

Company Number: 3033089
Charity Number: 1047148



HERTS VISION LOSS

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Status: A company limited by guarantee without share capital incorporated on 15th March 1995; a registered charity.

Company number: 3033089

Charity number: 1047148

Registered office: 2 Brownfields
Welwyn Garden City,
Hertfordshire, AL7 1AN

Trustees: Alexandra Hickinbotham (Chair)
John Page (Vice-Chair) *
Paul Taylor (Secretary/Treasurer)
John Warner-Smith (Trustee)
Alison Macdougall (Trustee)
Richard Seaman (Trustee)
Jennie Beebe (Trustee), retired May 2023.
Raj Visram (Trustee)
David Ottolanguì (Trustee)
Janet Picken (Trustee), appointed April 2024.

Patron: Lord Homes of Richmond MBE

Staff: Clement Musonda (CEO)
Lisa Reed (Office Administrator & Volunteer Coordinator)
Will Davis (Fundraising & Network Coordinator)
Karen Utteridge (Finance Officer)
Vanessa MacDonald (Vision Loss Advisor)
Lorraine Cooke (Vision Loss Advisor)
Renata Rybczyk-Savage (Vision Loss Advisor & CVI Officer)
Kirsty Shaw (Peer Support Worker)
George Sullivan* (Training & Employment Worker)
Nim Patel (Counsellor)
Christina Edwards (Vision Loss Advisor)
Daniel Harris (Trainee Counsellor)

E-mail: office@hertsvisionloss.org.uk

Website: <http://www.hertsvisionloss.org.uk>

Sight line: 01707 324680.

*Indicates visually impaired person.

Independent Examiner: Resolve Accountancy
Accountants & Tax Advisors
11 Garden Court, Tewin Road,
Welwyn Garden City,
Hertfordshire,
AL7 1BH

Solicitors: Bates Wells
10 Queen Street Place
London
EC4R 1BE

Insurer: Towergate Insurance
Funtley Court,
19 Funtley Hill,
Fareham,
PO16 7UY

Bankers: SANTANDER UK PLC,
Bridle Road,
Bootle,
G1R 0AA

Shawbrook Bank Ltd,
Lutea House,
Warley Hill
Brentwood,
CM13 3BE

Welcome and Introduction by the Chair of The Trustees

Once again, I am pleased at the progress and level of service and resourcefulness the organisation has continued to achieve. The Charity can only continue and develop through the good offices of its Trustees, Staff and Volunteers and the ongoing input from our Service users.

Following on from our previous report, our plans for 2023-24 were to:

- develop our collaborative working partnerships,
- strengthen support for our Sight life Group,
- expand our counselling and mentoring services.
- and seek ways to be of public benefit.

I am pleased to confirm all these plans are progressing well. We have widened our partnership links with both statutory and private bodies, gained support and funding which is enabling set up of new groups, facilitated more counsellors to help meet the demand, and frequently present to other organisations to create a wider awareness of visual impairment across the County. Though there is much more to do, locally and nationally, particularly on the latter topic.

Our Goals continue to focus on:

- purpose,
- people, and
- performance.

Financial situation

HVL had a successful year in 2023-2024, despite a challenging environment. We delivered a wide range of help and support to our service users and commissioning sponsors. Herts Vision Loss (HVL) has once again made a small surplus with ongoing operations of £442 for the financial year 2023-2024.

At the beginning of the year, the Trustees had anticipated that income from project grants, donations and legacies may be lower than in previous years as the country continued to slowly recover from the Covid pandemic. This proved to be the case.

The Board therefore decided to financially support HVL's existing ongoing operations during 2023-2024 with some releases during the year, amounting to a full year effect of £42,899, from our designated reserve for premises.

The Board were confident in making this allocation from the designated reserve because there were more than sufficient monies to be able to fund our new premises at Brownfields in Welwyn Garden City and cover the associated moving costs. The designated reserve had been created by applying the proceeds arising from the sale of our unsuitable offices in Hemel Hempstead building in 2019.

After incurring these costs for Brownfields and supporting HVL's operations during the year, the reserve now stands at £247,203 and has been set aside for future maintenance /major projects. These monies are being invested in a range of medium-term savings accounts with several reputable UK banks.

The financial management over the past year has continued to be closely monitored and proved to be an effective process, ensuring our position at our year end. This has been achieved whilst also purchasing and adapting our new premises from our designated reserves.

We have maintained our contracted income from Herts County Council and worked with the Sensory Services and Commissioners to extend the HVL availability to support service users. In addition, we have applied for and now secured grants from various funds. We recognise the ongoing need to seek funding through grants and contracts to enable HVL to continue to support the visually impaired residents in the County. This is an ongoing necessity due to the expected continuing growth of visually impaired residents across Hertfordshire.

Independent Auditor.

We have appointed a new Independent Examiner, Resolve Accountancy, to examine our accounts and scrutinise our financial position for 2023-24. We thank Pomroy Associates for their assistance in the previous year.

Governance

The Board takes the issue of governance as an important aspect of our activities. Whether it be risk management, safeguarding vulnerable users, safety of our staff, health and safety aspects, policy reviews and updates or financial management controls, all are discussed and addressed on a regular quarterly basis. Our two Sub Board committees, Services and Marketing and Finance and Governance, provide the operational aspect of the business and review the risk register, policies, and mitigation actions to safely manage the charities activities.

This has worked well and is undertaken in an open and transparent method at both the Board and service facing areas, ensuring as many subjects as possible are covered. The Risk Register is comprehensive and

identifies the issue, level of risk, what mitigation is used and by whom. I am pleased to report that HVL did not receive any complaints during the year 2023-2024.

New Property

At our last AGM we were able to confirm our new purchased property of 2 Brownfields, Welwyn Garden City. We officially moved in late October 2023, and it was officially opened, and our services launched, by the then Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield council, Mr Pankit Shah, in December 2023.

We have since improved the premises to meet our needs and feel very settled in the environment. The space has proved ideal for several service user events we have held since. It is also a good central base for our staff.

Services, Strategic and Operational Management of HVL

Counselling

HVL continues to provide support for both adults and children, either in person or via the telephone. We continue to have a very good reputation for how the service is provided and help support services in other areas. HVL is also pleased to be able to provide a recognised supported learning environment for trainee counsellors.

Advisors work

Our Low Vision Advisors undertake on average 85 visits to our users per month in addition to supporting schools, our schools programme, hospital clinics and user groups.

We have 2,332 active service users, an increase of 30% on last year. We adjust our input for their specific needs and help them liaise with support groups and information links etc.

Service users.

These people continue to be the reason we operate providing support and empowerment for them. We have arranged several outings, activity sessions and social events over the year. They are also able to access local User Groups which we set up and support in different areas of Hertfordshire. These have been well attended by both service users and their carers, who also deserve our support. A provision we continue to arrange.

User Groups

These are provided across the County with some areas better served or in demand than others. We continue to seek new locations to spread the opportunity for service users, and HVL continues to tailor the groups to the local needs. We maintain our close working arrangements with Herts County Council (HCC) Sensory Services and Hertfordshire Hearing Advisory Service (HHAS) and act as a signpost between them and our users.

Links with other Herts user groups

We continue to maintain links with other Hertfordshire independent support groups aiming to provide seamless service for the visually impaired. In addition, we have instigated further local based Sight life groups, giving further social support to the Visually Impaired and their carers.

Volunteers

Our invaluable volunteers continue to provide befriending support to allocated service users, support hospital clinics, assist with operational activities and other various activities as required. There are occasions when the supply of volunteers we aim to match to our users, are thwarted. For example, this can be due to suitable matches living in different areas of Hertfordshire, availability, or interests. Recruitment of new volunteers is ongoing to help solve this issue but is difficult nationally.

Sight news.

HVL continues to ensure a wide communication opportunity with service users by publishing our Sight News 3 times each year. It provides up to date information, interesting relevant articles, and opportunities for users to access or get involved in. Copies are now usually distributed electronically but we continue to send a small number in hard copy format for those not 'online.'

Web site

Much work on updating our website has been done to provide a better experience for our users, improve sharing of information and provide marketing information to our funders. The work continues.

Minibus

This asset continues to be used by HVL and independent 'hirers' and provides a method of getting our name advertised as our Logo is clearly visible on its coachwork. It is getting to the end of its lifetime and HVL board are considering our transport needs going forward.

Schools programme

HVL has been able to return to more of our schools which we worked with, though we look to extend the number of schools enabling our input. Our aim continues to be informing and providing sight awareness training sessions to all schools within Hertfordshire. This programme assists HVL to reach the wider future population.

HCC contract

We have completed a successful 3rd year of our contract with HCC and have been retained for a fourth year (2024-25). We continue to provide Low Vision assessments for the Council Sensory Services Department, register individuals for their Certificate of Visual Impairment, which opens their opportunities for other benefits, and support Sensory Services backlog of referrals. We continue to be the main contractor in Hertfordshire for Visual and Hearing support, though we sub-contract the hearing service aspect to Hertfordshire Hearing Advice Service (HHAS).

Working with HCC Sensory services workload

While we fulfil our Hertfordshire County Contract, we have continued to support the sensory services department where there are staff shortages. It is beneficial for HVL and the visually impaired as we can contact them quicker than they would have previously been, so receive targeted support sooner.

Working with NHS and other groups

HVL continues the joint working with parts of the NHS in both the acute and social care settings. We are also active in liaising with other relevant statutory and voluntary groups to further opportunities to support and empower the visually impaired.

Recognition

Following HVL being awarded a High Sheriff of Hertfordshire award in March 2023, I am very pleased to also announce HVL has been recognised for its work and scope of service to Visually Impaired residents in Hertfordshire by being nominated for the Kings Award for Voluntary Services. We have had the in-depth assessment, which only 50% of nominations achieve. At the time of writing this report, we await outcome of the next stage at national level.

Appreciation

I conclude with a big 'Thank You' to our staff, volunteers, and Trustees.

Our Board comprises of 9 Trustees, each with a role within the organisation, whether it be chairman of one of our sub board committees and/or lead supporting advisory roles. Jennie Beebe, one of our trustees left the Board during the year and we wish her well in her new endeavours. A process of recruitment has been successful in finding Janet Picken who joined us in April 2024

Our volunteers continue to provide sterling support and input for our Service users in various ways, providing continuity and friendship across the county.

We have had a few leavers and starters on our staff ranks during the year. I wish the leavers good luck for the future and a big welcome to the new staff. They have joined hard working and dedicated existing staff to make a cohesive and effective team, led by our superb Chief Executive, Clement Musonda whose innovative and persistent work is developing our Charity's viability.

A particular thank you to Clement Musonda who has had a very challenging and busy first year in post as CEO. He has brought a wealth of knowledge, skills, and experience to the organisation.

I thank everyone for their input, support, and hard work, and look forward to a continuing positive future.

Alex Hickinbotham

Chair, Herts Vision Loss on behalf of the Board of Trustees

Date July 2024

An Overview from the Chief Executive Officer

I am delighted to present Herts Vision Loss's Annual Report for the year 2023-2024, which demonstrates the achievements and impact of our services on the people we support.

Service Delivery:

Throughout the year, our dedicated team worked tirelessly to provide a wide range of services and programs tailored to the needs of visually impaired people:

- **Befriending Service:** We have successfully matched numerous visually impaired people with compassionate volunteers who provide companionship, emotional support, and assistance with their daily activities.
- **Certificate of Visual Impairment (CVI) Registration Program:** We have worked closely with the Sensory Services and healthcare professionals to ensure that eligible individuals receive the necessary support.
- **Community Outreach Service:** We have actively engaged with local schools, community centres such as libraries, and other providers to raise awareness about visual impairment, promote inclusion, and provide information on available resources.
- **Sight Life Support Groups:** The groups have facilitated meaningful interactions, peer support, and the exchange of information on coping strategies and adaptive techniques.
- **Sight Loss Awareness Training:** During the year we provided sight loss awareness training to other service providers. The trainings promote public awareness about the challenges of sight loss.
- **Counselling Service:** Through one-to-one counselling sessions, we address emotional challenges, assist with coping mechanisms, and help individuals develop strategies to deal with the impact of visual impairment.
- **Sight Information Point Service:** These service points serve as essential hubs of information, assistance, and resources related to visual impairment.
- **Low Vision Clinics Visitations:** Collaborating with local eye care professionals and clinics, we facilitate regular visits to low vision clinics, providing individuals with the opportunity to receive specialised assessments, prescriptions for visual aids, and guidance on managing their visual impairment.

Looking Ahead:

As we celebrate last year's achievements, we extend our deepest gratitude to our supporters, volunteers, and staff for their dedicated efforts in supporting the blind and visually impaired. In the coming year, we remain committed to our mission to empower our community, reduce social isolation, and help our clients regain independence. Heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported Herts Vision Loss in any capacity. Your support has been vital in transforming lives and advancing hope and independence for visually impaired individuals.

Clement Musonda,
Chief Executive Officer

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

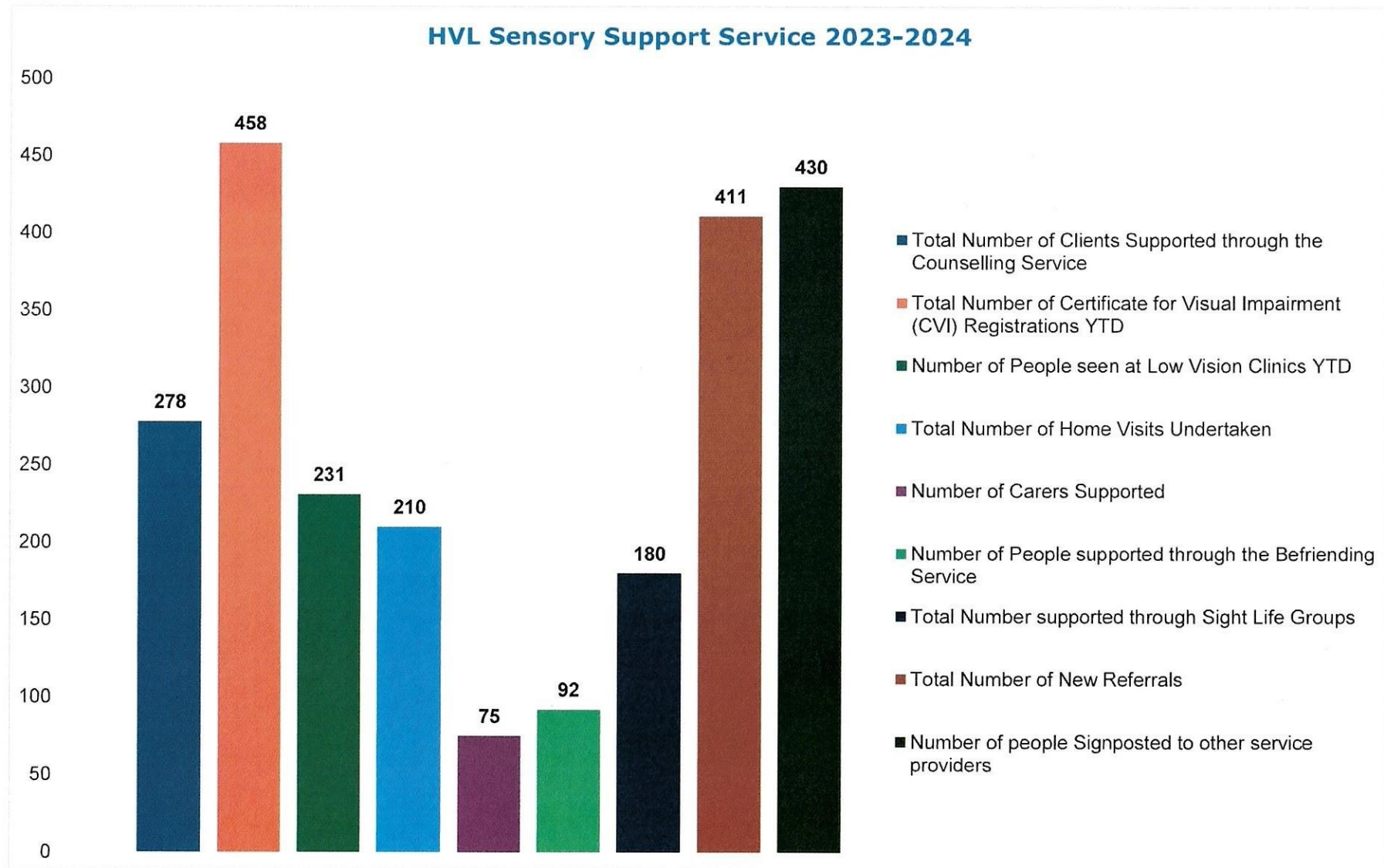
The Board of Trustees presents its report and financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2024

Core Services

Herts Vision Loss core services include Home Visitation and Befriending, Counselling, CVI Registration, Hospital and Low Vision Clinics visitation, Resource Centre and supporting Sight Life social groups.

Service Statistics for 2023-2024:

- Total number of people on the ACT database: 2,332.
- **Counselling service:** We provided support to 278 different individuals through our dedicated counselling service, offering a safe and confidential space for emotional well-being.
- **Certificate for Visual Impairment (CVI) Registration service:** We facilitated CVI registration to 458 people, enabling them to access essential benefits and support specific to their visual impairment.
- **Hospital and Low Vision Clinics visitation:** We supported 231 individuals at hospitals and low vision clinics, providing guidance, resources, and assistance tailored to their unique needs.
- **Home Visitation and Befriending:** We successfully paired 92 people with suitable befrienders, and our Vision Loss Advisors undertook 210 home visits promoting connections and reducing isolation among HVL service users.
- **Sight Life social groups:** Altogether, we supported 180 people through Sight Life social groups, creating opportunities for social interaction, engagement, and peer support.



Plans for 2024-2025

1. **Establishing Additional Sight Life Peer Support Groups:** HVL recognises the vital role that peer support groups play in reducing social isolation and promoting mental well-being among blind and visually impaired individuals. In 2024 – 2025, HVL will focus on setting up new Sight Life groups, starting with Letchworth Garden City. These groups will provide a safe space for sharing experiences, offering mutual support, and promoting a sense of community. We will recruit and train volunteers to facilitate these groups, ensuring they are accessible and beneficial to all participants.
2. **Archiving HVL History:** Preserving the history of HVL is essential for future generations and academic research. In the coming year, we will digitise our historical records and archives, creating an accessible and comprehensive digital repository. This project will involve cataloguing documents, photographs, and other significant materials that reflect our journey and impact over the years. Collaborating with St Albans Museums, we will ensure the digital archive is meticulously organised and available for educational purposes and public access.
3. **Promoting Access to Training and Employment:** To empower blind and visually impaired individuals in Hertfordshire, HVL will intensify efforts to provide training and employment opportunities. In addition to the four years National Lottery Community Fund grant, we will collaborate with the Thomas Pocklington Trust and educational institutions to create tailored programs that address the unique challenges faced by our community. This includes offering vocational training, job placement services, and ongoing support to help individuals secure and sustain meaningful employment. We aim to enhance skills, boost confidence, and facilitate greater economic independence.
4. **Enhancing HVL Visibility:** Increasing the visibility of HVL across Hertfordshire is crucial for reaching more people in need and expanding our support network. We will leverage various platforms, including social media, community events, and partnerships with local organisations, to raise awareness about our services. Our residency at the St Albans Museums will serve as a central hub for community engagement, showcasing our work and promoting more collaborations. By amplifying our presence, we aim to connect with a broader audience and acquire greater community support.

Public Benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The purpose of the charity is enshrined in its objects outlined herein. The trustees ensure that this is carried out for the public benefit by delivering a range of activities to meet its objects.

Governance Report

Structure, Governance and Management:

- Herts Vision Loss is governed by Memorandum and Articles of Association.
- Our Trustees form the charity's management committee known at Herts Vision Loss as the Board of Trustees.
- Trustees are recruited according to their skills and aptitude for work on the board.
- One third of the trustees are subject to retirement at each AGM by rotation.
- New Trustees are appointed by a majority vote of the existing Trustees.
- All Trustees are members of the charitable company and guarantee to contribute to the assets of the charitable company, in the event of it being wound up, such amounts as may be required not exceeding £1. The number of guarantees on 31 March 2024 was 8 (2023:9).
- Trustees have no beneficial interest in the company and are not remunerated.
- In addition to detailed financial procedures that govern the charity's operation, trustee liability insurance is in place to cover claims made against the charity.

Trustees Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees are required to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). The financial statements are required to give a true and fair view of the situation of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity, including its income and expenditure, for that period.

In preparing these financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Make judgement and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that 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 Companies Act 2006. 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.

Herts Vision Loss Objectives and Activities

Herts Vision Loss remains an independent charity and is the only local charity wholly dedicated to providing services to blind and visually impaired people (VIPs), their families, and carers in Hertfordshire. HVL aims to support and empower blind and VIPs in Hertfordshire; to reduce social isolation and loneliness, help people to maintain their independence and help with daily living needs.

Many people experience a huge sense of loss and social isolation with the onset of a serious eye condition. We provide much needed social interaction, practical and emotional support and advice and a link to the community via news, information, all of which can help a person regain their independence, re-discover their self-esteem, and claim their lives back.

We deliver a range of services which include information, advice advocacy, counselling, a regular newsletter, technology support, gadget and equipment demonstrations, home – visiting and befriending, social and support groups, together with support to patients and staff at a number low vision and hospital eye clinics across the county.

Risk Management

The Board of Trustees continues to review, each quarter throughout the year, the major risks to which the charity is exposed and equate systems to mitigate these risks. The chief executive officer did report to the Board at the end of 2023-2024 about how effectively we have addressed our risk management targets.

Legal and Administrative Information

Aims and Objectives as stated in the Memorandum and Articles of Association:

- 3.1
- (a) to provide or assist in providing equipment and technological aids for blind or partially sighted persons.
 - (b) to provide advice and information relating to the problems experienced by blind and partially sighted people.
 - (c) to provide education and training for blind and partially sighted people and for those caring for or assisting such persons.
 - (d) to provide premises at which activities conducive or relevant to the needs or interests of blind or partially sighted persons may be carried on.
 - (e) to provide advice and information relating to the prevention, alleviation, or cure of eyesight problems.
 - (f) to make representations to local and national government bodies on issues relevant to blind and partially sighted persons or to eyesight problems in general; and
 - (g) to co-operate with any other charity, organization, council or other private or public body for the purpose of any project or initiative likely to promote the objects of the Company.
- 3.2 to arrange for the visit of blind and partially sighted people in their own homes, hospitals or elsewhere with a view to affording them comfort and encouragement and assistance in the solution of domestic and other problems.
- 3.3 provide every other service and assistance necessary for the benefit of the health and comfort of blind and partially sighted persons.

Emergency Contingency Reserve Policy

The Board of Trustees believes that the charity should hold an emergency contingency reserve because:

1. It has no endowment funding and is primarily dependent for income upon grants which inevitably fluctuate from year to year.
2. It requires protection against and the ability, to continue meeting the needs of its beneficiaries despite catastrophic or lesser but damaging events.

The Trustees believe that the average level of financial emergency contingency reserve should be the equivalent of four months' operating costs calculated and reviewed annually. They believe that such financial emergency contingency reserve should be built up to the desired level in stages consistent with the charity's overall financial position and its need to maintain and develop its charitable activities.

**Herts Vision Loss
Independent Examiner's Report
For The Year Ended 31 March 2024**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Herts Vision Loss

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are set out within this document.

Responsibilities and basis of the report

As the charity's trustees (and directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act") and 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

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

- the accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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 to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

DocuSigned by:

George R. Davidson

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George R. Davidson FMAAT

Resolve Accountancy
11 Garden Court
Tewin Road
Welwyn Garden City
Hertfordshire
AL7 1BH

Dated: 06-Sep-24 | 12:00 BST

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Charitable Income		335,032	323,125
Charitable Expenditure		(270,202)	(247,488)
Gross Surplus		64,830	75,637
Administrative Expenditure		(136,785)	(75,625)
Reserve Movement		72,397	215
SURPLUS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR		442	227

The notes on pages 18 to 20 form part of these financial statements.

**Herts Vision Loss
Statement of Financial Position
As At 31 March 2024**

		2024		2023	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	4		400,612		8,596
Designated funds	5		247,203		654,677
			647,815		663,273
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	6	6,738		6,110	
Short term deposits	7	65,825		128,189	
Cash at bank and in hand		46,848		16,076	
		119,411		150,375	
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	8	(83,473)		(57,940)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)			35,938		92,435
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			683,753		755,708
NET ASSETS			683,753		755,708
RESERVES					
Designated reserve			247,203		654,677
Property reserve			335,077		-
General reserve			101,473		101,031
MEMBERS' FUNDS			683,753		755,708

Audit Exemption Statement

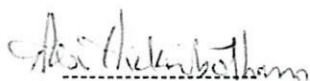
For the year ending 31 March 2024 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees



Alex Hickinbotham
Chair of Trustees



Paul Taylor
Company Secretary

Dated: 03/09/2024

The notes on pages 18 to 20 form part of these financial statements.

neris Vision Loss
Statement of Changes in Equity
For The Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Designated Reserve	Property Reserve	General Reserve	Total Reserves
As at 31 March 2022	£659,677	-	£95,804	£755,481
Surplus for the year	-	-	£227	£227
Transfers from designated to general reserves - adjusting general reserve to recommended level of 4 months costs	(£5,000)	-	£5,000	-
As at 31 March 2023	£654,677	-	£101,031	£755,708
Deficit for the year before transfers from designated reserve	-	-	(£71,955)	(£71,955)
Transfers from designated to general reserves - for general operating costs support - for relocation costs support - for purchase of 2 Brownfields, WGC	(£42,899) (£29,498) (£335,077)	- - £335,077	£42,899 £29,498 -	- - -
As at 31 March 2024	£247,203	£335,077	£101,473	£683,753

Please see note 11 on page 20

Herts Vision Loss
Notes to the Financial Statements
For The Year Ended 31 March 2024

1. General Information

Herts Vision Loss is a private company, limited by guarantee, incorporated in England & Wales, registered number 03033089. The registered office is 2 Brownfields, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, AL7 1AN.

2. Accounting Policies

2.1. Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 section 1A Small Entities "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Companies Act 2006.

2.2. Income

All income is recognised in the Income Statement once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. Gifts donated for resale are included in income when they are sold. Donated facilities are included at the value to the company where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of donation. Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

2.3. Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of the fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold	2.5% Straight line
Motor Vehicles	25% Straight line
Furniture & equipment	25% Straight line

2.4. Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

2.5. Fund Accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds have been set aside by the Trustees for the provision of premises and other major costs.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements where necessary.

3. Average Number of Employees

Average number of employees, including directors, during the year was: 8 (2023: 6)

neris Vision Loss
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 March 2024

4. Tangible Assets

	Land & Property			
	Freehold	Motor Vehicles	Furniture & equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
As at 1 April 2023	-	15,065	86,910	101,975
Additions	352,782	-	49,419	402,201
As at 31 March 2024	352,782	15,065	136,329	504,176
Depreciation				
As at 1 April 2023	-	15,065	78,314	93,379
Provided during the period	4,608	-	5,577	10,185
As at 31 March 2024	4,608	15,065	83,891	103,564
Net Book Value				
As at 31 March 2024	348,174	-	52,438	400,612
As at 1 April 2023	-	-	8,596	8,596

Land & Property consists of the £335,077 purchase of 2 Brownfields, along with £17,705 of further building works carried out to bring the property up to a reasonable standard.

5. Designated funds

	Santander reserve account
	£
Balance	
As at 1 April 2023	654,677
Movement	(407,474)
As at 31 March 2024	247,203

6. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	840	163
Prepayments and accrued income	5,328	3,524
Other debtors	570	2,423
	6,738	6,110

7. Current Asset Investments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Short term deposits	65,825	128,189

neris Vision Loss
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 March 2024

8. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	1,305	577
Other creditors	4,019	3,061
Accruals and deferred income	24,238	22,945
Grants relating to future period	53,911	31,357
	<u>83,473</u>	<u>57,940</u>

9. Company limited by guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company, in the event of a winding up, such an amount as may be required not exceeding £1.

10. Trustees' Remuneration and Benefits

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

11. HVL Financial Reserves

The financial reserves comprise:

1. a designated reserve for major projects, comprising the funds remaining from the previously designated reserve for premises, following the purchase of the HVL's new offices at 2, Brownfields, Welwyn Garden City; and
2. a property reserve for the value of the offices at 2 Brownfields, Welwyn Garden City, that were purchased during 2023/24; and
3. a general reserve for operating costs, comprising the funds to be readily available for up to four months of operations, as per HVL policy.

neris Vision Loss
Detailed Income Statement
For The Year Ended 31 March 2024

	2024		2023	
	£	£	£	£
Charitable Income				
HCC contract		268,484		253,655
Project grants		43,200		28,035
Locality grants		5,654		9,888
Donations & legacies		8,848		21,040
Trading income		1,114		264
Advertising		500		200
Fundraising income		233		2,212
Minibus hire income		834		1,027
Counselling income		750		510
Activities income		221		804
Investment income		5,194		5,490
		<u>335,032</u>		<u>323,125</u>
Charitable Expenditure				
Goods for resale	747		367	
Direct staff salaries & NIC	96,158		81,781	
Direct training	2,738		985	
Direct travel & subsistence	4,681		4,023	
Volunteer costs	154		728	
Property costs	20,113		24,592	
Fundraising costs	533		473	
Activities costs	4,264		1,198	
Minibus costs	2,098		1,219	
HHAS contract	138,716		132,122	
		<u>(270,202)</u>		<u>(247,488)</u>
Gross Surplus		64,830		75,637
Administrative Expenditure				
Admin salaries & NIC	58,937		41,744	
Staff travel & subsistence	145		183	
Office expenses	15,700		12,422	
Fees & insurance	18,942		11,870	
Equipment costs	-		63	
Bank charges & finance costs	25		-	
Depreciation charge	10,185		1,696	
Sight news	3,346		3,737	
Miscellaneous expenses	7		303	
Relocation costs & set up	29,498		3,607	
		<u>(136,785)</u>		<u>(75,625)</u>
Reserve Movement				
Sundry & other income	-		215	
Designated reserve release - General	42,899		-	
Designated reserve release - Relocation costs	29,498		-	
		<u>72,397</u>		<u>215</u>
SURPLUS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR		442		227