



Annual Report

April 2021-22

Achievements

Early Years Service

Our Early Years Service (EYS) provides intensive home-based support for 35 autistic children in their pre-school year with a new intake annually. Our EYS team support a child and their family for up to 12 months. As a result of covid-19 in the previous year we changed the 12 month period from mirroring the academic year to a service which now runs from January to December. This enables children to get extra support as they take the step from pre-school into Primary 1.

This service focuses on developing play and communication skills before also looking at key daily living skills in areas like sleep and toileting. During this year we've also embedded group learning into the service model, offering children the opportunity to attend Play and Learn Sessions where they can learn alongside peers and practice the communication skills they're developing with a wider range of people. Parents also enjoy the opportunity to meet other families as local playgroups are often inaccessible to their children.



Achievements

Target Specific Service

Our Target Specific Service (TSS) continues to support autistic children aged 5 to 16 years and their families as they grow up. Our interventions are tailored to suit each child's needs: these can range from relatively short interventions to deal with a specific challenge or regular ongoing input for skills that continue to develop as a child grows and matures. Building on our learning of remote support methods through the pandemic, we continue to work with some parents and young people via online platforms. Building from the success of the group learning opportunities introduced in our Early Years Service, we're now developing similar opportunities for this age group too.



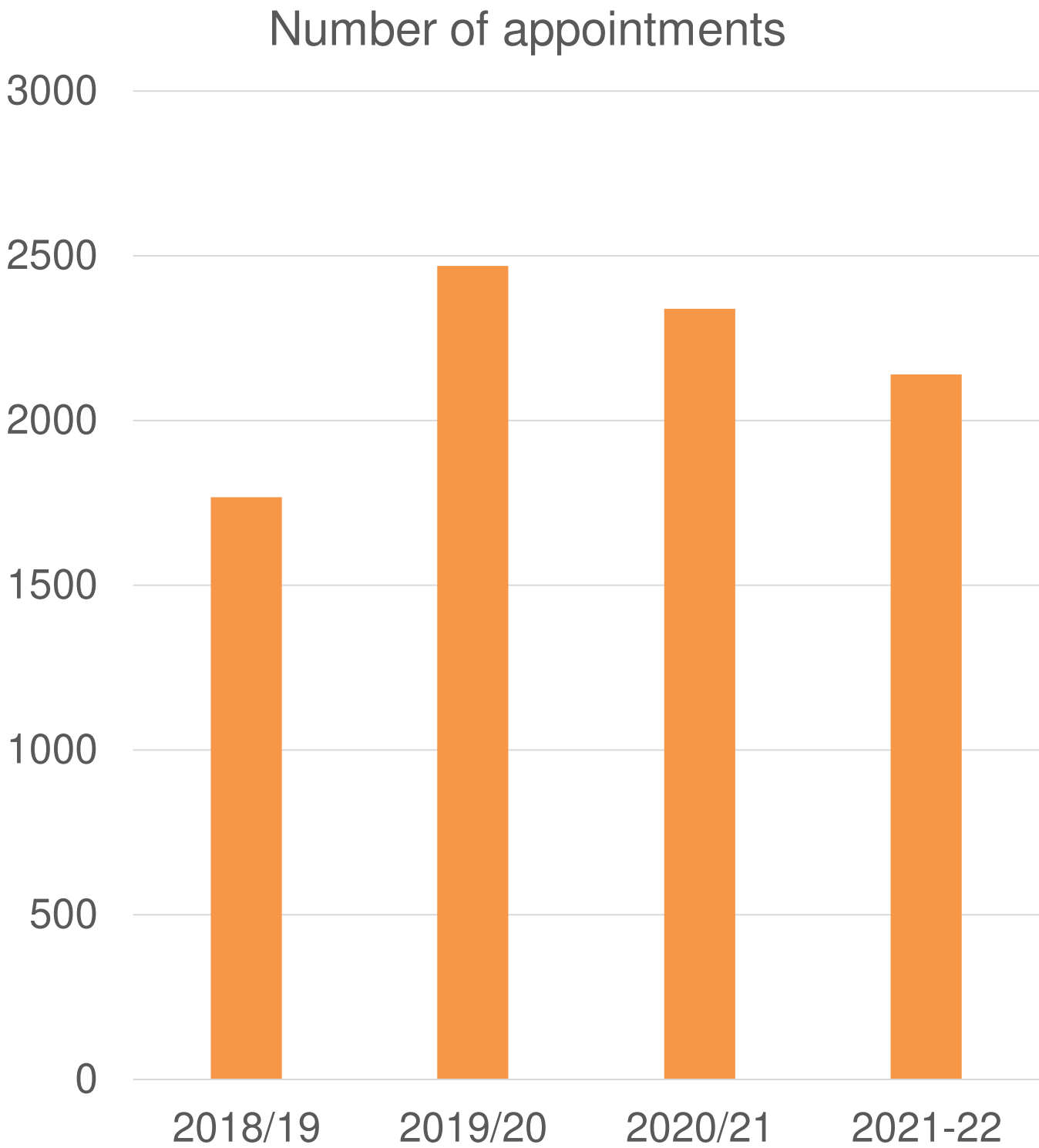
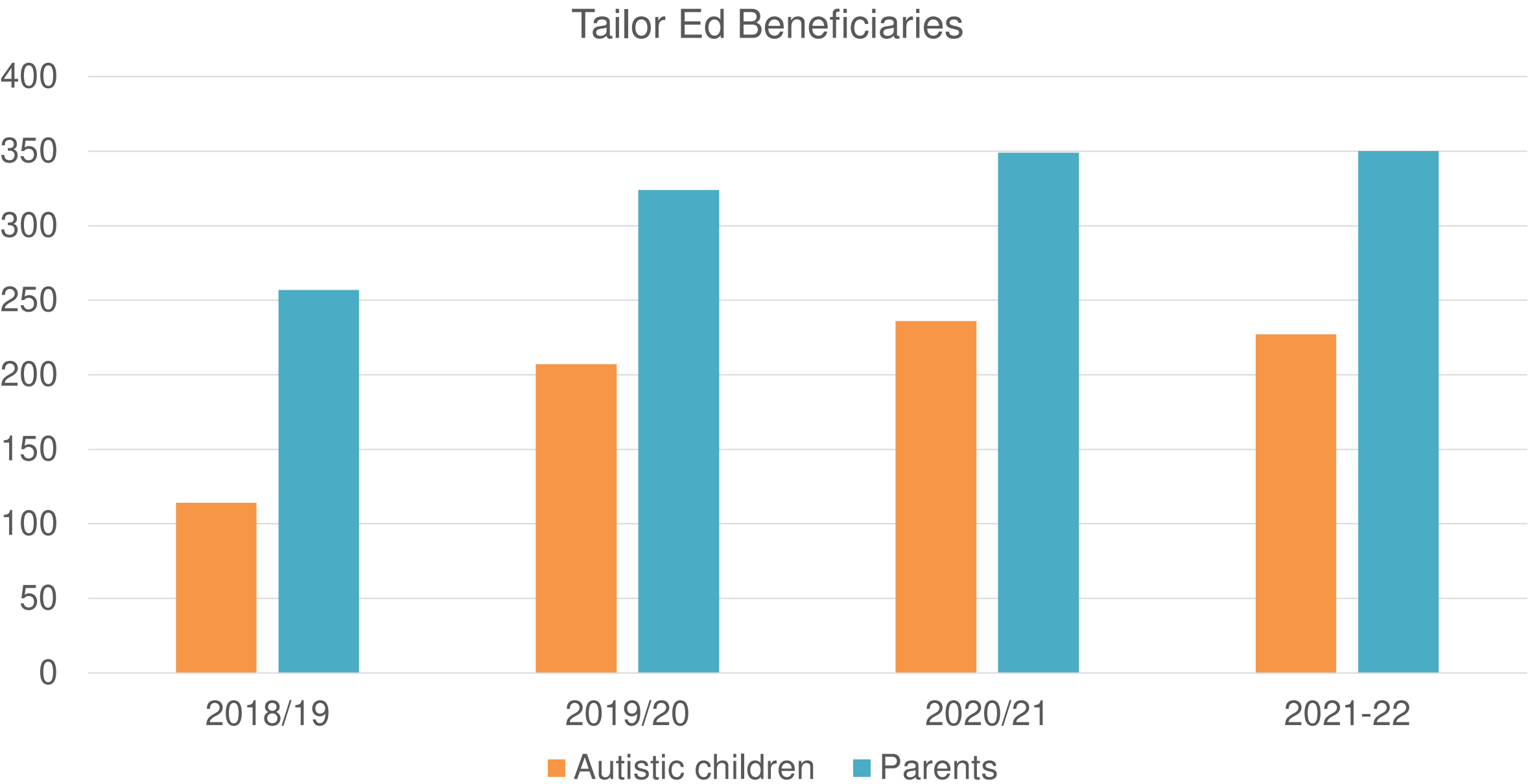
Achievements

Support Services

We continued to provide more general support services for families as well. These included soft play sessions when Time Twisters was permitted to reopen in Autumn 2021, online Circle Times to help keep familiar routine through the school holidays, and ride a bike workshops. We also responded to the need for more support for families during the long summer holidays by setting up a weekly Holiday Club where children were invited to spend a morning or afternoon engaged in activities with our staff team whilst parents could enjoy coffee and cake. For many of the families accessing this, it was the only time during the week they were leaving the house together. We also again helped distribute Scottish Government funding to families in financial need, this time sharing £4500 with families to support with winter costs.



The increased demand for services that we saw during the initial lockdown has continued. The number of families using our services has remained the same. Whilst the shift back to mostly in person support has seen a reduction in the total number of appointments delivered, this remains significantly higher than pre-pandemic levels.



Feedback from our annual parent questionnaire

90% of parents agree their child has gained skills

85% of parents confirm their child is more able to communicate

100% of parents feel more confident in supporting their child

“Through the years of support my child has gained skills in managing, expressing and recognising his emotions, he was also lucky enough to have had access to food therapy from tailor ed which has given him the ability to improve his diet and with that improved his health and his ability to socialise more and be in school more. He has learnt how to understand other peoples views and feelings, how to share and participate, he has gained confidence in himself.”



“Our son is verbally much more active with the confidence to use new words. Able to use choice boards too to communicate his needs. Because of these new/developed skills, my child is much more confident and happier in his surroundings and when trying to communicate with others.”

Service developments

During this period we developed two new service offers in response to the needs of autistic children and young people and the funding opportunities that became available. We led a successful partnership bid with Barnardo's and Autism Initiatives to the City of Edinburgh Council to deliver a city wide service for neurodivergent children and young people. ND:well opened in March 2022, working together with oversight from our NHS CAMHS colleagues. This new service aims to provide new and additional support to neurodivergent children and young people in Edinburgh who are struggling with their mental health and emotional wellbeing.



Supporting the wellbeing of neurodivergent C&YP in Edinburgh

We were also approached by East Lothian Council to run a pilot with them over the next 12 months, supporting autistic children who were struggling to access learning in their mainstream schools.



The service developments described above and increased demand has led to the growth of our staff team and consequently our funding requirements. Our Fundraising Manager continues to expand our income streams which are still primarily based on bids to trusts and grant applications. Securing our first tender with the local authority and leading on partnership work has felt like a step forward for us as an organisation.



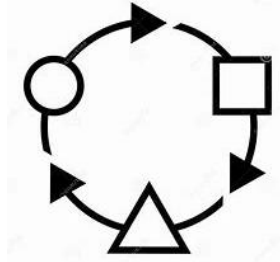
We continue to serve on the Disability Strategy Group for Edinburgh, representing the 3rd sector.

We also spent time as an organisation defining our values. We're now consulting with families.

Tailor Ed values Foundation



Supportive, Compassionate and Respectful



Dedicated, Committed and Perseverant



Tailored and Adaptable



Realistic but Ambitious



Skillful and Professional



Collaborative and “with”



Finance

April 2021-22	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Prior year funds
Donations	£ 13,368	£ -	£ 13,368	£ 21,423
Grants	£ -	£ 314,478	£ 314,478	£ 268,826
Interest	£ 20	£ -	£ 20	£ 49
Total income	£ 13,388	£ 314,478	£ 327,866	£ 290,298
Expense	£ 54,749	£ 281,177	£ 335,926	£ 259,386
Balance	-£ 41,361	£ 33,301	-£ 8,060	£ 30,912

Future

Our Early Years and Target Specific Services will continue to follow the same model, building on the development of group teaching opportunities for the children we support where this provides added benefit. As very new services, we're learning from and refining our offer for both our ND:well service and our East Lothian Schools pilot.

The challenges for us remain the same as we continue to be met with high levels of demand for our services, currently all of which are at capacity. Whilst committed to helping as many families as possible we must find a way to do this that maintains the quality and effectiveness of the support we provide and also acknowledge the particularly challenging financial climate.

