**The charity's objects**

To help meet the needs of parents and carers of children with special needs by the provision of support and advocacy, advice and information.

To promote health and education for children with special needs and their parents and carers.

To provide educational and recreational facilities in the interests of social welfare for children with special needs and their parents and carers so that conditions of life may be improved.

**The charity's main activities**

Special Needs & Parent Support (Yorkshire) CIO (SNAPS) runs what is primarily a Saturday support group with a range of therapeutic and other support activities, specifically for children with additional needs, and provides the opportunity for the whole family to participate, including siblings, and for the parents to socialise, swap stories and experiences, and learn from each other. Activities include hydrotherapy, rebound therapy, music therapy, arts and crafts, boccia, music activities, soft play, and a separate football training activity, with other activities as needs are identified, and funding allows. In addition the charity delivers support directly to families through Family Support, along with counselling sessions for parents.

**Public benefit statement**

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Board has given serious consideration to the Charity Commission’s general guidance on public benefit and in particular the advancement of education through promoting the inclusion of families with children with special needs. SNAPS aims to support any family with a disabled child who requires support. SNAPS supports the whole family and meets at a weekend to positively promote inclusion.

**Achievements and performance**

The past year has been a very interesting period, dominated by coming out of the lockdowns and restrictions of the pandemic. SNAPS has been back to full delivery of physiotherapy and other support services, although somewhat restrained by the shortage of qualified physiotherapists.

This review looks at 4 specific areas – Operations, Finances, Trustees, and the future of SNAPS. **Firstly, Operations** – This has been another time of unmet needs for our families, with many services and charities still struggling in the post-pandemic period. SNAPS staff and the Family Support team have been working at full stretch to meet the burgeoning need, as shown by the extensive backlog of children and families on our waiting lists. Many of the recipients have expressed their thanks for the positive support received. We have also focussed on ensuring that our staff team, and in particular, their mental health, is supported at all times.

Having lost some staff as we emerged from furlough, we have managed to recruit new team members, who have then been fully trained and are delivering our services to the required standards. We have continued to review and improve our management and policy structures, such as business and financial planning, and strategic development, and have developed an ambitious plan for further growth, both in the next financial year, and beyond. We continue the search for a third site to enable SNAPS to deliver a more extensive range of supportive therapies and meet the identified need across the region.

We have also maintained our support for the West Yorkshire Children’s Additional Needs Network, now 95 organisations strong, which SNAPS co-founded in 2016, to improve the flow of information and communication between charities and statutory bodies from education, healthcare and Local Government across the region.

**Secondly, Finances –** Although raising funds has continued to be challenging in a market place which has been stretched ever tighter by the tough financial and economic conditions prevailing, our fundraising team has out-performed expectations and delivered a strong result. As a result of the generosity of our many supporters and a lot of hard work from the team, SNAPS ended the current year in an excellent financial position, and stronger than ever before, which helps the charity become as sustainable as possible, and grow our services in the future. It is important to mention two particular contributors – Irwin Mitchell, which continue their long term and regular support, and the Alerce Trust, our wonderfully generous benefactor.

SNAPS has a good story to tell and we tell it well, and have shown that we can competently manage the steady growth required to build a successful organisation and expand the provision of service to the families of Leeds. SNAPS is an independent charity, not an agency of social services or Leeds City Council, and we take no financing from local or national government in any form. In the current economic climate, and with cuts to government grants so prevalent, our independence has been seen by our funders as a strength.

**Thirdly, the Board of Trustees** - We are fortunate in having a group of talented people with widely differing backgrounds and skills to be the current Board of Trustees, including hard pressed parents, to help set strategy and provide oversight of our work, and I would like to acknowledge their hard work and contribution in the last year in helping to deal with the issues facing the charity. During this period, we have managed to retain the invaluable services of 11 Trustees, and added a new recruit, which has helped to provide stability, certainty and continuity.

And lastly, **the future of SNAPS** – The challenges facing small charities cannot be under-estimated, but as Chair, I am confident that we will continue to develop and grow, supported by the good will and contributions of our many families, supporters and stakeholders. Since 2015, SNAPS has grown by a factor of roughly 6 times in terms of provision of services, income and reserves, which is a tremendous performance in a demanding market place, and an excellent advertisement for the hybrid business model which we have adopted, developed and used to such advantage. The new development strategy offers promise of further expansion and an even more exciting future. The good news in this Review is down to the hard work and determination of the team and the family that is SNAPS.