Company Number: 4589451

Absolute Return for Kids (ARK)

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts

For the 11 Months Ended 31 August 2007

Company Number: 4589451 Charity Number: 1095322

The trustees are pleased to present their report together with the audited financial statements of the charity for the 11 months ended 31st August 2007.

Reference and administrative details

Directors

The directors of the charitable company are its trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees.

The following individuals served as trustees during the year:

Arpad Busson (Chairman)
Paul Dunning
Stanley Fink
David Gorton (appointed 19 July 2007)
Kevin Gundle
Paul Marshall
Jennifer Moses
Blaine Tomlinson
Ian Wace

All trustees served for the full year except where noted above and no trustees have resigned or been appointed since the year end. None had any beneficial interest in the charity and remuneration of directors is neither paid by the charity nor permitted under its Articles of Association.

Managing Director

Paul Bernstein

Auditors

Ernst & Young LLP 1 More London Place London SE1 2AF T: +44 20 7951 2000

Bankers

HSBC Private Bank (UK) Limited 78 St James's Street London SW1A 1JB T: +44 20 7860 5000

Solicitors

Boodle Hatfield 89 New Bond Street London W1S 1DA T: +44 20 7629 7411

Registered Office

15 Adam Street London WC2N 6AH T: +44 20 7395 2050

Change of accounting reference date

In May 2007 ARK changed its accounting reference date from 30 September to 31 August. This aligned the group financial year with the standard financial year for schools in the UK and thereby achieved a co-terminous year end for all ARK companies. As a result of the change, these accounts cover an 11 month period.

Objectives and principal activities

ARK is an international charity whose purpose is to transform children's lives, founded in 2002 by leaders in the alternative investment industry with a shared vision of collective philanthropy. The trustees and management team have developed a strong research and evidence-based model to identify critical areas of need and develop programmes which deliver life-changing benefits for children.

Programmes are highly focused on meeting pre-defined strategic goals in the areas of HIV/AIDS (South Africa, Mozambique), Education (UK) and Children in Care (Eastern Europe) and are delivered by ARK staff and contracted partners. The programme themes are built on partnership with governments to maximise the chances of success, leverage their resources and ensure sustainability.

The key objectives of ARK's HIV/AIDS programme are to:

- save lives and rapidly and effectively provide antiretroviral treatment (ART) to the parents and carers of children, and
- build capacity ensuring that provincial governments and communities are able, through ARK's involvement, to provide treatment in an effective and sustainable way, with the appropriate resources, processes and systems.

ARK's programme is focused on, and delivered through, existing clinics in local communities. ARK works to build the human resource and physical capacity of these clinics to enable them to gain accreditation to enrol patients from their local communities onto antiretroviral drugs (ARVs). ARK helps run the clinics for an average of three years building systems and processes to ensure sustainable quality of care prior to hand over to provincial government. The charity has also launched a programme addressing the social and economic needs of children in communities affected by HIV/AIDS.

ARK's education programme is creating a culture of aspiration and opportunity. In the UK, ARK Academies was established in the UK in 2004 to develop a network of state schools providing high quality education in challenging, inner city areas. Its aim is to give all children a real opportunity to attain academic results and the self-confidence to move into higher education or pursue the career of their choice. Beyond the academies, ARK's Education programme also provides services to the academies that support educational success, such as extended schools, as well as funding for projects which work on the key barriers to success, such as school exclusions and prevention of teenage pregnancies.

The focus of the Children in Care programme in Bulgaria is to close large-scale orphanages for children under the age of seven with the aim of reintegrating these children with their biological parents or extended family. Where this is not possible, ARK and its partners are modelling innovative new practices in the provision of foster care and small-scale residential services. To ensure sustainability and considered exit, ARK has a small core team that provides overall programme management, targeted capacity building and infrastructure support to local government child protection departments.

ARK continues to provide funding for, and work closely with, a key partner organisation, Hope and Homes for Children (HHC), to ensure the closure of child institutions in Eastern Europe and also to prevent numerous children from being institutionalised.

Achievements, performance and future plans

HIV/AIDS

Since 2003 ARK has prevented over 35,000 children from being orphaned by or dying from AIDS.

- In the last year ARK's HIV treatment programme doubled to four of the nine provinces in South Africa
- ARK aims to have enrolled over 32,000 mothers, caregivers and children onto treatment by 2012
- To date 19,500 mothers, caregivers and children have been enrolled onto treatment (9% are children)
- ARK is also supporting vulnerable children in AIDS-affected communities through its
 Child Services programme which supports caregivers in accessing the child support care
 dependence and foster care grants they are entitled to from the government.
- In May ARK announced the launch of the Clinton-ARK Initiative for Mozambique; through
 a strategic partnership with the Clinton Foundation, ARK will support the delivery of rapid
 and high quality care and treatment for HIV/AIDS in Mozambique. The Initiative will
 provide training and mentoring for health care workers, reaching over 300 clinicians in its
 first year.
- In addition ARK plans to launch its HIV treatment programme in Mozambique with the aim of enrolling 4,500 mothers and caregivers, and 500 children on HIV treatment over four years.

Education

ARK will open 12 inner city Academy Schools in the UK by 2012, transforming the opportunities of over 10,000 young people

- ARK's first academy, Burlington Danes Academy, opened in September 2006. Walworth
 Academy and King Solomon Academy, opened in September 2007. Two academies are
 scheduled to open in September 2008 and seven further schools are under development.
- Future Leaders a joint venture accelerated school leadership programme run by ARK, the National College of School Leadership and Specialist Schools and Academies Trust, expanded to enrol an additional 30 participants in 2007, bringing the total up to 50.
- ARK's social exclusion and youth development programmes in the UK supported over 1,000 children and families through programmes to prevent teenage pregnancy, raise self esteem, aspiration and educational attainment.
- ARK is planning to develop an education programme in India.

Children in Care

ARK has helped to move over 1,300 children from abusive institutions and prevented a further 600 from entering the institutional system

- ARK is overseeing the first ever institutional closure in Bulgaria re-housing over 60 children which will be completed in February 2008.
- ARK is working to close or reform three large-scale institutions and support the process of re-homing over 360 children.
- ARK signed an unprecedented agreement with 3 government ministries, 2 state agencies and 1 municipality to plan and support the reform of long-term institutional care in Bulgaria.
- Where it is not possible to find families for children who are currently living in institutions, ARK will establish up to 11 small group homes.
- As a result of this work, hundreds of children will leave long-term, large-scale institutional care in the next two years.

 Working in partnership with Hope and Homes for Children (HHC), ARK is supporting the closure of 16 orphanages across five countries in Eastern Europe transforming the lives of a further 1,600 children.

Financial review

The 11 month period to 31 August 2007 was one of significant growth for ARK, with income for the group increasing 52% to £32.7m (2006 £21.5m).

ARK continues to raise the majority of its funds through its annual Gala Dinner. In 2007 this was held at Marlborough House London in conjunction with the Commonwealth Secretariat and attended by President Clinton. Thanks to the generosity of ARK's supporters £26.0m (2006 £18.3m) was raised through the Dinner (see note 3). The trustees believe this is the first time this amount has been reached by a single event of this nature in the UK.

Expenditure by the parent charity covers fundraising costs, central administrative costs, and the commitment of funds to specific projects through grants primarily to other companies in the ARK group. During the period this increased by 23% to £26.4m (2006 - £21.5m), resulting in net incoming resources of £5.4m compared to net outgoing resources in 2006 of £1.1m.

ARK's HIV/AIDS programme continues to be its largest in terms of expenditure with new funds committed during the year increasing to £12.0m (2006 - £10.6m). This includes new investments of £3.3m toward ARK South Africa's ARV programme, £4.0m toward ARK's work in Mozambique (which will fund ARK's programme there to 2011) and a further £4.1m toward ARK's partnership in Mozambique with The Clinton Foundation HIV/AIDS Initiative (see note 6).

Expenditure on the UK Education programme saw the largest percentage increase during the period with new investments increasing by a little over 150% to £9.1m (2006 - £3.7m). The focus of ARK's work in the UK shifted to the Academy programme in the run up to the first ARK school opening in September 2006, and the current year expenditure includes sponsorship of 4 new Academies of which 2 opened in September 2007 and 2 will open in September 2008.

ARK also created a new charitable subsidiary company in September 2006, ARK Schools, to develop a range of programmes clustered around the academies that support and enhance the work of the Academies but are not funded by the UK Government's Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF). Grants to the subsidiary in the year included £369k to cover its core costs in the first 2 years of operation, £237k for an Extended Schools Programme and £118k for a Music Programme.

Expenditure at the group level differs from the charity in that where a grant is made to a subsidiary company the value of funds actually spent by the company is shown rather than the value of the grant. During the period expenditure at the group level increased by 92% to £22.0m (2006 - £11.5m). This is lower than expenditure by the parent charity by £4.4m representing the net value of new grants made to group companies relating to future years.

Central administrative costs

The trustees and patrons continue to ensure that the central administrative costs of the charity (referred to as core costs throughout these accounts) are met through funds donated specifically for that purpose. The income and expenditure relating to core costs in the period are shown in the table below.

The trustees understand that the charity's growth will require a gradual expansion of core cost expenditure in the years ahead. They are confident that ARK's existing sources of core income can be expanded to cover this expenditure, and have collectively agreed to cover any shortfall on a year to year basis.

This undertaking is central to ARK's operating philosophy as it gives other donors the assurance that every penny of every donation goes directly to projects.

	£
Contributions arranged by Trustees & Patrons	866,019
Return on Investments	1,041,947
ARK Masters Fee Rebates	437,789
Other	470
Total income raised for core cost	2,346,225
LESS Expenditure on core costs	(1,350,881)
Surplus on core costs for the year	995.344
ourplus of oots for the year	330,044
Balance 1 October 2006	228,269

Risk Management

The trustees have assumed responsibility for identifying the types of risk faced by ARK in pursuing its charitable objectives. They have presided over the establishment of formal procedures in every aspect of ARK's activities designed to mitigate these risks, and have ensured that employees are both fully aware of these procedures and of the implications of failing to implement them. They are satisfied that these controls, especially the financial ones comply in all material respects with guidelines issued by the Charity Commission.

Funds and Reserves

Restricted funds

ARK achieves its charitable objectives primarily through direct implementation of projects by its own charitable subsidiaries, and to a lesser extent by way of grants to partner organisations.

Where the projects are to be implemented by group companies the funds committed to them are shown as restricted funds in the group balance sheet. The funding period for a typical project is 3 to 5 years. For this reason at any point in time ARK expects to be holding an amount equivalent to several years' expenditure in restricted funds.

The value of restricted funds held by the group at 31st August 2007 was £22.7m (2006 - £15.6m) which is equivalent to 16 months expenditure on charitable activities at 2007 levels (2006 – 23 months). The trustees consider this to be in line with the organisation's policy.

Note 13 shows how these reserves are split across ARK's various programmes.

Designated funds – general programme fund

A significant proportion of the funds raised by ARK must be used to fund charitable projects (ie they cannot be used to cover the organisation's core costs) but are not committed to a specific project at the point of receipt. This income is credited to ARK's general programme fund and stays there until such time as it is committed to a specific project.

In the balance sheet these funds are shown as Designated funds – general programme fund. The balance held in this fund was £8.5m at 31st August 2007 (2006 £5.5m). ARK anticipates that all these funds will be committed to specific programmes within the next 12 months. The trustees consider this to be in line with the organisation's policy.

Unrestricted funds - core costs

The trustees ensure that the central administrative costs of the charity are met through funds raised specifically for that purpose, and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. For this reason, it is not necessary for the charity to establish a reserve to cover these costs, although at any point in time there may be a balance held that represents an excess of funds raised to cover

core costs over expenditure on core costs to date. This represents the unrestricted reserves of the charity.

In the balance sheet these funds are shown under Unrestricted funds - core costs. The balance held on this fund was £1.2m at 31st August 2007 (2006 - £228k). The trustees consider this to be in line with the organisation's policy.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

Absolute Return for Kids (ARK) is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 12 November 2002, and is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission.

Organisation

The board of trustees, which can have up to ten members, oversees the charity. The board meets at least six times a year. There are also six sub-committees; one covering each of the charity's three main programme areas (HIV/AIDS, UK Education and Children in Care), one dealing with strategy, one dealing with donor relations and the sixth dealing with finance and audit. The sub-committees each report back to the board and make recommendations on policy and practice in their respective areas of jurisdiction.

A Managing Director is appointed by the trustees to oversee the day to day operations of the charity. To facilitate effective operations, the Managing Director has delegated authority for operational matters including finance and employment.

Related Parties

The charity has established a number of companies to implement its key programmes.

ARK Academies is responsible for ARK's work in inner city schools in the UK. ARK Academies is registered in England as a charitable company limited by guarantee (company number 5112090; charity number 1111608). In these accounts ARK Academies does not form part of the group.

ARK Schools was incorporated in September 2006 and is responsible for ARK's work in UK Education beyond the Academies programme. ARK Schools is registered in England as a company limited by guarantee (company number 5932797).

ARK (South Africa) Limited, an association incorporated in South Africa under section 21 (registration number 2004/003952/10) and registered in England as a charitable company limited by guarantee (company number 4957091; charity number 1108175) runs the charity's programmes in South Africa.

ARK Mozambique (an NGO registered in Mozambique) runs the charity's programmes in Mozambique.

ARK Bulgaria (a private foundation incorporated in Bulgaria) runs the charity's programmes in Bulgaria.

During the year the charity sold its dormant trading subsidiary Absolute Return for Kids (ARK) Trading Limited to ARK Academies for the nominal value of the issued share capital (£1).

The charity is also affiliated to Friends of ARK (FoA) a US philanthropic organisation which shares ARK's passion for transformational change in the lives of disadvantaged children. FoA supports the work of the charity through grants.

Note 16 to the financial statements includes a summary of transactions with each of these organisations.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for the financial year. In preparing those accounts, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the group will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the group and to enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosure of information to the Auditors

The trustees are not aware of any relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware. The trustees also confirm that they have taken all the steps required of trustees to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information, and establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

A resolution to reappoint Ernst & Young LLP as auditors will be put to the members at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting on 3 July.

This report was approved by the trustees on 2 June 2008.

Arpad Busson Chairman Absolute Return for Kids (ARK)

Independent auditors' report

to the members of Absolute Return for Kids (ARK)

We have audited the charitable group and company's financial statements for the period ended 31 August 2007 which comprise the group and company's Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA), the group and company's Balance Sheet and the related notes 1 to 20. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein.

This report is made solely to the charitable company 's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 235 of the Companies Act 1985. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company 's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company 's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors

As described in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities the charitable company's trustees' are responsible for the preparation of the Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law and accounting standards.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985. We also report to you whether in our opinion the information given in the Trustees' report is consistent with the financial statements.

We also report to you if, in our opinion, the charitable company has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding trustees' remuneration and transactions with the charitable group is not disclosed.

We read the trustees' report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made by the trustees in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the group as at 31 August 2007 and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the group, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

Ernst & Young LLP Registered Auditor London

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities

For the 11 Months to 31 August 2007

	Ur	nrestricted	Restricted	Period ended 31-Aug -07 Total	Restated Year ended 30-Sept-06 Total
	Notes	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Incoming Resources					
Incoming Resources from generated fund	ds				
Voluntary income: Grants and Donations Activities for generating funds:	2	9,040	15,842	24,882	16,282
Fundraising events	3	6,818	296	7,114	3,866
Incoming Resources from charitable activ	vities			•	
Grants and contracts		-	-	-	864
Investment income	4	671	34	705	451
Ongoing operations		-	-	-	20,595
Discontinued operations		-	-	-	868
Total Incoming Resources		16,529	16,172	32,701	21,463
Resources Expended					
Cost of generating funds:	6	4,079	-	4,079	2,466
Charitable Activities					
Grants & project operating costs	6	676	16,709	17,385	8,644
Governance costs	5	540	-	540	342
Total Resources Expended		5,295	16,709	22,004	11,452
Ongoing operations		-	-	_	10,316
Discontinued operations		-	_	-	(305)
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources					, ,
before other recognised gains and los	ses	11,234	(537)	10,697	10,011
Unrealised gains on Investment assets Realised gains/(losses) on foreign	7	173	-	173	14
Currency transactions		197	(4)	193	540
Transfer of restricted reserve to former					(0.000)
Group entity		-	-	-	(2,292)
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		11,604	(541)	11,063	8,273
Gross transfers between funds	13	(7,597)	7,597	-	-
Net movement in funds	8	4,007	7,056	11,063	8,273
Funds At 1 October 2006	_	5,712	15,625	21,337	13,064
Funds At 31 August 2007		9,719	22,681	32,400	21,337

Charity Statement of Financial Activities

For the 11 Months to 31 August 2007

				Period	Restated year
	Notes	Unrestricted £'000	Restricted £'000	ended 31-Aug -07 Total £'000	ended 30-Sept-06 Total £'000
Incoming Resources Incoming Resources from generated for Voluntary Income	unds				
Grants and donations Activities for generating funds:	2	9,040	14,990	24,029	16,047
Fundraising events Investment Income	3 4	6,818 671	296 -	7,114 671	3,866 446
Total Incoming Resources		16,529	15,286	31,814	20,360
Resources Expended Cost of generating funds: Charitable Activities	6	4,079	-	4,079	2,466
Grants and project operating costs Governance costs	6 5	676 540	21,071	21,747 540	18,661 342
Total resources expended		5,295	21,071	26,366	21,469
Net incoming/(outgoing) resource					
before other recognised gains and loss	es	11,234	(5,786)	5,448	(1,109)
Unrealised gains on investment assets Realised gains on foreign currency swap	7 7	173 197	-	173 197	13 157
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources transfers		11,604	(5,786)	5,818	(939)
Gross transfers between funds	13	(7,597)	7,597	-	-
Net movement in funds	8	4,007	1,811	5,818	(939)
Funds at 1 October 2006		5,712	849	6,561	7,500
Funds at 31 August 2007		9,719	2,660	12,379	6,561

Consolidated Balance Sheet

As at 31 August 2007

	Notes	2007 £'000	2006 £'000
Fixed assets Tangible fixed assets	9	88	65
·		88	65
Current assets			
Debtors	11	16,561	7,417
Cash at bank and in hand		20,402	14,036
Investment in ARK Masters Fund	7	8,697	4,617
		45,660	26,070
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(8,110)	(4,480)
Net current assets		37,550	21,590
Total assets less current liabilities		37,638	21,655
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	12	(5,238)	(318)
Net assets		32,400	21,337
Funds Unrestricted funds:			
Designated Funds - General programme fund Core costs		8,496 1,223	5,484 228
Restricted funds		22,681	15,625
Total funds	13	32,400	21,337

Approved by the Board of Directors on 2 June 2008 and signed on its behalf by:

Arpad Busson Chairman Absolute Return for Kids (ARK)

Charity balance sheet

As at 31 August 2007

	Notes	2007 £'000	2006 £'000
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	9	49	8
Investments in subsidiaries	10	-	-
		49	8
Current assets			
Debtors	11	16,624	7,387
Cash at bank and in hand		18,660	13,445
Investment in ARK Masters Fund	7	8,697	4,617
		43,981	25,449
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(16,494)	(10,159)
Net current assets		27,487	15,290
Total assets less current liabilities		27,536	15,298
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	12	(15,157)	(8,737)
Net assets		12,379	6,561
Funds	•		
Unrestricted funds:			
Designated Funds - General programme fund		8,496	5,484
Core costs		1,223	228
Restricted funds		2,660	849
Total funds	13	12,379	6,561
	•		

Approved by the Board of Directors on 2 June 2008 and signed on its behalf by:

Arpad Busson Chairman Absolute Return for Kids (ARK)

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

For the 11 months to 31 August 2007

		Period Ended 31 August 2007	Year Ended 30 September 2006
	Notes	£'000	£'000
Net cash inflow from operating activities	18	9,460	8,076
Returns on investments and servicing of finance Interest received Realised foreign currency gains		705 193	451 157
Capital expenditure and financial investment Purchase of fixed assets Investment made in ARK Masters Fund		(85) (3,907)	` ,
Acquisitions and disposals Net cash disposed of with subsidiary undertaking		-	(453)
Increase in cash		6,366	6,322

The Charity has no debt and consequently a reconciliation of cashflows to movement in net debt has not been prepared.

For the 11 months to 31 August 2007

1. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with the exception that investments are stated at market value. The accounts are in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Charities SORP 2005 (Accounting and Reporting by Charities), and comply with the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 issued under the Charities Act 2006.

The accounts consolidate Absolute Return for Kids (ARK) and its project implementing subsidiaries, ARK (South Africa) Limited, ARK Schools, ARK Bulgaria, and ARK Mozambique.

Incoming resources

All income is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Fund accounting

Restricted funds are those which are to be used for a specified purpose as stipulated by the donor and agreed by the charity.

Unrestricted funds are those which the donor gives to the charity without stipulating a specific purpose. They are to be used for the furtherance of the objects of the charity in general and may be applied to specific projects at the discretion of the trustees. Within unrestricted funds the charity maintains a pool of designated funds, the General Programme Fund (GPF), which must be used to fund charitable projects (ie cannot be used to cover the organisation's core costs) but are not committed to a specific project at the point of receipt. The relevant income is credited to the GPF and when the Board commits funds to a specific project the required amount of funding is transferred from the GPF to the relevant restricted fund.

All income and expenditure is shown in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Resources expended

Costs of generating funds are those incurred in seeking donations for the charity and in publicising the work of the charity.

Resources expended on charitable activities comprises expenditure related to the direct furtherance of the charity's objectives. Where costs cannot be directly attributed, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Governance costs are those incurred in connection with the management of the charity's assets, organisational administration and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight line basis over their expected useful economic life. The rates of depreciation applied to each class of asset are:

Computer equipment – 50% per annum

Foreign currencies

Company

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are restated at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date.

For the 11 months to 31 August 2007

In preparing the financial statements for the current year, the Company has adopted FRS23 "The effects of Changes in Foreign Exchange Rates". The adoption of this standard did not materially affect the results or financial position of the Company.

Group

The income and expenditure of overseas subsidiary undertakings are translated into sterling at average rates of exchange for the relevant period. where a grant is made to a subsidiary company the value of funds actually spent by the company is shown rather than the value of the grant.

Assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at rates of exchange effective at the balance sheet date.

All exchange differences are recognised through the Statement of Financial Activities.

2. Grants and Donations

	Group 2007 £'000	Charity 2007 £'000	Group 2006 £'000	Charity 2006 £'000
Contributions to core costs	1,304	1,304	881	881
General Donations	7,635	7,635	7,309	7,309
Grants & restricted donations	15,943	15,090	8,092	7,857
	24,882	24,029	16,282	16,047

The trustees ensure that the core costs of the charity are covered. Unrestricted donations and gifts includes £1,304,277 (2006 £881,144) raised for this purpose.

3. Fundraising events

The charity held its annual Gala Dinner in May 2007. No other fundraising events were held during the period. The £7.1m (2006 - £ 3.9m) income stated in the SOFA under incoming resources from fundraising events relates solely to the Gala Dinner.

In addition to this the dinner generates donations which are shown in the SOFA under voluntary income. The value of these donations included in the SOFA is £18.9m (2006 - £14.4m). The total income generated by the event was therefore £26.0m (2006 - £ 18.3m).

Of this £15.3m had been received by 31 August 2007, and £10.7m was outstanding. The outstanding amounts are shown in note 11 as follows;

Due in less than one year

Charity evening pledges	£4.2m
Match funding pledges	£0.5m
Due in more than one year	
Match funding pledges	£6.0m

4. Investment Income

Investment income arises from interest receivable on funds held in interest bearing bank accounts and on fixed term deposit.

For the 11 months to 31 August 2007

5. Allocation of Support

	Charitable activity	Cost of generating funds	Governance costs	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Head office costs	676	135	540	1,351
Total	676	135	540	1,351

The trust allocates its support costs as shown in the table above and then further apportions those costs between the charitable activities undertaken directly by the ARK group (see note 6). Support costs relate entirely to ARK's core staff team and the London office.

As per note 2 above the trustees ensure these costs are covered by unrestricted funding raised for this purpose. The allocation of core costs as support costs to activities in notes 5 & 6 provides a more accurate picture of the full cost of those activities. It does not represent a use of programme funds.

6. Analysis of Resources Expended Group

	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding of activities	Support costs	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Charitable expenditure				
HIV/AIDS - South Africa ARVs	2,423	-	112	2,535
HIV/AIDS – CABA	634	-	3	637
HIV/AIDS – Mozambique	112	-	135	247
HIV/AIDS - Mozambique CHAI	-	4,080	138	4,218
HIV/AIDS - Other	-	520	-	520
Children in Care - Bulgaria	411	-	-	411
Children in Care - Other	9	-	1	10
UK - Academies	-	7,686	260	7,946
UK - Ark Schools	50	-	12	62
UK - Future Leaders	-	404	14	418
UK - Extended Schools	-	130	-	130
UK - Schools Music	4	-	-	4
UK - Teens & Toddlers	-	152	-	152
UK - Fairbridge	-	5	-	5
UK - Education Small Grants	6	30	-	36
UK - KIPP Exchange	-	50	-	50
Other - Disaster	3	-	1	4
	3,652	13,057	676	17,385
Cost of generating funds	3,944	-	135	4,079
Governance costs	-	-	540	540
Total resources expended	7,596	13,057	1,351	22,004

For the 11 months to 31 August 2007

6. Analysis of Resources Expended (cont)

Charity

	Activities undertaken	Grant funding of	Support	
	directly	activities	costs	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Charitable expenditure				
HIV/AIDS - ARV	-	3,302	112	3,414
HIV/AIDS - CABA	-	100	3	103
HIV/AIDS - Mozambique	-	4,000	135	4,135
HIV/AIDS - Mozambique CHAI	-	4,080	138	4,218
HIV/AIDS - Other	-	520	-	520
Children in Care - Other	9	-	1	10
UK - Academies	-	7,686	260	7,946
UK - Ark Schools	-	369	12	381
UK - Future Leaders	-	404	14	418
UK - Extended Schools	-	237	-	237
UK - Schools Music	-	118	-	118
UK - Teens & Toddlers	-	152	-	152
UK - Fairbridge	-	5	-	5
UK - Education Small Grants	-	36	-	36
UK - KIPP Exchange	-	50	-	50
Other - Disaster	3	-	1	4
	12	21,059	676	21,747
Cost of generating funds	3,944	-	135	4,079
Governance costs	-	-	540	540
Total resources expended	3,956	21,059	1,351	26,366

Support costs relate entirely to ARK's core staff team and the London office.

As explained in note 5 above the trustees ensure these costs are covered by unrestricted funding raised for this purpose. The allocation of core costs as support costs to activities in notes 5 & 6 provides a more accurate picture of the full cost of those activities. It does not represent a use of programme funds.

For the 11 months to 31 August 2007

7. Investments

	2007 £'000	2006 £'000
Investment in ARK Masters Fund b/f Additional investment in Fund during the year	4,603 3,907	2,761 1,842
Total cost of investment in ARK Masters	8,510	4,603
Unrealised gains on investment assets	187	14
Market value at 31 August	8,697	4,617

ARK invests its reserves to achieve the best return consistent with the stability of, and ease of access to, capital. The mix of investment instruments and the maximum total investment in each is broadly in line with independent advice obtained by the trustees. In accordance with this policy ARK held a maximum of 35% of its funds in the ARK Masters Fund (AMF) during the period under review. The objective for ARK's investment in the AMF is to outperform cash without significantly increasing risk.

The balance of funds were held as cash in interest bearing bank accounts and on fixed term deposits, with the profile of the cash holdings dependant on the working capital needs of ARK's projects.

The AMF was set up by supporters of ARK in 2005. It is a fund of funds that invests in a range of investment strategies aiming to ensure an absolute return on investment that is not correlated to the UK equity market. Having taken independent advice on this investment strategy, the trustees believe this is an appropriate investment of the charity's funds, especially given the fact that ARK's donor base is almost exclusively drawn from the hedge fund industry and its supporters would expect to see the funds they have given to the charity invested in this way.

The return on investment (which consists of the realised gain on the foreign currency swap that hedges ARK's investment in the fund and the unrealised value of gains in the fund itself) in the 11 months under review was 8%.

ARK also benefits from the ARK Masters Fund in that many of the management companies in whose funds AMF invests voluntarily rebate their fees either directly to the AMF or as a donation to ARK. Where the capital is invested in a fund controlled by the trustees of ARK, 100% of fees are donated in this way. During the period this resulted in donations of £438k. This additional return was equivalent to a 9.5% of ARK's average investment in AMF during the period.

Taking these 2 factors together ARK's total return on it's investment in AMF was 17.5% during the 11 month period, or an annualized return of 19%. The trustees consider this to be a satisfactory performance.

For the 11 months to 31 August 2007

8. Net movement in funds

This is stated after charging

	Group 2007 £'000	Charity 2007 £'000	Group 2006 £'000	Charity 2006 £'000
Operating lease charges	93		92	77
Depreciation	62	17	51	23

Ernst & Young LLP undertake the audit of the ARK group on a pro bono basis.

9. Fixed Assets

	Group Total £'000	Charity Total £'000
Cost:		
At 1 October 2006	184	80
Additions	85	58
Disposals	(35)	(35)
At 31 August 2007	234	103
Depreciation:		
At 1 October 2006	119	72
Disposals	(35)	(35)
Charge for the year	62	17
At 31 August 2007	146	54
Net Book Value:		
At 31 August 2007	88	49
At 30 September 2006	65	8

10. Investment in subsidiaries

The charity established a wholly owned trading subsidiary Absolute Return for Kids (ARK) Trading Limited to operate charity challenge events. Having not traded since 2004 the subsidiary was sold during the period to ARK Academies for the nominal value of the issued share capital (£1).

For the 11 months to 31 August 2007

11. Debtors

	Group	Charity	Group	Charity
	2007	2007	2006	2006
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Receivable within 1 year				
Charity evening pledges	4,201	4,201	906	906
Match funding pledges	1,750	1,750	2,500	2,500
Grant debtors	213	213	1,534	1,534
HMRC	-	-	318	318
Inter-company debtors	-	28	-	-
Related company debtors	24	94	39	39
Trade Debtors	12	-	30	-
Prepayments & other debtors	77	54	90	90
	6,277	6,340	5,417	5,387
Receivable after 1 year				
Grant debtors	34	34	-	-
Match funding pledges	10,250	10,250	2,000	2,000
Total	16,561	16,624	7,417	7,387

12. Creditors

	Group	Charity	Group	Charity
	2007	2007	2006	2006
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Amounts falling due within one y	/ear			
Trade Creditors	249	91	217	65
Inter-company creditors	-	70	-	-
Related company creditors	186	186	160	160
Grant creditors	7,345	15,853	4,103	9,934
Other creditors	330	294	-	-
- -	8,110	16,494	4,480	10,159
Amounts falling due after one ye	ar			
Grant creditors	5,238	15,157	318	2,880

For the 11 months to 31 August 2007

13. Analysis of charitable funds Group

	1 Oct 2006 £'000	Income £'000	Transfers in / (out) £'000	Expenditure £'000	31 Aug 2007 £'000
Restricted Funds					
HIV/AIDS - South Africa ARVs	9,706	3,628	427	2,423	11,338
HIV/AIDS - CABA	3,609	-	100	634	3,075
HIV/AIDS - Mozambique ARVs	-	1,430	6,650	4,191	3,889
HIV/AIDS - Small Grants	-	20	500	520	-
Children in care - Bulgaria	1,821	303	(663)	412	1,049
Children in care - Strategy	-	-	9	9	-
UK - Academies	-	8,900	186	7,686	1,400
UK - Schools	-	2	369	50	321
UK - Future Leaders	101	1,050	-	404	747
UK - Extended Schools	-	127	237	130	234
UK - Schools Music	-	100	18	4	114
UK - Schools Pastoral	-	128	-	-	129
UK - Teens & Toddlers	-	394	(241)	152	-
UK - Fairbridge	-	-	5	5	-
UK - Education Small Grants	-	36	-	36	-
UK - KIPP Exchange	-	50	-	50	-
Other - Disaster Fund	388	-	-	3	385
	15,625	16,168	7,597	16,709	22,681
Unrestricted funds					
Core Funds	228	2,346	-	1,351	1,223
General Programme Funds	5,484	14,553	(7,597)	3,944	8,496
	5,712	16,899	(7,597)	5,295	9,719
Total Funds	21,337	33,067		22,004	32,400

For the 11 months to 31 August 2007

13. Analysis of charitable funds (cont) Charity

	1 Oct 2006 £'000	Income £'000	Transfers in / (out) £'000	Expenditure £'000	31 Aug 2007 £'000
Restricted Funds					
HIV/AIDS - South Africa ARVs	-	2,875	427	3,302	-
HIV/AIDS - CABA	-	-	100	100	-
HIV/AIDS - Mozambique ARVs	-	1,430	6,650	8,080	-
HIV/AIDS - Small Grants	-	20	500	520	-
Children in care - Bulgaria	360	303	(663)	-	-
Children in care - Strategy	-	-	9	9	-
UK - Academies	-	8,900	186	7,686	1,400
UK - Schools	-	-	369	369	-
UK - Future Leaders	101	1,050	-	404	747
UK - Extended Schools	-	-	237	237	-
UK - Schools Music	-	100	18	118	-
UK - Schools Pastoral	-	128	-	-	128
UK - Teens & Toddlers	-	393	(241)	152	-
UK - Fairbridge	-	-	5	5	-
UK - Education Small Grants	-	36	-	36	-
UK - KIPP Exchange	-	50	-	50	-
Other - Disaster Fund	388	-	-	3	385
	849	15,285	7,597	21,071	2,660
Unrestricted funds					
Core Funds	228	2,346	-	1,351	1,223
General Programme Funds	5,484	14,553	(7,597)	3,944	8,496
	5,712	16,899	(7,597)	5,295	9,719
Total	6,561	32,184		26,366	12,379

The directors ensure that the central administrative costs of the charity are covered. The funds raised and held for this purpose are shown as core funds in the table above.

Incoming resources on the core fund for the period includes £1,304,277 donations and £1,041,947 return on investments.

For the 11 months to 31 August 2007

14. Staff costs and numbers

	Group 2007 £'000	Charity 2007 £'000	Group 2006 £'000	Charity 2006 £'000
Salaries and wages	2,973	847	1,874	639
Social security costs	142	91	92	68
	3,115	938	1,966	707

The average number of staff employed during the period was

202 10 111 22

The number of staff whose emoluments were in excess of £60,000 during the period were as follows;

	Group	Charity	Group	Charity
	2007	2007	2006	2006
	£	£	£	£
£130,000 - £140,000	1	1	1	1
£110,000 - £120,000	1	1	3	3
£90,000 - £100,000	1	1	-	-
£60,000 - £70,000	2	2	1	1

15. Directors' remuneration and expenses

The charity did not pay to its trustees any remuneration or reimbursement of expenses during the period.

16. Related party transactions

During the period ARK committed a further £3.4m to its charitable subsidiary ARK (South Africa) Limited; £3.3m toward the ARV programme, and £100k toward the Child Services project. At the period end the balance payable to ARK South Africa was £13.0m disbursement of which will be spread over the 3 years to 2010.

ARK also made new grants totaling £7.7m to its sister charity ARK Academies, £6m to cover the sponsorship of 4 Academies and £1.7m to cover the core costs of the company to 31 August 2008. At the period end the balance of grant payable to ARK Academies was £8.4m, £5.4m of which is due in less than one year. The charity also shares its office with ARK Academies, with each charity assuming a reasonable proportion of the costs, while a number of the charity's staff are seconded to ARK Academies at cost.

In September 2006 the charity established a new charitable subsidiary company, ARK Schools to implement that part of its Education programme not directly related to running Academies. During the period ARK made 3 new grants totaling £724k to ARK Schools; £369k for the core costs of the company to 31 August 2008, £118k for the Schools Music Programme and £237k for the Extended Schools Programme. At the period end the balance of grant payable to ARK Schools was £669k, all of which is due in less than one year.

For the 11 months to 31 August 2007

The charity also seconds a member of staff to its charitable subsidiary ARK Bulgaria. Although no new grants were made to ARK Bulgaria during the period, at the period end the balance of previous grants due was £911k, all of which is payable in less than one year.

Future Leaders is a joint venture charitable company in which ARK, the National Council for School Leadership and the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust each hold one third of the voting rights. During the period the charity granted £404k to the company. At the period end the balance of grant payable to Future Leaders was £288k, all of which was due in less than one year. ARK also seconded two members of staff to Future Leaders for the first 4 months of the period at cost and provided office space which the company pays for in proportion to the resources used.

ARK is also affiliated to Friends of Absolute Return for Kids, a US philanthropic organisation that shares the charity's objectives. During the period ARK received a grant of £1.6m (\$3m) from Friends of ARK.

17. Operating lease commitments

The amounts payable in respect of operating leases shown below are analysed according to the expiry of the leases.

	Group	Charity	Group	Charity
	2007	2007	2006	2006
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
One year	43	-	89	77
Between two and five years	50		3	
	93		92	77

18. Notes to the consolidated cash flow statement

(a) Reconciliation of net incoming resources to net cash inflow from operating activities.

	Group	Group
	2007	2006
	£'000	£'000
Net incoming resources	10,697	10,395
Depreciation	62	53
Interest received	(705)	(451)
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	(9,144)	(4,178)
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	8,550	2,257
Net cash inflow from operating activities	9,460	8,076

(b) Reconciliation of cash flow to movement in net funds

	At		At
	1 October		30 September
	2006	Cash Flows	2007
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cash at bank	14,036	6,366	20,402

For the 11 months to 31 August 2007

19. Risk factors

As stated in note 7 above ARK invests its reserves to achieve the best return consistent with the stability of, and ease of access to, capital. The main risks arising from the charity's pursuit of its objectives and the policies agreed by the trustees for managing each of these risks are summarised below.

(a) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk represents the potential financial loss that the charity might suffer due to interest rate movements. The Charity does not have any debt and does not rely on interest earnings to fund its programmes. It is therefore not exposed to any significant interest rate risk.

(b) Market price risk

Market price risk represents the potential financial loss that the charity might suffer through holding market positions in the face of price movements. Market price risk arises over the future value of the charity's investment in the ARK Masters Fund (AMF). The risk is mitigated by the fact that the AMF is a fund of hedge funds with a range of investment approaches, each of which incorporates a strategy to manage this risk. The trustees further manage the risk by meeting regularly with the managers of the AMF to review the performance of the fund.

(c) Currency risk

Currency risk represents the potential financial loss that the charity might suffer through holding market positions in the face of currency movements.

Currency risk arises over the future value of the charity's investment in the AMF which is a US dollar-denominated fund. To mitigate this risk ARK currency hedges the investment by means of a rolling 3 monthly simultaneous spot purchase and forward sale of the amount of US dollars invested in the fund.

Currency risk also arises at the group level over the future value of assets held by overseas subsidiaries. The risk is managed by holding a maximum amount of 6 month's budgeted expenditure in each currency. The trustees do not believe it is cost-effective to hedge this risk.

(d) Credit Risk

Credit Risk represents the potential financial loss that the charity might suffer through its supporters failing to honour the financial pledges that they have made to it. The charity manages this risk by only recognising as debtors significant pledges (those over £10,000) resulting in a small number of high value pledges generally from supporters who are well known to the charity and the trustees.

(e) Financial assets

At the period end the Charity's financial assets comprised

	Group 2007 £'000	Charity 2007 £'000	Group 2006 £'000	Charity 2006 £'000
Investment in ARK Masters Fund	8,697	8,697	4,617	4,617
Cash at bank & on deposit	20,402	18,661	14,036	13,445
Receivables	16,561	16,624	7,417	7,386

(f) Fair value

The Charity's assets and liabilities are stated at their fair values at the period-end. The fair value of the investment in the ARK Masters Fund is the published Net Asset Value of the fund.

For the 11 months to 31 August 2007

20. Reconciliation of Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities at 30 September 2006

During the period there were 2 significant changes to the group's accounting policies leading to restatement of the prior year comparisons in these financial statements.

The group amended its policy on the recognition of foreign currency transactions of overseas subsidiaries in line with newly effective provisions of FRS 23. The effect of this change in treatment is shown in the table below as "Effect of change in exchange rate policy".

The group amended its policy on the treatment of income raised through the charity's Annual Gala Dinner. Previously this was stated as income from fundraising events. However SORP 2005 states that "The activities within this category involve an element of exchange with the charity receiving income in return for providing goods services or entry to an event." The majority of income raised through the Gala Dinner does not meet these conditions but is in fact voluntary income with no benefit to the donor. The effect of this change in treatment is shown in the table below as "Effect of change in treatment of income".

		Effect of change in	Effect of change in	
	Previously Reported 2006 £'000	exchange rate policy £'000	treatment of income £'000	Restated 2006 £'000
Incoming Resources				
Voluntary income	1,811	40	14,431	16,282
Income form fundraising events	18,297		(14,431)	3,866
Income from charitable activities	864		-	864
Investment income	451		-	451
Ongoing Operations	20,555			20,595
Discontinued Operations	868			868
Total Incoming Resources	21,423	40		21,463
Resources Expended				
Cost of generating funds:	2,466			2,466
Grants and project operating costs	8,219	425		8,644
Governance costs	342			342
Total Resources Expended	11,027	425		11,452
Ongoing Operations	10,701			10,316
Discontinued Operations	(305)			(305)
Net incoming resources	10,396	(385)		10,011
Unrealised gains on investment assets	14			14
Realised gains on forex transactions	155	385		540
Transfer to former group entity	(2,292)			(2,292)
Net movement in funds	8,273	-	-	8,273
Funds At 1 October 2006	13,064			13,064
Funds At 31 August 2007	21,337	-		21,337