



Access-Ability Communications Technology

Trustees' Annual Report

&

Financial Statements

for the year

1 September 2009 to 31 August 2010

Vice-Presidents: Lord Low of Dalston CBE Ann Darnbrough OBE

Founder: Ken Carter

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2010

Reference and administrative information

The name of the charity: Access-Ability Communications Technology.

Other names by which the charity makes itself known: AACT (pronounced 'act') & AACT for Children.

The charity registration number: 1113302

The company registration number: 5538092

The address of both the principal and the registered offices of the charity:

Room BG05 Institute of Education Bulmershe Court The University of Reading Reading Berkshire RG6 1HY

The names of the charity's trustees on the date this report was approved:

Professor James Crabbe (Chair)
Michael McAleenan (Company Secretary)
Adrian Ellison
Annette Haworth
Dr James Ohene-Djan

Name of any other person who served as a charity trustee in the financial year: none

Bank: CAFBank, 25 Kings Hill, West Malling, ME19 4JQ

Structure, Governance and Management

The nature of the governing document: Memorandum and Articles of Association

How the charity is constituted: as a company limited by guarantee

Methods for new trustee-

recruitment: personal knowledge of professionals in the IT and communication disability fields

appointment: by members as laid down in the Articles of Association

Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty under section 4(6) of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and that the public benefit requirement has informed the activities of the charity in the year covered by this report.

Objectives and activities

(a) to promote and advance the education and training of children, young people and adults who are subject to any disability associated with speech, language and different forms of communication principally for the purpose of improving accessibility and inclusiveness through the use of ICT.

(b) to advance the education of the public by providing inclusive and accessible information and training with a view to raising awareness and understanding of persons who are challenged by speech, language and communication difficulties.

Summary of activities undertaken in relation to these objectives	Towards objective	
	(a)	(b)
Virtual Learning Academy	✓	
SEED project	✓	
Producing information for schools and carers		✓
Report on Selective Mutism project	✓	
Upgrade of website to enhance accessibility		✓

Achievements and performance

Charitable activities

Virtual Learning Academy AACT funded 40% of this Deafax-led one year project which completed in April. The project delivered workshops to 45 teenagers & training sessions in the Virtual Learning Centre. The project also developed on-line modules. The Project achieved its objectives but the financial problems of sustaining a VLC were highlighted.



SEED Project This University of Reading scheme has enabled us to fund a vacation student who worked with one of our volunteers. They researched how other organisations are advising on use of IT for those with communications disabilities. The project will achieve its milestones by October 2010 as planned, with a report for carers published through our website. We are grateful for a University Bursary which funded 25% of the cost.

Informing the public Towards the end of the year, an assistant worked on presentations to schools and translating texts to aid the awareness of the public, particularly in the area of selective mutism.



Selective mutism project A professional speech therapist and story-teller, whose work on selective mutism we supported last year, has worked on a further report. The approach is beginning to demonstrate that use of story-telling software can help a child bridge the gap between home and school. Ken Carter has begun to plan further work in this area.

Website accessibility The Trustees adopted an Accessibility policy this year. A volunteer upgraded the website to take account of common accessibility standards. A move to use social media services to update news works technically, but such services can introduce further accessibility problems.



Fundraising

Trusts and Foundations Return on investment of this fundraising activity has remained high with costs less than 7% of income raised. This is significantly better than the 11% average for this type of fundraising, largely due to voluntary effort from our Founder. However, the amount raised was reduced from last year, perhaps not surprisingly given the general economic climate.



Projects Thanks to a grant from EaConsulting, paid help has been obtained during the year's final quarter to assist our Founder with R&D-related fundraising and activity. It is too early to report on achievements, but discussions have been held with a number of potential partners. Through one of our trustees, AACT has been offered free access to the Winkball video service run by Correspondent Corp. An assistant is considering its use for communicating information on selective mutism.

Using volunteers The current financial situation exacerbates the problem of raising sustained funding for a permanent administrator. This has prompted the Board to take alternative action. A volunteer, with assistance from two others recruited through Reading Voluntary Action, undertook a project to devise a system aimed at minimising the time we have to spend on basic administration. As a result it is expected that voluntary effort will be sufficient for the basic administration of the charity for some time to come.



Sales For the first time this year we held a couple of small fundraising events. Eight volunteers helped set up and run a sale of donated goods and a small strawberries and cream sale was held during a school sports day. We learnt that sales can be excellent events to get volunteers and workers together socially but can require large effort for little or no return.

Individual giving Funds raised from a sponsored run were lower than the typical average 70% margins. AACT has since joined Justgiving to make better use of individual fundraising initiatives. This is showing positive returns.



Financial Review

Policy on reserves: the Trustees have a policy of holding enough funds to cover any known future liability without relying on any future income.

Funds materially in deficit: none. The Trustees set a fundraising target to cover three years' operation of a proposed Virtual Learning Centre. In addition to moving forward on some of the related charitable-activity work this year, the charity had started to build up further funds for this purpose in the previous year. In the light of both the current financial climate and current technical trends, the Trustees will review with relevant donors as well as beneficiaries and their supporters how best to move forward to maximise benefit to those with communications disabilities.

This report was approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by

Professor James Crabbe, Chair of the Board of Trustees/Directors

date: 19 October 2010

Statement of Financial Activities for the year to 31 August 2010

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted Funds £	2010 Total Funds £	2009 Total Funds £
A Incoming resources					
A1 Incoming resources from generated funds					
A1a Voluntary income	1	3,946	1,502	5,448	10,461
A1b Activities for generating funds	2	206		206	
A1c Investment income	3	17		17	299
Total incoming resources		4,169	1,502	5,671	10,760
B Resources expended					
B1 Costs of generating funds					
B1a Costs of generating voluntary income	4	1,412		1,412	557
B1b Fundraising trading cost of goods sold + other costs	5	67		67	0
B2 Charitable activities	6	5,641	1,057	6,698	3,808
B3 Governance costs	7	214		214	0
B4 Other resources expended	8				2,131
Total resources expended		7,334	1,057	8,391	6,496
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year		(3,166)	445	(2,721)	4,263
Funds brought forward		17,248	0	17,248	12,985
Total funds carried forward		£14,083	£445	£14,528	£17,248

Balance sheet at 31 August 2010

	2010 £	2009 £
B Current assets		
B4 Cash at bank and in hand	15,434	17,263
Total current assets	15,434	17,263
C Current Liabilities		
C1 Creditors	(906)	(15)
Total current liabilities	(906)	(15)
Net assets (all current)	14,528	17,248
Represented by :		
Restricted Funds	445	0
Unrestricted Funds	14,083	17,248
Total Funds	£14,528	£17,248

Audit Exemption Statement

Directors' statement

For the year ending 31st August 2010 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on
and are signed on their behalf by

M C McAleenan

[original signed by M C McAleenan, Company Secretary, and dated 19 October 2010]

Notes to the financial statement for the year ended 31 August 2010

	Unrestricted	Restricted	sub total
	£	£	£
Note 1			
Donations from Trusts & Foundations	3,000	1,502	
Donations from individuals	946		
			5,448
Note 2			
Sale of donated/gifted goods	171		
Sale of purchased goods	35		
			206
Note 3			
Bank interest	17		
			17
Note 4			
Commission to fundraiser (trusts & foundations)	267		
Founder's meetings with donors (travel and subsistence)	88		
Postage	38		
Stationery	49		
Assistant	863		
Justgiving fees	106		
			1,412
Note 5			
Goods for sale	27		
Assistant's time	40		
			67
Note 6			
Virtual Learning Academy	3,000		
Insurance	140		
Magazine subscriptions	115		
Website	114		
Assistant	2,273		
University of Reading SEED project		1,057	
			6,698
Note 7			
Founder attending meetings with trustees (travel & subsistence)	112		
Companies House fee	15		
Postage for Board-related activity	2		
Board training	69		
Volunteer travel for admin project	11		
Books & media	4		
			214

Note 8

In the 2009 accounts, this heading included costs of IT, travel, subsistence, stationery, postage, subscriptions and media.

In these 2010 accounts, such items have been allocated to the relevant governance, fundraising, charitable activity heading, following the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP)

The Financial statements for 2010 are not therefore directly compare-able to previous years'.