

NAGC Annual Review and Report

2010/2011



For gifted children & their families

Page Number

3	Chair's Report
4	Chief Executive's Report
	Why NAGC exists
6	Our unique role
7	Our work
8	Our successes and achievements this year
9	What we want to achieve in 2011-2012
10	Report of the Council of Management
11	Financial statements

Chair's Report

In his Chair's Report for 2009/2010, Steve Ramsden stated that we had had a very successful year but faced a bleak future and in many ways this is still the situation. Government funding did cease at the end of March 2011 and as a result we have had to reduce both our staff and our activities. We are actively seeking replacement funds and have had some success, for example in getting support for limited continuation of the Information Advice Service, but we need more if we are to continue into 2012 and beyond. The Trustees and the Chief Executive will continue to monitor the situation closely and act, as always, in the best interests of those we serve.

That said, the past year has been one of our most successful ever and we have engaged with more than 94,000 children, parents/carers and professionals. We have also provided workshops and training courses on a national basis for over 4,300 people, which is an increase of 105% over the previous year. We have continued to develop our work with schools and other professionals, introducing our Gold School Membership service which provides support to schools making a commitment to working with families of children and young people with high learning potential. "G&T Learning Matters" provides support not only to schools but also to those, for example, working with children in care, and this is an important extension to what we offer.

The past year has also seen an increase in membership and we know that families who become members often do so in order to attend local events so we were pleased to hold a two day meeting, funded by the Potential Trust, with some Branch volunteers to discuss our future strategy in terms of a national network of support. We have now developed a national strategy, based on the outcomes of our discussions, which we will be pursuing with volunteers and members in the coming year.

In spite of all the pressures that we face I think it is essential that we continue to do all we can to raise awareness of the needs of children and young people with high learning potential. We have therefore helped to set up GT Voice, which is a national network for individuals and organisations working with children with high learning potential. We have also conducted two research projects, one about mental health issues and one about young offenders with high learning potential; important areas where we believe work is needed.

I hope you will agree that we have achieved a great deal in the past year, and I would like to thank all the staff, trustees and volunteers for their work which I know has given support and benefit to so many families and children. I would also like to thank the members for their continuing support.

The current year will be very challenging but we strongly believe that the need for our services is stronger than ever and we shall be doing all we can to secure our future; support from our members in making schools and local communities aware of what we do is essential, please help where you can.

Chris Parsons
Chair.

Chief Executive's Report

In the past year, the gifted and talented world has been shaken to the core through the closure of the national gifted and talented programme. Whilst this may have been unavoidable in terms of the UK's financial crisis, it has left many families bewildered and dismayed about just how their child with high learning potential will be supported.

The Government has stated that it would like gifted and talented children to be supported within the school system. Whilst there are some excellent schools in this country which work hard to understand and support the needs of children with high learning potential; we must ensure that all schools, whether in the state or independent sector, are working to the same standards and that home educated children also have opportunities to realise their potential.

In addition, we need to address head on the myths about the learning needs of the gifted and talented child including that they will succeed anyway without any support; that they don't need help or that they are simply the products of hothousing and white middle class pushy parents.

To argue that only the rich can afford to have gifted children is to deny that social mobility could work in the first place, Children with high learning potential are found in families across the spectrum; in every race and social class; in rural areas or inner cities; rich or poor. Most have not been pushed and yet have a thirst for knowledge and, with the right support, can go on to achieve great things. All of this shows social mobility in action and is something we have been doing for forty four years. Hopefully we will continue to do this into the future as we work hard to meet the needs of the whole family.

In this particularly challenging year, there are many people who have helped us to do this. I would therefore thank every parent who has donated to support us; who has rejoined as a member; who has told someone else about who we are; or who has attended one of our events or workshops. I would also like to thank every organisation who has funded us or become our partner in some way. Thank you for believing in us.

You have made a real difference to what we have been able to achieve and your support has been particularly important to us this year as we create a new future for the organisation.

Denise Yates
Chief Executive

"First I would like to thank the NAGC ! Since joining it has helped us understand and nurture our 10 year old in a much more positive approach, I only wish we had joined sooner! I loved the slogan 'It's alright to be bright ' as it has helped my daughter cope with how she is treated by her peers and it made her realise that there is nothing 'wrong' with her, she may just see things differently to them, and that's ok."

Parent

Why NAGC exists

“Every child with high learning potential is born with that spark. Call it what you will, intelligence, ability to learn, motivation to succeed. It is what happens next that counts. Without nurturing, opportunities to develop, the right inspiration, self confidence, motivation and hard work that spark will die. Taking that spark and giving that child, no matter where they come from, the chance to bring it to life is real equality of opportunity and is what social mobility is made of. Parents and carers are critical to this process and NAGC is right at the heart of this debate.”

Denise Yates, Chief Executive, NAGC

Every year, at least 35,000 children with high learning potential are born in the UK.

With the right support, many may grow up to be the doctors and philosophers, musicians and physicists, artists, entrepreneurs and the leaders of tomorrow. They will be happy and make friends They will thrive and be fulfilled. They will achieve social mobility and maximise their potential.

Without the right support, the gifts and talents of many of these children will disappear and they may never become the adults they were destined to be.

Without the right support these children will not be stimulated, may be bullied and may have social and emotional problems. They may also fail in the education system and have behavioural and mental health problems which can make their childhoods' lonely and miserable.

NAGC helps every child with high learning potential to thrive so that they can grow in confidence and achieve fulfilment.

“I would like to thank the NAGC ! Since joining it has helped us understand and nurture our 10 year old in a much more positive approach, I only wish we had joined sooner ! I loved the slogan 'It's alright to be bright ' as it has helped my daughter cope with how she is treated by her peers and made her realise that there is nothing 'wrong' with her, she may just see things differently to them, and that's ok. I also definitely believe that teachers who nurture the children who are bright and make them feel that it is good to achieve can make an enormous difference. Often these children are left to largely cope on their own and don't always feel as included or appreciated for their talents as they should.

Parent

“My experience with the NAGC Information and Advice Service has been very positive. I was expecting your organisation only to be able to help when things have gone wrong or need fixing; and that people like myself who have a child focused educationally yet with other needs, little knowledge or knowhow, might not find information. I am very impressed as to the breadth of information which the consultant was able to provide and rather surprised and pleased. Thank you.”

Parent

Our unique role

We are the only national organisation in the UK which supports the social, emotional and learning needs of children with high learning potential and their families. Children with high learning potential include those children who are gifted and talented, those with potential who may be underachieving, those who are twice exceptional and those who are exceptionally gifted.

For forty four years we have provided a vital lifeline which ensures that all children with high learning potential, no matter who they are or where they come from, thrive in the education system, at home and in the world in general. We have done this with little or no funding and often in spite of the constraints of, and changes to, Government policy and the need to respond to constantly changing political initiatives and priorities.

Our vision for society

Our vision is for a society where there is a universal awareness, understanding, acceptance and value placed on all children of high learning potential regardless of who they are, where they come from or how they are educated. It is also a vision of a society where there is equality of access to the support and learning these children need, all within a system which is adequately resourced for that purpose.

Our mission

Our mission is to enable every child with high learning potential to grow in confidence, thrive and achieve fulfilment.

What makes us unique

We are the only organisation that works positively and specifically with parents, carers and the whole family of children with high learning potential.

Our values

We believe in:

1. the importance of an appropriate and challenging education for every child and young person including those with high learning potential
2. the need to support every child with high learning potential and their families to ensure that their needs are met
3. the importance of children and parents as full partners in the child's education, with the skills and confidence to be able to play this equal role
4. the importance of raising awareness about and advocating for the needs of children with high learning potential and their families
5. the positive process of learning for everyone
6. the importance of constructive partnerships that serve the best interests of children with high learning potential
7. retaining our independent voice representing parents and carers of children with high learning potential
8. positively supporting professionals to meet the needs of children with high learning potential and their families

Our work

The National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) was established in 1967 and has forty four years' experience of supporting the social, emotional and learning needs of children with high learning potential, and their families.

We provide a range of support activities including:

- **An Information and Advice Service** providing telephone, email, website and face to face support to:
 - parents and carers of gifted and talented children
 - those organisations that work with them
 - schools and parents together through our Parent School Partnership Consultancy Service
- **Local Services** including our:
 - branch network of children's Explorer Clubs
 - family network groups
 - development work in London
 - work in the Black Country with parents and carers from hard to reach communities
- **Membership Services** including:
 - termly family magazine
 - children's magazines
 - parents' forum on the website
 - partnerships with other organisations
- **Our training and workshops** including:
 - distance learning packages
 - BIG Family Weekends
 - BIG Adventure Weekends
 - Let's Explore! creative and critical thinking skills activities
 - Parent Matters workshops
 - G&T Learning Matters training
- **Initiatives to raise the profile of gifted and talented issues** including:
 - "It's Alright to be Bright!" Awareness Initiative
 - "Celebrating Gifts and Talents" Awards Ceremony
- **Our campaigning work** to change attitudes about gifted and talented children and their families, including our work:
 - on the Pupil and Parent Guarantees in the White Paper
 - for 'One Voice' in partnership with organisations in the gifted and talented field
 - with Government on behalf of children with high learning potential

Our key achievements this year

This year we have:

- Engaged with more than 94,000 children, parents/carers and professionals through our information and advice work; our website, our email and fact sheet service and our Advice line
- Taken 3056 telephone calls on the Information and Advice Line This is less than the 4,000 target we set in last year's annual report, due to the financial constraints we were operating under this year
- Supported more than 10,000 families with our "Is your child gifted?" initial screening questionnaire.
- Run workshops and training courses for 4374 people – a 105% increase
- Expanded our online ticketing service for use by families attending events
- Increased our number of members. 1 in 5 of the families who join us are low income
- Successfully delivered 40 workshops for parents/carers on our 'Raising Aspirations' programme
- Run at least 5 'Parent Matters' workshops in each Region in England
- Run 'Let's Explore!' children's activities in areas where we do not have any Branches
- Opened a drop-in support and training centre in our Head Office in Milton Keynes
- Obtained 6 high quality interns to help us with our work
- Explored and piloted our use of telephone conferencing and podcasts as a means of supporting parents and young people
- Developed our Gold School Membership service to support schools who want to make a commitment to working with parents and carers of children and young people with high learning potential
- Launched 'G&T Learning Matters' to support Governors, teachers, teaching assistants, those working with children in care, Connexions' services and others working with children with high learning potential
- Explored and piloted our use of social media such as Twitter, Facebook and YouTube
- Conducted two research projects; about mental health issues and young offenders
- Helped to set up GT Voice, a national network for individuals and organisations working with children with high learning potential

What we want to achieve in 2011-2012

We recognise that this year will be challenging in terms of funding and we may not be able to deliver in every area of need. However, with sufficient resources, we want to:

- Support more than 80,000 people through our Information and Advice Service
- Set up a training programme for volunteers working on the Information and Advice Service
- Obtain the Department of Health's Information Standards Award
- Run more than 80 workshops for children, parents and professionals around the country
- Run at least one activity in every Region in England and explore the possibility of running events in Wales and Northern Ireland
- Revitalise the children's, parents' and schools' areas of our website to make them more accessible
- Undertake a training exercise with the Shadow Board to develop our strategy for working with children and young people
- Extend our consultancy service to provide support to parents and carers in the school and within the community
- Undertake a research project to study twice exceptionality and to explore the support families with twice exceptional children need
- Develop a regional programme of activities across the country and pilot it in one or more Regions
- Run our Awards Ceremony to celebrate the potential of children and what they put back into the community; also to recognise the work of our volunteers and professionals who work with them.

“NAGC helped us so much with our 8 yr old son. We knew he was bright, but we were losing him slowly in that he was battling to get what was in his head out onto paper. The school labelled him as 'lazy', but we knew there was more to it than that as he has always worked so hard at home, but things weren't adding up. Eventually, we had him privately assessed. It turned out that he has a verbal IQ of 136, but has dyslexia, dysgraphia and symptoms of dyspraxia. This is a gifted child who had been written off by the school as he was still achieving 'average'. At least now we can help him go forward to try and achieve his full potential”.

Parent

Report of the Council of Management

1. Company information

<p>Incorporated In England on 1 September 1967</p> <p>Company Number 905037</p> <p>Charity Number 313182</p> <p>Registered Office Suite 1.2 Challenge House Sherwood Drive Bletchley Milton Keynes MK3 6DP Tel: 0845 450 0295 E-mail: amazingchildren@nagcbrtain.org.uk Website: www.nagcbrtain.org.uk</p> <p>Trustees John Robert Carter Timothy Peter Dracup Rebecca Alison Foy (last contact 26/7/2010) John Stuart Graham (Resigned 28/8/10) Stephen Decourcy Kemp-King Loraine Mosley Selena Ohlsson Christopher Laurence Parsons (Chair from November 2010) Pamela Anne Powell (Vice Chair) Steven Alec John Ramsden (Chair until October 2010) Iain James Simper Peter John Trevelyan</p> <p>Coopted Wenda Sheard</p> <p>Shadow Board Rhianna Burnage Tabitha Goldman Laura McKoy Ben Ramsden Ben Santhouse Jennifer Smith George Clark Samuel Clark Katherine Easton</p>	<p>Patron HRH The Duchess of Gloucester GCVO</p> <p>Vice Patron Sir Robert Balchin</p> <p>President Christopher Martin</p> <p>Vice Presidents James Dyson David Jamieson The Baroness Morris of Yardley Mary Ann Sieghart Miriam Stoppard Mike Tomlinson Nick Wheeler (resigned 2010)</p> <p>Chief Executive and Company Secretary Denise Yates</p> <p>Principal Professional Advisers</p> <p>Bankers</p> <table><tr><td>CafBank Ltd Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ</td><td>Barclays Bank plc The Northampton Group PO Box 23 Northampton NN1 4YD</td></tr></table> <p>National Westminster Bank plc PO Box 2153 1-4 Berkeley Square House Berkeley Square London W1A 1SN</p> <p>Solicitors Davies Wallis Foster Harvester House 37 Peter Street Manchester M2 5GB</p> <p>Auditors Keen Shay Keens MK Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors Sovereign Court 230 Upper Fifth Street Central Milton Keynes MK9 2HR</p>	CafBank Ltd Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ	Barclays Bank plc The Northampton Group PO Box 23 Northampton NN1 4YD
CafBank Ltd Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ	Barclays Bank plc The Northampton Group PO Box 23 Northampton NN1 4YD		

2. Introduction

The Council of Management for the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) presents its annual report for the year ended 30th April 2011 and also its audited financial statements for that year. These comply with the Companies Act 2006 and the relevant Statement of Recommended Practice.

3. Objectives and activities

i) Objectives

Our core objective is to support the social, emotional and learning needs of children with high learning potential so that they grow in confidence, thrive and achieve fulfilment. We do this by supporting their whole family to give them the skills and confidence they need to support their child.

We believe that there is fundamental misunderstanding in our society about who children with high learning potential are and what they need. Our vision is of a world where there is a universal awareness, understanding, acceptance and value placed on all children of high learning potential regardless of who they are, where they come from or how they are educated.

It is also a vision of a society where there is equality of access to the support and learning these children need, all within a system which is adequately resourced for that purpose.

We aim to achieve this vision by:

- Providing information, advice and other services to the families of children with high learning potential and those who work with them so that they can more effectively support their child
- Providing support at a local level to children with high learning potential and their families who work with them
- Maintaining an active membership, thereby ensuring that our services meet the needs of the families we seek to support
- Training parents, carers and professionals to give them the skills and self-confidence to support their child with high learning potential
- Raising the profile of issues related to high learning potential
- Campaigning for changes to the way in which children with high learning potential and their families are viewed and supported

We seek to work in partnership with all those who share our vision.

ii) Activities

We work to achieve these aims through a combination of:

- Providing information, advice and support nationally
- Providing local services
- Supporting members
- Delivering training, activities and workshops

NAGC Annual Review and Report 2010/11.

- Raising the profile of gifted and talented issues
- Campaigning for more equal treatment and support for gifted and talented children and their families

Our achievements in each of these areas and our plans for 2011 - 2012 are reported in the separate sections provided in this report.

iii) How our activities deliver public benefit

In each of our activity areas, we have clearly identified how we deliver public benefit. We achieve this in several ways, including:

- By helping to educate parents and the wider community on a range of issues relating to the social and emotional wellbeing of a child with high learning potential
- By providing support and guidance to parents/carers to increase their skills and self confidence on a range of social and emotional issues
- By providing parents/carers and teachers with the skills and confidence they need to support children with high learning potential. This can help to solve or reduce any social or emotional problems they might otherwise experience
- By helping to reduce, prevent or remove the escalation of issues at home and at school which could be potentially damaging to the child with high learning potential and his or her family – such issues include bullying, mental health issues, self harming or even suicide
- By creating a sense of community amongst children with high learning potential and their families. This will reduce feelings of isolation, provide mutual support to overcome any issues and offer a range of identified benefits through the services provided. It will also provide social and emotional support at a local level to both children and parents/carers thus helping to alleviate or reduce any problems faced by these groups as a result of a child's high learning potential

4. Structure, Governance and Management

i) Company information

NAGC is a charitable company limited by guarantee (company number 905037), incorporated on 1 September 1967 and registered as a charity on 9 June 1967 (charity number 313182). The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In event of the company being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £0.50.

ii) The structure of the Council of Management

NAGC Annual Review and Report 2010/11.

NAGC has a Council of Management of up to fifteen people of which all Trustees are members. The Trustees are also the Directors of the Association under charity and company law. The Chief Executive is a member of the Council but has no voting rights. The Council of Management is responsible for the overall governance, strategic direction and policies of the charity.

NAGC is a membership organisation and Trustees are elected onto the Council once a year at the AGM for a term of up to three years although they may then stand for re-election. If they come onto the Council during the year they are appointed only until the next AGM when they are put forward for election by members. Every year one third of Trustees must stand down to make way, if needed, for new people to come onto the Council.

A full list of all the current members of the Council of Management and those who have served during the year may be found on Page X of this report, together with the names of the staff. The Patron, President and Vice President are also shown on this page along with the details of our bankers and auditors.

In addition, we have a Shadow Board comprising 9 members aged between 10 and 16 years which has been meeting virtually by teleconference over the last year. The Shadow Board has a similar agenda to the main Council of Management but is responsible for helping to shape and direct our work with children and young people across the country.

Over the past year, given the expectation of resource constraints due to cuts in Government funding, the Trustees began to review all aspects of Governance arrangements to ensure the organisation is as efficient and effective as possible. The first stage of this was an evaluation of how Trustees meet in full Council and the committees needed.

As a result, Council decided to reduce full meetings from four or five times a year to three plus one joint Council/Staff meeting a year. In addition, it was decided to amalgamate the work of the two standing committees – Strategic Development and Operations - into a longer Council meeting. These new style Council meetings are all held on a Saturday to ensure that Council members in employment during the week can attend.

To ensure that appropriate strategic and other controls are in place, a smaller Executive Committee meets approximately every month. This comprises the Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Chief Executive. In addition, every month, a detailed report is sent to the Trustees which summarises essential information including the management accounts, key performance indicators of the organisation and fundraising results. Finally, in view of the potential cashflow issues related to cuts in government funding, every Monday the Finance Manager sends details of income levels to the Trustees.

From June 2011, Shadow Board meetings will mirror these new arrangements, although virtually.

iii) Trustee Recruitment

It is important that the composition of the Council fully reflects our membership and also the skill needs of the organisation. Trustee composition and recruitment will be the next area reviewed by the Council of Management in 2011/2012 to refresh the current process in place.

At present, an evaluation takes place each year of Council membership and the skills needed and the recruitment strategy for Council is determined accordingly.

As our principal objective is to support families of children with high learning potential, the Council of Management seeks to ensure that such families are represented at Trustee level. The Council therefore advertises to attract parents of high ability children onto the Council.

Advertising for new Trustees this year has once more included placing advertisements on our website as well as advertising within the wider community. Specific skills gaps in terms of PR, marketing and new technology have been identified this year as have gaps in the composition of the Council in terms of age and ethnicity.

Trustee Induction and Training

Prior to appointment Trustees meet the Chief Executive and Chair and attend a meeting of Council as an observer. Once appointed, Trustees receive an induction pack and spend half a day at Head Office being briefed on the work of the Association and the role and legal responsibilities of the Trustee.

Trustees are encouraged to attend external training events to improve their own skills and records of such attendance are maintained. In addition, we include an element of training within Council meetings and are currently looking at inviting lunchtime speakers to present on relevant strategic issues.

v) Organisation and Management

Whilst the Council of Management is responsible for the strategic direction of the organisation, the Chief Executive is responsible for the management of the day to day affairs and for implementing the policies agreed by the Council.

The Chief Executive is responsible for ensuring that the charity delivers its objectives and that key performance indicators are met. She is also responsible for the day to day operation of the charity, individual supervision of the staff team and the development of the organisation and its team members.

This year, we designated funding towards the development of work in London and the Black Country. Although funding was received towards the projects, which employed two people, the organisation also put some funding towards the initiatives which sought to engage with more hard to reach families at a local level. Unfortunately, both of these posts were discontinued as a direct result of the cuts in Government funding.

Apart from these two posts, the only staff employed within the organisation are based at Head Office in Bletchley. In addition to the Chief Executive, they cover the following areas of work:

- Information and Advice Service
- Branch support
- Volunteer recruitment and support
- Training, activities and workshops
- Child protection
- Membership services
- Design and publications
- Marketing
- Website
- Finance
- Systems

Before cuts in government funding in March 2011, a total of eleven staff were employed at Head Office. By the end of April, this had been reduced to seven, with two on a full-time and seven on a reduced part-time basis.

We also have a Branch structure of volunteers in locations around the country. These Branches run regular activities for children and provide support to parents and carers. Each of these Branches has a committee to coordinate the work and is self-determining within our overall structure and charity number. In addition, we have a small number of informal Family Network Groups which give families in an area the opportunity to meet and talk to each other on a regular basis.

In February 2011, as a result of funding from the Potential Trust, we held a two day meeting with some of our Branch volunteers to discuss our future strategy in view of changes in government support for children with high learning potential and cuts in our funding. The outcome was a strategy for our national work which we will be pursuing with our volunteers and also our members in the coming year.

As a result of cuts in funding, we have had to review the work of our trained Parent School Partnership volunteers and will be developing our strategy in this area in the coming year. Our aim will be to ensure that more serious cases are supported to ensure that individual parents and schools work together positively for the benefit of children with high learning potential.

In total, we estimate that we have more than 100 volunteers working for us on a regular basis around the country.

(vi) Wider links

This year, we have been investing time and resources in the development of a range of partnerships which can benefit the child, the family and the professionals who work with them.

Examples of these partnerships include our work with Villiers Park Education Trust on its Scholarship Programme. This programme focuses on low income or disadvantaged young people aged 14+ who have high learning potential and provides a customised and personalised programme, including a learning mentor, to help them achieve their potential and go onto further or higher education. We were asked to work with Villiers Park to enhance this programme in Hastings and Swindon by supporting the parents of these young people so that the support at school could be brought into the home. Although we are only at the first stage of this support programme, already we can see the impact of two organisations working together and we look forward to a continuing partnership to support the families of those who may not otherwise reach their potential.

We have also been involved in the development of GT Voice, a network for all those in the G&T arena to work together proactively and positively. Although this is work in progress, we believe that it is essential that as many organisations in this field as possible work together for the benefit of all children with high learning potential.

vii) Internal controls

We constantly review and refine our internal controls to improve their effectiveness and efficiency.

In the past year we have reviewed and developed systems relating to key performance indicators, delivery of training courses and the Information Line. Services such as the screening report and consultancy service have also been reviewed. The impact of this work is that staff regularly examine achievements, evaluate progress and address areas of concern, all of which is having a positive impact upon our work. Such evaluations are also important if we are to meet our core value as a learning organisation.

viii) Risk Assessment

The Trustees have developed a formal risk management process to assess business risks and implement risk management strategies. This process identifies the major risks (actual and potential) facing the charity; possible measures or controls to mitigate the risks are then determined and, where possible, put in place. This reduces the likelihood or severity of the issue.

A Risk Exposure and Controls Profile document has been compiled and is put on the agenda of every Council meeting for exception reporting as appropriate.

This year, discussions have focused on:

- Planning for zero funding from the DfE
- The impact of Government cuts more widely as a response to budget deficits
- Our response to the withdrawal of support at a national level for gifted and talented issues

Trustees have discussed the likely impact of these on the stability of the organisation. This has included drawing up and implementing as appropriate contingency plans to ensure the future survival of the organisation.

The Council of Management takes extremely seriously the responsibility placed in its hands in ensuring that NAGC continues to operate in the midst of this global financial crisis and in keeping our members fully informed about actions taken.

Over the past few months, Trustees, with the Chief Executive, have had to make some difficult decisions. This has included making some staff redundant and reducing the hours of others and implementing severe cuts to all our areas of expenditure. The future remains very uncertain as we seek to replace the loss of core Government funding and the coming year will be very challenging. If we cannot obtain additional funding we may not be able to continue to exist.

ix) Council of Management's Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for the Annual Report and for the preparation of statements for each financial year, in accordance with the appropriate legal frameworks and standards of accounting practice. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Ensure that suitable accounting policies are established and applied consistently
- Make judgements and estimates which are reasonable and prudent
- State whether the applicable accounting standards and statement of recommended accounting practice have been followed, are subject to any material departures, and are disclosed and explained in the financial statements and
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that NAGC will continue in operation

The Trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that the charity has appropriate systems and controls, both financial and otherwise. We are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time our financial position and which enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the appropriate Companies Act.

The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding any assets and for their proper application as required by charity law and hence for taking reasonable steps to prevent fraud and detect other irregularities and to provide reasonable assurance that:

- The charity is operating efficiently and effectively
- Any assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition and are properly applied
- Proper records are maintained and financial information used internally or for publication is reliable, and

NAGC Annual Review and Report 2010/11.

- The maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information in the website
- The charity complies with relevant laws and regulation

In drawing up these accounts and having them audited, the Council of Management is aware that, because of its size, it is exempt from the requirement to formally audit its accounts under the current Companies Act. Notwithstanding, it has made the decision that it wishes to do this to ensure that it complies with best practice and that its affairs are transparent.

As far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware. We have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken as Trustees to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditors are aware of that information.

5. Business review

i) Overview

Although our activities are still restricted by funding insecurities, we have sought to mitigate the loss of core funding by issuing redundancy notices. The Council of Management also took the decision that as many resources as possible would be put into the Information and Advice Line which is seen as the backbone of the organisation.

Until the end of March 2011 the Information and Advice Line was funded by the core Government grant. As a result of fundraising efforts, from April 2011 sufficient income has been obtained to pay for two days per week of Education Consultant time, and the Trustees have added resource for a further day for the consultancy line. The Information and Advice Line service is now offered on three days a week but the actual consultant time has reduced by over 60%. This is not ideal but at least some level of service has been retained for the many parents and carers who contact us. We are actively looking to develop a system whereby trained volunteers can be used to increase the level of service provided.

In all its activities, Trustees and management have sought, through diligent financial management, to keep any expenditure down to the absolute minimum possible. This has involved looking at the sustainability of the organisation and seeking new ways to obtain funding such as corporate partnerships with other organisations and raising funds through advertising. We will continue to do this.

The net incoming resources for the year (before transfers) amounted to £ xxx (2009/10 -£-£29,599)

Certain grants have been given for specific purposes and these are shown as restricted funds (see note 2). All other funds have been shown as unrestricted funds.

ii) Principal Funding Sources

Our funding comes from four principal sources:

- Membership
- Grants
- Donations
- Services

Income from members

In 2010/11, income derived from individuals, families and others who joined NAGC amounted to which represents a £XX increase on the previous year (2009/10 £49,701).

Grants

A total of £XX was received this year from the Department for Education (DfE, formerly DCSF). This represents XX% of all the income received for the year (46.1% in 2009/10). We are grateful to the DfE for the amount of support they gave to this work this year. Nevertheless, we have continued to work hard over the past year to see how we can diversify our income streams and reduce dependency on any one source of income. Our aim is still to have no one source of income contributing more than 25% of all funds.

Donations

We are very grateful for the donations received from Trusts, companies and individuals over the past year and this support has been incredibly important to us. This year, principal donations were made to the organisation by the G.M Morrison Charitable Trust; Peter Samuel Charitable Trust and Joseph Strong Frazer Trust and the Potential Trust.

Donations from The Bedford Charity, Wixamtree Trust, The Comino XX, Awards for All, The Waterloo Foundation and XX have all been designated toward work to be undertaken in the next financial year. Without this support, we would have found it difficult to continue supporting parents in the same way and so we are doubly grateful for this belief in our work next year.

We would also like to thank all those other individuals and organisations who made donations towards our work and helped to ensure we continue to provide a high quality service to families of children with high learning potential.

In particular, gifts donated at Branch level are greatly valued by our members and volunteers and are reflected in the accounts.

This year, we have had to look at every aspect of our fundraising; from generating income through recycling to selling books through Amazon to looking at GiftAid. Between them they do not generate significant amounts of income but in a situation where we need to increasingly become self sustaining, they are extremely valuable.

In such a report, we would not normally thank any one individual for helping to improve the quality of our fundraising as fundraising is a team effort and needs to be part of the overall strategy of the organisation. However, the Trustees would be remiss this year if they did not mention the outstanding contribution to fundraising made by one of our interns, Richard Lewindon. His

skills, tenacity and creativity have been one of the issues which has helped to make our future work more positive and for this we are extremely grateful.

iii) Reserves policy

Reserves are needed to meet the working capital requirements of the charity. The Council of Management annually examines the charity's requirements for reserves in the light of the main risks to the charity. A detailed analysis has been conducted to calculate the costs which would need to be covered in the event of the closure of the organisation or to respond to emergency situations that may arise from time to time. As a result of the work done this year in terms of contingency planning, we have drawn up a detailed schedule for reserves. At present, this equates to a minimum £50,000 between July and September, reducing to £40,000 by the end of the financial year.

However, in accordance with the Trustees policy on reserves, which states that reserves should be at a level equivalent to 50% of expenditure in the year, the level of reserves in the organisation should be closer to £95,000. Trustees will be monitoring closely in the coming year the level of reserves to ensure that they meet working capital and legal requirements. A decision on whether the charity can continue to operate will be required if the level of reserves reduces month on month and approaches the minimum level.

6. Small company exemptions

This report is prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 2 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies

7. Statement of disclosure of information to the auditors

We, the Directors of the company who held office at the date of approval of these financial statements as set out above, each confirm that, as far as we are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware, and
- As the Directors of the company, we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information

Auditors

The auditors, Keens Shay Keens MK, Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors, have indicated that they are willing to be reappointed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

By order of the Council of Management:

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30th April 2011

**THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR GIFTED CHILDREN
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**