and carers.

LAS are acutely aware that the current economic climate means a reduction in available funding which in turn creates greater demand. LAS now operates in a more open and congested market. We will continue to examine current and alternative business approaches, exploring ways in which we can positively respond and adapt to this tough economic climate. We commit ourselves to providing funders with evidence of value for money through outcomes. These outcomes will demonstrate the positive difference to service users.

Our five business goals over the next three years include:

1. Continue to provide our existing specialist support services
2. Actively develop these services
3. Make it possible to deliver these services more widely
4. Promote awareness of our services
5. Allow them to become more financially sustainable

**And finally – thank you to all our members for their fantastic support over the last year.**

**Your feedback makes our job a pleasure:**

*"I know if I need any help or information I can call the office. I enjoy the parent2parent meetings. It is always nice to know you are not going through things alone, there are other parents in the same situation and it is good to talk and possibly swap ideas and information."*

*"We feel very fortunate there is such an excellent organisation in our area. I would have felt lost without it. "*

*"Couldn't begin to express how much help LAS has been. As a family we would have been lost how to cope – especially initially. It's been the single biggest support to our family, particularly the playscheme which enables us to function as a family over the summer holidays."*

*"Sanity!! Support from other parents and playscheme is just great."*

*"The Playscheme gave my son an invaluable time to 'be himself' but within a supported environment. He loves to be busy and active so the Playscheme fulfilled that role for him. He dotes on 1:1 adult support so again this worked very well with him. I would say he gained some confidence and felt happy that he was being able to do lots of social stuff, which can be very difficult for us to do as a family."*

*"We could not have continued to work as normal had he not got a place at the Playscheme. We also managed to have a couple of days off together while our son was with the LAS and this is the most time we've had together since he was born. This has meant so much to us."*

*"I am convinced that the playschemes have alleviated stress on the family unit by enabling us to have time apart from constant demands of bring up an autistic child during the holidays, and allowing for time with siblings."*

*"The respite service is fantastic. Having a list of trained carers is a great help, being able to use the vouchers whenever you want is much better than having respite on set days."*

*"This is a vital service for our family especially as it is flexible with the hours of respite being tailored to suit our needs."*

*"Judo Club has helped my son become more confident with getting closer to other children."*

*"The Club has given my child physical self control and sensitivity towards others, as well as good exercise and coordination. "*

*"The Siblings Club means me and mum get to spend fun time together, which sometimes we can't do as my brother needs a lot of care and attention."*

*"It's great to talk to others in the same situation!"*

*"The trainer had great knowledge and enthusiasm and this came across in her presentation."*

*"The boys didn't cease to amaze us every day trying things we didn't think they would and loving every minute of it!"*

*"It was great for me to give my son some freedom in and around the centre, which he doesn't often get as it was so safe and well managed. It was lovely for me to spend time alone with him and enjoy lots of wonderful activities together."*