

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 03178631 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1055498

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024
FOR
HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE CARE OF
THE BLIND

HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE CARE OF THE BLIND

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HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE CARE OF THE BLIND

About OpenSight (Hampshire Association for the Care of the Blind)

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

OpenSight Hampshire (Hampshire Association for the Care of the Blind) is a small independent charity that is making a difference to the lives of thousands of visually impaired people in Hampshire every year.

Our Mission is to provide a lifetime of support to visually impaired people of all ages.

Our Vision is to be able to offer a full range of practical and emotional support throughout the County, including a personalised and accessible service, giving our service users the confidence to be independent and maintain this throughout their life.

What We Do

During 2023/24 OpenSight Hampshire continued to operate a hybrid service, with our staff and volunteers supporting service users by phone, email, video call, group sessions and 1 2 1 home visits. We use 23 venues across the county to provide direct support to those with a visual impairment that need us.

We deliver a range of services including:

- Independent living advice.
- An equipment service.
- Information hubs.
- Information days.
- Leisure and social clubs and activities.
- Benefit support.
- Child, young people, and family service.
- Working age groups and activities.
- Educational talks and interactive sessions.

Our support is delivered at different levels, depending on client need. From one of brief interventions providing information, to a series of interventions, through to ongoing support through our groups and activities.

Access to our services is through self-referral, sensory services, adult social care, local eye clinic liaison officers, and other local sight loss charities. Together we work to make the referral path as smooth as possible and delivered in a person-centred way.

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Introduction from Jane Brooks, Chair of Trustees

I am delighted to have been elected the new Chair of Trustees as Sue Walker, our former Chair, had served her maximum term of office and resigned from the Board. On behalf of the Trustees and the OpenSight Team, I would like to express our grateful thanks to Sue, for her many years of tireless service and dedication to our Charity. Sue's contribution of ideas, energy, enthusiasm and thoughtful guidance have been invaluable and helped us accomplish so much, and we wish her well for the future.

We have also said farewell this year to David McKeigue, our former Chief Executive Officer, as he stepped down from the post he had held since 2016. David's commitment to the Charity is greatly appreciated, particularly as, under his leadership, we sought and implemented innovative ways to continue supporting those who needed our help throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, despite the innumerable challenges those difficult times brought to us all. David was also instrumental in leading the many wonderful events through which we celebrated OpenSight's Centenary. We thank David for all his hard work and send our best wishes to him for a happy retirement.

In David's wake, the OpenSight Team warmly welcome our new Chief Executive Officer, Chris Dixon, and we very much look forward to working alongside Chris as he settles into his new role and starts to introduce further improvements to the services that we offer to those with visual impairment.

The Board of Trustees would like to acknowledge, and thank, all our exceptional staff for their hard work and dedication. We are so proud of each member of our staff team, of the excellent services they provide for our service users and of the impressive outcomes that they are achieving that help so much to make a difference to the lives of those with visual impairment.

And on behalf of the staff and the Trustees, I would like to express our huge thanks to our remarkable volunteers. OpenSight continues to benefit from their hard work and unstinting support and we are grateful to them for all that they do in support of the Charity.

Amongst our valued Volunteers are the Trustees of OpenSight, with whom it is my pleasure to work alongside. My thanks go to each of our Trustees for all their work, their dedication and their commitment to supporting the Charity.

In addition to Sue Walker stepping down as Chair of Trustees, we have seen the following changes to the Trustee Board this year:

Appointed: Dr Vivien Robins (appointed 19 June 2023)

Resignation: Penny Melville-Brown (resigned 8 November 2023)

Resignation: Chris Schultz (resigned 1 June 2024)

We warmly welcome Vivien to the OpenSight team and we thank Penny and Chris for their support and wish them both well for the future.

We would also like to thank all the organisations with whom we work in partnership, and our funders, for their hugely appreciated support.

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As a Team, we are very much looking forward to the coming year and to implementing changes that will enable us to further improve how we help and support our service users. We are always keen to receive feedback on our service provision and delivery so please do get in touch with us at OpenSight if you would like to share your views with us.

Chief Executive Officers Review – Chris Dixon

Firstly, I would like to thank the OpenSight team for welcoming me to the organisation in February 2024. I recognise change is a challenge, but everyone has enabled me to bed in and start moving the organisation forward.

I would like to recognise the huge contribution of my predecessor David McKeigue who left in August 2023 and who had guided the organisation for 8 years with the challenges of covid during that time. Also, Debbie Ross, who took on the interim post of CEO whilst the organisation was recruiting for its next CEO. Debbie worked hard to support the trustees and the team to keep moving the organisation forwards. This report reflects 2023/24 and the work of them both.

The work that Open Sight does continues to be wide a varied and meeting the needs of people across the age spectrum. The basis of our work is to raise awareness of eye health, whilst promoting independence and self-management. Our services include Early years sessions to activity days and Christmas parties, working age group support and access to employment, our ambassadors supporting organisations to improve community access for the visually impaired. We have our benefits and independent services, to our social clubs for our senior members.

In addition to the above we have our joint project with Southampton Sight and Southampton University Hospital, and the training of eye clinic nurses, who are that first line of support to people of all ages who receive that initial diagnosis. A project that we would like to roll out across the county.

Although the organisation continues to deliver services that have significant impact on the visual impaired community, it does so in a time of change and challenge. The cost-of-living crisis is still there to be seen, the impact on those providing a statutory service, and their inability to meet demand, increases the burden on the charitable sector. Reducing access to services, isn't mirrored by a reducing number of people needing those services. As an organisation we need to be able to provide the right support for our service users, but not fill the statutory void that is being created. In 2023/24 we have seen our income drop dramatically, and 24/25 may see a similar situation. This will lead to services being reviewed and amended, but it will not see us reduce our ambitions to support more people and to deliver new services. In fact, in March of this year the trustees committed to increasing our staffing resource. This has seen our Child, Young People and Family Support service move to a full-time service. In addition, our Community Engagement and Volunteer Support Service is also moving to full time. Both changes are a sign of our commitment to do more for those we support.

Our work cannot be delivered without our staff team and volunteers. We have a small team of 14 who are supported by over 100 volunteers. Together we ensure that those with a visual impairment have access to support, to live their best life. I cannot speak loud enough about the OpenSight team. They all have my admiration and thanks.

As we move forward 2024/25 will be a challenging time for the organisation as we develop

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a team and services that enable us to meet the financial requirements of the organisation together with meeting the needs of the increasing number of people living with a visual impairment. The trustees are committed to investing into the infrastructure of the organisation, its staff team and where appropriate its service delivery. It will be an exciting year for OpenSight Hampshire as we aim to develop the work we do across Hampshire.

2023 – 2024 Impact

With the continued impact of the cost-of-living crisis, the reduction of the public purse and its impact on local services, we saw the demand for our service increase. This included:

- **9%** increase on the number of people registered with OpenSight – **3,307**.
- **2%** increase on the number of people referred to the service – **1,702**
- **63%** increase in the number of people attending our hubs – **387**
- **7%** increase in the number of people attending our events - **230**
- **11%** increase in the number of people registered with our social clubs - **503**.

Those attending our services:

- **16%** increase in people aged 66 to 80 years of age
- **62%** of our service users are female.
- **36%** increase in service users accessing our services in Meon Valley, Hythe, and Hamble Valley
- **63%** of those attending our services are blind, or partially sighted (22% sighted, 25% waiting diagnosis)
- **40%** of those we support have AMD (Age related macular degeneration)
- **7.3%** of those we support have Glaucoma.
- **3.9%** of those we support have Diabetic Retinopathy.
- **3.5%** of those we support have Retinitis Pigmentosa.
- **2.3%** of those we support have Cataracts.
- **29%** of those we support have another condition (including Nystagmus, stroke)
- **14%** unknown.

The outcome of this support includes:

- **34%** increase in the number of benefits received by the people we have supported up to **£422,032**.
- **388** people we supported told us they were better integrated into society.
- **834** people we supported told us they had increased independence.
- **1,106** people we supported told us they had improved wellbeing.
- **330** of our service users' families told they felt supported.
- **310** of those we supported told us they had improved levels of activity.

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Our People

Our team is paramount to the success of the organisation and without them we would not be the organisation we are.

Their knowledge, skills, experience enriches our services and ensure that those with a visual impairment get the support they need to live their best lives.

Below is our staff team during 2023/24

Debbie Ross, Zoe Hanscombe, Steve Geary, Sharon Flurry, Pippa Butler, Chris Dixon, Stacey Halford, Sarah Evans, Lindsey Payne, Magda Wolanowska, Jane Beesley, Terry Smith



Service Summary

Child, Young Person, and Family Support Service

The service provides practical, emotional, social, financial and educational support to young people with a visual impairment up to the age of 25. This includes their families and circles

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of support.

During the year we have delivered 37 sessions to over 107 individuals.

These sessions include Early years sessions, benefit support, activity days, school visits, Xmas parties and outings, family fund days and an information session.

Smart Tec Tutorials

Our smart tec tutorials teach visually impaired service users of all ages, how to get the most out of their smart devices such as iPhone, iPad, Android, Echo, and the built-in accessibility features. In addition, we can recommend and demonstrate how to use useful apps for everyday living.

The service enables people to access everything they need for social life and work, making everything accessible with assistive technology, increases independence, self-confidence, and personal.

This service receives referrals from several avenues including: ECLO, Sensory Teams, Opticians, Self-Referrals and from other sight loss charities National and smaller.

During the year we have delivered over 208 sessions, either in people's homes, in small groups or at head office.

Working Age Services.

The service, delivers, through a mix of face to face and online sessions, a range of monthly support and social groups to people with a visual impairment aged 18 – 65. The sessions, delivered across the county, support people to build confidence, meet new people, learn smart tec skills, share ideas, tips and hints to break down barriers to accessing the community.

During the year we have delivered 96 sessions attended by approximately 100 people.

These sessions are delivered by OpenSight staff and volunteers.

Resource Service

Our resource service, delivered through our resource centre at Head Office, our online shop or through our hubs and information days, provides access to specialist equipment to support visually impaired people to live their best life.

Our service includes demonstrating new resources and supporting people to learn to use the equipment they purchase.

Our resource centre has supported over 297 people to get the equipment they need to go about their life.

Information Days.

Each year we deliver two Equipment and Information exhibitions at venues within Hampshire. These days, bring people with a visual Impairment, existing and new service users, together with resource and support providers within the community.

The events were attended by over 20 organisations and attracted over 200 people. They received wonderful feedback that demonstrated the impact of the services.

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Thank you to those organisations that support the day.

Social Clubs

We have 13 clubs throughout Hampshire that meet regularly (fortnightly or monthly) that bring people with a visual impairment together for social and peer support. The clubs are delivered through a network of over 100 volunteers, without whom, this service would not be able to run.

All volunteers are inducted, DBS checked and supported by the team to provide a safe environment, a program of activities and a world where a visual impairment isn't a barrier to friends and companions.

During the year our volunteer team have delivered over 150 club sessions which have been attended by over 250 people.

Information Hubs

We deliver 11 free drop-in sessions a month at locations across Hampshire for anyone with a visual impairment. The sessions offer practical advice on all matters related to sight loss, including advice on local services and support, equipment and everyday items that can help keep your independence as well as details of local social clubs and working age groups.

During the year we have delivered 125 sessions to 387 visitors. 291 of them had a visual impairment.

The feedback included:

- 86% of attendees at one of our hubs reported feeling happier as a result.
- 53% felt they could maintain their independence better because of the input from our staff
- 35% reported that their families felt better able to support them following a visit.

LVA

We deliver low vision assessments to people with a visual impairment within their homes. These sessions assess their vision and offer a range of practical tools to support them to go about their daily life to the best of their ability.

This includes:

- Carry out low vision assessments in the home.
- Give a lot of information, advice and guidance on daily living.
- Give information on audio books and how to listen.
- Give advice on accessing computers and other tech.
- Give benefits advice on entitlements.
- Give people emotional support and inform what is happening to their eyes and how to cope with it and make use of the best part of their sight.

During the year we have delivered 233 sessions to 233 individuals and their families.

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Ambassadors

OpenSight Hampshire receives requests for support to improve accessibility for venues, activities, services and awareness of the barriers people with sight loss face in their everyday life.

We aim to empower and enable our volunteer Ambassadors to make a difference by representing the voice of severely sight impaired and sight impaired people and give them the opportunity to support OpenSight Hampshire to influence positive change and improve services at a local level in the key areas of health, employment, education, transport, technology, and sport.

Examples:

- UK Government research into new way to access your tax services
- National Campaign to stop the closure of railway station ticket offices
- Southampton Airport's accessibility for their building and assistive travel service
- New Forest District Council venues, activities and experiences
- Places Leisure and The Point – Accessibility for fitness and wellbeing

Training

OpenSight Hampshire provides sight awareness/sighted guiding training courses that will increase the individual's knowledge on the different sight conditions, enhance their understanding of the barriers facing visually impaired people (VIP), it gives them the knowledge of the practical techniques to support VIP's in their daily living tasks and it increases their confidence in how and when to guide a VI person. The courses are adapted to meet the group's needs and are offered to a variety of organisations; professionals; schools and colleges.

- OSH new volunteers
- Health and Social Care Students
- Southampton Airport staff

Quotes

"I found the update on some eye conditions, the simulation glasses and the sighted guiding very helpful. These will help a lot for day to day to empathise with people more on a practical level."

"I really enjoyed the course, especially the practical exercises which gave me a real insight into the issues faced by people with sight loss."

Benefits

Our benefits officer supports people with a visual impairment aged 16 to 100 apply for PIP and Attendance Allowance once they have been certified partially or severely sight impaired.

We have supported 120 individuals receive a total of £422,032 of benefits during 2023/24.

The impact of this enables people to live their life through accessing transport to get to clubs, going to the gym and dance classes, meeting friends, and improving health and wellbeing.

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Southampton Hospital Eye Unit Sight Loss Support Service

Over 300 adult patients a year are registered as either sight impaired (SI) or severely sight impaired (SSI) at this busy eye unit. Following loss of the dedicated support for these patients in 2019 a joint initiative between the NHS, local sight loss charities and local authority social services, has re-imagined the support, rehabilitation and empowerment of patients living with visual impairments. Initial study of patients and staff to understand barriers to supporting patients led to the design of a sight loss advisor (SLA) course and sight loss awareness training for all staff with all the above stakeholders contributing to the content of the course. There are now over 5 embedded sight loss advisors including, satellite eye clinics, paediatric ophthalmology and neurology.

OpenSight Hampshire is a key partner within the stakeholder group which meets on a quarterly basis to review the service delivery.

The Outcomes for the referrals coming from the SLA service:

- 91 Referrals received
- Of which 62% were new to OpenSight
- The age range for these referrals were 22yrs to 96yrs
- 56% were female and 44% were male

Behind the numbers are the people we help

Early Years Groups – Together life is brighter.



I contacted the mother of T, chatted generally and told her more about the Early Years group. Mum was feeling overwhelmed and isolated from the recent diagnosis. She told me about how she had tried a few 'mainstreams' early years group but she had felt it wasn't very inclusive and had the impression that she was constantly having to explain why their child was 'different'. Mum agreed to come to the next Early Years group which was only 2 days later. Unfortunately, due to illness they couldn't attend on the day. The first jan group this family attended was in June 2023. Mum, dad and T arrived at the group. They came looking very unsure but to their credit they threw themselves into all the activities which were based around 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'; dad was particularly competitive when it came to modelling a salt dough caterpillar!

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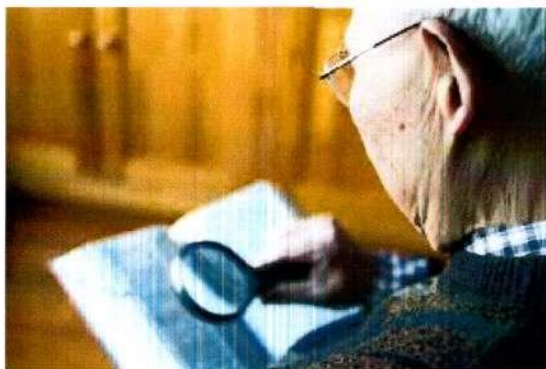
Roll on 12 months and where are we now? This family has become one of the biggest advocates of OpenSight Hampshire's Family Service. They have attended 9 Early Years group, attended our Family Fun and Information Day as well as the virtual Christmas party. There has only been one session when both parents couldn't attend, and mum still made the effort to get to us on the Gosport Ferry and walk to the venue in Southsea. Without fail, they always send a lovely message to thank me for the session they have attended. From the overwhelmed parents at the beginning, they are now the first to welcome new families and to make sure that everyone feels included.

It hasn't been an easy journey as genetic testing; ongoing diagnoses are discovered but they have always made the effort to be with us and shared the highs and the lows. There have been tears but also so many smiles. Accessing help from the QTVIs, who have also attended groups, has had the impact that the family have felt even more supported.

"The group is a breath of fresh air for us. It helps us and my kiddies understand so much more about sight loss and eyesight in a positive way too. And the support from other parents is lovely. I privately message about five other parents it's lovely 🧡 The support from you guys is massive and goes a long way too." – T's mum April 2024.

Low Vision Assessment – You only know what you know.

We met Jim (name changed) at Andover Library. He came along with his wife. Jim has wet Macular Degeneration and has had many injections. He said that the Low Vision Clinic had issued him with a couple of magnifiers, which he did not have with him. Jim was also wearing bifocal glasses. Jim said that the magnifiers were no good and he could not read anything really. Jim was very frustrated, and he got his wife to read things to him.



We advised Jim of the services we provide and referred him to our benefits team to apply for Attendance Allowance.

We arranged a home visit to support Jim with his reading. At the home visit we made sure that Jim had reading glasses which would enable him to look through the center of the glasses and not a small section at the bottom.

We then explained what was going on within his macular and that there would be an area of distortion. The shape and position of this would be unique to him. We were able to explain to Jim that if he was moving his eyes to try and read or was moving a magnifier around, he would be moving that distortion. We assured him that this was making it so hard for him to read.

With this knowledge and using a daylight lamp and reading glasses he managed to get a lot further in his book than he thought he could.

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We then proceeded to discuss the magnifier and showed Jim the technique of having the magnifier close to his eye while wearing reading glasses and then bringing the text towards it until it came into focus. He then needed to move what he was reading and keep his eye and the magnifier still.

Jim could read well with the x3 Eschenbach LED illuminated handheld magnifier he had been issued with from a low vision clinic. Jim wondered why the low vision clinic had not shown him and told him all this as it had led to his feelings of isolation??

Jim shared that he had received over 80 injections in his eyes and shared that he was getting a bit fed up with them as it isn't a pleasant experience.

We advised Jim to continue with them as they were doing what they were supposed to do and doing it very well. They had kept his sight stable, and it was remarkable how good his sight was after the amount of time and injections.

Following this we also supported Jim with his laptop and demonstrated the keystrokes required to use the Windows Magnifier. He was amazed that it existed.

On a separate visit Jim helped with his application for Attendance Allowance. Together with additional health issues, Jim received a higher level of benefit.

The Impact of Smart Tec – Tools to independence

Simon (name changed) was signposted to OpenSight Hampshire by Blind Veterans UK in June 2022. Simon is a retired IT professional and enjoyed holidays abroad, walks and time with family and friends. It was about 8 years ago when Simon started to notice his eyesight was not right and since my first visit to Simon until now, he has now lost a substantial amount of his eyesight due to a blood clot in the eye possibly due to high pressure caused by Glaucoma and other complications. He is still receiving treatment from his local ophthalmology clinic, however, there is no certainty whether any sight useful sight can be saved.



On my first initial home visit to Simon in August 2022, it was evident that Simon felt he had lost all his independence, no longer able to drive, read, see the TV or see his family smile anymore. His supporting wife sat with us as we chatted, I could see that Simon was finding it hard to come to terms with his sight loss and he was very dependent on his wife to be with us on my visit.

Simon had an iPhone, iPad and iMac of which he used completely independently before his sight loss, now, he feels very dependent on his wife to do all the things he used to do and felt isolated.

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Gradually over time, I was able to show Simon how he could use the tech he already had just by using voice commands, he was surprised at this as he thought he would have to buy expensive specialist equipment to enable him to read and do all the things he used to be able to do with technology, such as reading important emails, his post and seeing colors of clothing. By the end of my first visit, Simon was able to use his voice to make calls, text message friends and family and find out what the weather was like outside.

My second home visit took place in October 2022, Simon had been finding the personal assistant on his smartphone incredibly useful and had impressed his family and friends by replying to text messages independently just by voice control. Now Simon was ready to find out more about what other accessibility features are available, so we dived into the Voiceover text to speech Accessibility features on his Apple devices.

With Simons permission, I installed some free apps onto his iPhone that would enable him to scan text and the device was able to read this text out to him immediately including handwriting. Simon was overwhelmed with this and was looking forward to getting his independence back again in time.

Simon's wife has been quite emotional seeing her husband now able to be more independent, using technology for communication as well as using it to hear his surroundings.

I have now been visiting Simon on a 6-to-8-week basis over the last year and 8 months, each visit, Simon is becoming more and more confident with his accessible technology. His wife no longer needs to sit in on his tutorials with me and Simon is now able to explore photos on his iPhone that were taken many years ago when on holiday, with the AI technology describing each captured moment in photos on his device.

Simon has since upgraded his iPhone and can use it independently using voiceover, Siri and useful AI apps. He is enjoying being able to get back to being connected with people and having the ability to access information independently.

Simon's wife has also seen an increase in his wellbeing and has been quite emotional seeing her husband now able to be more independent, using technology for communication as well using it to hear his surroundings. Simon has thrived in learning how accessibility on his smartphone, increasing his wellbeing and helping with his mental health.

He is looking forward to enjoying holidays away again, capturing scenes on his iPhone that he can then explore using AI technology, and hearing his surroundings in unfamiliar places.

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What our service users tell us

The Early Years Group at Open Sight is run by the lovely welcoming Sarah and her colleagues who put on fabulous for little ones with vision impairment and their families. It's a great place to meet other families and have some fun in a totally inclusive environment.

I was so relieved to get in touch with Open Sight. What a difference it has made! Before I talked to you, I felt cast to sea in a boat with no support in place and now I feel so much more positive.

It is a supportive, fun environment where you meet up and form relationships with other parents who are going through some similar things as well as with the help of professionals who are knowledgeable and non-judgmental. The sessions are important to me. I often felt isolated and misunderstood. The group allowed me to gain confidence.

Very positive and helpful. Gave me lots of information and gave me a boost.

So informative. The visit has relieved lots of my worries, and I am more confident about moving forward with my sight loss. The best 2 hours we have spent in a long time.

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Our funders

Big Lottery
Hampshire County Council
Powell Family Foundation
Ulvercroft Foundation
National lottery
Mackay and Brewer Trust Fund
de Brye Charitable Trust
Hendy Foundation
de Vere Hunt Charitable Trust
William Allen Young Charitable Trust
Powell Family Foundation
Powell Family Foundation
Broyst Foundation -
Ladbroke's Coral Trust
Martineau Trust
Christopher HR Reeves Trust
Basingstoke Rotary
Rushmoor Rotary
Coopervision
Beacon Church Havant - Waterloooville
Rotary Club Portsmouth & Southsea
Basingstoke Lions
Havant Lions
Eastleigh Rotary
Fareham Lions
Eastleigh Lions
Slimming World
William Allen Young Charitable Trust
Hampshire County Council
Hampshire County Council
Hampshire County Council
Hampshire County Council

Information Hubs
Home Visiting
Early Years
Smart Tec Workshops
Working Age Groups
Unrestricted Funding
EY Art and Music Therapy
CYP sensory equipment/toys
Smart Tech Workshop New Milton
Early Years Basingstoke
EY Group Grant
1 x Activity Day Grant
EY Group Grant
EY Group Grant
Unrestricted Funding
EY Group Grant
Basingstoke WAG Grant
Aldershot WAG Grant
Family Fun Day Donation
WAG Grant
EY Group Grant
Basingstoke WAG Grant
Waterloooville WAG Grant
Eastleigh WAG Grant
Fareham WAG Grant
Eastleigh WAG Grant
Xmas Appeal
Basingstoke Early Years
Grant for Tech Workshop in New Milton
Grant for Tech Workshop in Eastleigh
Grant for Tech Workshop in Totton
Grant for Tech Workshop in HO

Acknowledgements

- Our fantastic volunteer club leaders and their teams
- All our wonderful funders and supporters including those in public services and across the voluntary and community sector.

Our sincere thanks for being part of OpenSight Hampshire.

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number	03178631																				
Registered Charity number	1055498																				
Registered office	25 Church Road Bishopstoke, Eastleigh SO50 6BL																				
Trustees:	<table><tr><td>S Walker</td><td>Chair - resigned 28 Mar 24</td></tr><tr><td>T G Howell</td><td>Treasurer</td></tr><tr><td>Dr J Brooks</td><td>Chair – appointed 28 Mar 24</td></tr><tr><td>Dr R Drabu</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>H Hamblen</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>M. Hildyard</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>P Melville-Brown</td><td>appointed 6 Mar 23 resigned 8 Nov 23</td></tr><tr><td>Dr V Robins</td><td>appointed 19 Jun 23</td></tr><tr><td>Dr C.B.V Schulz</td><td>resigned 1 June 24</td></tr><tr><td>L Simpson</td><td></td></tr></table>	S Walker	Chair - resigned 28 Mar 24	T G Howell	Treasurer	Dr J Brooks	Chair – appointed 28 Mar 24	Dr R Drabu		H Hamblen		M. Hildyard		P Melville-Brown	appointed 6 Mar 23 resigned 8 Nov 23	Dr V Robins	appointed 19 Jun 23	Dr C.B.V Schulz	resigned 1 June 24	L Simpson	
S Walker	Chair - resigned 28 Mar 24																				
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H Hamblen																					
M. Hildyard																					
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Dr V Robins	appointed 19 Jun 23																				
Dr C.B.V Schulz	resigned 1 June 24																				
L Simpson																					
Company Secretary	Ms T G Howell																				
Chief Executive:	Mr David McKeigue resigned Jul 23 Mrs Debbie Ross interim Aug 23 to Jan 24 Mr Chris Dixon Feb 24																				
Independent Examiner	Morris Crocker Ltd Station House North Street Havant PO9 1QU																				
Bankers	CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ																				
Bankers (investment)	Featherstone HQ Old Brewhouse, Yattendon, West Berkshire. RG18 0UE																				
Solicitors	Blake Morgan New Kings Court Tollgate Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, SO53 3LG																				

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

"OpenSight" (Hampshire Association for the Care of the Blind) is a charitable company limited by guarantee and was incorporated on 27 March 1996, replacing a previous charity that had been established in 1922. It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The members of the charitable company are those members of the public who have been admitted to membership by the Board of the charitable company.

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Hampshire Association for the Care of the Blind for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The system of internal control is designed to provide reasonable assurance against risk and includes:

- A strategic business plan for the period 2017-2024 and an annual budget approved by the Trustees.
- Regular review and consideration by the Trustees of financial results, including variance from budgets, and non-financial performance indicators.
- Formal delegation of authority and segregation of duties which are reviewed annually. Identification and management of risks with a risk management process and the keeping of a risk register used as an integral part of all development and management strategies to seek and identify, prioritise, and reduce risk.
- A Financial Procedures Manual, which covers risk assessment and control procedures and the charity's reserve policy, which is regularly reviewed and updated.
- Regular internal audit of branch accounts and supervision of local volunteer staff and treasurers.
- Agreeing Terms of Reference and parameters for all sub committees and groups, keeping them under constant review.
- Regularly reviewing all policies and procedures as part of risk assessment and strategic plan processes.
- Regular review and consideration given to Data Protection and GDPR compliance.
- Regular consideration of the risks associated with fluctuation market values for reserve investment portfolios and monitoring levels of voluntary giving, share values and property prices, as these impact upon income levels.

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Public Benefit

In reviewing and undertaking assessment of activities and services the Trustees continue to ensure that these meet the public benefit requirements of the Charities Act 2011 and consider that the activities detailed above are for the benefit of the public.

Equality and Diversity continues to be at the heart of the charity and is taken into account in all that we do.

Recruitment and Appointment of New Trustees

The Trustees actively look to recruit new Trustees with specialist skills to support the running of the charity. The search committee continue to seek new Trustees with the required skill set and diversity to enhance the existing Board of Trustees.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Statement of Financial Activities for the year is set out on page 10 and shows a deficit of £223,911 (2023 a deficit of £284,077). There is a deficit before gains and losses on investments of £287,313 (deficit of £195,934 in 2023). The charity is becoming less reliant on legacies for its income and has been increasing its efforts to secure other income streams including grants from Trusts and Foundations.

The charity holds fixed assets and investments of £2.4m but also has a provision for its share of the Local Government Pension Scheme liability. Although it is uncertain of timing and amount, the actuaries estimate the liability to be £30k. The Trustees are mindful of this liability and maximise the use of the charity assets to generate investment income. At 31 March 2024 the amount of total funds not designated or restricted was £407k (2023 £407k).

Investment Policy

During the year ended 31 March 2024 the charity withdrew £225k from capital invested and the value of remaining capital invested grew £64k. The Board takes a long-term view on investments but continues to review the investments managed by its second fund manager Featherstone regularly, who monitor two investment accounts for the charity on behalf of the Trustees.

The Trustees apply a strong ethical perspective and do not invest in products or services that may impinge upon sight loss. This includes tobacco products which are specifically proven to cause sight loss conditions.

Risk Management

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. We maintain a Risk Register, which is reviewed regularly at Board meetings. Mitigation plans are in place to reduce risks identified as far as possible.

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Reserves policy

Free reserves are funds that are readily realisable and exclude funds whose use is restricted or designated for a particular purpose. It also excludes funds invested in fixed assets utilised in the day to day running of the charity.

In line with the prior year Trustees reviewed the appropriate level of free reserves needed by the charity and agreed a level of £567,000 (2023 - £407,000), representing approximately 12 months of running costs for the charity. Additionally, the Trustees set aside a further £1,415,723 (2023- £1,816,488) from unrestricted funds as designated reserves to ensure the charity would be able to cover its indirect costs for the next three years (£1,311,000). This was felt necessary due to the volatile nature of legacy income and inconsistent nature of other income streams, thus securing its medium-term existence. Additionally, it will set aside £104,434 (2023 - £588,488) to be used to ensure the charity can expand its core services and improve its reach within the communities it supports. This will be achieved by investing in its people, its IT and capital infrastructure, on-line and in-person delivery of services.

At 31st March 2024 the charity had free reserves of £567,000 (2023: £407,000). The Trustees are confident that the charity has a sound financial footing for the future.

Fundraising

OpenSight Hampshire's fundraising policy works within professional and ethical standards set by the Fundraising Regulator and Code of Fundraising Practice with whom OpenSight Hampshire are registered. The fundraising strategy is reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees on a regular basis, and it aims to continue to raise the profile of the charity and extend our donor base and income from this source. The fundraising strategy is a strategic priority, to ensure the ongoing financial viability of the organisation. A rounded approach to fundraising, including making applications to grant-making organisations and trusts, community, corporate and individual giving. The charity adheres to the Fundraising Promise as well as to the Code of Fundraising Practice.

The charity has seen a reduction in legacies and in-memoriam donations which have in the past formed a key part of its income. In response to this the charity is moving towards a multi-strand approach to reduce the risk of reliance on single funding streams. Our local clubs and branches continue to raise funds to cover their running costs where this matches the charity's strategic plan and aims. *There were no complaints received by the charity about our fundraising activity over the year.*

Our Plans for the Future

Having appointed a new CEO in February 2024, the coming year will see a focus on putting the structures in place to enable the organisation to develop an ambitious 3-year plan to begin April 25.

The trustees and senior leadership team will work together to develop a new identity for the organisation with a rebrand, followed quickly by a new website. We will be joined by a new head of income generation and communications and a head of service. Together, and with the input of the staff and our service users work will begin on the co-production of the new

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strategy. Our Plans for the Future (continued)

A strategy that raises our profile with the community and stakeholders, and together creating services that provide a "lifetime of support and pathways to independence for our service users. We want to enable people with a visual impairment in Hampshire to "live their best life".

Further investment into our staff team, IT and telephony will provide the organisation with the tools to achieve.

This investment and our strategy over the next few years needs to be monitored robustly and we need to remain agile to opportunity and manage our risks proportionately. The outcomes of this next 3 years will have significant bearing on the long-term future of the organisation and its financial viability.

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STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Hampshire Association for the Care of the Blind for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 9th October 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Dr Jane Brooks – Chair of Trustees

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Hampshire Association for the Care of the Blind ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its 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').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of FCA which is one of the listed bodies.

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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. 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
4. 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 in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Morris Crocker Ltd
Station House
North Street
Havant PO9 1QU
Date:



4 November 2024

HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE CARE OF THE BLIND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Endowment fund £	31.3.24 Total funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM						
Donations and legacies		61,687	50,465	-	112,152	224,687
Charitable activities		18,658	5,693	-	24,351	20,143
Other trading activities	2	27,881	-	-	27,881	27,238
Investment income	3	145	-	-	145	1,346
Total		108,371	56,158	-	164,529	273,414
EXPENDITURE ON						
Raising funds	4	26,247	-	-	26,247	41,920
Charitable activities		385,265	28,373	11,957	425,595	427,427
Total		411,512	28,373	11,957	451,842	469,347
Net gain/ (loss) on investments		63,322	-	-	63,322	(88,143)
NET (EXPENDITURE)/ INCOME		(239,819)	27,785	(11,957)	(223,991)	(284,077)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward		2,223,488	3,557	415,699	2,642,745	2,926,822
Transfer		(946)	-	946	-	-
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		1,982,723	31,343	404,688	2,418,754	2,642,745

HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE CARE OF THE BLIND

BALANCE SHEET **31 MARCH 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Endowment fund £	31.3.24 Total funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible assets	9			404,688	404,688	415,699
Investments	10	1,977,434			1,977,434	2,145,822
		1,977,434		404,688	2,382,122	2,561,520
CURRENT ASSETS						
Stocks	11	2,153	-	-	2,153	2,685
Debtors	12	858	-	-	858	1,617
Cash at bank		40,910	31,343	-	72,253	119,059
		43,921	31,343	-	75,264	123,362
CREDITORS						
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(8,632)	-	-	(8,632)	(9,137)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		35,289	31,343	-	66,632	114,225
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		2,012,723	31,343	404,688	2,448,754	2,676,745
PENSION LIABILITY	16	(30,000)	-	-	(30,000)	(33,000)
NET ASSETS		1,982,723	31,343	404,688	2,418,754	2,642,745
FUNDS	15					
Unrestricted funds					567,000	407,000
Unrestricted-designated funds					1,415,723	1,816,489
Restricted funds					31,343	3,557
Endowment funds					404,688	415,699
TOTAL FUNDS					2,418,754	2,642,745

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE CARE OF THE BLIND

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 9th October 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T G Howell', written over a horizontal line.

T G Howell - Treasurer

HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE CARE OF THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis. The trustees believe the charity has sufficient cash reserves to utilise during the current Covid-19 situation. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

Income

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

Donations, legacies, grants and trust fund income are accounted for as incoming resources once the receipt of the income becomes reasonably certain and quantifiable.

Income from charitable activities includes sale of goods and income from shows.

Other trading income is income from fundraising events held by the branches of the charity.

Investment income is earned through holding assets for investment purposes in the form of listed investments and cash.

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.

HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE CARE OF THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Raising funds

Raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the charity to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities, events and non-charitable trading.

Governance costs

These represent costs incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Support costs

Support costs represent the costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Freehold property	- 2% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	- 25% straight line
Computer equipment	- 25% straight line

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £100 are capitalised and included at cost.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Cost includes all costs of purchase, costs of conversion and other costs incurred in bringing stock to its present location and condition.

Taxation

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

HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE CARE OF THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Expendable endowment funds are capital funds retained for the benefit of the charity but can be converted to income at the discretion of the Trustees.

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

Financial instruments

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, including creditors, bank loans, loans from fellow group companies and preference shares that are classified as debt, 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.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

Pensions

The Trustees operate a defined benefit and a defined charitable company contribution scheme. The assets of the scheme are held and managed separately from those of the charitable company.

HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE CARE OF THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Pensions (continued)

For the defined benefit scheme a liability for the charity's obligations under the plan is recognised net of plan assets. The net change in the net defined benefit liability is recognised as the cost of the defined benefit plan during the period. Pension plan assets are measured at fair value and the defined benefit obligation is measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method and discounted at a rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent currency and term to the scheme liabilities. Actuarial valuations are due triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The resulting defined benefit asset or liability is presented separately after other net assets on the face of the balance sheet.

For the defined contribution scheme the amount charged to the profit and loss account in respect of pension costs and other post-retirement benefits represent the contributions payable in the period. Differences between contributions payable in the period and contributions actually paid are shown as either accruals or prepayments in the balance sheet.

Investments

Investments are stated at the market value at the balance sheet date. The statement of financial activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals during the year.

2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Fundraising events - branches	<u>27,881</u>	<u>27,238</u>

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Other fixed asset invest - FII	<u>145</u>	<u>1,346</u>
	<u>145</u>	<u>1,346</u>

HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE CARE OF THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

4. RAISING FUNDS

Investment management costs

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Portfolio management	<u>7,710</u>	<u>11,682</u>

5. SUPPORT COSTS

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Staff cost	70,554	79,003
Office equipment cost	3,810	3,231
Insurance	4,721	4,234
Light and heat	6,504	6,199
Telephone	2,660	2,772
Postage and stationery	3,761	3,207
Sundries	-	264
Computer expenses	5,032	4,094
Premises expenses	11,362	3,119
Subscriptions	692	63
Cleaning	3,675	4,625
Depreciation	11,957	11,023
Trustees expenses	83	-
Accountancy fees	3,540	2,038
Legal fees	2,310	1,673
	<u>130,661</u>	<u>125,545</u>

Support costs have been apportioned against the activities of the charity in a manner consistent with the use of those resources. The split of support costs by activity has been set out above.

6. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging:

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	11,957	11,023
Other operating leases	3,810	3,231
Amounts payable to independent examiner	<u>1,200</u>	<u>1,200</u>

HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE CARE OF THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

7. 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

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Trustees' expenses	<u>83</u>	<u>-</u>

8. STAFF COSTS

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Wages and salaries	263,822	263,129
Social security	23,001	23,461
Pension contributions	31,292	29,480
	<u>318,115</u>	<u>316,070</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	31.3.24	31.3.23
Service delivery and outreach	8	8
Administration	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

No trustee received any remuneration in either year.

Included in the Insurance is the cost of trustee insurance.

HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE CARE OF THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Fixtures & fittings £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST				
At 1 April 2023	581,083	30,895	50,469	662,447
Additions	-	-	946	946
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2024	581,083	30,895	51,415	663,393
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 April 2023	169,240	30,895	46,613	246,748
Charge for year	10,455	-	1,502	11,957
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2024	79,695	30,895	48,115	258,705
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 March 2024	401,388	-	3,300	404,688
At 31 March 2023	411,843	-	3,856	415,699

Freehold land and buildings includes an amount of £58,333 being the attributed cost of land at the Association's head office. This valuation was determined by the Trustees in 2000. Land is not depreciated.

10. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	31.3.24 £	31.3.23 £
Shares	1,977,434	2,145,822
: Additional information as follows		Listed investments £
MARKET VALUE		
At 1 April 2023		2,145,822
Disposals		(225,000)
Fees		(7,710)
Revaluations		64,322
At 31 March 2024		1,977,434
MARKET VALUE		
At 31 March 2023		2,145,822

HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE CARE OF THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

10. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS - continued

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

Fixed assets at historic cost as at 31st March 2024 were £1,521,088 (2023: £1,730,000)

11. STOCKS

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Stocks	<u>2,153</u>	<u>2,685</u>

12. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Other debtors	-	690
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>858</u>	<u>927</u>
	<u>858</u>	<u>1,617</u>

13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Trade creditors	<u>2,827</u>	<u>2,616</u>
Accruals and deferred income	<u>5,805</u>	<u>6,521</u>
	<u>8,632</u>	<u>9,137</u>

14. LEASING AGREEMENTS

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Within one year	<u>3,634</u>	<u>3,634</u>
Between one and five years	<u>2,387</u>	<u>5,864</u>
In more than five years	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>6,021</u>	<u>9,498</u>

HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE CARE OF THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.23 £	Movement in funds £	Transfer £	At 31.3.24 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	407,000	(239,819)	399,819	567,000
Designated funds	1,816,488	-	(400,765)	1,415,723
Restricted funds	3,557	27,785	-	31,343
Endowment funds				
Expendable	415,699	(11,957)	946	404,688
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>2,642,745</u>	<u>(223,991)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,418,754</u>

The transfer in the year relates to the pension fund liability as at the beginning of the year.

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	108,371	(411,512)	63,322	(239,819)
Restricted funds				
Restricted funds	56,158	(28,373)	-	27,785
Endowment funds				
Expendable	-	(11,957)	-	(11,957)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>164,529</u>	<u>(451,842)</u>	<u>63,322</u>	<u>(223,991)</u>

HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE CARE OF THE BLIND

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.22 £	Movement in funds £	Transfer £	At 31.3.23 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	2,589,240	(194,751)	(1,987,488)	407,000
Designated funds	-	-	1,816,488	1,816,488
Restricted funds	23,428	(19,871)	-	3,557
Endowment funds				
Expendable	314,154	(69,455)	171,000	415,699
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>2,926,822</u>	<u>(284,077)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,642,745</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources Movement expended £	losses £	Gains and in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	246,906	(356,614)	(85,043)	(194,751)
Restricted funds				
Restricted funds	25,335	(45,206)	-	(19,871)
Endowment funds				
Expendable	1,173	(67,527)	(3,100)	(69,455)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>273,414</u>	<u>(469,347)</u>	<u>(88,143)</u>	<u>(284,077)</u>

HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE CARE OF THE BLIND

16. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

The charity operates a non-contributory defined benefit scheme, which was closed to new employees in October 2005.

A full actuarial valuation was carried out as at 31st March 2023. The results have been projected to 31st March 2024 and then recalculated using a number of assumptions detailed below.

The amounts recognised in the Balance Sheet are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£'000	£'000
Present value of funded obligations	(1,463)	(1,434)
Fair value of plan assets	<u>1,433</u>	<u>1,401</u>
	(30)	(33)
Present value of unfunded obligations	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Deficit	<u>(30)</u>	<u>(33)</u>
Net liability	<u>(30)</u>	<u>(33)</u>

The amounts recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£'000	£'000
Current service cost	6	8
Net interest from net defined benefit asset/liability	<u>2</u>	<u>48</u>
	<u>8</u>	<u>56</u>
Actuarial loss/(gain)	<u>50</u>	<u>(381)</u>

HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE CARE OF THE BLIND

16. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS - continued

Changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligation are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£'000	£'000
Opening defined benefit obligation	1,434	1,758
Current service cost	6	8
Contributions by participants	1	1
Interest cost	67	48
Actuarial losses/(gains)	50	(306)
Benefits paid	<u>(95)</u>	<u>(75)</u>
	<u>1,463</u>	<u>1,434</u>

Changes in the fair value of scheme assets are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£'000	£'000
Opening fair value of scheme assets	1,401	1,587
Interest income on assets	65	43
Remeasurement gains/(losses) on assets	57	(159)
Contributions by employer	4	4
Contributions by employee	1	-
Contributions by scheme participants		1
Benefits paid	<u>(95)</u>	<u>(75)</u>
	<u>1,433</u>	<u>1,401</u>

The major categories of scheme assets as a percentage of total scheme assets are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	31.3.24	31.3.23
Equities	61%	75%
Government bonds	31%	17%
Property	7%	7%
Cash	1%	1%
	<u>100.00%</u>	<u>100.00%</u>

HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE CARE OF THE BLIND

16. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS - continued

Principal actuarial assumptions at the Balance Sheet date (expressed as weighted averages):

	31.3.24	31.3.23
Discount rate	4.80%	4.80%
Future salary increases	3.80%	3.70%
Future pension increases	2.80%	2.70%

17. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2024.

18. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	1.04.23 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	31.03.24 £
Smart Device Workshop	-	5,000		-	5,000
Portchester Club	355	-	-	-	355
WAG's National Lottery Grant		19,984	-	-	19,984
Early Years Funding	1,124	5,693	(1,967)	-	4,850
WAG Group	977		(977)	-	-
HUB Funding	1,101	25,481	(25,428)	-	1,154
	<u>3,557</u>	<u>56,158</u>	<u>(28,372)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>31,343</u>

Smart Device Workshop funding to teach visually impaired adults to effectively utilise apps on their smart devices within their home and everyday life.

Portchester Club donation is a contribution towards the running cost of eye health awareness in schools for twelve months.

WAG's National Lottery Grant is a 12-month funded project by the National Lottery to allow six peer support working-age groups to meet once a month at different locations across the County.

Early Years Funding supports visually impaired children aged 0-4 years and their families.

WAG Group is a 12-month funded project by the National Lottery to allow six peer support working-age groups to meet once a month at different locations across the County.

HUB Funding is a 3-year project funded by the National Lottery to allow Information Sight Loss Hubs to be available once a month at ten different locations across the County of Hampshire.

HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE CARE OF THE BLIND

19. SHARE CAPITAL

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee and does not have share capital. The accounts do not therefore include a reconciliation of movements in shareholders funds.