

Report and Accounts Year ended 31 March 2021

The Neurological Alliance of Scotland

Contents

	Page
Report of the Executive	1 -8
Report of the Independent Examiners	9
Statement of Financial Activities	10
Balance Sheet	11
Notes to the Accounts	12 - 15

The Executive, who are the Trustees of the charity for the purpose of charity law, are pleased to present their annual Executive's report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 March 2021.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's constitution, the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the Accounting and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Purpose

The purpose of the Neurological Alliance is to advance the education of the public in all matters concerning neurological disorders and to promote the welfare of persons affected by neurological conditions and their carers so that their conditions of life may be improved by carrying out research and investigation into preventative procedures and treatments. In furtherance thereof but not otherwise the Neurological Alliance shall seek:

- To inform and influence policy that affects the lives of people with neurological conditions.
- To raise awareness and disseminate information about neurological conditions and their impact on individuals and society.
- To promote improvements in care for people with neurological conditions
- To research, collect and disseminate information on all matters affecting the stated objectives. The results of any such research shall be made available to the public.

Our ambition

Everyone living with neurological conditions in Scotland - and those who support them - can access high quality, timely and holistic care and support at every stage of their life.

Our mission

To inform and connect the neurological community and influence systemic long lasting change for those living with neurological conditions in Scotland.

Our values

We are an experienced, expert, collaborative, inclusive, independent, supportive, diverse and impactful organisation.

An estimated one million people in Scotland live with a neurological condition that has a significant impact on their lives. The Neurological Alliance of Scotland is an umbrella body of organisations that represent people with a neurological condition and those who support them. In partnership with our members, we inform policy, raise awareness and support improvements in services. We aim to make sure that the experiences of people with neurological conditions - and those around them - are recognised.

We do this by raising these issues directly with the Scottish Government, NHS bodies and other groups; and by contributing to publications and consultations, sharing information between members, and working with other bodies on common issues.

Membership

Full membership of the Neurological Alliance is open to any not for profit organisation which is interested in furthering the objects of the Neurological Alliance or in participating in its organisation and which have paid the membership fee as determined by the AGM.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (continued)

The Executive has power to admit associate members - who are individuals, companies, societies, Alliances and statutory and other bodies supporting, or having a professional interest in the objectives of the Neurological Alliance. Associate members shall pay such fees or subscription as may be determined by the AGM.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The publication of the Scottish Government's <u>Strategic Framework for Action on Neurological Care and Support</u> in late 2019 provided the main context for our work in 2020-2021 and we supported the implementation of the Framework throughout the year. We have always believed that a strong Neurological Alliance of Scotland is essential to achieve its commitments.

The arrival of the Covid-19 global pandemic changed everything in 2020 - 21, and it continues to cast a long shadow over Scotland. People with neurological conditions and their families have needed a strong, vibrant and connected community of neurological third sector organisations more than ever.

As statutory services focused on meeting the immediate Covid needs of the population, people with neurological conditions turned to our member organisations who strove to support people, families and carers through the isolation of lockdown and throughout the pandemic, providing services, interpreting changing guidance and providing condition specific information for those affected by neurological conditions.

With face to face activities and much fundraising activity cancelled during lockdown, many of our member organisations faced severe organisational and financial pressures. Many staff were placed on furlough and some charities made redundancies which had a direct impact on their capacity to respond to need.

As an Alliance, we used our <u>website</u> and emails to disseminate reliable information about Covid and neurological conditions throughout the year. We harnessed virtual technology to bring our member organisations together to share information and experiences at a challenging time. We also used social media to keep people informed.

We worked with our member charities to produce a comprehensive report outlining the experiences of people with neurological conditions and their families during lockdown. Our <u>Neurological Voices: Living Through Lockdown Report</u> was published in August 2020. We shared this important evidence of lived-experience and the implications of the restrictions on our population widely with statutory and third sector contacts, including Ministers, officials, NHS partners and MSPs.

Engaging with our members to develop a new strategy

In August 2020, the Neurological Alliance of Scotland secured grant funding from the Scottish Government to engage a co-ordinator and director so that we could deliver greater engagement with our members and support capacity and skills-building within neurological third sector organisations in Scotland. Before receiving this grant, all of the Neurological Alliance of Scotland outputs were delivered by its Executive members or by staff and volunteers representing member organisations. This limited what the Alliance was able to achieve.

Between September 2020 and March 2021, the Executive engaged with members and with potential members to develop an ambitious new 3-year strategy for the Neurological Alliance of Scotland. Our new strategy, based around three themes: we inform, we connect and we influence, was published in Spring 2021.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)

We also undertook a membership review process to provide an updated offer for members and to ensure that our membership reflected the diversity of organisations in Scotland representing a large number of different neurological conditions.

We inform: Keeping the neurological third sector up to speed

We have grown our communications this year partly as we responded the coronavirus crisis and fast-moving developments in the health and care landscape in Scotland. We posted information to our website at www.scottishneurological.org.uk. In addition to regular emails, meetings and phone calls, we distributed a monthly e-newsletter for our members and can be followed on Twitter @NeuroAlScotland.

We connect: Building our network through meetings and collaborations

During the year, we hosted 5 open meetings for members. We also hosted a further 2 collaboration meetings which were open to colleagues from across the statutory and third sectors to meet, discuss and build partnership projects that could apply for funding under the Neurological Framework.

Between November 2020 - March 2021, we conducted a mapping survey of neurological charities and organisations, to better understand our members and the services they offer. We also investigated members' use of self-management resources, digital innovations and navigation pathways on behalf of the Scottish Government.

You can <u>read the survey report on our website</u>. We also established a policy subgroup to enable members to exchange information about developments in public policy that have an impact on people with neurological conditions.

We have also submitted sectoral responses to a consultation by regulators NHS Healthcare Improvement Scotland and the Care Inspectorate on an approach to joint inspection of services provided by health and social care partnerships and contributed a response to the One Neurology/WHO Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and other Neurological Conditions.

We supported the Scottish Tremor Foundation with its petition to the Scottish Parliament in support of people with Essential Tremor being able to access focussed ultrasound treatment in Scotland, and we engaged with Scottish Government directly on a range of issues throughout the year, including shielding policy and clarifying the wording of advice issued to vaccinators in Scotland about neurological conditions. We have supported the Scottish Government to improve the content on NHS Scotland's patient-facing information website, NHS Inform. We have worked with member organisations to establish where there is a need to address gaps in information provision and identifying areas for updates. This work will be taken forward into 2021/2022.

Increasing our membership and reach

Between April 2020 and March 2021, we adopted a strategy of increasing our contact with active members and with potential members. We welcomed 9 new members to the Alliance in this period. At 31 March 2021, the Neurological Alliance of Scotland had 51 members.

We engaged with other organisations including the Health and Social Care Alliance, Neurological Alliances elsewhere in the UK and Rare Diseases UK to increase our reach with charities supporting people with neurological conditions. Our work with statutory partners also increased, as we hosted collaboration events relating to Scottish Government funding applications, raising awareness of the contribution that the third sector makes to bettering care and support for people with neurological conditions.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)

National Advisory Committee for Neurological Conditions (NACNC)

The <u>NACNC</u> is appointed by the Scottish Government to advise on policy relating to neurological conditions, and to support and evaluate the implementation of the <u>Strategic Framework for Action on Neurological Care and Support 2020-2025</u>.

The Neurological Alliance has two representatives on the NACNC, held by the Chair and Vice Chair. Their role is to represent the interests of third sector organisations.

In 2020 -2021, these were held by Rebecca Duff (Chair, April 2020 - Aug 2020), Tanith Muller (Vice Chair / Chair, April 2020 - March 2021), Anissa Tonberg (Vice Chair, August 2020 - November 2020) and Rona Johnson (Vice Chair, December 2020 - March 2021).

An Executive member, Alistair Haw, represents the Neurological Alliance on the Project subgroup of the NACNC.

Managed Service Network (MSN) on Neurosurgery

The MSN aims to create a virtual single neurosurgical service through facilitated collaboration between the four neurosurgical centres in Scotland.

Tanith Muller continues to represent the Neurological Alliance of Scotland on the MSN for neurosurgery. There was inevitably significant disruption to neurosurgical services in Scotland as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, and this has dominated developments.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

Significant events

We will be moving forward in line with our 3 Year Strategy, with a focus on supporting the implementation of the Strategic Framework for Action on Neurological Conditions, and linking in to other relevant policy areas. We will continue to engage with and aim to grow our membership which help to support people with a neurological condition in Scotland, their partners, families and friends so that they can live as well as possible.

It is clear that recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic will remain the most pressing issue for neurological charities - with many organisations continuing to face significant financial issues and concerns remaining about service provision. From engagement with our members and our lived experience survey, we know that the impact of the pandemic on statutory and other services will mean that the increasing needs of people with neurological conditions will be felt for some time. We remain committed to listening to our members and articulating and amplifying the voices of the neurological community at every level.

We are also mindful that developments such as the Scottish Government's plans for reform of the social care system in Scotland and the implementation of new Scottish social security benefits for disabled people and unpaid carers in Scotland will have significant impacts on the neurological community and we will engage with policy makers and members to ensure that these developments take into account the needs of people with a neurological condition.

We have continued to engage with parliamentarians and hosted a well-attended virtual husting meeting in April, with MSP candidates from 4 of the 5 main parties standing for election in May 2021.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS (continued)

Other developments planned for the year include:

- Reviewing, adapting and creating information materials for unpaid carers of people with neurological conditions which will be published during 2021/22.
- Supporting the newly established specialist policy subgroup for children and young people with neurological conditions.
- Conducting a survey of people with neurological conditions about their experiences of virtual
 appointments by phone and video during the pandemic to be published and findings shared with
 Scottish Government.
- Initiating opportunities for neurological charities with an interest in research to feed into discussions on how neurological condition research can progress in Scotland.
- Exploring joint working with the Neurological Alliances in England, Wales and Northern Ireland to support the rollout of a UK-wide survey of adults and children with neurological conditions to assess their experiences of health and care services, with findings to be published in Spring 2022.

Going Concern

The charity currently has adequate reserves, and Scottish Government has agreed ongoing funding to support the charity's budgeted activities to end March 2022.

Book keeping is undertaken on behalf of the charity by <u>Engage Renfrewshire</u>. The Executive continues to monitor income and expenditure. The Executive meets at least quarterly throughout the year, with financial reporting at each meeting.

Our accounts are examined annually. Our current examiner is Whitelaw Wells.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Principal sources of funds

During the year the Neurological Alliance of Scotland (NAoS) received a grant of £33,768 (2020 £4,000) from the Scotlish Government under section 10 to meet core costs in the coming year.

Results for the year

The charity had net income of £18,920 for the year (2020: net income of £4,694), as shown in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 10.

Reserves

The Executive have adopted a financial philosophy designed to ensure the on-going financial health of the charity such that the objectives of the charity can be fulfilled while at the same time covering our reasonable operating expenses. The charity's unrestricted General Fund amounted to £34,193 as at 31 March 2021 (2020: £15,273), the Executive consider that this is sufficient going forward to next year given the on activities of the charity.

Statement on Risk

Members of the Executive assess the major risks to which the charity is exposed on an ongoing basis and establish procedures to mitigate those that are identified as a result. During this financial year the major risk has been the limited scope for income and expenditure in pursuit of the charity's purpose. Having reduced ongoing expenditure, the charity has been reviewing viable options for achieving its aims within its limits going forward. The Executive are confident that, with further suitable adjustments, all financial exposure can be dealt with and that the Neurological Alliance of Scotland can continue as a going concern.

Statement on Risk (continued)

Throughout the year we have continued to develop the organisation in line with our key aims of Influencing Policy, Raising Awareness and Improving Care.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Status of Charity and Governing Document

The Neurological Alliance of Scotland is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). We are registered with OSCR, number SC048555.

The Neurological Alliance of Scotland structure, governance and management is set out in the <u>Constitution</u> which is reviewed from time to time by the Executive. Changes to the constitution must be agreed by the membership at a General Meeting.

Recruitment and appointment of the Executive

The appointment, removal, power and duties of Executive board of the SCIO are set out in the constitution. The Executive are elected from the membership and service for a fixed period of 3 years, after which they must retire or offer themselves for re-election. One third of the Executive retires each year, the members to retire being those who have been longest in the office since they were last elected/re-elected.

There are currently 9 members of the executive and there are three vacancies.

Members of the Executive from 1 April 2020 to the date of this report are listed in with the other reference and administrative information.

Organisational structure

The Neurological Alliance of Scotland is an umbrella organisation with over 50 members. Our Executive (Board of Trustees) is elected by the membership. The Executive can also co-opt Trustees. At present the maximum number of Trustees is 12. The Executive meets at least quarterly, and is responsible for managing the governance, activities and finances of the organisation.

Our Director, Alice Struthers, is contracted by the Neurological Alliance of Scotland to undertake work directed by the Executive through the Chair and Vice Chair.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Name: Neurological Alliance of Scotland (also known as "NAoS")

Scottish Charity Number SC048555

Contact Office

Neurological Alliance of Scotland c/o Cerebral Palsy Scotland Bradbury House 10 High Craighall Road Glasgow G4 9UD

Executive

Rebecca Duff (Chair) Resigned 17 August 2020 MS Society
Tanith Muller (Vice-Chair, Chair from 17 August 2020) Parkinsons UK

Anissa Tonberg Vice Chair from 17 August 2020)

Resigned 23 November 2020 Epilepsy Scotland

Rona Johnston (Vice Chair from 15 December 2020) Epilepsy Scotland

Ewan Dale ME Association

Stephanie Fraser Cerebral Palsy Scotland

Alison Love Ataxia UK

Craig Stockton Resigned 11 February 2021 MND Scotland

Elinor Jayne Resigned 18 June 2021 Sue Ryder

lain Morrison MS Revive Support

John Eden Resigned 28 January 2021 Scottish Huntington's Association

Leigh-Ann Little Appointed 17 September 2020 The Oxygen Works

Alistair Haw Appointed 28 January 2021 Scottish Huntington's Association

Morna Simpkins Appointed 17 September 2020 MS Society Scotland

Gill Dickson Appointed 17 September 2020 and

Resigned 23 July 2021 PSPA

Bankers

Royal Bank of Scotland Bishopbriggs Branch 129 Kirkintilloch Road Bishopbiggs G64 2LR

Independent Examiner

Louise Presslie CA Whitelaw Wells Chartered Accountants 9 Ainslie Place Edinburgh EH3 6AT

Statement of Executives responsibilities

The charity Executives' are responsible for preparing an Executive annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in Scotland requires the Executive to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the year and of the profit or loss for the year then ended. In preparing those financial statements, the Executives 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 accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Executives are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Executives are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the Executive on 29 September 2021 and signed by order of the Executive:

Tanith Muller

Executive member

Report of the Independent Examiner Year ended 31 March 2021

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021 set out on pages 10 to 15.

Responsibilities of the charity's Executive committee and independent examiner

The charity's Executive is responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity's Executive considers that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (a) to (c) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44 (1)(a) of The Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and Regulation 4 of the 26 Accounts regulations (as amended); and
 - prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006(as amended)

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Louise Presslie CA Whitelaw Wells Chartered Accountants 9 Ainslie Place

Laure Prentie

Edinburgh

EH3 6AT

29 September 2021

Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating Income and Expenditure Account) Year ended 31 March 2021

		Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Income and endowments from: Donations: Members' subscriptions Charitable activities Investment income		2,440 33,768 8	2,920 4,000 824
Total Income	2	36,216	6,944
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	3	17,296	2,250
Total Expenditure		17,296	2,250
Net income		18,920	4,694
Reconciliation of funds: Total funds brought forward		15,273	10,579
Total funds carried forward		34,193	15,273

The Charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the period as set out above. All funds are unrestricted.

All of the activities of the Charity are classed as continuing.

The notes form part of these financial statements.

Balance sheet As at 31 March 2021

	Notes	£	2021 £	£	2020 £
Fixed assets Tangible fixed assets	5		-		-
Current assets Debtors Cash at bank and in hand	6	1,316 35,173		1,767 15,432	
		36,489		17,199	
Creditors: falling due within one year	7	(2,296)		(1,926)	
Net current assets			34,193		15,273
Total net assets			34,193		15,273
Represented by: Unrestricted funds			34,193		15,273
			34,193		15,273

Approved by the Executive on 29 September 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Tanith Muller Executive member

Notes to the Accounts

Year ended 31 March 2021

1. Accounting policies

Accounting convention

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and are in accordance the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019) and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

The Charity has taken advantage of the exemption from the requirement to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows as permitted under FRS 102 and the Charities FRS 102 SORP.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The going concern basis has been adopted by the Executive based on a review of expenditure and forward planning for the next twelve months. The Executive going concern assessment includes the expected impact of COVID-19 to the company for a period of at least 12 months from the date of signing of these financial statements.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subject to the restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor.

Financial Instruments

Financial instruments comprise financial assets and financial liabilities which are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. They are classified as "basic" in accordance with FRS102 and are accounted for at the settlement amount due, which equates to the cost. Financial assets comprise prepayments and cash. Financial liabilities comprise accruals.

Income

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Grants receivable and fee income are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year for which they are received;
- Membership subscriptions are included when receivable.

Notes to the Accounts

Year ended 31 March 2021

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Expenditure

All expenditure is included on an accruals basis and is recognised when there is a legal or constructive obligation to pay. All costs have been directly attributed to one of the functional categories of resources expended in the Statement of Financial Activities. The charity is not registered for VAT and accordingly expenditure is shown gross of irrecoverable VAT.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be directly attributed to such activities and those of an indirect nature necessary to support them including costs related to the governance of the charity.

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs are allocated based on staff time or on an invoice basis as set out in note 2.

Fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed assets are originally recorded at cost. Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Computer equipment - 33% on cost

Assets costing less than £300 are not capitalised. Donated assets are only included in the accounts when reliable cost information is available or where a reasonable estimate of cost can be made.

2. Income

income	2021 £	2020 £
Donations:		
Members' subscription	2,440	2,920
Charitable activities (grants):		
Scottish Government	33,768	4,000
Investment income - Bank Interest	8	24
	36,216	6,944

Notes to the Accounts

Year ended 31 March 2021

3. Expenditure

	2021 £	2020 £
	-	-
Support costs:		
Programme Co-ordinator Fees	15,503	-
Recruitment costs	230	-
Subscriptions	20	20
Administration and postage	-	7
Website costs	424	1,193
Accountancy	339	250
Governance costs:		
Independent examiner's fee	780	780
	17,296	2,250
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4. Related Parties

The charity was controlled by the Executive for the year under review.

During the year no members of the Executive (2021 - nil), has been reimbursed (2020: £nil) for expenses paid personally.

5.	Fixed Assets	Computer Equipment
	Cost	• •
	At 1 April 2020	2,829
	Additions	-
	Disposals	<u>-</u> _
		2,829
	Depreciation	
	At 1 April 2020	2,829
	Charge for year	-
	Eliminated on disposals	
		2,829
	Net Book Value	
	At 31 March 2021	
	At 31 March 2020	

The Neurological Alliance of Scotland

Notes to the Accounts

Year ended 31 March 2021

6. Debtors	2021 £	2020 £
Accrued income	1,248	1,710
Prepayments	68	57
	1,316	1,767
7. Creditors	2021	2020
	£	£
Accrued expenses	2,296	1,926
	2,296	1,926