

Speakeasy Advocacy



Giving a Voice



The Orchard, White Hart Lane, Basingstoke, Hampshire,
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Charity Commission Annual Return and Accounts 2022

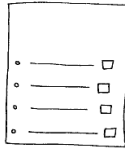
April 2021 - March 2022

Giving a voice and support

Registered charity number: 1108304



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Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

Name of charity: Speakeasy Advocacy

Registered charity number: 1108304

Address: The Orchard, White Hart Lane, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 4AF

Trustees:

Name	Position
Carole Over	Chair
Derek Easton	Treasurer
Matthew Ansell	Secretary
Nicholas Godwin	Trustee
Colin Watts	Volunteer representative – resigned December 2021
Marie Le Warne	Self Advocacy representative
Alex Azimi	Self Advocacy representative

Staff team:

Chief Executive = Amanda Kent

Senior Advocate = Lynda Awan

Project Officer = Ruth Jewell

Advocate = Ally Burrridge

Bank: Unity Trust Bank, Nine Brindley Place, Birmingham, B1 2HB

Virgin Money, Jubilee House, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 4PL

Independent examiner: Sarah Hurford-Potter



Structure, governance and management

We are governed by a Constitution (based on the charity commission model), and are a registered charity.

We must have at least 3 trustees who are either users of the service or advocates – at least 1 of each.

Our Trustee Policy states that we have Trustee representatives of our self advocacy groups Happy Club, Firefoxes (previously known as Virtual Friends) and the Friday Network.

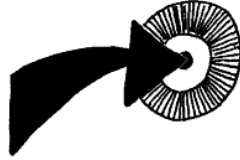
Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting. All trustees receive training to do their role; trustees who are also users of the service have support from an advocate.

Trustees always make decisions about:

- What our priorities are
- Whether we do new work
- If we should employ a new member of staff

The Trustees have met three times online or in a hybrid format (combination of online and in person) in addition to the Annual General Meeting. The Trustees identified the benefits of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation model and began exploring this process, as well as undertaking a skills audit and updating key organisational policies.

The operations group (chairman, vice chairman, treasurer and chief executive) have responsibility for the day to day running of Speakeasy Advocacy. This includes putting in place systems and procedures to manage the risks that the charity is exposed to.



Objectives and Activities

The objects in our constitution are:

“To protect and preserve the good health of children, young people and adults with autistic spectrum disorders and/or learning disabilities”.

As an advocacy organisation our aim is to:

- Make sure people are listened to
- Empower people to take control of their lives, making their own decisions and choices so that they become as independent as possible
- Support people to become part of their local communities and prevent social exclusion

Where we work:

We cover the following areas in Hampshire:

- Basingstoke
- Andover & Test Valley
- Winchester
- Hart & Rushmoor



Summary of our activities this year:

This year we have worked with **348** people – 116 more people than last year (33% more).

Here is a breakdown of people worked with.

Project	People worked with
2 self advocacy groups for adults with a learning disability or autism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happy Club* • Coffee Morning 	22 21
Care Act Advocacy	8
Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy (IMCA), Deprivation of Liberty (DOLs) and Relevant Persons Representative (RPR)	12
Child Protection	16
Lottery Advocacy Safety Net	138
Basingstoke & Deane District Council Speak Up 4 My Health	25
Hampshire County Council Get Connected	14
Hampshire County Council Hart & Rushmoor Day Services	13
NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups Personalised care & Support	3
Hampshire County Council funding for individuals to attend Friday Network service	27
Signposting & Information	49

*Happy Club is still not meeting in person due to the continued closure of some community groups and activities

This was another challenging year due to the continuing effects of Covid and funding challenges, however we were able to welcome a new member of staff to the team in June as well as secure new funding streams during the year. This resulted in us being able to work with significantly more beneficiaries than last year, and to further develop our work with people who have a learning disability or autism in the Hart & Rushmoor area.

We completed the Lottery funded project with 2 other Hampshire partners Choices and Havant Mind and published our research findings on barriers to accessing services. We were also able to share our report with the Hampshire Safeguarding Adults Board, to highlight the difference advocacy makes to people who fall between gaps in services.

Speakeasy is also involved in the following activities:

- Recruitment of volunteers
- Local and national networking
 - ✓ Basingstoke Disability Forum
 - ✓ Basingstoke Voluntary Sector Forum
 - ✓ Action Hampshire
 - ✓ Hampshire Safeguarding Adults Board
 - ✓ Hampshire Autism Partnership Board
 - ✓ Working Together with Parents Network (part of the Norah Fry Research Centre at the University of Bristol)
 - ✓ National Coalition of Citizen Advocacy Schemes
 - ✓ National Advocacy Conference

For more detailed information on what we have done this year please see our website www.speakeasyadvocacy.org.uk.



Financial Report

Accounts - Year ended 31st March 2022 **Financial Report by Treasurer Derek Easton**

We are in a period of continually challenging times for charitable organisations. We have responded well in that we secured better than expected funding for 2021/2 and so far we have secured additional funding for this year of £28,000 from the NHS which will be spent supporting children and young people with learning difficulties and autism.

Mindful of inflation we have kept our expenses in line with expectations, however the rates of inflation are causing particular strains on our planned overheads.

The financial result of funding our activities for the year resulted in a deficit of £21,865 which was a considerable improvement over last year. As in previous years this deficit will be met from reserves which are now reduced to £156,321.

Accounts - Year ended 31st March 2022

Statement of Financial Activities

	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
Grant Income	128,929	0	128,929	24,350
Flow Through Income	(59,998)	0	(59,998)	0
Other Income	20,602	10,952	31,554	25,363
Total Income	89,533	10,952	100,485	49,713
Salaries & NIC	86,092	3,941	90,033	74,015
Premises Costs	1,708	7,497	9,205	15,152
Other Expenditure	3,594	19,518	23,112	25,475
Total Expenditure	91,394	30,956	122,350	114,642
Balance of Funds for Year	(1,861)	(20,004)	(21,865)	(64,929)
Balance of Funds B/fwd	6,260	171,926	178,186	243,115
Balance of Funds C/Fwd	4,399	151,922	156,321	178,186

The accounts were independently examined on 9th June 2022 by Sarah Hurford-Potter, ACMA CGMA.

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 13th September 2022.

The full accounts are available from the Charity Commission.



What we will do next year

Further develop our business plan to source additional funding.

Continue to work with advocacy partners in Hampshire to develop countywide services.

The Annual Report was approved by the Trustees on 24th November 2022

Pictures by CHANGE Picture Bank