



STRONGER TOGETHER FOR AUTISM AND NEURODIVERGENCE



info@standuk.co.uk



Registered
SCIO
SC052228

Charity Information - STAND

This organisation started out as a group of parents of autistic children who got together to support each other, and who wanted to extend that support to other people. We had our first Information and Consultation Evening in early October, during which we set out our ambitions of inclusion, support and empowerment for neurodivergent children and their parents and carers.

During that time we were successful in our application to become a registered charity.

Charity name

Its official name is Stronger Together for Autism and Neurodivergence, to be known as STAND, and is a charity registered with the Scottish Charity Regulator with charity number SC052228 and having its registered office at 40 Kerr Loan, Haddington.

You can find the charity on the charity register here -

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/about-charities/search-the-register/charity-details?number=SC052228>

Our Aims and the “Pillars”

The aim of our charity is to support the families and carers of neurodivergent children so they are in the best position possible to help their children thrive and live happy lives where they are included, supported and empowered. As founders we noticed a gap in the support for neurodivergent children and their families, especially where the children's needs were not “exceptional” enough to meet criteria for state-funded support, but were higher than the needs of neurotypical children. Long waits for diagnoses, and unclear signposting, means that many children and their families are missing out on vital support.

Our charity's aims are split into three “pillars”, or categories. These are:

- (1) Inclusion,
- (2) Support, and
- (3) Empowerment.

These three pillars are what our charity is all about, so they are summarised on the next page.

Inclusion

The broad aim of this pillar is to promote an inclusive society that cherishes our autistic or otherwise neurodivergent children.

Specifically, we aim to ensure all neurodivergent (or potentially neurodivergent) children are included and cherished within their local communities and wider sociality, and raise awareness of the challenges faced by such children and their parents, families and carers.

Projects under this pillar include our inclusive Stay and Play groups for ALL children but with specific accommodations and adaptations for neurodivergent children. Another example would be our plans to develop an awareness scheme for businesses to sign up to (trialling in East Lothian but potentially then Lothian and Scotland wide), which will demonstrate their ability and willingness to accommodate neurodivergent children in their premises but also to have a more inclusive outlook generally in relation to all children.

Support

The broad aim of this pillar is the provision of support to families and carers of neurodivergent children.

Specifically, we aim to provide emotional and practical support to parents, families and carers of neurodivergent (or potentially neurodivergent) children.

Examples of the projects under this pillar include the support groups for parents/families/carers, e.g. whatsapp groups coordinated by location or age etc. We are also about to kick off a befriending project - for parents, families and carers of children on a diagnostic pathway, recently diagnosed or otherwise going through/having been through a diagnostic process for autism. Another project in this category, would be "Caring for the carer" services, e.g. providing short term childcare and "treats" for parents/families/carers who are struggling with the challenges related to caring for neurodivergent children.

Empowerment

The broad aim of this pillar is the empowerment of families and carers to enforce the rights of neurodivergent children, including within the education system.

Specifically we aim to advocate for the rights of neurodivergent (or potentially neurodivergent) children and their parents, family and carers, and educate them in how to exercise those rights and access available support. This could include a signposting service both when placed on pathway and on diagnosis with autism or other neurodivergence, assistance in applying for benefits, blue badges, exceptional needs funding etc and awareness sessions/training on disability rights, e.g Equality Act duties, GDPR, education rights and how to enforce these rights.

Charitable purposes and constitution

In order to be approved as a charity, we had to ensure that we have “charitable purposes” under the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.

They are set out in our constitution, and listed below:

- the advancement of education;
- the advancement of health;
- the advancement of community development;
- the provision of recreational facilities, or the organisation of recreational activities, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the persons for whom the facilities or activities are primarily intended;
- the advancement of human rights;
- the promotion of equality and diversity; and
- the relief of those in need by reason of their own or another person’s disability.

Legally, all our funds have to be spent advancing these purposes. All of the projects that we have currently have fall under one or more of these purposes.

Bank details

The charity’s bank details are:

Account Name – Stronger Together for Autism and Neurodi

Account number – 67276369

Sort code – 08-92-99

Next steps

As you can see, we have a lot of plans and it will take a long time to get them properly off the ground! However, with the right attitude, and right support from our community, we are confident that we can.