**The charity’s main activities**

SNAPS runs a Saturday support group with a range of therapeutic and other activities, specifically for children with additional needs, and providing the opportunity for the whole family to participate, including siblings, and for the parents to socialise and learn from each other. Activities include hydrotherapy, rebound therapy, music therapy, arts and crafts, boccia, music activities and soft play, with other activities as funding allows and needs are identified.

**Achievements and performance**

The last year has continued to be a period of significant change for SNAPS in terms of the consolidation and development of the organisation and its work. SNAPS has always managed to meet its core objectives – over the last 2 years the Board and staff have stabilised the organisation, and building on firm foundations, developed and expanded SNAPS to provide more support to more families. I’d like to mention 4 specific areas – our operations, our finances, our Trustees, and the future of SNAPS.

**Firstly, our operations** – we have continued to grow and implement radical changes in how SNAPS operates over the last year. We have increased the number of days on which we operate each term from 5 at our low point in 2014, to the maximum available in the recent Autumn term of 12 out of the 14 Saturdays from September to December 2016, and 10 out of the 12 Saturdays in the Spring term 2017, with the exception of the half term holidays.

Overall this means an increase from around 100 slots (being a 20 minute physiotherapy session for a child) to nearly 400 in a term, quadruple the provision from 2 years ago, which is great news for families. We are now operating at the maximum level possible at our site in North West Leeds (Penny Field School) and cannot expand any further on this site. Our operational model is working well and continues to evolve to meet changing circumstances.

Our new website is continuing to work well, and we’ve added a new social media presence, using Facebook and Twitter to communicate more regularly with our increasing number of families and other interested parties.

Key to these changes has been the operations and management team we have working with us, and the appointment of a Project Manager - the team of staff, physiotherapists, instructors and volunteers work tirelessly to deliver our services – we can’t thank you enough for all your hard work.

**Secondly, our finances** – I am pleased to be able to report that our finances have continued to improve. In summary, our reserves cover 6 months running costs as recommended by the Charity Commission, and we have additional funds to support our continued expansion and development. 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. The Board’s intention has been to make SNAPS financially sustainable and we believe that we are making good progress towards that objective. Working with highly competent Fundraising and Finance Managers helps us towards these ends. SNAPS has a good story to tell and we’ve 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.

**Thirdly, the Board of Trustees** - We are lucky in having a group of talented people with widely differing backgrounds and skills to be the current Board of Trustees, 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, and continue our successful journey. I am particularly pleased that over the year we have continued to recruit hard pressed Parent Trustees on the Board as they bring an invaluable view from the ‘front line’ of caring for a child with additional needs. Many thanks to all of them for their contributions.

The Board has also recently agreed to incorporate, a process which reflects the recent growth of SNAPS, and is a sign of our maturing as an organisation. This means that SNAPS will henceforth be known as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation or CIO.

**And lastly, the future of SNAPS –** The Board has agreed a new ambitious one-year Business Plan for April 2017 to March 2018. I want to share five exciting elements from the Plan:

Firstly, we have negotiated with a second site in South Leeds to start operations there. Broomfield is the Southern Special Inclusive Learning Centre, or SILC for Leeds, as Penny Field is the North Western SILC. We have recruited a new team and will be starting Saturday sessions after Easter 2017. Having achieved the maximum number of sessions at Penny Field, we intend to expand our operations to other areas and other families, and Broomfield is our first new venture.

Secondly, we will be running 2 Information and Discussion groups in June for parents to meet up, hear experts talk about some relevant topics, and to network with other families, which is a new venture.

Thirdly, we are founder members of a new organisation called Leeds Children’s Additional Needs Network or Leeds CANN, which is a new venture bringing together 22 children’s charities across the Greater Leeds area with the aim of creating a more effective information and resource sharing market place supporting families.

Fourthly, SNAPS will be running 2 day time family activity sessions during the Summer Holidays, where previously we have shut down operations because the School has been closed.

And lastly, SNAPS is pleased to announce that it will be providing financial support for a campaign to help families fight back against the recent communication from Leeds City Council to inform parents of 16 – 18 year olds with disabilities that they would only be funding 3 days of school rather than 5 from September.

The good news in this review is down to the hard work and determination of the team and the family that is SNAPS. Thank you for your continued support during the year.