

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

England & Wales · Charity number 1012522

Details

Other names	LOOK - THE WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND, LOOK - WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1992-07-02
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	22 Lowther Street Whitehaven Cumbria CA28 7DG
Phone	01946592474
Email	sightloss.lifeline@hotmail.co.uk
Website	https://sightlosslifeline.wixsite.com/my-site-1

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE THE WELFARE OF BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED PEOPLE AND TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ABOUT THEIR NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS IN THE AREA OF BENEFIT.

Activities: 1 We provide a Resource & information Centre open 9am-5pm Mon to Friday. 2 We provide an outreach visiting service and social clubs for blind or partially sighted.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** ALLERDALE AND COPELAND (EXCEPT THE AREA SOUTH OF THE RIVER ESK).
- Cumbria

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£49,144	£85,961	-	-
2024-03-31	£51,591	£84,491	-	-
2023-03-31	£123,347	£64,837	-	-
2022-03-31	£118,647	£67,608	-	-
2021-03-31	£70,443	£72,855	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
David Arthur Linstead	Chair	2024-05-17
Christopher Gerard Quinn		2024-01-05
David Rogac		2024-05-31
Mildred Josephine Linseed		2024-05-17

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

England & Wales - Charity number 1012522

Accounts

West Cumbria Society for the Blind
Trustees' report and financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025
Charity number: 1012522

robinson+co
Chartered Accountants

West Cumbria Society for the Blind

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West Cumbria Society for the Blind

Legal and administrative information

Charity number	1012522	
Registered office	22 Lowther Street Whitehaven Cumbria CA28 7DG	
Trustees	M Scott D Johnston A Johnston D A Linstead M J Linsead D Rogac C G Quinn	Resigned 28 March 2025 Resigned 29 April 2024 Resigned 29 April 2024 Appointed 17 May 2024 Appointed 17 May 2024 Appointed 31 May 2024 Appointed 5 January 2024
Accountants	robinson+co 28 Lowther Street Whitehaven CA28 7DJ	

West Cumbria Society for the Blind

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2025

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025. The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 1.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is governed by a constitution adopted in 1988, subsequently amended on 9th June 2006 and is regulated through the Companies Act 2006. Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting (within the terms of The Constitution). The Chairman of the charity approaches potential suitably experienced and trustworthy individuals whom they believe have the desired attributes to become a trustee of the Charity. Newly appointed trustees go through an induction process which includes an introduction to the charity's policies and procedures, familiarisation of their role and their responsibilities.

Objectives and activities

The objectives of the charity are to promote the welfare of visually impaired people and to educate the public about their needs and aspirations in the area of benefit. The aim of the Society is to provide support and information for visually impaired people in West Cumbria and to continue to do so to the highest standards.

Objects of the Charity, Principal Activities and Organisation of Our Work

Project Aim

To enable visually impaired people in West Cumbria (Copeland & Allerdale) to be more independent, more socially included, feel safer and have improved wellbeing. The outcomes of the Charity are that:

1. Visually impaired people in our area have access to information and advice, safety equipment, independent living equipment, financial benefits advice, emotional support and referrals to other services/organisations via our Resource Centre services and telephone helpline.
2. Housebound visually impaired people in our area will feel safer, more independent and have improved psychological wellbeing, by receiving regular support through our home visiting and telephone support services.
3. Socially isolated and lonely visually impaired people will feel less lonely, and less isolated because of our social activities programme.

The following activities are undertaken to ensure that the above outcomes are achieved:

Resource & Information Centre

Our Centre is open Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. All visually impaired people and their family/carers are welcome to call into our Resource Centre for advice, guidance, emotional support and specialist equipment. Our friendly and knowledgeable staff and volunteers are always on hand to demonstrate the latest specialist equipment and to offer support.

Home Visiting

Our Vision Support Officer supports our clients in their homes and provides independent living advice and equipment, and also emotional support.

Telephone Support Service

We have telephone support personnel who contact clients on a regular basis to provide emotional support and advice. This valuable service can identify and assist to provide equipment for people using the service, as well as offering advice in all different aspects of everyday life.

West Cumbria Society for the Blind

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2025

Support Groups

We organise social activities throughout the area. At these groups, members can enjoy a varied range of activities such as: guest speakers, bingo, dominoes, cards, musical entertainment, etc. Members also receive practical and emotional support from our staff, volunteers and from each other to enable them to feel more socially included.

Achievements and performance

Since the Society was formally established in 1990, we have supported many thousands of visually impaired people and their families, providing them with emotional support, specialist equipment and advice. Our Chairman, Trustees, staff and volunteers continue this vital work to this day, ensuring that everything we do helps to improve the quality of life of those who are living with sight loss.

A) Our resource & information centre services

There were 406 visits to our Resource and Information Centre by visually impaired people and their carers seeking practical and emotional support. A high volume of telephone calls was made & received to/from visually impaired people seeking support and advice. We referred 120 people to other services for additional support, e.g. Social Services, low vision clinics, financial benefits, etc.

B) Support service for housebound people

We continue to proactively telephone people periodically according to their needs and wishes. This will continue into the future.

We also offer home visits to our clients. All new clients are offered a home visit, and existing clients are offered home visits during periodic calls. Our clients and their family members/carers can also call or visit our charity to request a home visit for our visually impaired clients.

C) Our social support groups

We currently organise two support groups. Both the Whitehaven and Cockermouth social groups run once a month. We also organise and attend various events, such as low vision aid/assistive technology events, to support our beneficiaries.

D) Local talking newspaper

We work in conjunction with the Copeland Talking Newspaper Team (Talking Whitehaven News), helping their volunteers with the distribution of audio equipment.

E) Outcomes

Our charity supports a database of more than 1,000 people with visual impairments. We run a well-established monthly social group in Cockermouth and have recently started a new group in Whitehaven to enable our members to benefit from peer-to-peer support and connect with others in their area. We regularly arrange guest speakers for the social groups.

We regularly take part in community events to educate the public about different issues pertaining to sight loss and to share information about the support we provide. In addition, we offer home visits and support calls to ensure every member can access the help they need, regardless of their circumstances.

Our Resource Centre in Whitehaven is open Monday to Friday, where we provide demonstrations of low vision aids, as well as the opportunity to purchase specialist equipment. Here we also offer guidance on a wide range of services, including referrals to other organisations.

West Cumbria Society for the Blind

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2025

Financial review

The National Lottery Community Fund (Partnership Grants Scheme) awarded a restricted grant of £28,216 towards the cost of a Vision Support Officer. The grant was distributed to partners by the lead partner, Vision Support Barrow (Barrow & District Society for the Blind).

The Charlie and Kathleen Dunnery Children's Fund donated a restricted grant of £500 to support visually impaired children.

The John Slater Trust donated a mainly restricted grant of £2,500 towards our work supporting visually impaired people.

£4,610 was raised through donations and collection boxes.

Legacies donated to the Society totalled £1,299.

We would like to thank everyone who has given generous donations, thus ensuring the continuation of our services.

We hold three separate bank accounts, a revenue account, a current account, and the society holds reserves in an easy-access savings account, which is held as unrestricted reserves for contingency costs. The unrestricted reserves at the year-end, excluding the property reserve, were £252,646.

During the year, there have been no significant events that have impacted the finances of the Charity.

Reserves policy

In determining the Society's Reserves Policy, the Trustees have taken into account the following:

- The unpredictable nature of income from collection boxes, donations and legacies.
- It would be very undesirable to have to reduce services on which the visually impaired rely.

The Trustees have agreed that the Society's Reserves Policy is:

To hold contingency reserves for:

- A minimum of 12 months' operating costs
- Matched funding for our 2024-2027 National Lottery Communities Fund partnership grant with the other Blind Societies in Cumbria.
- Unforeseen maintenance costs of the premises (Grade 2 listed building over 300 years old)
- To cover winding up charges and redundancies that would need to be met if the society ceased to exist.

The policy is reviewed annually when the financial statements are approved.

Investment powers and maintenance of reserves

Under the charity's governing document, the charity has the power to make any investment that the Trustees see fit. Trustees also have discretionary powers regarding the retention of reserves. These should be used to attract matched funding when necessary to enable the charity to provide services.

Risk Management

The Trustees actively review the major risks that the charity may face. The Trustees believe that maintaining reserves at the current levels, combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems, will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The Trustees have also examined other operational risks faced by the charity and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate significant risks.

West Cumbria Society for the Blind

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2025

Plans for future periods

The trustees recognise the need to develop a broad range of sustainable streams of income to ensure the continuation of our vital work supporting visually impaired people. They have developed and continue to enhance plans towards this aim. They are also giving thought to the strategic direction which the work of The Society should take and the potential value of partnerships and other co-operative arrangements with other charities to help to achieve this.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

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

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year. In preparing these financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the board

D A Linstead
Trustee

12 January 2026

West Cumbria Society for the Blind

Independent examiner's report to the trustees on the unaudited financial statements of West Cumbria Society for the Blind.

I report on the accounts of West Cumbria Society for the Blind for the year ended 31 March 2025 set out on pages 7 to 16.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts, you consider that the audit requirement of section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 does not apply and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act, to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (i) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep proper accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave not been met; or

- (ii) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

.....
Mr J Spires FCA DChA

Independent examiner
robinson+co, Chartered Accountants
28 Lowther Street
Whitehaven
Cumbria
CA28 7DJ

12 January 2026

West Cumbria Society for the Blind

Statement of financial activities

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generating funds:					
Donations and legacies	2	11,609	14,108	25,717	35,658
Investment income	3	12,421	-	12,421	8,235
Other incoming resources	4	11,006	-	11,006	7,698
Total incoming resources		<u>35,036</u>	<u>14,108</u>	<u>49,144</u>	<u>51,591</u>
Resources expended					
Charitable activities	5	<u>64,786</u>	<u>21,175</u>	<u>85,961</u>	<u>84,491</u>
Total resources expended		<u>64,786</u>	<u>21,175</u>	<u>85,961</u>	<u>84,491</u>
Net incoming resources before transfers					
		(29,750)	(7,067)	(36,817)	(32,900)
Transfer between funds		<u>6,012</u>	<u>(6,012)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds brought forward		<u>456,384</u>	<u>13,079</u>	<u>469,463</u>	<u>502,363</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>432,646</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>432,646</u>	<u>469,463</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a separate statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 9 to 16 form an integral part of these financial statements.

West Cumbria Society for the Blind

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2025

	Notes	£	2025 £	£	2024 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9		180,199		180,000
Current assets					
Stocks		1,000		1,000	
Cash at bank and in hand		255,885		290,347	
		<u>256,885</u>		<u>291,347</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	(4,438)		(1,884)	
Net current assets			<u>252,447</u>		<u>289,463</u>
Net assets			<u>432,646</u>		<u>469,463</u>
Funds	11				
Restricted income funds	13		-		13,079
Unrestricted income funds	12		<u>432,646</u>		<u>456,384</u>
Total funds			<u>432,646</u>		<u>469,463</u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 12 January 2026 and signed on its behalf by

C G Quinn
Trustee

The notes on pages 9 to 16 form an integral part of these financial statements.

West Cumbria Society for the Blind

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are summarised below.

1.1. Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The company constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

1.2. Cashflow

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption from the requirement to produce a cashflow statement because it is a small charity.

1.3. Incoming resources

All income is included in the statement of financial activities once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income can be measured reliably. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Grants where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Gifts donated for resale are included as incoming resources within activities for generating funds when they are sold.

Grants, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets, are recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the year in which they are receivable.

Income from investments is included in the year in which it is receivable.

Legacies are included when the charity is advised by the personal representative of an estate that payment will be made or property transferred and the amount involved can be quantified.

West Cumbria Society for the Blind

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

1.4. Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income and the costs of trading for fundraising purposes including the charity's shop.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management.

1.5. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Land and buildings - Nil
Fixtures, fittings and equipment - 20%/40%/50% straight line

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the assets is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.6. Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

2. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Donations	1,821	-	1,821	3,841
Other donations	2,789	-	2,789	1,592
Legacies	1,299	-	1,299	1,030
Grants receivable	5,700	14,108	19,808	29,195
	<u>11,609</u>	<u>14,108</u>	<u>25,717</u>	<u>35,658</u>

In 2024 of grants receivable, £25,995 was attributable to restricted funds with the balance of £3,200 being attributable to unrestricted funds along with all other donations and legacies.

West Cumbria Society for the Blind

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

3. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Bank interest receivable	12,421	12,421	8,235
	<u>12,421</u>	<u>12,421</u>	<u>8,235</u>

In 2024 all the investment income was attributable to unrestricted funds.

4. Other incoming resources

	Unrestricted funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Other income	542	542	1,030
Sale of specialist equipment	10,464	10,464	6,668
	<u>11,006</u>	<u>11,006</u>	<u>7,698</u>

In 2024 all the other incoming resources were attributable to unrestricted funds.

5. Costs of charitable activities - by fund type

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Provision of support to visually impaired people	64,786	21,175	85,961	84,491
	<u>64,786</u>	<u>21,175</u>	<u>85,961</u>	<u>84,491</u>

In 2024 of the charitable activities, £27,944 was attributable to restricted funds with the balance of £56,547 being attributable to unrestricted funds.

6. Costs of charitable activities - by activity

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Provision of support to visually impaired people	78,887	7,074	85,961	84,491
	<u>78,887</u>	<u>7,074</u>	<u>85,961</u>	<u>84,491</u>

West Cumbria Society for the Blind

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

7. Analysis of support costs

	Provision of support to visually impaired £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Accountancy charges	1,596	1,596	1,984
Legal and professional fees	5,344	5,344	-
Depreciation and impairment	134	134	29
	<u>7,074</u>	<u>7,074</u>	<u>2,013</u>

8. Employees

Employment costs	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	50,174	48,300
Other costs	1,448	1,045
	<u>51,622</u>	<u>49,345</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 (2024 : None).

Number of employees

The average monthly numbers of employees (including the trustees) during the year was as follows:

2025 Number	2024 Number
<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>

West Cumbria Society for the Blind

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

9. Tangible fixed assets	Land and buildings freehold £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2024	180,000	44,544	224,544
Additions	-	333	333
At 31 March 2025	<u>180,000</u>	<u>44,877</u>	<u>224,877</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2024	-	44,544	44,544
Charge for the year	-	134	134
At 31 March 2025	<u>-</u>	<u>44,678</u>	<u>44,678</u>
Net book values			
At 31 March 2025	<u>180,000</u>	<u>199</u>	<u>180,199</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>180,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>180,000</u>

The Big Lottery Fund has a financial interest for 80 years from 1997 on the building held at 22 Lowther Street, Whitehaven, Cumbria, CA28 7DG. If for any reason the property is sold, The Big Lottery Fund expect their grant of £89,000 to be repaid to them, and any remaining funds must be given by the Trustees to a local society (not a national society) who exclusively provide services for the blind and partially sighted.

10. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2025 £	2024 £
Accruals and deferred income	<u>4,438</u>	<u>1,884</u>

West Cumbria Society for the Blind

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

11. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Fund balances at 31 March 2025 as represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	180,199	-	180,199
Current assets	256,865	20	256,885
Current liabilities	(4,418)	(20)	(4,438)
	<u>432,646</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>432,646</u>

Analysis of net assets between funds - previous year

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Fund balances at 31 March 2024 as represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	180,000	-	180,000
Current assets	278,268	13,079	291,347
Current liabilities	(1,884)	-	(1,884)
	<u>456,384</u>	<u>13,079</u>	<u>469,463</u>

West Cumbria Society for the Blind

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

12. Unrestricted funds	At	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	At
	1 April 2024				31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds	68,384	35,036	(64,786)	6,012	44,646
Trustee's Contingency	100,000	-	-	-	100,000
Property Reserve	180,000	-	-	-	180,000
Investment Reserve	18,000	-	-	-	18,000
Matched Funding	90,000	-	-	-	90,000
	<u>456,384</u>	<u>35,036</u>	<u>(64,786)</u>	<u>6,012</u>	<u>432,646</u>

Unrestricted funds - previous year

	At	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	At
	1 April 2023				31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds	86,582	25,596	(56,547)	12,753	68,384
Trustee's Contingency	100,000	-	-	-	100,000
Property Reserve	180,000	-	-	-	180,000
Investment Reserve	18,000	-	-	-	18,000
Matched Funding	90,000	-	-	-	90,000
	<u>474,582</u>	<u>25,596</u>	<u>(56,547)</u>	<u>12,753</u>	<u>456,384</u>

Purposes of unrestricted funds

General Funds - These funds can be used with the approval of the board of trustees to fund any expenditure which falls within the charity's general aims and objectives.

Trustee's Contingency reserve - This is money set aside by the Trustees to ensure the Charity is able to continue during dips in funding which would cover a 24 month period.

Property Reserve - This reserve shows the value of the property and helps to clarify the true value of the unrestricted reserves.

Investment Reserve - This is money donated by Roger Jefcoate for long term investment in Charifunds for the future benefit of the Charity.

Matched Funding Reserve - The Trustees have decided to setup a separate reserve for the purposes of 'matched funding' with potential external funders.

West Cumbria Society for the Blind

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

13. Restricted funds	At	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	At
	1 April 2024				31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Social groups	81	-	(81)	-	-
The Big Lottery Fund	12,998	14,108	(21,094)	(6,012)	-
	<u>13,079</u>	<u>14,108</u>	<u>(21,175)</u>	<u>(6,012)</u>	<u>-</u>

Restricted funds - Previous year

	At	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	At
	1 April 2023				31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Social groups	329	-	(248)	-	81
The Big Lottery Fund	27,452	25,995	(27,696)	(12,753)	12,998
	<u>27,781</u>	<u>25,995</u>	<u>(27,944)</u>	<u>(12,753)</u>	<u>13,079</u>

Purposes of restricted funds

Social groups - This funding is to support the social activities/outings of the visually impaired.

The Big Lottery Fund - This fund is to provide financial support to employment in five roles and to provide financial support in the general running expenses of the Charity.

Transfers

Transfers of £6,012 (2024 £12,753) from the The Big lottery Fund to the General Funds relates to allowable expenditure that has been provided for from General Funds.

West Cumbria Society for the Blind

The following pages do not form part of the statutory accounts.

West Cumbria Society for the Blind

Detailed statement of financial activities

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources				
Incoming resources from generating funds:				
<i>Donations and legacies</i>				
Donations		1,821		3,841
Other donations		2,789		1,592
Legacies		1,299		1,030
Grants receivable		19,808		29,195
		<u>25,717</u>		<u>35,658</u>
<i>Investment income</i>				
Bank interest receivable		12,421		8,235
		<u>12,421</u>		<u>8,235</u>
Total incoming resources from generating funds		<u>38,138</u>		<u>43,893</u>
Other incoming resources				
Other income		542		1,030
Sale of specialist equipment		10,464		6,668
		<u>11,006</u>		<u>7,698</u>
Total incoming resources		<u>49,144</u>		<u>51,591</u>

West Cumbria Society for the Blind

Detailed statement of financial activities

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Charitable activities		
Provision of support to visually impaired people		
<i>Activities undertaken directly</i>		
Staff costs	50,174	48,300
Mentor	1,448	1,045
Utilities costs	3,565	2,650
Repairs	6,836	12,265
Purchase of specialist equipment	9,109	5,163
Insurance	3,608	3,440
Staff Mileage	782	786
Telephone	1,277	2,175
Resource office expenses	1,083	1,714
Client social activities	497	1,835
General expenses	509	1,929
Volunteer expenses	-	1,176
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	78,887	82,478
<i>Support costs</i>		
Accountancy charges	1,596	1,984
Legal and professional fees	5,344	-
Depreciation	134	29
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	7,074	2,013
Provision of support to visually impaired people total expenditure	<hr/> 85,961	<hr/> 84,491
Total charitable activity expenditure	<hr/> 85,961	<hr/> 84,491
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year	<hr/> (36,817)	<hr/> (32,900)

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

England & Wales - Charity number 1012522

Accounts

Charity registration number 1012522

**WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mrs M Scott Mr C G Quinn	(Appointed 5 January 2024)
Charity number	1012522	
Principal address	22 Lowther Street Whitehaven Cumbria CA28 7DG	
Independent examiner	Armstrong Watson LLP Carleton House 136 Gray Street Workington Cumbria CA14 2LU	

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

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WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's [governing document], the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

The objectives of the Charity are to promote the welfare of visually impaired people and to educate the public about their needs and aspirations in the area of benefit. The aim of the Society is to provide support and information for visually impaired people in West Cumbria and to continue to do so to the highest standards.

Objects of the Charity, Principal Activities and Organisation of Our Work

Project Aim

To enable visually impaired people in West Cumbria (Copeland & Allerdale) to be more independent, more socially included, feel safer and have improved wellbeing. The outcomes of the Charity are that:

1. Visually impaired people in our area have access to information and advice, safety equipment, independent living equipment, financial benefits advice, emotional support and referrals to other services/organisations via our Resource Centre services and telephone helpline.
2. Housebound visually impaired people in our area will feel safer, more independent and have improved psychological wellbeing, by receiving regular support through our telephone support program.
3. Socially isolated and lonely visually impaired people will feel less lonely, and less isolated because of our social activities programme.

The following activities are undertaken to ensure that the above outcomes are achieved:

Resource & Information Centre – Our Centre is open Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 4:30 pm and weekends by appointment. All visually impaired people and their family/carers are welcome to call into our Resource Centre for advice, guidance, emotional support and specialist equipment. Our friendly and knowledgeable staff and volunteers are always on hand to demonstrate the latest specialist equipment and to offer support.

Support Groups – We organise social activities throughout the area. At these groups members can enjoy a varied range of activities such as: guest speakers, bingo, dominoes, cards, musical entertainment etc. Members also receive practical and emotional support from our staff, volunteers and from each other to enable them to feel more socially included.

Activities during the year

Since the Society was formally established in 1990 we have supported many thousands of visually impaired people and their families, providing them with emotional support, specialist equipment and advice. Our Chairman, Trustees, staff and volunteers continue this vital work to this day, ensuring that everything we do helps to improve the quality of life of those who are living with sight loss.

A) Our resource & information centre services

There were 497 visits to our Resource and Information Centre by visually impaired people and their carers seeking practical and emotional support. There were 917 telephone calls made & received to/from visually impaired people seeking support and advice. We referred 96 people to other services for additional support e.g. Social Services, low vision clinics, financial benefits etc.

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

B) Support service for housebound people

We continue to proactively telephone people periodically according to their needs and wishes. This will continue into the future. The scheme has proven more appropriate to meet the needs of the community and continues to be a success.

This change of approach coincided with the loss of funding for the home visit service. The plan is to continue with the effective support we currently provide via the telephone and re-evaluate if funding becomes available in the future.

At present we provide monthly, six monthly and annual calls to people

To ensure that we continued to support the most vulnerable, lonely and isolated visually impaired people we began providing weekly telephone support to people who would usually receive home support. Our home support worker made 322 telephone calls to housebound visually impaired people throughout Copeland and Allerdale providing vital practical and emotional support.

C) Our social support groups

We organise regular support groups and outings throughout the area. 29 groups and outings were organised with 149 attendances

D) Local talking newspaper

We work in conjunction with the Copeland Talking Newspaper Team (Talking Whitehaven News) helping their volunteers with distribution of audio equipment.

E) Outcomes

The combined outcomes of all our services are we:

- Provided emotional support on 848 occasions.
- Supplied 255 items of safety equipment and 436 independent living aids.
- Gave accident prevention advice on 385 occasions and independence advice on 574 occasions.
- Referred 96 people to other support organisations.
- Supported 286 people with financial benefits claims and advice.

Financial review

The National Lottery Community Fund (Partnership Grants Scheme) awarded a restricted grant of £25,995.20 towards the cost of a Vision Support Officer. The grant was distributed to partners by the lead partner, Vision Support Barrow (Barrow & District Society for the Blind).

The Charlie and Kathleen Dunnery Children's Fund donated a restricted grant of £500.00 to support visually impaired children.

The John Slater Trust donated a mainly restricted grant of £2,700.00 towards our work supporting visually impaired people.

£5,432.68 was raised through private donations and collection boxes.

£1,029.66 was donated in memory of deceased clients.

Legacies donated to the Society totalled £150.00

We would like to thank everyone who has given generous donations thus ensuring the continuation of our services.

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

We hold three separate accounts, a Revenue Account, a Current Account and the Society holds reserves in an easy access savings account which is held as unrestricted reserves for contingency costs. The unrestricted reserves at the year-end excluding property and Trustees contingency fund total £134,000.00. The Trustees have increased the level of the Trustees contingency fund to £100,000.00.

During the year there have been no significant events that have impacted upon the finances of the Charity.

Reserves policy

In determining the Society's Reserves Policy, the Trustees have taken into account the following:

- The unpredictable nature of income from collection boxes, donations and legacies.
- It would be very undesirable to have to reduce services on which the visually impaired rely.

The Trustees have agreed the Society's Reserves Policy is:

To hold contingency reserves for:

- A minimum of 12 months' operating costs
- Matched funding for our 2021-2024 National Lottery Communities Fund partnership grant the with the other Blind Societies in Cumbria.
- Unforeseen maintenance costs of the premises (Grade 2 listed building over 300 years old)
- To cover winding up charges and redundancies that would need to be met if the Society ceased to exist.

The policy is reviewed annually when the financial statements are approved.

As of the 31st March 2024 the Trustees contingency reserves were £100,000.00. Reserved for the purposes designated above.

Investment powers and maintenance of reserves

Under the Charity's governing document, the Charity has the power to make any investment that the Trustees see fit. Trustees also have discretionary powers regarding the retention of reserves. These should be used to attract matched funding when necessary to enable the charity to provide services.

Risk Management

The Trustees actively review the major risks the Charity may face. The Trustees believe that maintaining reserves at the current levels, combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems, will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The Trustees have also examined other operational risks faced by the Charity and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate significant risks.

Plans for future periods

The trustees recognise the need to develop a broad range of sustainable streams of income to ensure continuation of our vital work supporting visually impaired people. They have developed and continue to enhance plans towards this aim. They are also giving thought to the strategic direction which the work of The Society should take and the potential value of partnerships and other co-operative arrangements with other charities to help to achieve this.

Structure, governance and management

The Charity is governed by a Constitution adopted in 1988 subsequently amended on 9th June 2006 and is regulated through the Companies' Act 2006. Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting (within the terms of The Constitution). The Chairman of the Charity approaches potential suitably experienced and trustworthy individuals whom they believe have the desired attributes to become a trustee of the Charity. The Charity, in line with the Constitution, must ensure that a minimum of 25% of Trustees are visually impaired. Newly appointed trustees go through an induction process which includes introduction to the Charities' policies and procedures, familiarisation of their role and their responsibilities.

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mrs M Scott	
Mr David Sharples	(Resigned 23 June 2023)
Mrs D Hill	(Resigned 23 June 2023)
Mr M Hill	(Resigned 23 June 2023)
Mr D Johnson	(Resigned 29 April 2024)
Mrs A Johnson	(Resigned 29 April 2024)
Mr C G Quinn	(Appointed 5 January 2024)

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Mrs M Scott
Trustee

31 May 2024

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of West Cumbria Society for the Blind (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Steven Kirkbride BFP ACA ATT MAAT
Armstrong Watson LLP
Chartered Accountants
Carleton House
136 Gray Street
Workington
Cumbria
CA14 2LU

Dated: 14 October 2024

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Current financial year

	Notes	Unrestricted funds general 2024 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<u>Income and endowments from:</u>						
Donations and legacies	3	9,663	-	25,995	35,658	114,443
Investments	4	8,235	-	-	8,235	2,155
Other income	5	7,698	-	-	7,698	6,749
Total income		25,596	-	25,995	51,591	123,347
<u>Expenditure on:</u>						
Charitable activities	6	56,547	-	27,944	84,491	64,837
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers		(30,951)	-	(1,949)	(32,900)	58,510
Gross transfers between funds		12,753	-	(12,753)	-	-
Net (expenditure)/income for the year/ Net movement in funds		(18,198)	-	(14,702)	(32,900)	58,510
Fund balances at 1 April 2023		86,582	388,000	27,781	502,363	443,853
Fund balances at 31 March 2024		68,384	388,000	13,079	469,463	502,363

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Prior financial year

		Unrestricted funds general 2023 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
	Notes				
<u>Income and endowments from:</u>					
Donations and legacies	3	81,907	-	32,536	114,443
Investments	4	2,155	-	-	2,155
Other income	5	6,749	-	-	6,749
Total income		90,811	-	32,536	123,347
<u>Expenditure on:</u>					
Charitable activities	6	46,341	-	18,496	64,837
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers		44,470	-	14,040	58,510
Gross transfers between funds		(38,000)	38,000	-	-
Net (expenditure)/income for the year/ Net movement in funds		6,470	38,000	14,040	58,510
Fund balances at 1 April 2022		80,113	350,000	13,740	443,853
Fund balances at 31 March 2023		86,583	388,000	27,780	502,363

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

		2024		2023	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10		180,000		180,029
Current assets					
Stocks	11	1,000		1,700	
Cash at bank and in hand		290,347		322,334	
		<u>291,347</u>		<u>324,034</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(1,884)		(1,700)	
Net current assets			<u>289,463</u>		<u>322,334</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>469,463</u>		<u>502,363</u>
The funds of the charity					
Restricted income funds	15		13,079		27,780
Unrestricted funds - general			68,384		86,583
Unrestricted funds - designated	14		388,000		388,000
			<u>469,463</u>		<u>502,363</u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 31 May 2024

Mrs M Scott
Trustee

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

West Cumbria Society for the Blind is an unincorporated charity.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's [governing document], the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings	Nil
Fixtures and fittings	20%/40%/50% straight line basis

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured the lower of replacement cost and cost.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.11 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds general 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds general 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Donations and gifts	3,841	-	3,841	2,068	-	2,068
Legacies receivable	1,030	-	1,030	-	-	-
Grants receivable	3,200	25,995	29,195	6,400	32,536	38,936
Other donations	1,592	-	1,592	73,439	-	73,439
	<u>9,663</u>	<u>25,995</u>	<u>35,658</u>	<u>81,907</u>	<u>32,536</u>	<u>114,443</u>

4 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Interest receivable	<u>8,235</u>	<u>2,155</u>

5 Other income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Other income	1,030	206
Sales of specialist equipment	6,668	6,543
	<u>7,698</u>	<u>6,749</u>

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted 2023 £	Restricted 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Direct costs						
Staff costs	20,604	27,696	48,300	18,317	18,335	36,652
Mentor	1,045	-	1,045	57	-	57
Volunteer expenses	1,176	-	1,176	465	-	465
Rates	2,650	-	2,650	1,598	-	1,598
Insurance	3,440	-	3,440	1,764	-	1,764
Repairs	12,265	-	12,265	5,603	-	5,603
Purchase of specialist equipment	5,163	-	5,163	6,840	-	6,840
Telephone	2,175	-	2,175	3,154	-	3,154
Resource office expenses	1,714	-	1,714	3,374	-	3,374
Client social activities	1,587	248	1,835	1,447	161	1,608
Sundry expenses	1,929	-	1,929	823	-	823
Staff travel	786	-	786	1,385	-	1,385
Professional fees	1,984	-	1,984	1,253	-	1,253
Depreciation	29	-	29	261	-	261
	<u>56,547</u>	<u>27,944</u>	<u>84,491</u>	<u>46,341</u>	<u>18,496</u>	<u>64,837</u>
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds	56,547	-	56,547	46,341	-	46,341
Restricted funds	-	27,944	27,944	-	18,496	18,496
	<u>56,547</u>	<u>27,944</u>	<u>84,491</u>	<u>46,341</u>	<u>18,496</u>	<u>64,837</u>

7 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

8 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

2024 Number	2023 Number
<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

8 Employees (Continued)

Employment costs	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	46,744	35,945
Other pension costs	1,556	707
	<u>48,300</u>	<u>36,652</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

9 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Fixtures and fittings £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2023	180,000	44,544	224,544
At 31 March 2024	<u>180,000</u>	<u>44,544</u>	<u>224,544</u>
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 April 2023	-	44,515	44,515
Depreciation charged in the year	-	29	29
At 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>44,544</u>	<u>44,544</u>
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2024	<u>180,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>180,000</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>180,000</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>180,029</u>

The building held at 22 Lowther Street, Whitehaven, Cumbria, CA28 7DG is held on behalf of the charity by the following property owning trustees, Marie Scott, Darren Blanks and Christine McKnight.

The Big Lottery Fund has a financial interest for 80 years from 1997. If for any reason the property is sold, The Big Lottery Fund expect their grant of £89,000 to be repaid to them, and any remaining funds must be given by the Trustees to a local society (not a national society) who exclusively provide services for the blind and partially sighted.

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

11	Stocks	2024	2023
		£	£
	Finished goods and goods for resale	1,000	1,700
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
12	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2024	2023
		£	£
	Accruals and deferred income	1,884	1,700
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
13	Retirement benefit schemes	2024	2023
	Defined contribution schemes	£	£
	Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	1,556	707
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

14 Unrestricted funds -

These are unrestricted funds which are material to the charity's activities.

	At 1 April 2023 £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
Trustees Contingency	100,000	-	100,000
Property reserve	180,000	-	180,000
Investment Reserve	18,000	-	18,000
Matched Funding	90,000	-	90,000
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	388,000	-	388,000
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Previous year:	At 1 April 2022 £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2023 £
Trustees Contingency	70,000	30,000	100,000
Property Reserve	180,000	-	180,000
Investment Reserve	10,000	8,000	18,000
Matched Funding	90,000	-	90,000
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	350,000	38,000	388,000
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

14 Unrestricted funds -

(Continued)

The purposes of the Designated Funds are as follows;

Trustee's contingency reserve - This is money set aside by the Trustees to ensure the Charity is able to continue during dips in funding which would cover a 24 month period.

Property reserve - This reserve shows the value of the property and helps to clarify the true value of the unrestricted General Reserves.

Investment reserve - This is money donated by Roger Jefcoate for long term investment in Charifund for the future benefit of the Charity.

Matched funding reserve - The Trustees have decided to setup a separate reserve for the purposes of 'matched funding' with potential external funders.

15 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
Social groups	329	-	(248)	-	81
The Big Lottery Fund	27,452	25,995	(27,696)	(12,753)	12,998
	<u>27,781</u>	<u>25,995</u>	<u>(27,944)</u>	<u>(12,753)</u>	<u>13,079</u>
Previous year:	At 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2023 £
Social groups	490	-	(161)	-	329
The Big Lottery Fund	13,250	32,536	(18,335)	-	27,451
	<u>13,740</u>	<u>32,536</u>	<u>(18,496)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,780</u>

The purposes of the Restricted Funds are as follows:

Social groups - This funding is to support the social activities/outings of the visually impaired.

The Big Lottery Fund - This funding is to provide financial support to employment in five roles and to provide financial support in the general running expenses of the Charity.

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

16 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
General funds	86,582	25,596	(56,547)	12,753	68,384
Previous year:	At 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2023 £
General funds	80,113	90,811	(46,341)	(38,000)	86,583

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Designated funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
At 31 March 2024:				
Tangible assets	-	180,000	-	180,000
Current assets/(liabilities)	68,384	208,000	13,079	289,463
	68,384	388,000	13,079	469,463
	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Designated funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
At 31 March 2023:				
Tangible assets	29	180,000	-	180,029
Current assets/(liabilities)	86,554	208,000	27,780	322,334
	86,583	388,000	27,780	502,363

18 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2023 - none).

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

England & Wales - Charity number 1012522

Accounts

Charity registration number 1012522

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mrs Marie Scott Mr David Sharples Mrs D Hill Mr M Hill Mr D Johnson Mrs A Johnson
Charity number	1012522
Principal address	22 Lowther Street Whitehaven Cumbria CA28 7DG
Independent examiner	Gibbons Carleton House 136 Gray Street Workington Cumbria CA14 2LU

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

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WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's [governing document], the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

The objectives of the Charity are to promote the welfare of visually impaired people and to educate the public about their needs and aspirations in the area of benefit. The aim of the Society is to provide support and information for visually impaired people in West Cumbria and to continue to do so to the highest standards.

Objects of the Charity, Principal Activities and Organisation of Our Work

Project Aim

To enable visually impaired people in West Cumbria (Copeland & Allerdale) to be more independent, more socially included, feel safer and have improved wellbeing. The outcomes of the Charity are that:

1. Visually impaired people in our area have access to information and advice, safety equipment, independent living equipment, financial benefits advice, emotional support and referrals to other services/organisations via our Resource Centre services and telephone helpline.
2. Housebound visually impaired people in our area will feel safer, more independent and have improved psychological wellbeing, by receiving regular support through our telephone support program.
3. Socially isolated and lonely visually impaired people will feel less lonely, and less isolated because of our social activities programme.

The following activities are undertaken to ensure that the above outcomes are achieved:

Resource & Information Centre – Our Centre is open Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 4:30 pm and weekends by appointment. All visually impaired people and their family/carers are welcome to call into our Resource Centre for advice, guidance, emotional support and specialist equipment. Our friendly and knowledgeable staff and volunteers are always on hand to demonstrate the latest specialist equipment and to offer support.

Telephone Support Service – We have volunteer telephone support personnel who contact clients on a regular basis to provide emotional support and advice. This valuable service can identify and assist to provide equipment for people using the service as well as offering advice in all different aspects of everyday life. They also identify additional needs which are then met by our Chairman, staff and volunteers.

Support Groups – We organise social activities throughout the area. At these groups members can enjoy a varied range of activities such as: guest speakers, bingo, dominoes, cards, musical entertainment etc. Members also receive practical and emotional support from our staff, volunteers and from each other to enable them to feel more socially included.

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

ACTIVITIES DURING THE YEAR

Since the Society was formally established in 1990 we have supported many thousands of visually impaired people and their families, providing them with emotional support, specialist equipment and advice. Our Chairman, Trustees, staff and volunteers continue this vital work to this day, ensuring that everything we do helps to improve the quality of life of those who are living with sight loss.

A) OUR RESOURCE & INFORMATION CENTRE SERVICES

There were 779 visits to our Resource and Information Centre by visually impaired people and their carers seeking practical and emotional support. There were 1,102 telephone calls made & received to/from visually impaired people seeking support and advice. We referred 120 people to other services for additional support e.g. Social Services, low vision clinics, financial benefits etc.

B) SUPPORT SERVICE FOR HOUSEBOUND PEOPLE

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic we were unable to provide face-to-face home support for the period to 31 March 2023. During this time, we proactively began to telephone people periodically according to their needs and wishes. This has continued and will continue, into the future. The scheme has proven more appropriate to meet the needs of the community and continues to be a success.

This change of approach coincided with the loss of funding for the home visit service. The plan is to continue with the effective support we currently provide via the telephone, and we will re-evaluate if funding becomes available in the future.

At present we provide monthly, six monthly and annual calls to people in the West Cumberland region.

Our telephone volunteers have made 539 calls to visually impaired people who were experiencing loneliness and isolation and/or required assistance and advice. This is a 78% increase from last year.

C) OUR SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUPS

We organise 2 support groups at present. One runs each fortnight in Whitehaven and the other each month in Cockermouth. We also organise information sessions and other various outings periodically. Another initiative we offer is keyboard lessons for children who are interested in learning this skill.

D) LOCAL TALKING NEWSPAPER

We work in conjunction with the Copeland Talking Newspaper Team (Talking Whitehaven News) helping their volunteers with distribution of audio equipment.

E) LOW VISION CLINIC

The Low vision Clinic has recommenced regularly in Workington Hospital after ceasing during the Covid 19 lockdown. Our Vision Support staff attend the clinic which occurs once a month, to offer the attendees support and advice. Further to this, other clinics are currently being held in various locations to reduce waiting lists. Our staff are also committed to attend these clinics to offer support and advice.

F) OUTCOMES

The combined outcomes of all our services are we:

- Provided emotional support on 728 occasions.
- Supplied 48 items of safety equipment and 345 independent living aids.
- Gave accident prevention advice on 123 occasions and independence advice on 482 occasions.
- Referred 120 people to other support organisations.
- Supported 52 people with financial benefits claims and advice.

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Financial review

The National Lottery Community Fund (Partnership Grants Scheme) awarded a restricted grant of £32,536.20 towards the cost of a Vision Support Officer. The grant was distributed to partners by the lead partner, Vision Support Barrow (Barrow & District Society for the Blind).

The Charlie and Kathleen Dunnery Children's Fund donated an unrestricted grant of £1,000.00 to support visually impaired children.

The John Slater Trust donated unrestricted grants totalling £5,700 towards our work supporting visually impaired people.

Copeland Disability Association donated £6,000.00.

The Nfumis Group Sellafield donated £6,379.00.

£1,760.87 was raised through private donations and collection boxes.

£7,000.69 was donated in memory of deceased clients.

Legacies donated to the Society totalled £42,224.47.

We would like to thank everyone who has given generous donations thus ensuring the continuation of our services.

We hold three separate accounts, a Revenue Account, a Current Account and the Society holds reserves in an easy access savings account which is held as unrestricted reserves for contingency costs. The unrestricted reserves at the year-end excluding property and trustees contingency fund total £182,000. The trustees have increased the level of the Trustees contingency fund to £100,000.

£8,000.00 donation received from Roger Jefcoate was invested in M&G Equities Investment Fund for Charities (Charifund). This is a cumulative investment and income generated through the fund is automatically re-invested with Charifund.

During the year there have been no significant events that have impacted upon the finances of the Charity.

RESERVES POLICY

In determining the Society's Reserves Policy, the Trustees have taken into account the following:

- The unpredictable nature of income from collection boxes, donations and legacies.
- It would be very undesirable to have to reduce services on which the visually impaired rely.

The Trustees have agreed the Society's Reserves Policy is:

To hold contingency reserves for:

- A minimum of 12 months' operating costs
- Matched funding for our 2021-2024 National Lottery Communities Fund partnership grant the with the other Blind Societies in Cumbria.
- Unforeseen maintenance costs of the premises (Grade 2 listed building over 300 years old)
- Recent roof repairs totalled £8,794.40.
- To cover winding up charges and redundancies that would need to be met if the Society ceased to exist.

The policy is reviewed annually when the financial statements are approved.

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

INVESTMENT POWERS AND MAINTENANCE OF RESERVES

Under the Charity's governing document, the Charity has the power to make any investment that the Trustees see fit. Trustees also have discretionary powers regarding the retention of reserves. These should be used to attract matched funding when necessary to enable the charity to provide services.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Trustees actively review the major risks the Charity may face. The Trustees believe that maintaining reserves at the current levels, combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems, will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The Trustees have also examined other operational risks faced by the Charity and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate significant risks.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The trustees recognise the need to develop a broad range of sustainable streams of income to ensure continuation of our vital work supporting visually impaired people. They have developed and continue to enhance plans towards this aim. They are also giving thought to the strategic direction which the work of The Society should take and the potential value of partnerships and other co-operative arrangements with other charities to help to achieve this.

Structure, governance and management

The Charity is governed by a Constitution adopted in 1988 subsequently amended on 9th June 2006 and is regulated through the Companies' Act 2006. Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting (within the terms of The Constitution). The Chairman of the Charity approaches potential suitably experienced and trustworthy individuals whom they believe have the desired attributes to become a trustee of the Charity. The Charity, in line with the Constitution, must ensure that a minimum of 25% of Trustees are visually impaired. Newly appointed trustees go through an induction process which includes introduction to the Charities' policies and procedures, familiarisation of their role and their responsibilities.

Mrs Marie Scott

Mr David Sharples

Mrs Linda Wilson

(Resigned 6 November 2022)

Mrs D Hill

Mr M Hill

Mr D Johnson

Mrs A Johnson

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Mrs Marie Scott

Trustee

Dated: 26 May 2023

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of West Cumbria Society for the Blind (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Tony Hindmoor BFP FCA
Gibbons
Chartered Accountants
Carleton House
136 Gray Street
Workington
Cumbria
CA14 2LU

Dated: 7 June 2023

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Current financial year

	Notes	Unrestricted funds general 2023 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<u>Income and endowments from:</u>						
Donations and legacies	3	81,907	-	32,536	114,443	111,791
Investments	4	2,155	-	-	2,155	889
Other income	5	6,749	-	-	6,749	5,967
Total income		90,811	-	32,536	123,347	118,647
<u>Expenditure on:</u>						
Charitable activities	6	46,341	-	18,496	64,837	67,608
Net incoming resources before transfers		44,470	-	14,040	58,510	51,039
Gross transfers between funds		(38,000)	38,000	-	-	-
Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds		6,470	38,000	14,040	58,510	51,039
Fund balances at 1 April 2022		80,113	350,000	13,740	443,853	392,814
Fund balances at 31 March 2023		86,583	388,000	27,780	502,363	443,853

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Prior financial year

		Unrestricted funds general 2022 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
	Notes				
<u>Income and endowments from:</u>					
Donations and legacies	3	86,076	-	25,715	111,791
Investments	4	889	-	-	889
Other income	5	5,967	-	-	5,967
Total income		92,932	-	25,715	118,647
<u>Expenditure on:</u>					
Charitable activities	6	42,826	-	24,782	67,608
Net incoming resources before transfers		50,106	-	933	51,039
Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds		50,106	-	933	51,039
Fund balances at 1 April 2021		30,007	350,000	12,807	392,814
Fund balances at 31 March 2022		80,113	350,000	13,740	443,853

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10		180,029		180,290
Current assets					
Stocks	11	1,700		1,700	
Cash at bank and in hand		322,334		263,550	
		<u>324,034</u>		<u>265,250</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	<u>(1,700)</u>		<u>(1,687)</u>	
Net current assets			322,334		263,563
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>502,363</u>		<u>443,853</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	14		27,780		13,740
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds	15	388,000		350,000	
General unrestricted funds		<u>86,583</u>		<u>80,113</u>	
			474,583		430,113
			<u>502,363</u>		<u>443,853</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 31 May 2023

Mrs Marie Scott
Trustee

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

West Cumbria Society for the Blind is an unincorporated charity.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's [governing document], the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings	Nil
Fixtures and fittings	20%/40%/50% straight line basis

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured the lower of replacement cost and cost.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.11 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds general 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds general 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Donations and gifts	2,068	-	2,068	5,233	-	5,233
Grants receivable	6,400	32,536	38,936	9,345	25,715	35,060
Other donations	73,439	-	73,439	71,498	-	71,498
	<u>81,907</u>	<u>32,536</u>	<u>114,443</u>	<u>86,076</u>	<u>25,715</u>	<u>111,791</u>

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

4 Investments

	Unrestricted funds general 2023 £	Unrestricted funds general 2022 £
Interest receivable	2,155	889

5 Other income

	Unrestricted funds general 2023 £	Unrestricted funds general 2022 £
Other income	206	-
Sales of specialist equipment	6,543	5,967
	<u>6,749</u>	<u>5,967</u>

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

6 Charitable activities

	2023	Restricted Fund 2023	Total 2023	2022	Restricted Fund 2022	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	18,317	18,335	36,652	32,723	16,965	49,688
Mentor	57	-	57	-	412	412
Volunteer expenses	465	-	465	523	-	523
Rates	1,598	-	1,598	-	2,666	2,666
Insurance	1,764	-	1,764	-	2,576	2,576
Repairs	5,603	-	5,603	1,141	-	1,141
Purchase of specialist equipment	6,840	-	6,840	4,675	-	4,675
Telephone	3,154	-	3,154	-	-	-
Resource office expenses	3,374	-	3,374	354	778	1,132
Client social activities	1,447	161	1,608	-	1,242	1,242
Sundry expenses	823	-	823	-	143	143
Staff travel	1,385	-	1,385	257	-	257
Professional fees	1,253	-	1,253	2,793	-	2,793
Depreciation	261	-	261	360	-	360
	<u>46,341</u>	<u>18,496</u>	<u>64,837</u>	<u>42,826</u>	<u>24,782</u>	<u>67,608</u>
	<u>46,341</u>	<u>18,496</u>	<u>64,837</u>	<u>42,826</u>	<u>24,782</u>	<u>67,608</u>
	<u>46,341</u>	<u>18,496</u>	<u>64,837</u>	<u>42,826</u>	<u>24,782</u>	<u>67,608</u>
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds - general	46,341	-	46,341	42,826	-	42,826
Restricted funds	-	18,496	18,496	-	24,782	24,782
	<u>46,341</u>	<u>18,496</u>	<u>64,837</u>	<u>42,826</u>	<u>24,782</u>	<u>67,608</u>

7 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

8 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

2023 Number	2022 Number
3	4
<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

8 Employees (Continued)

Employment costs	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	35,945	49,454
Other pension costs	707	234
	<u>36,652</u>	<u>49,688</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

9 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Fixtures and fittings £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2022	180,000	44,544	224,544
At 31 March 2023	180,000	44,544	224,544
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 April 2022	-	44,254	44,254
Depreciation charged in the year	-	261	261
At 31 March 2023	-	44,515	44,515
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2023	180,000	29	180,029
At 31 March 2022	180,000	290	180,290

The building held at 22 Lowther Street, Whitehaven, Cumbria, CA28 7DG is held on behalf of the charity by the following property owning trustees, Marie Scott, Darren Blanks and Christine McKnight.

The Big Lottery Fund has a financial interest for 80 years from 1997. If for any reason the property is sold, The Big Lottery Fund expect their grant of £89,000 to be repaid to them, and any remaining funds must be given by the Trustees to a local society (not a national society) who exclusively provide services for the blind and partially sighted.

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

11 Stocks	2023	2022
	£	£
Finished goods and goods for resale	1,700	1,700
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2023	2022
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	1,700	1,687
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
13 Retirement benefit schemes		

Defined contribution schemes

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

The charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes was £707 (2022 - £234).

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

14 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds			Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Support worker	4,647	-	(4,647)	-	-	-	-
Social groups	660	-	(170)	490	-	(161)	329
The Big Lottery Fund	-	22,715	(9,465)	13,250	32,536	(18,335)	27,451
Awards For All	7,500	-	(7,500)	-	-	-	-
The Robin Rigg Community Fund	-	3,000	(3,000)	-	-	-	-
	<u>12,807</u>	<u>25,715</u>	<u>(24,782)</u>	<u>13,740</u>	<u>32,536</u>	<u>(18,496)</u>	<u>27,780</u>

The purposes of the Restricted Funds are as follows:

Support worker - This funding is from the CKDCF charity to contribute towards the cost of supporting blind children through music lessons and other activities.

Social groups - This funding is to support the social activities/outings of the visually impaired.

The Big Lottery Fund - This funding is to provide financial support to employment in five roles and to provide financial support in the general running expenses of the Charity.

Awards for All - This funding is from the National Lottery community fund towards home visiting and social activities.

The Robin Rigg Community Fund - This funding is towards general running costs.

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

15 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds				
	Balance at 1 April 2021	Incoming resources	Balance at 1 April 2022	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Trustee's contingency reserve	70,000	-	70,000	30,000	100,000
Property reserve	180,000	-	180,000	-	180,000
Investment reserve	10,000	-	10,000	8,000	18,000
Matched funding reserve	90,000	-	90,000	-	90,000
	<u>350,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>350,000</u>	<u>38,000</u>	<u>388,000</u>

The purposes of the Designated Funds are as follows;

Trustee's contingency reserve - This is money set aside by the Trustees to ensure the Charity is able to continue during dips in funding which would cover a 24 month period.

Property reserve - This reserve shows the value of the property and helps to clarify the true value of the unrestricted General Reserves.

Investment reserve - This is money donated by Roger Jefcoate for long term investment in Charifund for the future benefit of the Charity.

Matched funding reserve - The Trustees have decided to setup a separate reserve for the purposes of 'matched funding' with potential external funders.

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Designated funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Designated funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2023 are represented by:							
Tangible assets	29	180,000	-	180,029	290	-	180,290
Current assets/(liabilities)	86,554	208,000	27,780	322,334	79,823	13,740	263,563
	<u>86,583</u>	<u>388,000</u>	<u>27,780</u>	<u>502,363</u>	<u>80,113</u>	<u>13,740</u>	<u>443,853</u>

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

17 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2022 - none).

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

England & Wales - Charity number 1012522

Accounts

Charity registration number 1012522

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

Mrs Marie Scott
Mr David Sharples
Mrs Linda Wilson
Mrs D Hill (Appointed 29 October 2021)
Mr M Hill (Appointed 29 October 2021)
Mr D Johnson (Appointed 28 November 2021)
Mrs A Johnson (Appointed 28 November 2021)

Charity number

1012522

Principal address

22 Lowther Street
Whitehaven
Cumbria
CA28 7DG

Independent examiner

Gibbons
Carleton House
136 Gray Street
Workington
Cumbria
CA14 2LU

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

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WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's [governing document], the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

The objectives of the Charity are to promote the welfare of visually impaired people and to educate the public about their needs and aspirations in the area of benefit. The aim of the Society is to provide support and information for visually impaired people in West Cumbria and to continue to do so to the highest standards.

Objects of the Charity, Principal Activities and Organisation of Our Work

Project Aim

To enable visually impaired people in West Cumbria (Copeland & Allerdale) to be more independent, more socially included, feel safer and have improved wellbeing. The outcomes of the Charity are that:

1. Visually impaired people in our area have access to information and advice, safety equipment, independent living equipment, financial benefits advice, emotional support and referrals to other services/organisations via our Resource Centre services and telephone helpline.
2. Housebound visually impaired people in our area will feel safer, more independent and have improved psychological wellbeing, by receiving regular home support.
3. Socially isolated and lonely visually impaired people will feel less lonely, and less isolated because of our social activities programme.
4. Lonely and isolated visually impaired people will be able to access regular emotional support through our telephone befriending service.

The following activities are undertaken to ensure that the above outcomes are achieved:

Resource & Information Centre – Our Centre is open Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 4:30 pm and weekends by appointment. All visually impaired people and their family/carers are welcome to call into our Resource Centre for advice, guidance, emotional support and specialist equipment. Our friendly and knowledgeable staff and volunteers are always on hand to demonstrate the latest specialist equipment and to offer support.

Home Support Service – Our home support worker provides vital emotional support to housebound visually impaired people. This service also allows us to take our range of services out into the community to those who cannot access our Centre in person due to their disability and/or location.

Support Groups and Outings – We organise social activities throughout the area. At these groups members can enjoy a varied range of activities such as: guest speakers, bingo, dominoes, cards, musical entertainment etc. Members also receive practical and emotional support from our staff, volunteers and from each other to enable them to feel more socially included.

Telephone Befriending Service – We have several volunteer telephone befrienders who contact clients on a regular basis to provide emotional support and advice. They also identify additional needs which are then met by our Chairman, staff and volunteers.

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

ACTIVITIES DURING THE YEAR

Since the Society was formally established in 1990 we have supported many thousands of visually impaired people and their families, providing them with emotional support, specialist equipment and advice. Our Chairman, Trustees, staff and volunteers continue this vital work to this day, ensuring that everything we do helps to improve the quality of life of those who are living with sight loss.

A) OUR RESOURCE & INFORMATION CENTRE SERVICES

There were 874 visits to our Resource and Information Centre by visually impaired people and their carers seeking practical and emotional support. There were 1,374 telephone calls made & received to / from visually impaired people seeking support and advice. We referred 121 people to other services for additional support e.g. Social Services, low vision clinics, financial benefits etc.

B) OUR HOME SUPPORT SERVICE FOR HOUSEBOUND PEOPLE

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic we were unable to provide face-to-face home support. To ensure that we continued to support the most vulnerable, lonely and isolated visually impaired people we began providing weekly telephone support to people who would usually receive home support. Our home support worker made 1,040 telephone calls to housebound visually impaired people throughout Copeland and Allerdale providing vital practical and emotional support.

C) TELEPHONE BEFRIENDING SERVICE

Our telephone befriending volunteers have made 303 calls to visually impaired people who were experiencing loneliness and isolation.

D) OUR SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUPS

We organise regular support groups and outings throughout the area. 22 groups and outings were organised with 146 attendances.

E) LOCAL TALKING NEWSPAPER

We work in conjunction with the Copeland Talking Newspaper Team (Talking Whitehaven News) helping their volunteers with distribution of audio equipment.

F) OUTCOMES

The combined outcomes of all our services are we:

- Provided emotional support on 1,728 occasions.
- Supplied 54 items of safety equipment and 308 independent living aids.
- Gave accident prevention advice on 123 occasions and independence advice on 481 occasions.
- Referred 121 people to other support organisations.
- Supported 78 people with financial benefits claims and advice.

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Financial review

The National Lottery Community Fund (Partnership Grants Scheme) awarded a restricted grant of £22,715.00 towards the cost of a Vision Support Officer. The grant was distributed to partners by the lead partner, Vision Support Barrow (Barrow & District Society for the Blind).

As part of the "Covid-19 Closed Premises - Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Grant Programme" Copeland Borough Council awarded an unrestricted grant of £2,667.00 (14/04/2021)

The Robin Rigg Community Fund gave a grant of £3,000.00 towards 12 months' Resource Centre general running costs (1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021). The Fund awarded another grant of £3,000.00 towards costs for the period 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022.

The Charlie and Kathleen Dunnery Children's Fund donated an unrestricted grant of £3,000.00 to support visually impaired children.

The John Slater Trust donated unrestricted grants totalling £6,345 towards our work supporting visually impaired people.

£5,827.34 was raised through private donations and collection boxes.

Legacies donated to the Society totalled £62,681.25

We would like to thank everyone who has given generous donations thus ensuring the continuation of our services.

We hold three separate accounts, a Revenue Account, a Current Account and the Society holds reserves in an easy access savings account which is held as unrestricted reserves for contingency costs. The unrestricted reserves at the year-end excluding property and trustees contingency fund total £100,000. The trustees contingency fund is £70,000.

£10,000.00 was invested in M&G Equities Investment Fund for Charities (Charifund). This is a cumulative investment and income generated through the fund is automatically re-invested with Charifund.

During the year there have been no significant events that have impacted upon the finances of the Charity.

RESERVES POLICY

In determining the Society's Reserves Policy, the Trustees have taken into account the following:

- The unpredictable nature of income from collection boxes, donations and legacies.
- It would be very undesirable to have to reduce services on which the visually impaired rely.

The Trustees have agreed the Society's Reserves Policy is:

To hold contingency reserves for:

- A minimum of 12 months' operating costs
- Matched funding for our 2021-2024 National Lottery Communities Fund partnership grant the with the other Blind Societies in Cumbria.
- Unforeseen maintenance costs of the premises (Grade 2 listed building over 300 years old)
- To cover winding up charges and redundancies that would need to be met if the Society ceased to exist.

The policy is reviewed annually when the financial statements are approved.

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

INVESTMENT POWERS AND MAINTENANCE OF RESERVES

Under the Charity's governing document, the Charity has the power to make any investment that the Trustees see fit. Trustees also have discretionary powers regarding the retention of reserves. These should be used to attract matched funding when necessary to enable the charity to provide services.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Trustees actively review the major risks the Charity may face. The Trustees believe that maintaining reserves at the current levels, combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems, will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The Trustees have also examined other operational risks faced by the Charity and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate significant risks.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The trustees recognise the need to develop a broad range of sustainable streams of income to ensure continuation of our vital work supporting visually impaired people. They have developed and continue to enhance plans towards this aim. They are also giving thought to the strategic direction which the work of The Society should take and the potential value of partnerships and other co-operative arrangements with other charities to help to achieve this.

Structure, governance and management

The Charity is governed by a Constitution adopted in 1988 subsequently amended on 9th June 2006 and is regulated through the Companies' Act 2006. Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting (within the terms of The Constitution). The Chairman of the Charity approaches potential suitably experienced and trustworthy individuals whom they believe have the desired attributes to become a trustee of the Charity. The Charity, in line with the Constitution, must ensure that a minimum of 25% of Trustees are visually impaired. Newly appointed trustees go through an induction process which includes introduction to the Charities' policies and procedures, familiarisation of their role and their responsibilities.

Mrs Marie Scott	
Mr David Sharples	
Mrs Linda Wilson	
Mrs Najma Fraser	(Resigned 29 October 2021)
Mr Edward Bebbington	(Resigned 29 October 2021)
Mrs D Hill	(Appointed 29 October 2021)
Mr M Hill	(Appointed 29 October 2021)
Mr D Johnson	(Appointed 28 November 2021)
Mrs A Johnson	(Appointed 28 November 2021)

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Mrs Marie Scott

Trustee

Dated: 18th July 2022

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of West Cumbria Society for the Blind (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

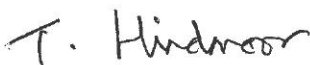
Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



Tony Hindmoor BFP FCA
Gibbons
Chartered Accountants
Carleton House
136 Gray Street
Workington
Cumbria
CA14 2LU

Dated: 22 July 2022

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Current financial year

	Notes	Unrestricted funds general 2022 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
<u>Income and endowments from:</u>						
Donations and legacies	3	86,076	-	25,715	111,791	65,909
Investments	4	889	-	-	889	336
Other income	5	5,967	-	-	5,967	4,198
Total income		92,932	-	25,715	118,647	70,443
<u>Expenditure on:</u>						
Charitable activities	6	42,826	-	24,782	67,608	72,855
Net movement in funds		50,106	-	933	51,039	(2,412)
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds						
		50,106	-	933	51,039	(2,412)
Fund balances at 1 April 2021		30,007	350,000	12,807	392,814	395,226
Fund balances at 31 March 2022		80,113	350,000	13,740	443,853	392,814

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Prior financial year

	Notes	Unrestricted funds general 2021 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
<u>Income and endowments from:</u>					
Donations and legacies	3	31,447	-	34,462	65,909
Investments	4	336	-	-	336
Other income	5	4,198	-	-	4,198
Total income		35,981	-	34,462	70,443
<u>Expenditure on:</u>					
Charitable activities	6	34,638	-	38,217	72,855
Gross transfers between funds		5,742	2,000	(7,742)	-
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds		7,085	2,000	(11,497)	(2,412)
Fund balances at 1 April 2020		22,922	348,000	24,304	395,226
Fund balances at 31 March 2021		30,007	350,000	12,807	392,814

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022 £	£	2021 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9		180,290		180,650
Current assets					
Stocks	10	1,700		1,700	
Cash at bank and in hand		263,550		211,981	
		<u>265,250</u>		<u>213,681</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(1,687)</u>		<u>(1,517)</u>	
Net current assets			263,563		212,164
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>443,853</u>		<u>392,814</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	13		13,740		12,807
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds	14	350,000		350,000	
General unrestricted funds		<u>80,113</u>		<u>30,007</u>	
			430,113		380,007
			<u>443,853</u>		<u>392,814</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 18th July 2022

M A Scott

Mrs Marie Scott
Trustee

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

West Cumbria Society for the Blind is an unincorporated charity.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's [governing document], the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings	Nil
Fixtures and fittings	20%/40%/50% straight line basis

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured the lower of replacement cost and cost.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.11 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds general 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds general 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Donations and gifts	5,233	-	5,233	2,903	-	2,903
Grants receivable	9,345	25,715	35,060	5,400	31,462	36,862
Other donations	71,498	-	71,498	23,144	3,000	26,144
	<u>86,076</u>	<u>25,715</u>	<u>111,791</u>	<u>31,447</u>	<u>34,462</u>	<u>65,909</u>

4 Investments

	Unrestricted funds general 2022 £	Unrestricted funds general 2021 £
Interest receivable	<u>889</u>	<u>336</u>

5 Other income

	Unrestricted funds general 2022 £	Unrestricted funds general 2021 £
Sales of specialist equipment	<u>5,967</u>	<u>4,198</u>

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

6 Charitable activities

	2022	Restricted Fund 2022	Total 2022	2021	Restricted Fund 2021	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	32,723	16,965	49,688	27,856	27,948	55,804
Mentor	-	412	412	(2)	706	704
Volunteer expenses	523	-	523	237	1,203	1,440
Rates	-	2,666	2,666	-	2,484	2,484
Insurance	-	2,576	2,576	-	1,469	1,469
Repairs	1,141	-	1,141	-	1,623	1,623
Purchase of specialist equipment	4,675	-	4,675	2,668	-	2,668
Resource office expenses	354	778	1,132	1,295	1,693	2,988
Client social activities	-	1,242	1,242	-	792	792
Sundry expenses	-	143	143	-	-	-
Staff travel	257	-	257	289	299	588
Professional fees	2,793	-	2,793	2,014	-	2,014
Depreciation	360	-	360	281	-	281
	<u>42,826</u>	<u>24,782</u>	<u>67,608</u>	<u>34,638</u>	<u>38,217</u>	<u>72,855</u>
	<u>42,826</u>	<u>24,782</u>	<u>67,608</u>	<u>34,638</u>	<u>38,217</u>	<u>72,855</u>
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds - general	42,826	-	42,826	34,638	-	34,638
Restricted funds	-	24,782	24,782	-	38,217	38,217
	<u>42,826</u>	<u>24,782</u>	<u>67,608</u>	<u>34,638</u>	<u>38,217</u>	<u>72,855</u>

7 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

8 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

2022 Number	2021 Number
<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

8 Employees (Continued)

Employment costs	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	49,454	55,068
Other pension costs	234	736
	<u>49,688</u>	<u>55,804</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

9 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Fixtures and fittings £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2021	180,000	44,544	224,544
At 31 March 2022	180,000	44,544	224,544
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 April 2021	-	43,894	43,894
Depreciation charged in the year	-	360	360
At 31 March 2022	-	44,254	44,254
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2022	<u>180,000</u>	<u>290</u>	<u>180,290</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>180,000</u>	<u>650</u>	<u>180,650</u>

The building held at 22 Lowther Street, Whitehaven, Cumbria, CA28 7DG is held on behalf of the charity by the following property owning trustees, Marie Scott, Darren Blanks and Christine McKnight.

The Big Lottery Fund has a financial interest for 80 years from 1997. If for any reason the property is sold, The Big Lottery Fund expect their grant of £89,000 to be repaid to them, and any remaining funds must be given by the Trustees to a local society (not a national society) who exclusively provide services for the blind and partially sighted.

10 Stocks

	2022 £	2021 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	<u>1,700</u>	<u>1,700</u>

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2022	2021
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	1,687	1,517
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

12 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

The charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes was £234 (2021 - £736).

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

13 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 April 2020		Movement in funds		Transfers		Balance at 1 April 2021		Movement in funds		Balance at 31 March 2022	
	£	£	Incoming resources	Resources expended	£	£	£	£	Incoming resources	Resources expended	£	£
Support worker	2,000		3,000	(353)	-		4,647		-	(4,647)		-
Social groups	11,804		-	(344)	(10,800)		660		-	(170)		490
The Big Lottery Fund	-		-	-	-		-		22,715	(9,465)		13,250
Awards For All	7,500		-	-	-		7,500		-	(7,500)		-
The Robin Rigg Community Fund	3,000		3,000	(1,341)	(4,659)		-		3,000	(3,000)		-
National Lottery Community Fund (Covid-19)	-		28,462	(36,179)	7,717		-		-	-		-
	24,304		34,462	(38,217)	(7,742)		12,807		25,715	(24,782)		13,740

The purposes of the Restricted Funds are as follows:

Support worker - This funding is from the CKDCF charity to contribute towards the cost of supporting blind children through music lessons and other activities.

Social groups - This funding is to support the social activities/outings of the visually impaired.

The Big Lottery Fund - This funding is to provide financial support to employment in five roles and to provide financial support in the general running expenses of the Charity.

Awards for All - This funding is from the National Lottery community fund towards home visiting and social activities.

The Robin Rigg Community Fund - This funding is towards general running costs.

National Lottery Community Fund (Covid-19) - This funding is towards the cost of providing support to vulnerable visually impaired people during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

14 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 April 2020	Transfers	Balance at 1 April 2021	Movement in funds Incoming resources	Balance at 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Trustee's contingency reserve	70,000	-	70,000	-	70,000
Property reserve	180,000	-	180,000	-	180,000
Investment reserve	8,000	2,000	10,000	-	10,000
Matched funding reserve	90,000	-	90,000	-	90,000
	<u>348,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>350,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>350,000</u>

The purposes of the Designated Funds are as follows;

Trustee's contingency reserve - This is money set aside by the Trustees to ensure the Charity is able to continue during dips in funding which would cover a 24 month period.

Property reserve - This reserve shows the value of the property and helps to clarify the true value of the unrestricted General Reserves.

Investment reserve - This is money donated by Roger Jefcoate for long term investment in Charifund for the future benefit of the Charity.

Matched funding reserve - The Trustees have decided to setup a separate reserve for the purposes of 'matched funding' with potential external funders.

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022*

16 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2021 - none).

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

England & Wales - Charity number 1012522

Accounts

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mrs Marie Scott Mr David Sharples Mrs Linda Wilson Mrs Najma Fraser Mr Edward Bebbington
Charity number	1012522
Principal address	22 Lowther Street Whitehaven Cumbria CA28 7DG
Independent examiner	Gibbons Carleton House 136 Gray Street Workington Cumbria CA14 2LU

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

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Balance sheet	8
Notes to the financial statements	9 - 19

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Objectives and activities

The objectives of the Charity are to promote the welfare of visually impaired people and to educate the public about their needs and aspirations in the area of benefit. The aim of the Society is to provide support and information for visually impaired people in West Cumbria and to continue to do so to the highest standards.

Objects of the Charity, Principal Activities and Organisation of Our Work

Project Aim

To enable visually impaired people in West Cumbria (Copeland & Allerdale) to be more independent, more socially included, feel safer and have improved wellbeing. The outcomes of the Charity are that:

1. Visually impaired people in our area have access to information and advice, safety equipment, independent living equipment, financial benefits advice, emotional support and referrals to other services/organisations via our Resource Centre services and telephone helpline.
2. Housebound visually impaired people in our area will feel safer, more independent and have improved psychological wellbeing, by receiving regular home support.
3. Socially isolated and lonely visually impaired people will feel less lonely, and less isolated because of our social activities programme.
4. Lonely and isolated visually impaired people will be able to access regular emotional support through our telephone befriending service.

The following activities are undertaken to ensure that the above outcomes are achieved:

Resource & Information Centre – Our Centre is open Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and weekends by appointment. All visually impaired people and their family/carers are welcome to call into our Resource Centre for advice, guidance, emotional support and specialist equipment. Our friendly and knowledgeable staff and volunteers are always on hand to demonstrate the latest specialist equipment and to offer support.

Home Support Service – Our home support worker provides vital emotional support to housebound visually impaired people. This service also allows us to take our range of services out into the community to those who cannot access our Centre in person due to their disability and/or location.

Support Groups and Outings – We organise social activities throughout the area. At these groups members can enjoy a varied range of activities such as: guest speakers, bingo, dominoes, cards, musical entertainment etc. Members also receive practical and emotional support from our staff, volunteers and from each other to enable them to feel more socially included.

Telephone Befriending Service – We have several volunteer telephone befrienders who contact clients on a regular basis to provide emotional support and advice. They also identify additional needs which are then met by our Chairman, staff and volunteers.

CHARITY STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

The Charity is governed by a Constitution adopted in 1988 subsequently amended on 9th June 2006 and is regulated through the Companies' Act 2006. Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting (within the terms of The Constitution). The Chairman of the Charity approaches potential suitably experienced and trustworthy individuals whom they believe have the desired attributes to become a trustee of the Charity. The Charity, in line with the Constitution, must ensure that a minimum of 25% of Trustees are visually impaired. Newly appointed trustees go through an induction process which includes introduction to the Charities' policies and procedures, familiarisation of their role and their responsibilities.

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Financial review

A Coronavirus Community Support Emergency Response grant of £28,462 was received from HM Government and distributed by The National Lottery Community Fund, to cover 6 months project costs during the Covid-19 pandemic (1st July 2020 to 31st December 2020).

As part of the "Covid-19 Closed Premises - Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Grant Programme" Copeland Borough Council awarded grants of:

- £10,000 April 2020,
- £1,334 November 2020,
- £2,001, £238 and £4,000 January 2021
- £2,096 and £500 March 2021

The National Lottery Community Fund "Awards for All" gave a grant of £10,000 towards home visiting and social activities. This grant was designated for 12 months' project costs for social activities and towards home support service salary costs (8th December 2019 to 8th December 2020).

The Robin Rigg Community Fund gave a grant of £3,000 towards 12 months' Resource Centre general running costs (1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020). The Fund awarded another grant of £3,000 towards costs for the period 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021.

The Charlie and Kathleen Dunnery Children's Fund donated £3,000 to support visually impaired children.

The John Slater Trust donated £2,700 towards our work supporting visually impaired people.

We would like to thank the above and everyone who has given generous donations thus ensuring our services continue.

We hold two separate accounts one being a Revenue Account and the other a Current Account. The Society holds reserves in an easy access savings account which is held as unrestricted reserves for contingency costs. The unrestricted reserves at the year-end excluding property and trustees contingency fund total £100,000.

During the year there have been no significant events that have impacted upon the finances of the Charity.

ACTIVITIES DURING THE YEAR

Since the Society was formally established in 1990 we have supported many thousands of visually impaired people and their families, providing them with emotional support, specialist equipment and advice. Our Chairman, Trustees, staff and volunteers continue this vital work to this day, ensuring that everything we do helps to improve the quality of life of those who are living with sight loss.

A) OUR RESOURCE & INFORMATION CENTRE SERVICES

There were 471 visits to our Resource and Information Centre by visually impaired people and their carers seeking practical and emotional support. There were 1,368 telephone calls made & received by our Chairman and Resource Centre staff to / from visually impaired people seeking support and advice. We referred 159 people to other services for additional support e.g. Social Services, low vision clinics, financial benefits, Age.U.K. etc.

The Covid-19 lockdowns impacted our Resource Centre services as we had to close the Centre in line with Government restrictions. Between 23rd March 2020 to 15th June 2020 and 6th January 2021 to 12th April 2021 our Centre was forced to close due to national lockdown restrictions. From the outset we began planning to adapt to the restrictions to ensure that our beneficiaries' could still have access to the support they need. This was achieved by staff and volunteers continuing to work remotely from home, providing advice, emotional support etc. via our telephone helpline. We also continued to provide independent living aids via post. In the period between lockdowns our Centre was reopened with a range of measures in place to protect our staff, volunteers and visitors to the Centre. These included: social distancing, sanitising stations, limiting the number of people in the Centre, wearing PPE and encouraging beneficiaries' to attend by appointment.

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

B) OUR HOME SUPPORT SERVICE FOR HOUSEBOUND PEOPLE

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic we were unable to provide face-to-face home support. To ensure that we continued to support the most vulnerable, lonely and isolated visually impaired people in our area we began providing weekly telephone support to people who would usually receive home support. Our home support worker made 1,863 telephone calls to housebound visually impaired people throughout Copeland and Allerdale providing vital practical and emotional support. Our Chairman and home support worker established "Project Fruit Basket" during the pandemic. Together they made over 125 fruit and vegetable baskets and distributed them to lonely and isolated visually impaired people throughout West Cumbria.

C) TELEPHONE BEFRIENDING SERVICE

Our telephone befriending volunteers have made 417 calls to visually impaired people who were experiencing loneliness and isolation.

D) OUR SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUPS

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic we had to suspend all our social activities. To ensure that people continued to benefit from support we provided regular telephone befriending calls and facilitated peer support calls.

E) LOCAL TALKING NEWSPAPER

We work in conjunction with the Copeland Talking Newspaper Team (Talking Whitehaven News) helping their volunteers with distribution of audio equipment.

F) OUTCOMES

The combined outcomes of all our services are:

We have supported people emotionally on 2,683 occasions.

We have supplied 40 items of safety equipment and 184 items of independent living equipment.

We gave accident prevention advice on 124 occasions and independence advice on 495 occasions. We referred 159 people to other support organisations. We supported 36 people with financial benefits claims.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The trustees recognise the need to develop a broad range of sustainable streams of income to ensure continuation of our vital work supporting visually impaired people. They have developed and continue to enhance plans towards this aim. They are also giving thought to the strategic direction which the work of The Society should take and the potential value of partnerships and other co-operative arrangements with other charities to help to achieve this.

INVESTMENT POWERS AND MAINTENANCE OF RESERVES

Under the Charity's governing document, the Charity has the power to make any investment that the Trustees see fit. Trustees also have discretionary powers regarding the retention of reserves. These should be used to attract matched funding when necessary to enable the charity to provide services.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Trustees actively review the major risks the Charity may face. The Trustees believe that maintaining reserves at the current levels, combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems, will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The Trustees have also examined other operational risks faced by the Charity and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate significant risks.

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

RESERVES POLICY

In determining the Society's Reserves Policy, the Trustees have taken into account the following:

- The unpredictable nature of income from collection boxes, donations and legacies.
- It would be very undesirable to have to reduce services on which the visually impaired rely.

The Trustees have agreed the Society's Reserves Policy is:

To hold contingency reserves for:

- A minimum of 12 months' operating costs
- Matched funding for our 2021-2024 partnership grant to the National Lottery Communities Fund with the other Blind Societies in Cumbria.
- Unforeseen maintenance costs of the premises (Grade 2 listed building over 300 years old)
- To cover winding up charges and redundancies that would need to be met if the Society ceased to exist.

The policy is reviewed annually when the financial statements are approved.

As of the 31st March 2021 the Trustees contingency reserves were £70,000 reserved for the purposes designated above.

Structure, governance and management

Mrs Marie Scott

Mr David Sharples

Mrs Linda Wilson

Mrs Najma Fraser

Mrs Ann Chambers

(Resigned 1 August 2020)

Mrs Christine McKnight

(Resigned 1 June 2020)

Mrs Margaret Alderson

(Resigned 1 June 2020)

Mr Edward Bebbington

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



.....
Mrs Marie Scott

Trustee

Dated: 11.10.2021

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of West Cumbria Society for the Blind (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

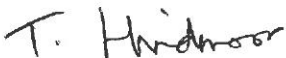
Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



Tony Hindmoor BFP FCA
Gibbons
Chartered Accountants
Carleton House
136 Gray Street
Workington
Cumbria
CA14 2LU

Dated: 14 October 2021

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Current financial year

	Notes	Unrestricted funds general 2021 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
<u>Income and endowments from:</u>						
Donations and legacies	3	31,447	-	34,462	65,909	35,620
Investments	4	336	-	-	336	1,181
Other income	5	4,198	-	-	4,198	7,195
Total income		35,981	-	34,462	70,443	43,996
<u>Expenditure on:</u>						
Charitable activities	6	34,638	-	38,217	72,855	79,615
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		1,343	-	(3,755)	(2,412)	(35,619)
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		1,343	-	(3,755)	(2,412)	(35,619)
Gross transfers between funds		5,742	2,000	(7,742)	-	-
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds		7,085	2,000	(11,497)	(2,412)	(35,619)
Fund balances at 1 April 2020		22,922	348,000	24,304	395,226	430,845
Fund balances at 31 March 2021		30,007	350,000	12,807	392,814	395,226

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Prior financial year

		Unrestricted funds general 2020 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
	Notes				
<u>Income and endowments from:</u>					
Donations and legacies	3	14,220	-	21,400	35,620
Investments	4	1,181	-	-	1,181
Other income	5	7,195	-	-	7,195
Total income		<u>22,596</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,400</u>	<u>43,996</u>
<u>Expenditure on:</u>					
Charitable activities	6	<u>58,574</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,041</u>	<u>79,615</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		(35,978)	-	359	(35,619)
Gross transfers between funds		<u>40,000</u>	<u>(40,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds		4,022	(40,000)	359	(35,619)
Fund balances at 1 April 2019		<u>18,900</u>	<u>388,000</u>	<u>23,945</u>	<u>430,845</u>
Fund balances at 31 March 2020		<u><u>22,922</u></u>	<u><u>348,000</u></u>	<u><u>24,304</u></u>	<u><u>395,226</u></u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9		180,650		180,511
Current assets					
Stocks	10	1,700		1,700	
Cash at bank and in hand		211,981		214,457	
		<u>213,681</u>		<u>216,157</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(1,517)</u>		<u>(1,442)</u>	
Net current assets			212,164		214,715
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>392,814</u>		<u>395,226</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	13		12,807		24,304
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds	14	350,000		348,000	
General unrestricted funds		<u>30,007</u>		<u>22,922</u>	
			380,007		370,922
			<u>392,814</u>		<u>395,226</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 11.10.2021



Mrs Marie Scott
Trustee

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

West Cumbria Society for the Blind is an unincorporated charity.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's [governing document], the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings	Nil
Fixtures and fittings	20%/40%/50% straight line basis

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured the lower of replacement cost and cost.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.11 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds general 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds general 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Donations and gifts	2,903	-	2,903	3,734	-	3,734
Grants receivable	5,400	31,462	36,862	-	18,400	18,400
Other donations	23,144	3,000	26,144	10,486	3,000	13,486
	<u>31,447</u>	<u>34,462</u>	<u>65,909</u>	<u>14,220</u>	<u>21,400</u>	<u>35,620</u>

4 Investments

	Unrestricted funds general 2021 £	Unrestricted funds general 2020 £
Interest receivable	336	1,181
	<u>336</u>	<u>1,181</u>

5 Other income

	Unrestricted funds general 2021 £	Unrestricted funds general 2020 £
Sales of specialist equipment	4,198	7,195
	<u>4,198</u>	<u>7,195</u>

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

6 Charitable activities

	2021 £	2020 £
Staff costs	55,804	57,608
Mentor	704	648
Volunteer expenses	1,440	2,121
Rates	2,484	2,033
Insurance	1,469	1,325
Repairs	1,623	654
Purchase of specialist equipment	2,668	4,870
Telephone	1,295	1,264
Resource office expenses	1,693	3,616
Client social activities	792	2,051
Staff travel	588	2,293
Professional fees	2,014	982
Depreciation	281	150
	<u>72,855</u>	<u>79,615</u>
	<u>72,855</u>	<u>79,615</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds - general	34,638	58,574
Restricted funds	38,217	21,041
	<u>72,855</u>	<u>79,615</u>

7 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

8 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

2021 Number	2020 Number
<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

8 Employees (Continued)

Employment costs	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	55,068	57,277
Other pension costs	736	331
	<u>55,804</u>	<u>57,608</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

9 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Fixtures and fittings £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2020	180,000	44,124	224,124
Additions	-	420	420
At 31 March 2021	<u>180,000</u>	<u>44,544</u>	<u>224,544</u>
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 April 2020	-	43,613	43,613
Depreciation charged in the year	-	281	281
At 31 March 2021	<u>-</u>	<u>43,894</u>	<u>43,894</u>
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2021	<u>180,000</u>	<u>650</u>	<u>180,650</u>
At 31 March 2020	<u>180,000</u>	<u>511</u>	<u>180,511</u>

The building held at 22 Lowther Street, Whitehaven, Cumbria, CA28 7DG is held on behalf of the charity by the following property owning trustees, Marie Scott, Darren Blanks and Christine McKnight.

The Big Lottery Fund has a financial interest for 80 years from 1997. If for any reason the property is sold, The Big Lottery Fund expect their grant of £89,000 to be repaid to them, and any remaining funds must be given by the Trustees to a local society (not a national society) who exclusively provide services for the blind and partially sighted.

10 Stocks

	2021 £	2020 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	<u>1,700</u>	<u>1,700</u>

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	1,517	1,442
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

12 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

The charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes was £736 (2020 - £331).

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

13 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds		Movement in funds		Movement in funds		Movement in funds	
	Balance at 1 April 2019 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
Support worker	3,000	3,000	(4,000)	2,000	3,000	(353)	-	4,647
Social groups	8,455	5,400	(2,051)	11,804	-	(344)	(10,800)	660
The Big Lottery Fund	12,490	-	(12,490)	-	-	-	-	-
Awards For All	-	10,000	(2,500)	7,500	-	-	-	7,500
The Robin Rigg Community Fund	-	3,000	-	3,000	3,000	(1,341)	(4,659)	-
National Lottery Community Fund (Covid-19)	-	-	-	-	28,462	(36,179)	7,717	-
	23,945	21,400	(21,041)	24,304	34,462	(38,217)	(7,742)	12,807

The purposes of the Restricted Funds are as follows:

Support worker - This funding is from the CKDCF charity to contribute towards the cost of supporting blind children through music lessons and other activities.

Social groups - This funding is to support the social activities/outings of the visually impaired.

The Big Lottery Fund - This funding is to provide financial support to employment in five roles and to provide financial support in the general running expenses of the Charity.

Awards for All - This funding is from the National Lottery community fund towards home visiting and social activities.

The Robin Rigg Community Fund - This funding is towards general running costs.

National Lottery Community Fund (Covid-19) - This funding is towards the cost of providing support to vulnerable visually impaired people during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

14 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 April 2019	Resources expended	Balance at 1 April 2020	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Trustee's contingency reserve	70,000	-	70,000	-	70,000
Property reserve	180,000	-	180,000	-	180,000
Investment reserve	8,000	-	8,000	2,000	10,000
Matched funding reserve	130,000	(40,000)	90,000	-	90,000
	<u>388,000</u>	<u>(40,000)</u>	<u>348,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>350,000</u>

The purposes of the Designated Funds are as follows;

Trustee's contingency reserve - This is money set aside by the Trustees to ensure the Charity is able to continue during dips in funding which would cover a 24 month period.

Property reserve - This reserve shows the value of the property and helps to clarify the true value of the unrestricted General Reserves.

Investment reserve - This is money donated by Roger Jefcoate for long term investment in Charifund for the future benefit of the Charity.

Matched funding reserve - The Trustees have decided to setup a separate reserve for the purposes of 'matched funding' with potential external funders.

WEST CUMBRIA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) ***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021***

16 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2020 - none).