

**ASSOCIATION FOR SPINAL INJURY RESEARCH
REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION**

Aspire



**REPORT AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

Registered Company No. 03744357

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**ASSOCIATION FOR SPINAL INJURY RESEARCH
REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION**

'ASPIRE'

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ASSOCIATION FOR SPINAL INJURY RESEARCH REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

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Reference and Administrative Details

PRESIDENT	J Inverdale
VICE PRESIDENTS	A H Lambert A Jones Baroness Masham A Sparkes J R Tattersall A Bloom
CHAIRMAN	Dr S Patel
VICE CHAIRMAN	D Holden
CHIEF EXECUTIVE	B Carlin MBA
TRUSTEES & DIRECTORS	Dr H Agha A Chaplin N Flanagan D Holden H Mehta Dr S Patel J Sacks
CHARITY NUMBER	1075317 – England & Wales SC037482 – Scotland 20150181 – Ireland
COMPANY NUMBER	03744357
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ASSOCIATION FOR SPINAL INJURY RESEARCH REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

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Chairman's Report

Aspire has continued to rise to the challenge of the ever-changing state of the nation as COVID-19 continues to impact our daily lives. The key priorities were the survival of Aspire as a going concern, the wellbeing of our staff and continuing to serve people with spinal cord injuries. With the latest wave of Omicron, we have once again seen pressure on the NHS and the closure of many hospitals to visitors. Most of Aspire Services supporting newly injured patients in spinal injury centres have continued in a safe and controlled arrangement. Our Assistive Technologists have provided patients with limited or no upper limb function the capability to access their smart phone, tablet or computer. Therefore, ensuring they can stay in contact with their loved ones and the outside world, especially at times when no-one is permitted to visit. Our Independent Living Advisors have continued to provide vital peer support and critical information to help patients prepare for life after discharge. In many spinal injury centres they have adapted the service by delivering their support virtually or meeting patients in large open spaces or outdoors. Our Patient Education Administrators are now back supporting the reintroduction of patient education programmes throughout the country. We are now recruiting and building capacity within our patient education programme to support more hospitals and ensure patients receive the best education to allow them to manage their condition effectively.

I'm delighted to say that we have now re-instated our Housing Advice service. Hundreds of patients throughout the country faced accelerated discharge and missed out of valuable rehabilitation and education. The majority of patients were discharged into Care Homes. Aspire will be working with NHS England to track down as many of these patients as possible with the aim of supporting them to move into appropriate and suitable permanent homes.

Our Welfare Benefits Advisors saw a 94% increase in demand for the service as more in-patients in spinal injury centres required our support placing considerable pressure on the service. A formal partnership with the Spinal Injuries Association has seen a considerable increase from their patient facing staff to the service. The Advisor Team has risen to the challenge and provided an invaluable service to patients in supporting them to access benefits they were otherwise being denied.

We enjoyed the return of our Aspire Sports Quiz Dinner at Lord's Cricket Grounds last November and saw a record-breaking year from our Open Water Swim Challenge. Last year saw our first official Sealand Swim challenging participants to swim 12km from the platform of Sealand to the Suffolk coast. Our first two challengers successfully completed their swim which raising considerable amounts in fundraising in support of Aspire. Total fundraising income grew in the last financial year by 50%, to over £1.8m, mostly due to an annual total furlough claim of £596k.

Aspire Leisure Centre continues to be affected by the pandemic, having only recovered to 70% pre-pandemic activity levels. We were adversely affected by damage to the swimming pool floor in April 2021 costing over £150k to repair. This setback also delayed the reopening of the swimming pool when the lockdown was lifted and then we could only open part of the pool whilst repairs were underway.

Our joint venture law firm, Aspire Law LLP, has now been operating for seven years and in December 2020, secured the highest value settlement for an adult spinal cord injury claim at £17m, creating English legal history. Several more cases have been settled by Aspire Law in the last year ranging from £5m to £15m. Not only the Aspire Law consistently settling high value cases it also paid the first distribution of £100k to Aspire, through Aspire Trading 2014 Ltd, and to our joint venture partner Moore Barlow LLP. The business is now fully mature and will provide strong consistent income to the charity.

COVID-19 struck at the end of a year when Aspire had already made difficult decisions to close our Aspire Grants programme and end our Campaigning and Policy work to help strengthen our cash position and help rebuild our reserves. With significant investment over the past six years into our Joint Venture, Aspire Law LLP, it was critical to take measures to protect the financial position of the Charity until such time as the Joint Venture is able to start paying dividends to Aspire.

Throughout the lockdown periods and restricted activity times, we worked incredibly hard to protect the future employment of our staff and therefore did everything possible to maximise the benefit of the UK Government Job Support Scheme. With some staff not working for over a year, we ensured a strong communications strategy was implemented to keep all staff engaged with Aspire and to look after staff wellbeing. Staff were also given free access to online exercise classes each week. As a result of the protective measure applied by Aspire, it was possible to retain 100% of our workforce. Emergency childcare service for NHS staff at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust was provided by the Aspire Leisure Centre staff throughout all lockdowns and whenever requested by the NHS Trust.

We have worked hard to reach a point of stability and look forward positively to a future that will see us strengthen our cash position and begin rebuilding our service capacity. I wish to thank the staff of Aspire for their amazing efforts in delivering our many services and continuing to support spinal cord injured people. They have done so selflessly and with remarkable resilience through these difficult times. I wish to also thank all of our funders and fundraisers for their ongoing support which we could not do without.

We continue to plan and navigate our way through the uncertainty of the future, and a time beyond COVID-19.

Dr S Patel – Chair

ASSOCIATION FOR SPINAL INJURY RESEARCH REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

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Report of the Trustees

The Trustees, who are also directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, have pleasure in presenting their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 in accordance with that Act, the Charities Act 2011 and the governing instrument.

Charitable Objectives

Aspire exists to provide practical help to people paralysed by spinal cord injury, supporting them from injury to independence.

Aspire was founded in 1983 to work with people with spinal cord injury to create opportunity, choice and independence through its activities in rehabilitation, reintegration and research. Its office is in Stanmore in Middlesex, alongside the London Spinal Injury Centre at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital Trust (RNOH).

Aspire fulfils its objectives through three key areas of work, namely, rehabilitation, reintegration and research.

Rehabilitation

Aspire provides practical support to people with spinal cord injuries from the time of their injury through to discharge from a Spinal Injury Centre and onwards for the rest of their lives. Aspire has developed a range of services, which it believes offers individuals a nurturing and rehabilitative environment that will enable them to achieve their full potential. It is Aspire's aim to deliver and build on these services throughout the UK.

Reintegration

Aspire provides temporary homes for those waiting to be discharged from hospital so that they may be reunited with their family and start living their life again whilst waiting for a permanent home to be made available. Last year we acquired, adapted and opened one more house. With one property removed from our stock, we maintained our housing complement of 59. Our key aim over the coming years is to expand this provision to support the discharge needs of spinal injury patients through the provision of at least 100 homes and Housing Case Management Services to support those living in unacceptable and inaccessible accommodation.

Aspire provides Independent Living Services that include highly trained spinal cord injured Independent Living Advisors who work in almost all of the specialist Spinal Injury Centres throughout the UK. They are there to support patients from the earliest stages of rehabilitation and to help advise on a wide range of topics to support living independently once discharged from hospital. Our Welfare Benefits Advice Service ensures that spinal cord injured people are receiving the benefits that they are entitled to receive whilst also being offered the support of our Money Matters Service.

The Aspire Assistive Technology Services operate in four of the Spinal Injury Centres and provide patients, with limited or no upper limb function, help to access their smart phone, tablet or computer. Trained with this technology, patients can stay connected with family and friends and develop skills to continue with education or return to work, or just stay connected with the world.

Aspire Your Fund provides a tax efficient method of fundraising in support of spinal cord injured people to help them purchase specialist equipment they would otherwise not be able to afford therefore providing them with greater independence for everyday living.

The Aspire Leisure Centre was Europe's first fully inclusive leisure centre for disabled and non-disabled people. It was opened in September 1998 and is the showpiece of the Charity's unique approach to breaking down the barriers between non-disabled and disabled people. As well as state-of-the-art rehabilitation, physiotherapy and occupational therapy suites, the centre offers a large range of sporting, dance and leisure activities, all of which are run on an inclusive basis – where non-disabled and disabled people can take part side-by-side. The centre enjoys approximately 500,000 active visits each year, with 32% of membership and approximately 37% attendance by disabled customers.

Aspire provides a range of practical services to support people with a spinal cord injury to reintegrate into society and lead a fulfilled life.

The Aspire multi-award winning innovative project, InstructAbility, was developed to train disabled people to become fitness professionals with a twelve week supported work placement. It works with Sport England and the industry membership organisations to create a lasting change of true equality for disabled employees and customers. Our aim is to create a UK leisure industry where disabled people are made to feel more welcome whether as a professional or service user.

ASSOCIATION FOR SPINAL INJURY RESEARCH REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

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Report of the Trustees

Research

Aspire has, from its inception, been excited by the possibilities of technology. The Charity is determined that people with spinal cord injuries should benefit from the cutting edge of new developments in this field. To that end, Aspire has invested over £3 million in support of our Aspire Centre for Rehabilitation Engineering & Assistive Technology (Aspire CREATE) over the past twenty four years through University College London (UCL) and the Institute of Orthopaedics and Musculo-Skeletal Sciences, based at RNOH Stanmore. This research centre focuses on the development of cost effective and practical technologies that can improve the lives of disabled people and the outcome of treatment through the use of improved technology.

Strategies for achieving those objectives

Aspire will continue to develop new relationships with housing associations in key geographical locations, already identified, to gain new fully accessible properties to add to its existing complement of Aspire Houses. Aspire will work in partnership with the housing associations toward new build projects and present a case to gain access to existing housing stock.

We have forged strong relationships with the occupational therapists at all Spinal Injury Centres where our Assistive Technology facilities have been placed. We continue to work with and report to our funders, who support our programme, to ensure they are kept informed of all developments and benefits to the spinal injury community and maintain an understanding of the latest technological developments. Our programme is delivered by highly skilled professionals in four of the nine spinal centres. We host an annual conference which is attended by representatives from all the Spinal Injury Centres to share our knowledge and demonstrate the latest technological developments.

A national service of Aspire Independent Living Advisors provides practical support and advice on living life with a spinal cord injury. They ensure newly injured patients are informed of all the services available to support them and of the practical solutions to problems that Aspire and other charities and organisations can provide.

Aspire will undertake constant reviews and assessments of our fundraising throughout the year to ensure we achieve the most effective and efficient fundraising results. Aspire is currently working to a fundraising plan to ensure our fundraising can meet the additional services we plan in the future. The Fundraising and Marketing Committee continually monitors this work to ensure compliance with our annual plan and budgets.

The impact of COVID-19 has had a significant effect on our service delivery, which has required us to adapt to using new technological solutions to provide support to new spinal cord injured patients. Our current strategic focus is to ensure our services continue to support as many beneficiaries as possible whilst we seek to strengthen our financial position to ensure Aspire's longevity. The current uncertainties make implementing a longer-term strategic plan impractical and we will aim to set out a clearer strategic plan once this crisis is over. Recent agreement with NHS England will ensure Aspire can work to identify the hundreds of patients who experienced accelerated discharge from spinal centres throughout the pandemic. We will support them to move into permanent accessible accommodation. We will also be working with the spinal centres to improve and standardise best practice in the delivery and evaluation of patient education.

ASSOCIATION FOR SPINAL INJURY RESEARCH REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

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Report of the Trustees

How objectives link to longer term strategies and objectives

Our Aspire Services department is the spearhead of our national outreach programme and takes the Charity out into the community, nationwide. Our objectives are set to ensure that there is an increasing awareness of Aspire and its services by the multidisciplinary spinal cord injury professionals, newly injured patients and the general spinal injury community. Direct links with each and every Spinal Injury Centre will also help Aspire communicate with more people with spinal cord injuries directly. The success of our Aspire Independent Living Advisors provides a familiar face to this increased presence and essential guidance to Aspire Services on the most appropriate support and help needed.

Evidence indicates that one of the greatest issues facing Spinal Injury Centres and patients is the ability to be discharged to an accessible home at the end of the rehabilitation process and for patients to get back on with their life. One in five patients are discharged to care homes. This may be the most appropriate accommodation for a minority of patients but it is certainly not for the majority. Patients, once discharged to a care home, can face a residency period of one to six years. During this time they will live in a single room and be prevented from being reunited with their family in their own home and not able to enjoy the freedom and independence we all take for granted. For the 59% of patients discharged to their own homes almost all will be attempting to live in an un-adapted home where living conditions can be very limiting and extremely challenging.

Expanding our housing complement will increase the possibility of patients being discharged to a temporary home whilst action is taken to prepare a permanent home. The additional benefits are that our properties promote independence, can accommodate a live-in carer and family, if necessary, whilst this service also ensures a specialist bed in a spinal injury centre can become available for a newly injured patient at the earliest opportunity. Our Housing Case Management Service ensures that those not living in an Aspire House or suitable accessible home can be supported by us to ensure we help them to secure a fully accessible home.

Aspire aims to ensure our Housing Programme supports every Spinal Injury Centre throughout the UK and will continue to expand. Objective 3 (see Performance Summary) will aim to address this and start to provide additional national support.

Our Assistive Technology provides patients with internet access to stay in touch with family and friends worldwide, keep up to date with the outside world and independence activities such as shopping to banking online. This technology embraces our ethos and helps to maintain independence and supports those with limited or no upper limb function.

Aspire exists to support people from injury to independence. Our work through improving patient education ensures spinal cord injured patients have the best level of understanding of living with and managing their condition, whilst promoting 'best practice' throughout all the Specialist Centres.

ASSOCIATION FOR SPINAL INJURY RESEARCH REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

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Report of the Trustees

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

	Objective	Outcome
1	Independent Living <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seek opportunities for the Advisor team to work remotely in the event of the hospitals closing to non-clinical staff. 2. Deliver the postponed Patient Education conference to share best practice with Spinal Injury Centre staff. 3. Explore options for delivering key Patient Education and peer support services to patients who missed these elements as a result of COVID-19. 4. Explore demand for a major trauma centre-based member of the team; identify requirements of any role, secure support from clinical teams and recruit to the post. Evaluate and review the role. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Every Spinal Centre closed to non-essential staff as the pandemic took hold, with many maintaining that state for the entire year. Very quickly, most of our Advisors were able to provide phone or online support to patients, and systems were put in place where clinical staff on site would book appointments for patients. We worked closely with partner charities Back Up and SIA to also offer informal virtual group chat sessions for patients. As restrictions eased, the team were also able to introduce distanced meetings in outdoor settings. The virtual support proved popular, with several Centres requesting that this support is maintained for those patients that prefer such meetings even as things return to normal. The team also used their spare capacity to contact former patients and check in with them during the shielding period and to offer support as needed. 2. With the pandemic lasting longer than initially envisaged, our postponed conference also had to be postponed. In its place, a virtual conference was planned for the start of the new financial year. 3. The ongoing pandemic meant that we were not in a position to look to expand our services during the year and had to focus on maintaining our existing work. We recognise that many patients will have been fast-tracked through their rehabilitation this year, or never even accessed a specialist Centre, and reaching those people and providing support has formed the basis for a number of funding applications this year, with a view to work starting in the coming months. 4. The pandemic has prevented expansion into additional clinical settings. However, during the year we have begun discussions with NHS England about securing contact information for patients newly injured and waiting for transfer to a specialist Centre. We have put plans in place to engage with those patients and will be using the feedback gained to gauge the nature of any face-to-face role that we subsequently put in place.
2	Welfare Benefits <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support in-patients with their benefit applications in the event of the DWP visiting teams no longer being permitted access to the wards during lockdown. 2. Improve referrals between partner organisations SIA and Back Up to ensure all those clients in need of welfare benefits advice are given timely and accurate support. 3. Recruit a new part-time advisor to ensure the team can meet demand. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As the DWP removed their support from the Spinal Centres, Aspire's Welfare Benefits Team met the demand from in-patients. This led to considerable pressure on the service, resulting in longer waiting times for clients, but the service was maintained throughout the year. In part as a result of providing this in-patient support, the team saw a 94% increase in number of clients supported against the previous year. 2. Considerable work was put in to develop working relationships with SIA, culminating in a formal partnership between the two organisations. As a result of this work, referrals from SIA, and their client-facing staff, has increased dramatically. The established pathway now also means that the SIA advice line automatically refers at first point of contact, preventing confusion and incorrect advice being given at the early stages of a client's claim. 3. Funding pressure because of the pandemic prevented Aspire from expanding the team. However, plans were put in place to seek funding for the Advisor role and we hope to recruit early in the new financial year.

ASSOCIATION FOR SPINAL INJURY RESEARCH REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

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Report of the Trustees

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY - continued

	Objective	Outcome
3	Aspire Housing Programme <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertake full review of the Housing policies and procedures in-light of changing demands from the partner housing associations and the unique challenge presented by COVID-19; ensure all required policies are in place, up to date and that training has been provided to staff. 2. Recruit a new Housing advisor to ensure the team can meet demand. 3. Seek opportunities to increase housing stock. 4. Evaluate the Community Case Management pilot project, make recommendations for future work and disseminate findings. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discussions have taken place with partner organisations and Aspire's Housing policies have been reviewed and amended as required. Particular emphasis has been placed on fire risk management as the Housing Sector continues to review its approach post-Grenfell. 2. Funding pressure because of the pandemic prevented Aspire from expanding the team. However, plans were put in place to seek funding for the Advisor role and we hope to recruit early in the new financial year. 3. Funding pressure because of the pandemic, together with the logistics of taking on new properties during the restrictions, meant that work towards new stock was largely curtailed. However, during the year we have worked with a private landlord who has agreed to purchase a property for the Aspire housing programme; house hunting for that new property is underway. 4. The final report for the Community Case Manager project was received and reviewed. A successful pilot, the project highlighted the need for clients in care homes to receive tailored support in order to facilitate their return to independent living, though also highlighted the greater efficiency of Aspire's existing Housing Advice service. Opportunities to disseminate findings was reduced by the pandemic, but the project has been helpful with funding applications to expand Aspire's own service.
4	Assistive Technology <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase staffing resources by recruiting two new assistive technologists. 2. Deliver the postponed Assistive Technology conference for NHS staff, Aspire representatives and others interested in Assistive Technology. 3. Look for ways of assisting isolated and shielding users with access to technology during the Coronavirus pandemic. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Funding pressure as a result of the pandemic, together with the closure of the Centres, prevented Aspire from looking to expand the team early in the year. As Centres began to reopen to some charity staff, we were able to recruit a Technologist to support Cardiff and the post holder started in January 2021. The other post was delayed until funding is available. 2. With the pandemic lasting longer than initially envisaged, our postponed conference also had to be postponed. In its place, a virtual session, looking at some of the developments and work that had recently been undertaken was held and had good attendance from the Spinal Centres. 3. The Assistive Technology team provided phone and email support to users and their families during the lockdown periods. We were also able to remotely support Occupational Therapists, providing loan equipment and guidance on how to set it up to ensure patients, and those being discharged, had some access. Inevitably, those with the most complex needs were at most risk of being left isolated as some technology simply requires a trained member of staff to work one to one to configure and train the user.
5	InstructAbility <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Secure funding for next stage of InstructAbility aimed at supporting disabled people, training providers and employers. 2. Disseminate and promote the guides across the sector, targeting disabled people, training providers and leisure operators. 3. Start a research project to evaluate the reach and impact of the guides. 4. Set up a new national InstructAbility programme to support disabled people to train and work in the leisure sector. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Interim funding has been secured for an extended planning period to align Aspire's programme aims, finance and timescales with Sport England's new 'Uniting the Movement' strategy. 2. Industry Guides are finalised, but publication held back until the launch of our new programme. 3. Research project delayed until it can start and run alongside the new programme. 4. Newly formed Strategic Partner Group set up to consult and support Aspire's new EmployAbility Strategy including an EmployAbility training/work programme.

ASSOCIATION FOR SPINAL INJURY RESEARCH REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

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Report of the Trustees

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY - continued

	Objective	Outcome
6	Aspire Research <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pursue funding to increase/maintain our PhD student and research associate cohorts. 2. Get some of the PhD students expected to complete their research in 2020 to complete by 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions. 3. Maintain the number of active projects and, if possible, increase the current number by actively pursuing new collaborations and submitting new grant proposals. 4. Maintain publication rate. 5. Continue to deliver our MSc programmes. 6. Continue to contribute to outreach activities (talking to schools, public events, open days, etc.). Albeit, we expect these to reduce substantially due to COVID-19, however, we will continue to engage, where possible, through online symposia and webinars. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Due to COVID-19 we have seen the PhD funding frozen. However, we have two new PhD starters and two postdoctoral research fellows joined us in the summer. In October we appointed a new lecturer to the centre, who brings a wealth of experience on wearable multimodal optical neuroimaging technologies. 2. We have had 6 PhD student completions. 3. We have maintained current number of projects and submitted 14 grant proposals, 3 were successful, totalling £928k. 4 grant proposals are under-review. 4. We published 38 papers, 1 in press and 9 papers are under review 5. We continued to deliver the fifth student cohort for our MSc Rehabilitation Engineering & Assistive Technology (REAT) with nine students enrolled for 2021-22. Last year's REAT MSc students wrote a great entitled; Investigating Smartphone Accessibility for People with Spinal Cord Injury and we are currently looking at adapting it for publication. We have also been re-working the AMIS programme for distance learning delivery for the 2022-23 academic year. 6. We have been invited to deliver 17 talks at webinars and conferences and contributed to several outreach activities such as the UCL Stroke Day Forum, the Tomorrow's Home 2050 exhibition and Museum of the Home to name a few and have organised the first Virtual RehabWeek conference. Student feedback has been extremely positive.
7	Fundraising <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. COVID-19 sees us downgrading total unrestricted income from £1,105k to £609k. Profit target now at £218k (previously at £447k). 2. The Aspire Channel Swim to raise income of £200k for Aspire with a profit of £96k. This is dependent on leisure facilities remaining open. 3. Open water swimming is less restricted and we are aiming to maintain Channel swims and Solent swims but at reduced capacity and dependent on international restrictions. Income target of £219k and profit set at £107k. 4. An emergency appeal and the re-structure of CEO working with Project Fundraising Manager aims to achieve £200k of project funding. 5. The development of content and marketing opportunities that will increase corporate support for Aspire. Target of £30k of new income in 2020/21 and further amounts in 2021/22. 6. The scoping and development of a new virtual event (Coast to Coast) in 2020/21. Estimated income of £50k with costs of £20k. 7. There will be no Sports Quiz Dinner in 2020/21 but we will launch a virtual quiz for this financial year. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A strong performance in difficult times with a total unrestricted income finishing ahead of plan at just over £1,625k and delivering a net profit of £1,348k. This result includes £596k furlough claim. 2. With the impact of COVID-19 and lockdowns resulting in the closer of swimming pools, the event only recruited 1,500 participants and was forced to extend the event to the end of June 2021. Total income of £112k and a net profit of £37.5k. 3. A good result with most of the open water swim challenges remaining unaffected raising total income of £288.5k, almost £70k higher than target, producing a profit of £198k, ahead by £91k. 4. An exceptionally strong year with an emergency appeal and several COVID-19 emergency funding from Trusts and Foundations. The total figure of £1,210k also includes the £596k furlough claim. 5. Through project fundraising we raised a total of £223k of new grants. A combination of emergency fundraising applications in support of our services. 6. A virtual fundraising event, Coast to Coast Challenge was launched raising a total of £36k. Production costs were managed at just 10% of total income. 7. Aspire successfully launched three virtual Sports Quiz events with over 500 participants in the first event in October, with a second similarly attended event in February 2021. The third events was held in April after the lifting of lockdown and therefore had fewer attendees.

ASSOCIATION FOR SPINAL INJURY RESEARCH REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

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Report of the Trustees

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY - continued

8	Aspire Law <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aspire Law to continue to acquire new clients to replenish concluding cases. 2. To maximise search engine optimisation to ensure that Aspire Law LLP features on page one when searching for a spinal cord injury solicitor and maintain this position. 3. Aspire Law website to be refreshed and launched by January 2021. 4. Aspire Law to continue to support the Charity through the sponsorship of Aspire Independent Living Advisor Service and fund the introduction of Assistive Technologists at Stanmore and Cardiff Spinal Injury Centres. Explore the possibility with the Charity to introduce support in the London major trauma centres. Aspire Law will aim to continue to support the Back Up mentoring service. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aspire Law has continued to acquire clients at comparable rates to previous years and has maintained consistent client numbers throughout the year. 2. Aspire Law continues to work to maintain search engine optimisation. 3. Work to rebuild the Aspire Law website commenced later than planned due to the pandemic with the completion and relaunch now planned in the new financial year. 4. Aspire Law has continued to fund the sponsorship of all the charitable services included in objective 4. Assistive Technologists were recruited and introduced as planned. As a result of the pandemic, it was not possible to consider the introduction of a London major trauma centre support service.
9	Aspire Leisure Centre <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To achieve its budget. 2. Operate Aspire Leisure Centre in a COVID-19 secure way following government guidance. 3. To maintain QUEST excellence accreditation. 4. To achieve annual Quality audit score of at least 85%. 5. To achieve annual Health & Safety audit score of over 90%. 6. Maintain ISO14001 – January 2021. 7. Develop virtual membership and seated virtual membership. 8. To reduce utility consumption (water 7%, gas 2%, electricity 4%). 9. During COVID-19 restrictions, reduce staffing levels and use furlough and job retention scheme for as long as possible. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Aspire Leisure Centre achieved a management account operating surplus of £97k against a target of £3k (pre-audit adjustments). 2. The Centre fully complied with industry COVID-19 operating standards. 3. QUEST Prime was achieved. https://questnbs.org/facilities/types-of-assessment 4. The annual Quality Audit was interrupted throughout the pandemic and has been rescheduled to the new financial year. 5. The annual Health & Safety audit was 76% and conducted just two days after re-opening after a lockdown. New audit rescheduled within six months. 6. ISO14001 has been maintained. 7. Virtual membership was successfully launched. Support was secured from Harrow Giving to offer Harrow residents a subsidy. 8. Due to closures during lockdown and restricted capacity, utility consumption was reduced as follows - Water 76%, Gas 21%, Electricity 39%. 9. Staffing levels were constantly monitored to ensure only necessary staff were working to maintain the facility and continue communications with customers. The furlough and flexi furlough scheme were used to their maximum benefit and a restructure undertaken within the Fitness and Customers Services Teams.

A significant factor affecting the planned outcome for Aspire, that was outside of our control, was the impact of COVID-19 across all our activities.

ASSOCIATION FOR SPINAL INJURY RESEARCH REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

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Report of the Trustees

Public benefit statement

The purposes and activities of Aspire include the advancement of health among those who have incurred a spinal cord injury, academic research designed to assist such persons, the provision of recreational facilities for people in special need because of their disability and the provision of financial help and specialised housing, training, advice and other facilities for those in need of them for the same reasons. The Trustees take the view that the purposes and activities fully comply with the public benefit requirement as set out in the Charities Act 2011 and explained in the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit. Aspire's services are open to all spinally injured persons regardless of age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, ethnicity, nationality, place of residence, financial circumstances, social class, political opinions and religious belief. So Aspire's main beneficiaries, of whom there are potentially a significant number, can properly be regarded as a 'section of the public' in charity law. In addition, as part of the activities which benefit spinal injured people, Aspire also provides help and support for their families and members of the public generally. The Trustees strongly believe that assisting spinally injured people to become independent and reintegrate into the community provides social enrichment for the community itself and helps it to be more cohesive.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Principal Funding Sources of the Charity

Aspire's total income decreased by £156k in the last year to just under £3.5m. The furlough scheme contributed £596k, without which total income would have declined by over £750k. Donations and Legacies almost doubled in value in comparison to the previous year because of COVID-19 support from Trusts and Foundations and the generous support of our emergency appeal. Due to the Aspire Leisure Centre closing during periods of lockdown and operating with restrictions, Charitable Activity income fell by over £1.25m. Aspire Housing Rental income was also affected and fell by £50k against the previous year. Other Trading comprises Aspire Fundraising Limited and with the pandemic affecting face to face fundraising, income generation was £415k, a reduction of £372k on the previous year. The Joint Venture (Aspire Law LLP) contributed a total of £451k this year. An increase of £202k on the previous year.

TABLE REMOVED
FOR COMPANIES HOUSE FILING

Figure 1 Principal Funding Sources for the year ended 31 March 2021

ASSOCIATION FOR SPINAL INJURY RESEARCH REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

'ASPIRE'

Report of the Trustees

Fundraising Income

Total fundraising income was increased by £629k, to a total of £1.848m. Although the improvement includes the total furlough claim of £596k an improved performance in Trust and Foundation income and the emergency appeal more than compensated for the 45% drop in fundraising event income.

TABLE REMOVED
FOR COMPANIES HOUSE FILING

Figure 2 Fundraising Income for the year ended 31 March 2021

Charitable Income

Our income from Charitable Activities was adversely affected by the pandemic. Aspire Leisure Services income fell by £1.25m due to the Aspire Leisure Centre closures and restrictions in operating but also we received a grant from the Sport England Community Leisure Recovery Fund whilst our InstructAbility programme received ongoing support funding until such times as the project can return to full operation. Aspire Housing rental income fell by £50k due to the impact of COVID-19. Aspire Housing received a £864k three-year grant from the Monday Charitable Trust in 2017/18. This continued to fund our activities throughout 2019 and 2020.

TABLE REMOVED
FOR COMPANIES HOUSE FILING

Figure 3 Total Charitable Income for the year ended 31 March 2021

ASSOCIATION FOR SPINAL INJURY RESEARCH REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

'ASPIRE'

Report of the Trustees

Total Cost of Fundraising

The total cost of fundraising decreased by over £400k to just £277k due to the cost of events not being incurred and staff being placed on the furlough scheme.

TABLE REMOVED
FOR COMPANIES HOUSE FILING

Figure 4 Total Cost of Fundraising for the year ended 31 March 2021

Charitable Expenditure

Our total charitable expenditure was £523k less than the previous financial year following a restructuring of our services. The Aspire Grants programme was closed during the year as we were no longer able to support the investment in the programme, which typically gave rise to an annual cash outflow of £150k. Our policy and campaigning work ceased as we were unable to secure restricted funding to support this work. Our Housing Programme continued to increase with higher levels of demand for the service. The cost of our Independent Living Service was lower than prior years as it no longer includes the cost of our Welfare Benefits programme, which is now shown separately.

TABLE REMOVED
FOR COMPANIES HOUSE FILING

Figure 5 Charitable Expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2021

ASSOCIATION FOR SPINAL INJURY RESEARCH REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

'ASPIRE'

Report of the Trustees

Aspire Law LLP

Aspire invested in a Joint Venture with the legal firm, Moore Barlow LLP, to establish Aspire Law LLP – a unique social enterprise that represents spinal cord injury claims only. This highly specialist legal firm places its clients at the heart of the business. It provides a comprehensive service that aims to secure the highest value settlement for their claim in the most appropriate timeframe, therefore allowing them to get on with their life. This service is provided on a 'No Win, No Fee' basis. Aspire owns 50% of Aspire Law LLP, through the trading subsidiary Aspire Trading 2014, and contributes 50% of the operating cost. In line with the agreement, in this financial year Aspire Law LLP has donated 50% of all its operating profits to Aspire to allow us to provide a wealth of services to benefit most of the spinal cord injured people who do not benefit from the support of a compensation claim. Aspire Law contributed £451k (2020: £249k) profit share to Aspire this year as well as providing sponsorship to Aspire Services. A report is included in the earlier section under Performance Summary Objective 8.

Aspire + Wealth Management Limited

Aspire has worked in partnership with the Independent Financial Advisor Frenkel Topping to form a new joint venture, Aspire + Wealth Management Limited, launched in April 2020. This is a highly specialist financial service providing spinal cord injury clients with an expert service to invest the compensation settlement amounts to provide for clients' needs throughout their lives. Aspire owns 50% of Aspire + Wealth Management, through the subsidiary Aspire Trading 2020 Limited, and will receive 50% of the operating profits in future years. Aspire + Wealth Management profits to March 2021 were immaterial and therefore not included in Aspire's consolidated financial statements, however its expected profits will be material in the next financial year. Aspire + Wealth Management is the current sponsor of Aspire Money Matters service.

Investment policy and returns

Aspire operates an investment policy to achieve the maximum possible return at the lowest level of risk. We aim to ensure that investments grow in value, in line with the rate of inflation, whilst providing a modest return on the original capital invested whilst also meeting our ethical investment policy. The investments gained in value of £1k to £12k and are held by CCLA Investment Fund.

Reserves Policy

Aspire reserves available for use or designation by Aspire are the Total Unrestricted Funds of £1,315k (see note 13 of the Notes to the Financial Statements), less the value of our Fixed Assets of £357k. The Charity's Unrestricted Funds are lower at £765k (see note 13 of the Notes to the Financial Statements), as the Aspire Law LLP's reserves of £549k are not included. The Trustees have reviewed the general reserves policy for the Charity and have considered the financial requirements needed to support the work of the Charity and to protect against future potential risks.

	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Group - Total Unrestricted Funds	1,315	651	497	714	855
Charity - Total Unrestricted Funds	765	552	647	986	1,168

The Trustees have established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds held by the Charity are sufficient to support the planned activities and approximate budgeted expenditure of £3.5m throughout 2021/22. This, in the opinion of the Trustees, will provide sufficient protection against any potential drop in funding income to ensure Aspire's services remain unaffected. The Trustees aim to maintain the reserves at a minimum of £500k to support approximately six months of core management and administration, fundraising and service costs, which are not covered by donations from Restricted Funds. With the Government Support Schemes contribution reducing in the new financial year and ending in September 2021, and a growing level of uncertainty about the future, the Trustees believe it prudent to hold higher value reserves to protect the future of the charity.

ASSOCIATION FOR SPINAL INJURY RESEARCH REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

'ASPIRE'

Report of the Trustees

Risk Management

The Trustees have examined the major risks which the Charity faces and confirm that systems have been established so that the necessary steps can be taken to manage those risks.

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- Accreditation to recognised national standards including Quest and Best Companies.
- External auditing of Quality Management and Health & Safety Systems.
- A full risk register, which is reviewed annually.
- Full competitor and external threat analysis for all services.
- An annual budget with full supporting business plans approved by the Trustees.
- Regular consideration by the Trustees of financial results and forecasts, variances from budgets and non-financial performance.
- Quarterly reporting and assessment of operational plans and objectives that have been agreed and set for the year.
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties.
- On-going investment in the development of the professional knowledge and capability of staff.
- A 3-Year Recovery/Rebuild plan.

The key risks identified by Aspire in 2020/21 were;

- Pandemic Risk – the pandemic impacted on face-to-face fundraising events and the delivery of services. Also there is an ongoing risk to the health and well-being of staff and the restrictions on the delivery of services.
- Reputational Risk – as a result of several media stories about inappropriate fundraising activities and conduct of staff by some of the biggest charities in the country, trust in charities is at an all-time low.
- Financial Risk – demand for our services continues to grow and this will place even greater demand on our finances in the future. Our investment in Aspire Law LLP has now matured with the first distribution of £100k paid in May 2021.
- Government Policy Changes – changes in social housing and welfare benefits have a major impact on our beneficiary group and as a result an increase in demand for our services. Tight budgets for care provision can affect the amount and quality of care provided to spinal cord injured people.

The above risks will be considered by the Trustees and the senior management team throughout the next financial year, but the risks presented by the COVID-19 pandemic have formed a major focus since 2020. A comprehensive risk register, quality systems, policies and controls have already been established to mitigate any such risks.

Going Concern

The Trustees have considered the continuing impact of the COVID-19 virus on the future viability of the charitable company and the expected level of income and expenditure for the 12 months from the date of authorising these financial statements. The projected income and expenditure of the charitable company together with the level of its resources is sufficient for the charitable company to be able to continue as a going concern.

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charitable company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

ASSOCIATION FOR SPINAL INJURY RESEARCH REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

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Report of the Trustees

Plans for 2021/22

	Objective
1	Independent Living <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recruit a phone-based Advisor to engage with newly injured patients referred to Aspire through the NHS England data sharing project. Evaluate gaps in the services and knowledge that the patients are receiving and make recommendations for support that could be put in place. 2. Explore options for engaging with individuals who missed out on Charity support during the pandemic.
2	Patient Education <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deliver the postponed Patient Education conference to share best practice with Spinal Centre staff. 2. Develop and deliver training and support to peer volunteers employed by Spinal Centre Patient Education programmes. 3. Promote Aspire's Mind the Gap evaluation and see it in place at more Spinal Centres.
3	Welfare Benefits <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recruit a new part-time advisor to help meet increased demands placed on the service. 2. Support SCIC Case Managers by offering training and advice on benefit claims and working with patients as required.
4	Aspire Housing Programme <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recruit a new Housing Advisor to enable the Housing Advice service to operate effectively. 2. Recruit a Tenant Support Officer to improve our support of existing tenants and help speed up their move on to permanent accommodation.
5	Assistive Technology <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase staffing resources with the addition of a new Assistive Technologist to allow for more work within general hospitals. 2. Deliver an Assistive Technology conference for NHS staff, Aspire representatives and others interested in Assistive Technology. 3. Review training guides and resources as a way to provide support to people in the community.
6	InstructAbility <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Secure funding to deliver our 'EmployAbility Strategy' to support training providers and employers to adopt accessible and inclusive policy and practice. 2. Disseminate and promote the Guides across the sector, targeting disabled people, training providers and leisure operators. 3. Start a research programme to evaluate the reach and impact of the guidance. 4. Set-up a new national EmployAbility programme to support disabled people to train and work in the leisure sector.
7	Aspire Research <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pursue funding to increase/maintain our PhD student and research associate cohorts. 2. Fourth set PhD students expected to complete their research in 2022 3. Maintain the number of active projects and if possible, increase the current number by actively pursuing new collaborations and submitting new grant proposals. 4. Maintain publication rate. 5. Continue to deliver our MSc programmes. 6. Continue to contribute to outreach activities (talking to schools, public events, open days, etc.).

ASSOCIATION FOR SPINAL INJURY RESEARCH REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

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Report of the Trustees

Plans for 2021/22 - continued

8	Fundraising <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To achieve an unrestricted income figure of £840k. Profit target will be £322k. 2. Deliver the 2021 Aspire Channel Swim achieving an income of £300k with a profit target of £159k. We aim to reduce the costs of event delivery by £50k. 3. Open water swim programme to achieve income target of £267k with a net profit of £150k. 4. To develop a mass participation swim in the Western Solent and a Sealand Swim, 5. Deliver another online version of Aspire's Sports Quiz Dinner to maintain profile to past supporters. 6. If Covid restrictions allow, deliver the Sports Quiz Dinner with a net profit of £40K. 7. To secure £364,000 in restricted funds across all of Aspire's services. An emphasis on covering salaries for our Housing and Assistive Technology areas. 8. Maintain a high level of case studies and real-life blogs to support both our Trust Officer and our Fundraising events. Promote the unique cross Channel attempt of Paula Craig to national media to raise funds and awareness of Aspire.
9	Aspire Law <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aspire Law to work to maintain consistent client numbers by acquiring new clients to match the number of cases concluding. 2. Aspire Law to update its three-year strategy by November 2021. 3. Aspire Law website rebuild and relaunch to be completed by November 2021. 4. Strengthen core staff through the recruitment of two new employees. 5. Continue the important sponsorship of charity services and work with Aspire to identify a new possible support role for the London Major Trauma Centres.
10	Aspire Leisure Centre <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To achieve budget. 2. Operate Aspire Leisure Centre in a COVID-19 secure way following government guidance. 3. To maintain QUEST Prime accreditation (December 2021). 4. To achieve annual Quality audit score of at least 85% average over the year. 5. To achieve annual Health & Safety audit score of over 90% (December 2021). 6. Maintain ISO14001 and achieve consumption reduction target – January 2022. 7. Work with trusts manager to apply for funding for sports hall floor, electric car charging points, solar panels, spin studio, gym door entry and lockers. 8. Increase and maintain occupancy levels at: gym 50%, pool 80% and classes 70%, from January 2022. 9. Maintain Swimschool occupancy above 88% across all 3 terms. 10. 80% completion of service improvement plan by 31 March 2022.

Aspire would like to thank the following trusts and foundations for their support of our work during the last year:

Blakemore Foundation

Burges Salmon Charitable Trust

Irving Memorial Trust

James Wood Bequest Fund

Serco Foundation

Sir John and Lady Heathcoat-Amory's Charitable Trust

The Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation

The Bruce Wake Charitable Trust

C A Redfern Charitable Foundation

The Childwick Trust

The Christopher Laing Foundation

The Eveson Charitable Trust

The Garfield Weston Foundation

The Grace Trust

The Hospital Saturday Fund

The Ian Karten Charitable Trust

The James Tudor Foundation

The John Coates Charitable Trust

The Monday Charitable Trust

The Moondance Foundation

The National Lottery Community Fund

The P F Charitable Trust

The Samuel William Farmer Trust

The Shanly Foundation

The Souter Charitable Trust

The Taurus Foundation

ASSOCIATION FOR SPINAL INJURY RESEARCH REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

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Report of the Trustees

Aspire would also like to thank the following people and organisations for their support:

Aspire Law LLP	John Inverdale
Zoggs International Ltd	Rob Nothman
EY Parthenon	Alan Bloom
Frenkel Topping & Aspire + Wealth Management Ltd	Wellspect Healthcare
Coloplast	Active Assistance
Cyclone Mobility	Fittleworths
John Apthorp Charity	

GOVERNANCE **Constitution**

Aspire is a registered charity, number 1075317 and is also a company limited by guarantee, registered company number 03744357. The Charity is also registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator 'OSCR' with registered charity number SC037482 and registered with the Charities Regulator, Ireland's national statutory regulator, with registered charity number 20150181.

Trustees

The Trustees who served during the year were as follows:

Dr H Agha (appointed 14 September 2020)
A Chaplin
R Coote (resigned 3 August 2021)
N Flanagan
D Holden
H Mehta
Dr F Middleton (deceased 5 January 2021)
Dr S Patel
J Sacks (appointed 30 April 2020)

None of the Trustees had an interest in any contract or arrangement of a material nature during the year under review.

Methods for recruiting and appointing Trustees

The Trustees select members to join the Trustee Board that will complement and strengthen the existing professional expertise and competencies of the board. A 'Key Skills' analysis is undertaken to identify any skills/experience/knowledge gaps on the Trustee Board before undertaking a specific recruitment process. The Trustees also welcome expressions of interest from candidates who have served a minimum of one year as a committee member supporting the work of the Charity.

Policies and procedures for inducting and training Trustees

During the recruitment process, a new Trustee receives a full induction to the organisation including Aspire's history, ethos, culture and vision for the future. Further to this a meeting is arranged with the Chief Executive Officer and Directors of the Charity at the Aspire Leisure Centre, when a tour of the facilities is given, and a more detailed explanation is provided regarding the Charity's activities. Trustees are also provided with necessary information about support and advice prepared by the Charity Commission. Trustees are also invited to attend seminars and conferences that may be deemed appropriate and where they are not able to attend, one Trustee will provide an update and feedback to the Board from any events attended.

ASSOCIATION FOR SPINAL INJURY RESEARCH REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

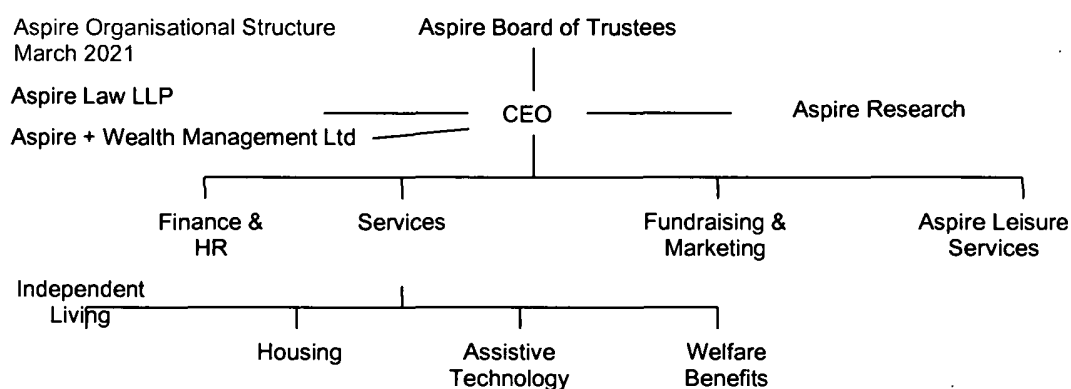
'ASPIRE'

Report of the Trustees

Organisational structure and how decisions are made

The Aspire Board of Trustees is ultimately responsible for ensuring the Charity's strategic direction and the actions of its employees. This responsibility is discharged through the Chief Executive Officer. The Trustee Board meet every three months to review performance against agreed operational and financial targets and, in addition to this, attend exceptional meetings to review and develop the Charity's strategy. During the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, meetings were held fortnightly to ensure increased levels of engagement by the Trustee Board at a time of uncertainty. Each activity area of Aspire's work is closely monitored by committees that include at least one Trustee who will chair the committee. Each committee will invite external experts and advisors to assist in the monitoring and evaluation of these activities and to help in the longer-term development. The committees all meet prior to each and every Trustee meeting when reports are presented. Issues that require Trustee decisions are presented at the meeting where the Board will debate and agree what action is appropriate. Each decision is communicated through the Chief Executive Officer and recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

In addition to this, fortnightly meetings are held by the Vice-Chairman and the Chief Executive Officer to monitor the Charity's performance and governance. Monthly meetings are held between the Chair and the Chief Executive Officer.



With the threat of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, in the case of 2020/21, an immediate survival strategy was developed and subsequently reviewed as frequently as necessary by the Trustees and senior management team. A new 3-year plan is being developed to set out how Aspire will rebuild throughout 2021/22 and then stabilise and return to growth in the following two years. This plan is supported with three-year cashflow forecasting and is reviewed and updated currently every six weeks.

Wider network and/or relationship with affiliated organisations

To communicate and advance the work of Aspire we work with other charities and organisations to ensure the most effective means of operating and delivering our services. Aspire has signed a memorandum of understanding with the two other major Spinal Injury Charities. This memorandum was launched in 2019 and aims to: ensure each of the charities know what they are working to achieve, give support where necessary, seek opportunities for collaboration and avoid any duplication of service activity.

Aspire is a member of the European Spinal Cord Injury Federation and a member of MASCIP (Multidisciplinary Association of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals).

Personnel and Staff Movements

The Trustees and the senior management team comprise the key management personnel of the Charity in charge of directing, controlling and operating the Charity on a day-to-day basis. The senior management team consist of the Chief Executive Officer, Director of Fundraising and Marketing, Director of Services and Director of Operations. All Trustees give of their time freely. No remuneration was paid to any of the Trustees, neither were any expenses claimed.

No key management personnel resigned during the financial year. The Charity uses charity sector benchmarks to assess and set the remuneration of the key management personnel and always aims to pay median market rates.

ASSOCIATION FOR SPINAL INJURY RESEARCH REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

'ASPIRE'

Report of the Trustees

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements, in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charitable company for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK 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 charitable company will continue in operation

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

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

Auditors

A resolution for the re-appointment of Azets Audit Services as auditors to the charitable company will be submitted to the Annual General Meeting.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' and in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to smaller entities.

By Order of the Board


.....
Nick Flanagan, Trustee & Treasurer

Date..... 21 January 2022

ASSOCIATION FOR SPINAL INJURY RESEARCH REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

'ASPIRE'

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Association for Spinal Injury Research Rehabilitation and Reintegration (the 'charitable parent company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated and Charity Balance Sheet, Consolidated Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and of the charitable parent company's affairs as at 31 March 2021 and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charitable parent company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the group's and charitable parent company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

ASSOCIATION FOR SPINAL INJURY RESEARCH REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

'ASPIRE'

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report, which includes the directors' report and strategic report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report included within the Trustees' Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and charitable parent company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report included within the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable parent company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the group's and the charitable parent company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable parent company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

ASSOCIATION FOR SPINAL INJURY RESEARCH REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

'ASPIRE'

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above and on the Financial Reporting Council's website, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charitable parent company through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of noncompliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable parent company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable parent company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable parent company and the charitable parent company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Azets Audit Services

John Howard FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Azets Audit Services
Statutory Auditor
2nd Floor, Regis House
45 King William Street
London EC4R 9AN

Date.....*28 January 2022*.....

ASSOCIATION FOR SPINAL INJURY RESEARCH REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

'ASPIRE'

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2021 £'000	Total 2020 £'000
INCOME FROM:					
Donations and Legacies	2	1,210	223	1,433	432
Charitable activities					
Aspire Leisure Services		427	38	465	1,712
Aspire Housing		388	-	388	438
Other trading activities	3	415	-	415	787
Profit from joint venture		451	-	451	249
Other income	2.2	250	-	250	-
Total income		3,141	261	3,402	3,618
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds					
Cost of generating voluntary income		97	-	97	153
Costs of trading subsidiary	3	180	-	180	528
Charitable activities					
Aspire Leisure Services		1,441	131	1,572	1,694
Research		-	99	99	144
Aspire Housing		592	28	620	906
Aspire Grants		121	-	121	62
Promoting Independent Living		-	44	44	89
Assistive Technology		18	39	57	119
Welfare Benefits		29	37	66	69
Capital grants funding		-	1	1	2
Campaigning		-	-	-	19
Total expenditure	4	2,478	379	2,857	3,785
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) AND NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS BEFORE GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS		663	(118)	545	(167)
Gains on revaluation of investments	7.2	1	-	1	1
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		664	(118)	546	(166)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		651	934	1,585	1,751
Total funds carried forward	12,13	1,315	816	2,131	1,585

CONTINUING OPERATIONS

All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 27 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

ASSOCIATION FOR SPINAL INJURY RESEARCH REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

'ASPIRE'

Consolidated Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2021

	Notes	2021 £'000	2020 £'000	2020 £'000
Fixed assets				
Tangible fixed assets	6		357	431
Investments	7		611	159
			<u>968</u>	<u>590</u>
Current assets				
Stock	8	3		4
Debtors falling due after more than one year	9	700		700
Debtors falling due within one year	9	195		291
Cash and cash equivalents		741		600
		<u>1,639</u>		<u>1,595</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	10	(376)		(500)
Net current assets			<u>1,263</u>	<u>1,095</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>2,231</u>	<u>1,685</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	11		(100)	(100)
			<u>2,131</u>	<u>1,585</u>
Funds				
Restricted funds	12		816	934
Unrestricted funds	13		1,315	651
			<u>2,131</u>	<u>1,585</u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small entities.

The financial statements were approved by the Board on and signed on their behalf by:



Nick Flanagan, Trustee & Treasurer

Date: 21 January 2022

The notes on pages 27 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

ASSOCIATION FOR SPINAL INJURY RESEARCH REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

'ASPIRE'

Charitable Company Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2021

	Notes	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	6	357	431
Investments	7	62	61
		<u>419</u>	<u>492</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	9	1,010	1,184
Cash and cash equivalents		464	233
		<u>1,474</u>	<u>1,417</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	10	(212)	(323)
Net current assets		<u>1,262</u>	<u>1,094</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>1,681</u>	<u>1,586</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	11	(100)	(100)
		<u>1,581</u>	<u>1,486</u>
Funds			
Restricted funds	12	816	934
Unrestricted funds	13	765	552
		<u>1,581</u>	<u>1,486</u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small entities.

The financial statements were approved by the Board on
and signed on their behalf by:



Nick Flanagan, Trustee & Treasurer

Date: 21 January 2022

The notes on pages 27 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

ASSOCIATION FOR SPINAL INJURY RESEARCH REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

'ASPIRE'

Consolidated Cash Flow Statement

For the year ended 31 March 2021

	2021		2020	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities				
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period		546		(166)
Adjustments for:				
Gain on investments		(1)		(1)
Profit on joint venture		(451)		(249)
Depreciation		76		75
Decrease/(increase) in stocks		1		(2)
Decrease in debtors		96		485
(Decrease)/increase in creditors		(124)		75
Net cash flow from operating activities		143		217
Cash flow statement				
Net cash flow from operating activities		143		217
Cash flow from investing activities				
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	(2)		(1)	
Proceeds from sale of investments	-		214	
Net cash flow from investing activities		(2)		213
Increase/(decrease) in cash		141		430
Reconciliation of changes in cash				
Balance at 1 April 2020		600		170
Increase in cash		141		430
Balance at 31 March 2021		741		600

The notes on pages 27 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

Aspire meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

The financial statements are presented in sterling (£) which is also the functional currency for the Charity.

b) Consolidation

Where control is exercised by the parent charity over another entity, those entities are consolidated as subsidiaries on a line-by-line basis in accordance with FRS 102 – section 9 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102). Details of these entities are given in note 7 to the financial statements.

The Charity's interest in joint ventures and joint arrangements are accounted for in accordance with FRS 102. The investments in Aspire Law LLP and Aspire + Wealth Management Limited are treated as joint ventures within the consolidated financial statements and are accounted for using the gross equity method. Details of these interests are given in note 7 to the financial statements.

A separate statement of financial activities for the charitable company has not been presented because the charitable company has taken advantage of the exemption afforded by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

c) Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The Trustees have considered the continuing impact of the COVID-19 virus on the future viability of the charitable company and the expected level of income and expenditure for the 12 months from the date of authorising these financial statements. The projected income and expenditure of the charitable company together with the level of its resources is sufficient for the charitable company to be able to continue as a going concern.

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charitable company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

d) Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

Accounting estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The following judgements (apart from those involving estimates) have been made in the process of applying the above accounting policies that have had the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements are:

Useful economic lives of tangible assets and the annual depreciation charge for tangible assets are sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are re-assessed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimates, based on technological advancement, future investments, economic utilisation and the physical condition of the assets. See note 6 for the carrying amount of the property plant and equipment together with note 1 for the useful economic lives for each class of assets. There are no key assumptions concerning the future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

e) Legal status

Aspire is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of a winding up is limited to £1.

f) Funds accounting

Restricted funds – these are funds that can only be used for specific restricted purposes within the objects of the Charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Designated funds – these are funds set aside by the Trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Unrestricted general funds – these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Trustees.

g) Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Voluntary income including core grants, sponsorship, donations and gifts is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the Charity, are recognised when the Charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Incoming resources from charitable activities comprises income from carrying out the Charity's activities, including the operation of the National Training Centre and the supported housing.
- Investment income is included when receivable.

h) Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. The irrecoverable element of VAT is included with the item of expense to which it relates.

- Costs of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income.
- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the Charity and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

i) Support costs allocation

Support costs are those that assist the work of the Charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs and administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the Charity. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular departments, they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

j) Government grants

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

A grant that specifies performance conditions is recognised in income when the performance conditions are met. Where a grant does not specify performance conditions it is recognised in income when the proceeds are received or receivable. A grant received before the recognition criteria are satisfied is recognised as a liability.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

k) Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation on all tangible fixed assets is calculated to write-off their cost over their estimated useful lives at the following annual rates:

Leasehold improvements	3 - 20 years
Office fixtures & fittings	10 - 33% per annum on cost
Computer equipment	33% per annum on cost

l) Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Any gain or loss on revaluation is taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.

Investments in subsidiaries and programme related investments are measured at cost less impairment. Such investments are subject to review with any diminution in value is charged to the Statement of Financial Activities.

Programme related investments are social investments made directly in pursuit of the Charity's charitable purposes.

m) Stock

Stock is stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

n) Debtors and creditors receivable/payable within one year and after one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year and after one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

o) Cash and cash equivalents.

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

p) Financial Instruments

The Charity has only financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

q) Foreign Currency

Foreign currency transactions are initially recognised by applying the foreign currency amount at the spot exchange rate between the functional currency and the foreign currency at the date of the transaction.

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in a foreign currency at the balance sheet date are translated using the closing rate.

r) Employee benefits

Short term employee benefits, including holiday entitlement and other non-monetary benefits, and contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred.

s) Taxation

The Charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of Schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

ASSOCIATION FOR SPINAL INJURY RESEARCH REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

'ASPIRE'

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

2. VOLUNTARY INCOME				
Donations and Legacies				
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Donations	614	35	649	337
Grants received	-	188	188	95
Job retention scheme	596	-	596	-
	<u>1,210</u>	<u>223</u>	<u>1,433</u>	<u>432</u>

The amounts receivable from the job retention scheme was claimed by the charitable company for staff that were furloughed due to COVID-19.

2.2. OTHER INCOME				
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Business interruption claim	250	-	250	-
	<u>250</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>-</u>

The business interruption claim was in relation to COVID-19.

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES - SUBSIDIARY UNDERTAKING OF ASPIRE FUNDRAISING LIMITED

The profit of the subsidiary undertaking, Aspire Fundraising Limited, is gifted to the Charity so that there is no liability to Corporation Tax for that entity. Aspire Fundraising Limited produces audited accounts annually to 31 March and a summary of the company's transactions and financial position is set out below:

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Turnover	415	787
Cost of sales	(77)	(143)
	<u>338</u>	<u>644</u>
Operating costs	(103)	(385)
	<u>235</u>	<u>259</u>
Operating profit	-	-
Interest received	-	-
	<u>235</u>	<u>259</u>
Net income of trading subsidiary	235	259
Distributions to parent made under gift aid	(235)	(259)
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Retained in subsidiary	-	-

ASSOCIATION FOR SPINAL INJURY RESEARCH REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

'ASPIRE'

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

4. EXPENDITURE	Staff costs £'000	Direct costs £'000	Support £'000	Total £'000
Raising funds:				
Cost of generating voluntary income	60	30	7	97
Costs of trading subsidiary	35	145	-	180
Charitable expenditure:				
Aspire Leisure Services	1,165	201	206	1,572
Research	99	-	-	99
Aspire Housing	120	489	11	620
Aspire Grants	-	121	-	121
Promoting Independent Living	40	3	1	44
Assistive Technology	40	16	1	57
Welfare Benefits	65	1	-	66
Capital grant fund	-	-	1	1
Campaigning	-	-	-	-
	<u>1,624</u>	<u>1,006</u>	<u>227</u>	<u>2,857</u>

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories noted above on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned on an appropriate basis, for example, time spent, per capita or floor area.

Grants paid to individuals during the year totalled £120,893 (2020: £61,432).

Included in support costs are governance costs of:

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Auditors' remuneration:		
- For audit	9	9
- For other services	14	6
	<u>23</u>	<u>15</u>

5. STAFF COSTS

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Wages and salaries	1,495	1,810
Social security costs	82	117
Pension contributions	47	61
Recruitment	-	3
	<u>1,624</u>	<u>1,991</u>

None of the Trustees received any remuneration or benefits during the year (2020: None). Expenses totalling £nil were reimbursed to Trustees during the year (2020: £nil).

The number of employees whose annual emoluments were £60,000 or more were:
90,001 – 100,000

1	1
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Total contributions in the year for the provision of money purchase benefits for higher paid staff were:

Number of staff to whom retirement benefits are accruing	1	1
Total contributions in the year	16,220	16,421
	<u>16,220</u>	<u>16,421</u>

The total aggregate remuneration paid to key management personnel during the year was £294,976 (2020: £321,321).

'ASPIRE'

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

5. STAFF COSTS - continued

The average number of employees during the year was as follows:

	Group		Charity	
	2021	2020	2021	2020
Aspire Leisure Centre	57	76	57	76
Other	27	27	27	27
Trading subsidiary	5	6	-	-
	<u>89</u>	<u>109</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>103</u>

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Group and Charity	Leasehold Improvements £'000	Fixtures, Fittings and Computers £'000	Total £'000
Cost			
At 1 April 2020	774	549	1,323
Additions	-	2	2
At 31 March 2021	<u>774</u>	<u>551</u>	<u>1,325</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2020	435	457	892
Charge for the year	53	23	76
At 31 March 2021	<u>488</u>	<u>480</u>	<u>968</u>
Net Book Value			
At 31 March 2021	<u>286</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>357</u>
At 31 March 2020	<u>339</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>431</u>

In the opinion of the Trustees the building comprising the Aspire Leisure Centre has a £nil value due to it being sited on land leased from the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital and hence subject to certain restrictions. On this basis the building and certain associated equipment have been shown in the accounts of Aspire at a cost of £nil, being depreciated cost less capital grants received.

ASSOCIATION FOR SPINAL INJURY RESEARCH REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

'ASPIRE'

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

7. INVESTMENTS	Group		Charity	
	2021 £'000	2020 £'000	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Shares in subsidiary undertakings	-	-	-	-
Programme related investment (note 7.1)	50	50	50	50
Other investments (note 7.2)	12	11	12	11
	<u>62</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>61</u>
Investment in joint venture:				
Share of net assets/(liabilities) in Joint Venture	549	98	-	-
	<u>611</u>	<u>159</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>61</u>

Aspire is the beneficial owner of 10 ordinary shares of £1 each being the whole of the issued share capital of Aspire Fundraising Limited, a company incorporated in England, company registration number is 02448398, registered office is 2nd Floor Regis House, 45 King William Street, London, EC4R 9AN.

Aspire is the beneficial owner of 1 ordinary share of £1 each of Aspire Trading 2014 Limited, a company incorporated in England on 27 January 2014, company registration number is 08863046, registered office is 2nd Floor Regis House, 45 King William Street, London, EC4R 9AN. Aspire Trading 2014 Limited is a holding company which holds an investment in a joint venture consisting of 50% control in Aspire Law LLP.

Aspire is the beneficial owner of 1 ordinary share of £1 each of Aspire Trading 2021 Limited, a company incorporated in England on 13 January 2021, company registration number is 12398051, registered office is 2nd Floor Regis House, 45 King William Street, London, EC4R 9AN.

7.1 PROGRAMME RELATED INVESTMENTS

Group and Charity	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Cost as at 1 April	50	50
Additions at cost	-	-
	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>
Cost as at 31 March	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>

The programme related investment relates to initial funding required in the set-up of Aspire Law LLP. The value of the programme related investment at the year end is shown at cost. Aspire Law LLP furthers the objectives of Aspire by providing a specialist service to people with spinal cord injuries.

ASSOCIATION FOR SPINAL INJURY RESEARCH REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

'ASPIRE'

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

7.2 OTHER INVESTMENTS	2021	2020
Group and Charity	£'000	£'000
Market value at 1 April	11	224
Additions at cost	-	-
Proceeds on disposal	-	(214)
Gain on revaluation	1	1
Market value at 31 March	12	11
Historical cost at 31 March	10	10
CCLA	12	11

Other investments are held by CCLA Investment fund.

8. STOCK	Group		Charity	
	2021	2020	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Goods for sale	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
9. DEBTORS	Group		Charity	
	2021	2020	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Amounts falling due within one year:				
Trade debtors	7	24	-	-
Other debtors	28	74	28	74
Amounts owed by subsidiary	-	-	894	997
Amounts owed by joint venture – Aspire Law LLP	17	23	-	-
Amounts owed by joint venture – Aspire + Wealth Management Ltd	11	-	-	-
Prepayments and accrued income	132	170	88	113
	<u>195</u>	<u>291</u>	<u>1,010</u>	<u>1,184</u>

ASSOCIATION FOR SPINAL INJURY RESEARCH REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

'ASPIRE'

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

9. DEBTORS - continued	Group		Charity	
	2021 £'000	2020 £'000	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Amounts falling due after more than one year:				
Amounts owed by joint venture	700	700	-	-
	<u>700</u>	<u>700</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total debtors	<u>895</u>	<u>991</u>	<u>1,010</u>	<u>1,184</u>

Included in amounts owed by joint venture is £700,000 which in July 2019 was agreed by the Aspire Law LLP's joint venture partners would be converted into capital. As a result, £700,000 was re-designated from debtors falling due within one year to debtors falling due after more than one year.

10. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	Group		Charity	
	2021 £'000	2020 £'000	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Trade creditors	96	104	76	97
Other creditors	16	5	16	5
Other taxes and social security costs	31	37	31	37
Accruals and deferred income	233	354	89	184
Amount owed to subsidiary	-	-	-	-
	<u>376</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>212</u>	<u>323</u>

11. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after more than one year	Group		Charity	
	2021 £'000	2020 £'000	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Other creditors	100	100	100	100
	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

Other creditors due after more than one year represents loan notes which mature in 2024. If the loan is not paid when due, interest on the unpaid amount shall start to accrue at the rate of 6% per annum.

12.	RESTRICTED FUNDS	Balance 1 April 2020 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Investment Gain and Transfers £'000	Balance 31 March 2021 £'000
	Group and Charity					
	Aspire Research Fund	227	-	(99)	-	128
	Aspire Housing Fund	612	-	(28)	-	584
	Housing Services Fund	50	-	(50)	-	-
	Wheelchair Basketball	1	-	-	-	1
	Independent Living Fund	8	112	(46)	-	74
	Welfare Benefits	-	37	(37)	-	-
	Assistive Technology Fund	-	39	(39)	-	-
	Capital Grants Fund	5	-	(1)	-	4
	InstructAbility Programme (Sports England)	20	38	(58)	-	-
	InstructAbility Programme (Non-Sports England)	2	-	(2)	-	-
	Patient Education Fund	8	35	(19)	-	24
	REX Bionix Fund	1	-	-	-	1
		<u>934</u>	<u>261</u>	<u>379</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>816</u>

12. RESTRICTED FUNDS - continued

- (i) The Aspire Research Fund has been established to support research in disability and technology through the Aspire Centre for Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology (Aspire CREATE), University College London Institute of Orthopaedics and Musculoskeletal Sciences, based at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital. The purpose of the research undertaken through the centre is to demonstrate, by using internationally recognised best practice, how marked improvement in function and quality of life can be achieved in a cost-effective manner. The value of this research will benefit some of the most disadvantaged members of our society who have physical disabilities.
- (ii) Aspire Housing provides temporary homes in the local community in key locations in England, Wales and Scotland for newly discharged patients. Spinally injured individuals can temporarily live in a specially adapted and fully accessible comfortable environment on their own or with their family whilst arrangements are made to meet their long-term housing needs. The Charity is extremely grateful to Thomas Gibson and supporters of the Harebell Appeal; The Monday Charitable Trust, The Bruce Wake Charitable Trust, The Irving Memorial Trust, The P F Charitable Trust, The Sinclair Charity, and The Souter Charitable Trust for their financial support over the year.
- (iii) The Housing Services Fund is in support of the Charity's core operating cost to support the existing Housing Programme and Housing Case Management Service. The Charity is extremely grateful to the Monday Charitable Trust for supporting this as part of an agreed three-year grant.
- (iv) Aspire provides financial support to cover some of the expenses of Wheelchair Basketball and Wheelchair Rugby based at the Aspire Leisure Centre and nationally.
- (v) The Independent Living Fund has been supported by grants from the Childwick Trust; The Moondance Foundation; The Eveson Charitable Trust, The National Lottery Community Fund (Awards for All); The James Tudor Foundation; The Samuel William Farmer Trust; and sponsorship from Aspire Law LLP. This money is given in support of employing Independent Living Advisors who provide direct practical support, information and guidance to new spinally injured patients and for the management of the team of Independent Living Advisors.
- (vi) The Welfare Benefits Fund has been supported by The Garfield Weston Foundation, for the second year of a two-year period. The Charity is extremely grateful to Frenkel Topping for supporting the new Money Management Service.
- (vii) The Assistive Technology programme provides specialist computer equipment, software and training support to teach people with a spinal cord injury with limited or no upper limb function to operate a computer. This service is provided through occupational therapy departments and dedicated rooms to give patients valuable access to the internet and permits communication with family, friends and work colleagues worldwide. The Charity is extremely grateful to have been supported by generous grants from the Ian Karten Charitable Trust, The Grace Trust, The Shanly Foundation, The Moondance Foundation, The John Coates Charitable Trust and Aspire Law LLP.
- (viii) The Capital Grants Fund represents grants received for the purchase of tangible fixed assets and is released at a rate consistent with the depreciation charged on these assets.
- (ix) The Charity is extremely grateful to the National Lottery Sport England Fund for their continued support of the InstructAbility Programme throughout the pandemic when the next phase of the programme was unable to progress. The InstructAbility Programme supports the training of disabled people to become fitness professionals throughout England. The new phase of the programme will move to launch guidance for the sector owners/managers, training providers and disabled people.
- (x) Non-Sports England funds, in support of the InstructAbility programme, have been raised for activities outside of the Sport England funding.
- (xi) The Patient Education Fund provides support funding for the Aspire Patient Education Administrators who support the spinal cord injury centres in the management of their patient education programmes. The Charity is extremely grateful to the Moondance Foundation for supporting the Charity's work in Cardiff and to the Hospital Saturday Fund for their support in England and Ireland.
- (xii) The REX Bionix Fund was set up to help raise funds in support of purchasing an REX Bionix Exoskeleton Robotic Unit.

ASSOCIATION FOR SPINAL INJURY RESEARCH REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

'ASPIRE'

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

13. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	Balance 1 April 2020 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Investment Gain and Transfers £'000	Balance 31 March 2021 £'000
Group					
Designated Funds					
Your Fund	19	240	(141)	-	118
Stanmore Case Management	15	-	-	(15)	-
	<u>34</u>	<u>240</u>	<u>(141)</u>	<u>(15)</u>	<u>118</u>
Other					
Aspire – other reserves	519	2,450	(2,337)	16	648
Aspire Law LLP	98	451	-	-	549
	<u>651</u>	<u>3,141</u>	<u>(2,478)</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1,315</u>
Charity					
Designated Funds					
Your Fund	19	240	(141)	-	118
Stanmore Case Management	15	-	-	(15)	-
	<u>34</u>	<u>240</u>	<u>(141)</u>	<u>(15)</u>	<u>118</u>
Other					
Aspire – other reserves	518	2,270	(2,157)	16	647
	<u>552</u>	<u>2,510</u>	<u>(2,298)</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>765</u>

Included within investment gains and transfers is a transfer of £15,000 (2020: £Nil) between the designated Stanmore Case Management fund and unrestricted funds as agreed with the Trustees.

Designated Funds form part of Unrestricted Funds and are amounts set aside by the Trustees to meet specific future requirements of the organisation. Further details of these funds are shown below:

- (i) Your Fund delivers the same function as Aspire Grants but allows benefactors to raise money and donate for specific purposes.
- (ii) The Stanmore Case Management Fund has been designated by Aspire in support of the employment of a member of NHS Case Management Staff who will provide support to patients who are discharged to Care Homes. The aim of this project is to identify if a Case Manager undertaking this work can assist spinal cord injured people in such circumstances move into a suitable accessible home. If successful, the Charity will aim to source major donations to support this initiative further.

14. ALLOCATION OF NET ASSETS

The net assets of the Group are held for the various funds as follows:

	Fixed Assets £'000	Investments £'000	Current Assets £'000	Current Liabilities £'000	Long term Liabilities £'000	Total 2021 £'000
Restricted Funds	-	610	230	(24)	-	816
Unrestricted Funds	357	1	1,409	(352)	(100)	1,315
	<u>357</u>	<u>611</u>	<u>1,639</u>	<u>(376)</u>	<u>(100)</u>	<u>2,131</u>

ASSOCIATION FOR SPINAL INJURY RESEARCH REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

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15. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There are no (2020: none) related party transactions that require disclosure in the financial statements.

16. ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

The charitable company is considered to have no ultimate controlling party.