The Autscape Organisation
(Company number 07325467, registered charity number 114913)

Financial statements
for the year ended 30 September 2011

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Statement on financial reporting
The trustees, who are also directors of the charity present their report together with interim financial statements for the year ending 30 September 2011. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice in the United Kingdom (UK GAAP), company law and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005). The directors have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission.
Objectives and principal activities
The Autscape Organisation (hereafter referred to by its trading name, Autscape) is principally engaged in organising the annual Autscape conference to provide respite, support, information and education to autistic people (in accordance with the charitable objectives in our governing document). Autscape’s main source of funding is through the fees paid by conference participants, but we also seek donations and grant funding in order to facilitate access to Autscape’s services amongst our target beneficiaries (a majority of whom are on particularly low incomes [55% in 2010]).

Autscape has the following charitable objects:
(a) to provide respite and support for autistic people by (i) organising retreat-style conferences at which autistic people can learn, engage in activities, socialize and relax in an autistic-orientated environment and (ii) generally provide them and their families and carers with information, advice and other forms of assistance;

(b) to advance the education and awareness of the public in all matters relating to autism and in particular to increase public awareness of the problems faced by, and the general circumstances of, autistic people and their families, thus encouraging increased acceptance and support of autistic people in the community;

(c) to advance and promote the education of autistic people in self-advocacy and in those issues which are of particular interest and/or relevance to autistic people; and

(d) to do such other charitable things for the benefit and/or support of autistic people as the directors in their discretion shall decide.

Governing document
The Autscape Organisation (Autscape) is a company limited by guarantee and governed by its Memorandum & Articles of association dated July 2010. The Autscape Organisation is registered as a Charity with the Charities Commission.

Achievements and Performance
The Autscape Organisation is a newly formed charitable company which has been created to continue the work of Autscape, an unincorporated members’ association which started in 2004. In the five months covered by this interim report, the board of directors of The Autscape Organisation has met monthly to consider the strategic direction of the organisation and make decisions on matters reserved to the board. The day to day management of the organisation, including the many tasks necessary to mounting a conference, is undertaken by volunteers who include all the directors but also some of Autscape’s members who get involved through Autscape’s email lists.

During the period covered by this report, Autscape mounted the four-day conference Autscape 2011: Owning Autism at Ackworth School, Pontefract and Yorkshire. We were able to maintain fees at a level roughly equivalent to 2010 (when changes to payments for single rooms are taken into account). By contrast, Autscape remains extraordinarily good value for money: offering access to a residential four-day conference with full board for £170 (shared room) and offering a further £20 discount to those on particularly low incomes. The vast majority of the fees paid by Autscape participants cover the cost of hiring the conference venue (including accommodation and catering).

Conference fees for Autism-related conferences in the UK typically range from £75 for a single day conference with no accommodation to £345 + VAT for a recent two-day conference (not including accommodation). (Source: NAS conferences). Autscape’s 2011 fees (for the full four-day conference) were less than £60 above the cost of full-board accommodation for a typical participant and, for this, participants gained access to a high quality programme of activities and presentations. In addition, a small number of those wishing to attend who faced difficulties in affording the fees were able to access bursaries partially offsetting the costs. (The bursaries were funded and administered by a third party donor specifically for Autscape participants. Autscape provided a referral service via our website).
The venue chosen for Autscape 2011 was a particularly low cost option which allowed 80 residential participants (more than in previous years) to attend. However, the venue chosen posed some physically accessibility issues due to the listed buildings. Autscape’s accessibility policy (available in full at http://www.autscape.org/policy/accessibility.pdf) sets out how the directors try to balance the needs of different groups by alternating the priority given to conflicting needs in different years. In keeping with this policy, a venue has been chosen for the 2012 conference which, at somewhat higher cost, provides good physical accessibility, improved en-suite facilities and more single rooms. Nevertheless, the directors have been able to use reserve funds to set fees for the 2012 conference which will be roughly comparable to those for 2011, thus maintaining the accessibility of the conference to the high proportion of our target beneficiaries who have limited financial means.

The Autscape 2011 conference provided respite, support, information and education to autistic people, in keeping with Autscape’s core mission. The 2011 theme was ‘Owning Autism’. Autism Spectrum Conditions (including Aspergers Syndrome) can be officially diagnosed by clinicians. They are examined, thought about, and commented on by academic researchers, journalists and parents. These people contribute to defining what autism means in society. However, autism is experienced from the inside by autistic people. Autscape 2011 examined who currently "owns" autism and how ownership is expressed and invited participants to consider the ways autistic people own our condition. The conference took place from the 22nd to the 25th of August. Around one-third of participants attending were doing so for the first time. For many, this will have been their first experience of meeting other autistic people or of a positive and accepting environment.

The conference programme included engaging and relevant presentations, with a substantial majority of autistic presenters, some new to Autscape. Participants had the opportunity to attend formal presentations on ‘Psychological models of autism’; ‘Owning autism research’; ‘Specialisterne Scotland’ (a company employing autistic people); ‘Owning our support’; ‘Owning the languages of autism’; ‘Pitfalls in diagnosis and support’; and ‘How autism has been owned and how to claim it for ourselves’. Presentations were accepted on a competitive basis out of a range of proposals. The formal programme also included a panel discussion on the theme of the conference. Many of these presentations introduced participants to new ideas, provided information important for participants’ self-advocacy skills and challenged how autistic people are perceived by others.

Integrated with the formal programme were many opportunities for discussions. Some of these built on the presentation topics, while others were organised by participants around themes of interest, such as higher/further education and parenting. The conference programme also featured a wide range of leisure activities including singing rounds, table tennis, art activities, a walk with photography, swimming, ‘sparklies in the dark’ – a very popular mutual sensory experience - and an entertainment evening, in which many participants shared their talents. These activities supplemented informal socialising and opportunities to meet new people, an important part of the Autscape programme for many.

Mounting the conference encouraged the production and transmission of collective knowledge and understanding about autism through the presentations solicited (which would not otherwise have been created). Autscape advanced the education of autistic people (the section of the public which Autscape is primarily aiming to serve) and of the wider general public by providing materials from those presentations (and those given in previous years of the Autscape conference) on the Autscape website (which is freely accessible to the general public at no cost – see http://www.autscape.org/programme/presentations and http://www.autscape.org/archive/) . This ensures that access to these materials is not limited only to those who are able to attend the Autscape conference. As a result, material produced by autistic people which challenges existing perceptions of autism is now available to the general public, encouraging improved acceptance of autistic people in the community.
Additionally, Autscape provides no-cost access to several email lists on an ongoing basis. The ‘chat’ list is heavily used by autistic people (including but not limited to those who have previously attended an Autscape event) to socialize, discuss and exchange ideas and information relevant to autistic people and access social support and a sense of autistic community. The ‘announce’ list provides essential information about upcoming Autscape events for those who find the ‘chat’ list difficult or overwhelming to access. Additionally, Autscape uses email lists to involve our wider membership in the running of Autscape events through a system of subcommittees and working groups. These provide opportunities for members to engage socially through collaboration on practical tasks and develop a range of skills in a safe, supportive environment.

During the period covered by this report, Autscape has also developed as an organisation. Bye-laws were adopted in July 2011. The AGM held in August 2011 provided the members with an opportunity to (re)adopt the governing documents (legally unnecessary, but the directors took the view that this was morally necessary, since the full membership had not previously had an opportunity to do so). The directors also appointed independent examiners (CASE accountancy services) and reviewed Autscape’s insurance requirements (including purchasing directors’ indemnity insurance). Autscape also made good progress in fundraising during this period: setting up an online store offering Autscape merchandise and registering with a service enabling donations via text message. The directors have also sought to continue a process of documenting Autscape’s governance and management processes for induction and training purposes.

**Summary**
In the short period covered by this interim report, Autscape has:
- provided low-cost access to the 2011 Autscape conference providing respite, support and education to 80 autistic people;
- encouraged the production of new materials which were presented at that conference and made these materials freely available to the general public on our website;
- provided information about self-advocacy and issues of interest to autistic people and opportunities for education and development to conference participants and those using the Autscape email lists;
- developed as an organisation in the long-term interests of our beneficiaries.

**Trustee recruitment, induction and training**
Directors (trustees) are drawn primarily from autistic people who are or have been beneficiaries of the work of the company and are elected by the members in accordance with the articles and bye-laws. Directors are advised of their responsibilities both as a company director and as a charity trustee on appointment and are kept advised and updated on any changes in responsibilities that come into force. Whenever possible, training is provided on current legislation and good practice. A well attended training session was provided for all directors during Autscape’s 2011 conference and the materials from that session are available to current and future directors through a secure website.

**Financial Review**
The total funds held at the end of the financial period were £9,723. This included £1,189 of designated funds comprising £400 for accountancy services and £789 in the development fund (intended for expenditure on organisational development). A total of £9,723 was held in reserve. The company had already paid £1,480 as the deposit (not charged as expenditure during this period) to secure the Autscape venue for 2012. This expense item would be reflected in the 2011/2012 accounts.
Reserves policy
The directors have adopted the following reserves policy (adopted 20th July 2011).

The company needs to have sufficient funds to:
* enter into contracts with two venues simultaneously,
* to pay a venue's shortfall charge between our target attendance and the pessimistic estimate of the attendance
* to cover unknown and unexpected charges

The company will maintain reserves between two limits to cover these expenses. If the reserves are outside these limits, the company will take action, by modifying the fees for the next conference or otherwise, to bring the reserves back into the desired range.

A high estimate of the venue deposit is 20% * 90 * GBP 180 = GBP 3240.
A high estimate of the second venue deposit is GBP 3240.
A high estimate of the shortfall charge is 50% * 20 * GBP 180 = GBP 1800.
A high estimate of the unknown charges is GBP 1500.

The upper limit will be set at GBP 9780.

A low estimate of the venue deposit is 15% * 75 * GBP 165 = GBP 1856.25
A low estimate of the second venue deposit is GBP 1856.25.
A low estimate of the shortfall charge is 50% * 5 * GBP 165 = GBP 412.50
A low estimate of the unknown charges is GBP 1000.

The lower limit will be set at GBP 5125.

Exemptions
The directors have taken advantage of the exemptions available to small companies, including the audit exemption (see statement on balance sheet)

Responsibilities of the trustees/directors
Company law requires the directors 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 surplus or deficiency for the year then ended.

In preparing those financial statements, directors are required to: select suitable accounting policies, as described on page 10, and then apply them on a consistent basis, making judgements and estimates that are prudent and reasonable. The members of the Committee must also prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which 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 Companies Act 2006. The directors are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities.

Small company provisions:
This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed _____________________________________________   Date __________
Yo Dunn, Secretary
Independent examiner’s report to the trustees of
The Autscape Organisation
for the year ended 30 September 2011

I report on the accounts of the charity, which are set out on pages 8 to 11.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner
The charity’s trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity’s trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:
• examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
• to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
• to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner’s report
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. 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 you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a ‘true and fair view’ and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner’s statement
In connection with 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 130 of the Charities Act;
   • to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 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.

Signed _________________________ Date ______________________
Paul Boîelle MEng, MAAT
Community Accountancy Self Help
The Autscape Organisation  
Statement of financial activities  
(including the income and expenditure account)  
for the year ended 30 September 2011

All the activities of the charitable company are classed as continuing.
## The Autscape Organisation

### Balance sheet

**for year ended 30 September 2011**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>£</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(£)</td>
<td>(£)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debtors</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1,780</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at bank and in hand</td>
<td>9,330</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total current assets</strong></td>
<td>11,110</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditors: amounts falling due within one ye</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>(1,387)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net current assets</strong></td>
<td>9,723</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9,723</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The funds of the charity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted funds</td>
<td>8,534</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designated funds</td>
<td>1,189</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted funds</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total funds</strong></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9,723</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Exemption from audit

**For the year ending 30/09/2011 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.**

**Directors’ responsibilities:**

- 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 and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).**

The trustees declare that they have approved the accounts above.

Signed on behalf of the charity’s trustees:

Signed _______________________________         Dated __________
Yo Dunn, Secretary
1. Accounting policies

Basis of the preparation of the accounts
These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance
with Accounting and Reporting by Charities - Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP revised 2005),
the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008) and the provisions applicable
to companies subject to the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

Incoming resources
All material incoming resources have been included on a receivable basis – i.e. they are included
if the date receivable falls within the period covered by these accounts.

Resources expended
These have been analysed using a natural classification.

2. Debtors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other debtors</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepayments</td>
<td>1,480</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,780</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Creditors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditors</td>
<td>687</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accruals</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,387</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Movements in funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>balance</th>
<th>resources expended</th>
<th>balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted funds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General funds</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>21,586</td>
<td>(11,863)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>21,586</td>
<td>(11,863)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designated funds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accountancy</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Restricted funds

The Autscape Organisation
Notes to the accounts
for the year ended 30 September 2011
5. **Analysis of net assets by fund**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted funds</th>
<th>Restricted funds</th>
<th>Total funds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net current assets</strong></td>
<td>£8,534</td>
<td>£1,189</td>
<td>£9,723</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8,534</td>
<td>1,189</td>
<td>9,723</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. **Trustees’ remuneration, benefits and expenses**

   During the accounting period, the charity purchased Trustee Indemnity Insurance for the sum of £158. During this period, a total of £763 was owed to six trustees for expenses incurred; £76 was reimbursed to one trustee.

7. **Independent examination and accountancy services**

   During the period, the cost of the examination and accountancy services was £700.

8. **Previous period comparison**

   The previous period’s figures have not been included for comparison accounts are not available for that period.

9. **Glossary of terms**

   - **Restricted funds**: These are funds given to the charity, subject to specific restrictions set by the donor, but still within the general objects of the charity.
   - **Designated funds**: These are unrestricted funds set aside by the trustees for specific purposes.
   - **Creditors**: These are amounts owed by the charity, but not paid during the accounting period.
   - **Debtors**: These are amounts owed to the charity, but not received in the accounting period.
   - **Prepayments**: These are services that the charity has paid for in advance, but not used during the accounting period.