

# Our charity's challenges – and how we meet them

Caroline Stevens  
Chief Executive

# What a year!



With the Covid pandemic, we have had to adapt quickly:

- Keeping direct services going – safely
- Keeping fighting for change – including challenges caused by the pandemic
- Responding to reductions in our income – creatively and realistically

Here are some highlights – some of our good news from a tough year

# Transforming lives

Some good news  
from a tough year

**We kept** our schools  
and services **going**



# Transforming lives – adult services

## Adult Services - Families Feedback Autumn 2020

97% or more parents/carers stated my family member:

- Is supported to keep as well as he/she can
  - Is safe
  - Is accepted
  - Is valued
  - Is treated kindly
  - Is treated fairly
- 
- Service is based on good values and principles
  - Service has a comfortable, homely environment
  - I get on well with the staff
  - Staff know what they are doing
  - Service is clean



# Transforming lives – schools and children's services



- Remained open throughout the pandemic
- Developed new approaches to supported home and onsite learning
- Maintained day school attendance above national state levels for special schools and those with EHC Plans
- Ongoing challenge in receiving last minute guidance and managing safely the implications for children and families
- Daily challenge of managing positive Covid-19 cases
- Keeping some Covid-19 changes long-term





# Transforming lives - branches

Some good news  
from a tough year



We put other **services and branches online**

# Transforming lives - branches



- 86% of our existing Branches are offering online support now – from remote talks, adult social online meet-ups, virtual play sessions and much, much more
- Still opening new community-based Branches: Highlands and Blackpool Group
- Developing new Online Branches to provide peer support around issues of identity, experience or interest: launching 15 new Online Branches this year

A promotional poster for "Autism Virtual Holiday Workshops" by the National Autistic Society Lambeth Branch. It features a photo of Charlotte O'Reilly, a Children's Occupational Therapist. The poster lists sessions for Monday (Karate) and Tuesday (Yoga & Mindfulness). It includes contact information and social media links.

 National Autistic Society | Lambeth Branch

## Autism Virtual Holiday Workshops

with OT Play - Charlotte O' Reilly

**Every Monday**  
10 - 10.30am - Karate

**Every Tuesday**  
9.30 - 10am - Yoga & Mindfulness

**Children's Occupational Therapist Charlotte O' Reilly**  
Will be hosting 30 minute online sessions over two mornings. Using Karate, Yoga and Mindfulness to help your autistic child during COVID19. Families can take part too. Sessions end 2nd September.

**Please email: [lambeth@nas.org.uk](mailto:lambeth@nas.org.uk)** and you will receive confirmation to register to join the meeting.

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# Transforming lives - branches



*“Earlier this year a friend told me that our local NAS Stafford branch had moved their support groups online in response to coronavirus, and encouraged me to give it a go.*

*“The online support and information the Stafford volunteer led branch have provided over the past few months has been amazing. Without them I never would have had the crucial contact with other families and professionals that has made such a difference to me and my son over the past few months.”*

Parent from **NAS Stafford Branch**



# Changing attitudes

Some good news  
from a tough year



And **we kept fighting** for autistic people's rights

# Raising income

Some good news  
from a tough year



We found **new ways**  
**of raising income**



# Meeting current and future challenges



# Thank you!



**Thank you** for your support!