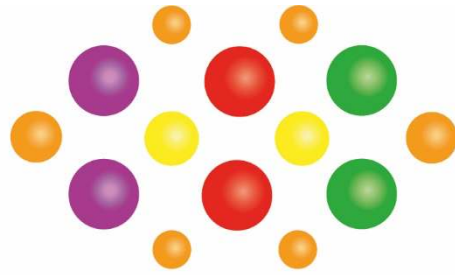


ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2020

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS ADVICE CENTRE



SENAC

Special Educational Needs Advice Centre

SENAC is an independent Charity set up in 2003 to help meet the educational needs of children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities throughout Northern Ireland.

We are committed to providing the children, young people and their parents with the advice, information, and assistance they require to get the best educational provision available within school for their individual needs.

CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

The Special Educational Needs Advice Centre (SENAC) has operated for 17 years. We are the established charity in Northern Ireland for the provision of key information and advice for parents and carers on accessing help and support, in school, for children with learning difficulties and special educational needs. We deliver an independent service focused on supporting children within the Special Educational Needs system; and striving for positive outcomes in their best interests. This Annual Report is for the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. Previous Annual Reports have acknowledged the ever-increasing demand for our services in an ongoing climate of budget cuts to the education sector and we have readily adapted to this greater need.

However, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic presented fresh challenges with its emergence in the early part of 2020. Despite this, our exceptionally dedicated team continued to provide information support and deliver on projects. We are pleased to have supported 1049 children and processed referrals from over 100 other organisations and social services professionals.

In addition to their SENAC roles, the team also carried out fund raising, including participating in the Belfast Marathon relay and some members walking on the route. A successful Quiz Night was also held in Belfast and we are grateful to the Board and team members involved in the planning and hosting on the evening and to all family and friends who attended and made the night so enjoyable.

During the year we said farewell to two employees, Tracy Adams and Gavin Devlin, who both left to take up posts outside of SENAC. The Board extends its thanks to both Tracy and Gavin for their commendable and valued contribution and we wish them every success for the future.

SENAC does not receive any statutory financial support and we operate through grant funding and much needed donations from the public. We are very appreciative of all who have supported us financially throughout the

year. Demand on funders is considerable so we were delighted to have secured significant new funding from National Lottery Community Fund for 5 years for our Community Support and Information project. This success is down to the considerable efforts of SENAC team members in writing comprehensive funding applications and the Board extends its' thanks to those involved.

In Northern Ireland there is insufficient SEN provision or school placement, giving rise to an increase in the number of children who are out of school, or only attending each day for a short time. This, coupled with the rising number of children experiencing mental health issues related to school, is of real concern to SENAC. It is imperative that we attract further grant support and voluntary donations if we are to sustain the full range of our services to support these children and families. Our service provision is only possible through the work of our capable and committed team, who rise to the challenge to ensure the right support is given. The Board wishes to thank the team, and SENAC volunteers for their contribution and achievements throughout the year.



Adele Davidson, SENAC Chair



APRIL 2019 - MARCH 2020

OUR IMPACT



1049



**CHILDREN
SUPPORTED**

742

NEW CALLERS



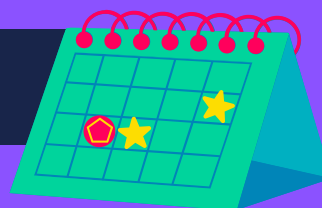
114



REFERRAL SOURCES

50

**WORKSHOPS &
EVENTS**



ADVICE LINE

ADVOCACY

APPEALS

INFORMATION



CHARITY NUMBER 101355
LIMITED CO NI48698

”

'Parents would be lost in the appeal process without their help and support. SENAC provides an invaluable service'

'When we were in despair, SENAC guided us forward. We always recommend SENAC to other parents'

”

'Without your help and support my daughter would have become another statistic to fall through the net'

”

'The(advisers) insight and knowledge is astounding and... they are truly putting children's needs at the forefront.'

'It is just lovely to feel so informed as the whole family are affected by the stress of this'

”

'If it wasn't for the information I got I would have stayed lost in the system'

'I think I will sleep much better tonight.'

”

'If I hadn't attended (workshop) I would not know where to begin.'

NEWS AND EVENTS

Belfast Marathon 2019

SENAC received terrific support again this year to participate in the Marathon. With both runners and walkers taking part for SENAC, it was an exciting year and together they raised over £3000.

Our super Relay Team completed the Marathon in an impressive 4 hours and 4 minutes. Thanks to relay runners Tracy and Niall Adams, Paul McCurry, Rory Oakes and Gavin Devlin.

Well done!



Tracy, Niall, Paul, Rory, and Gavin show off their well-deserved medals

Just as impressive was the achievement of the Seasoned Strollers completing the 8 miles of the Marathon walk. Thanks to the walkers Rosie Oakes, Patricia McCorry and Eamon Oakes. All our participants had spent many weeks running and walking in preparation for the Marathon as well as promoting SENAC's work through their fundraising efforts.

A sincere thank you to all who participated and supported this great fundraising effort.

Lisburn Half Marathon

Niall Adams put on his running shoes again in August to take part in the Lisburn Half Marathon. Another much appreciated effort to support SENAC.



Well done Niall!

Annual Charity Quiz Night

Another great night of quizzing was enjoyed by over 90 attendees at Belmont Bowling Club. It was an exciting and fun evening of competition between the participating teams. Well done to 'Six of the Best' the winning team.

There was also a successful and popular tombola and raffle enabled by the many donations to SENAC for this purpose.

Thanks to everyone who supported the event and to SENAC Volunteers and Directors Dee Kelly and Betty Donnelly for organising the night's activities. Our appreciation to Bronagh Ames who once again acted as Quiz Master.



SENAC Chair Adele Davidson welcoming everyone to the Quiz Night



Almost 100 participants enjoyed the night's competition



The evening included a Tombola and Raffle



Adele and Dee congratulate raffle winners

Great quizzing everyone!

Learning Disability Pride Event

SENAC continues to utilise opportunities to engage with other organisations and attend events to promote our services and assist more families in need. We were therefore delighted to attend and have an Information Stand at the second annual Learning Disability Pride event in support of the 33,000 people with a learning disability in Northern Ireland. This awareness raising carnival event organised by Mencap promotes the many disability services available for people with learning disabilities and their families and carers. It was a great opportunity to meet many organisations and social enterprises and learn how they support their communities. 5,000 people attended the event which also included workshops and stalls.



SENAC Volunteer Betty Donnelly with fellow participants at the Learning Disability Pride event

‘Lush’ celebrate SENAC Volunteers

Recognition and appreciation for the valuable contribution of the volunteers who give so generously of their time and support is always important to the success and sustainability of the Charity. We were therefore delighted when SENAC’s volunteers were nominated by retailer ‘Lush’ to receive bath and beauty products, as a token of their appreciation for the difference volunteers make to charitable services.

SENAC volunteers Karen, Bronach, Betty, Dee, David and Chair Adele receiving their treats from Lush.



THANK YOU

SENAC's charitable work is enabled and sustained by the commitment, effort and dedication of everyone who has donated, raised funds and supported the Charity. The generosity of time and funds from all who have supported SENAC is respected and appreciated.

Our Funders

A sincere thank you is expressed to all the grant making Trusts and Foundations who have provided funding to support SENAC's services and projects. As Funders of charitable activities, they are committed to investing in the lives and futures of children and young people and understand the importance of equality in education and helping children overcome the challenges they face.

Thank you to:	
BBC Children in Need	Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
The National Lottery Community Fund	Enkalon Foundation
The Henry Smith Charity	Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland
St. Anne's Cathedral Sit-Out Appeal	Baily Thomas Foundation
Garfield Weston Foundation	Ulster Garden Villages
St. James Place Foundation	Awards for All NI

BALANCE SHEET

	Notes	2020		2019	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Intangible assets	8		868		1084
Tangible assets	9		<u>2254</u>		<u>2817</u>
			3122		3901
Current Assets					
Cash in bank and at hand		<u>112,465</u>		<u>83,580</u>	
		112,465		83,580	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	<u>(6135)</u>		<u>(4973)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>106,330</u>		<u>78,607</u>
Net assets			<u>109,452</u>		<u>82,508</u>
Capital and reserves					
Unrestricted funds	10		22,059		9472
Restricted funds	10		87,393		73,036
General Funds			109,452		82,508
		The financial statement was approved by the Board on 9 th December 2020			
ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION					

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Year Total
Incoming Resources	Notes			
From generated funds:				
Voluntary income:		22,554		
Incoming resources from charitable activities	4		144,956	
Total Incoming Resources		22,554		167,510
Resources expended				
Costs of generating funds:	5			
Costs of charitable activities		(9850)	(130,716)	(140,566)
Total Resources expended		(9580)	(130,716)	(140,566)