KENT ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

England & Wales · Charity number 1062354

Details

Other names	KAB
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	03339912
Registered	1997-05-14
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Kent Association For The Blind 72 College Road Maidstone ME15 6SJ
Phone	01622691357
Email	enquiry@kab.org.uk
Website	www.kab.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE RELIEF OF BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED PERSONS AND THE PREVENTION OF SIGHT LOSS AND BLINDNESS PARTICULARLY THROUGH THE ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS OF THE COUNTY OF KENT, MEDWAY, THE LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY AND THE LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY

Activities: Support for blind and partially sighted people and the prevention of sight loss, particularly throughout Kent, Medway and the London Boroughs of Bromley and Bexley.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability
- **Who:** People With Disabilities

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** THE COUNTY OF KENT, MEDWAY, THE LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY AND THE LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
- Bexley
- Bromley
- Kent
- Medway

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£5,483,599	£3,037,342	£5,235,299	99
2024-03-31	£2,541,473	£3,001,108	£2,778,859	100
2023-03-31	£2,427,088	£3,217,872	£3,072,606	109
2022-03-31	£2,758,828	£2,995,597	£3,941,809	111
2021-03-31	£2,629,319	£2,528,364	£4,093,084	107

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Avril Langman-Heath	Chair	2024-03-07
Anthony Colwell		2018-09-05
Hazel Groves		2016-05-25
JAMES BURKE		2007-05-01
James Milne Co-opted		2025-12-03
Luke Cashin		2023-08-15
Paul Betts		2023-03-01
Rory Heap Co-opted		2026-02-25

Accounts

Kent Association for the Blind
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Report & Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2025

Charity Number 1062354

Company Number 03339912

www.kab.org.uk

Supporting sight impaired people to live independent lives

Kent Association for the Blind

Contents

Kent Association for the Blind
Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2025

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the Charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published in October 2019.

Our Objectives and Activities

The aim of Kent Association for the Blind (KAB) is to support sight-impaired people to live independent lives. We believe that anyone who has a visual impairment should be able to live a fulfilled, healthy and safe life, exercise self-determination and make informed choices, and achieve their own personal goals. In our Articles of Association our purpose is described as the "relief of blind and partially sighted persons and the prevention of sight loss and blindness" primarily in Kent, Medway and the London Boroughs of Bromley and Bexley. We fulfil our purpose by providing a comprehensive rehabilitation and support service to sight impaired people, and by raising awareness of eye health and the impact of sight loss. 2024-25 marked Year 3 of our role as Lead Provider of a Sensory Wellbeing contract for adults, commissioned by Kent County Council (KCC). Under this contract we deliver services directly, as well as sub-contracting provision for deaf people to two local hearing loss organisations. We are pleased to note that due to our strong performance during the initial term of the contract, in January 2025 we received confirmation that the contract would be extended for the first of two discretionary single year extensions.

This report describes the work we do, looks at what we have achieved over the last 12 months, and highlights our future plans. In reviewing outcomes and planning for the future, KAB's Trustees refer to Charity Commission guidance and ensure that the Charity's activities fulfil both the Commission's public benefit criteria and KAB's charitable objectives.

KAB's Clients and Services

KAB offers help to anyone who is sight impaired: people of any age and at any stage of their sight loss journey. We have over 12,500 visually impaired clients, and for every one of them, poor sight impacts their daily lives. To reduce the impact of sight loss, we provide practical training, advice, support and equipment, and we also support families, carers, schools and employers.

Our operational area is large, and covers both urban and rural areas. Services are delivered from three Sight Centres in Maidstone, Canterbury and Bromley, and a further office base in Medway. Our Counselling, Eye Clinic Liaison Officer (ECLO) and One-to-One support services are available to people across South-East London and we operate two social groups in the London borough of Bexley.

The main areas of charitable activity which deliver public benefit are:

- Rehabilitation Services, including ECLO support
- Counselling services
- Assistive Technology training and advice
- One-to-One Support Services for blind and deafblind clients
- Transcription Services
- Social and Leisure groups
- Eye health and prevention advice
- Training for Professionals
- Occasional short term developmental and pilot projects
- Volunteer opportunities and placements

KAB is committed to collaborative working and is active within the sight loss sector to ensure best practice is shared, and effort isn't duplicated. Over the last year we have contributed to and benefited from our membership of Visionary (the umbrella body for local associations), this included our CEO continuing in the Chair's role within the London & South East Region CEO network and the Chair of Trustees continuing as a member of the visually impaired Chair and CEO group. The Chair of Trustees is also a part of the Visionary Group.

The backbone of rehabilitation – or 'rehab' - is practical training that helps people learn new skills to manage daily tasks at home and in the community.

Following a successful tender process during the latter months of 24-25, we are delighted to have been awarded a new contract by KCC to deliver habilitation services to sight impaired children, from 1st July 2025. This contract will replace existing grant funded provision and represents an increased financial envelope to reflect the increased costs (primarily staff costs) of delivering this service. The contract is for 3 years, which will offer KAB greater stability in relation to this area of work and opportunities for workforce planning and development.

We continue to successfully provide existing contracted services as follows

- Lead Provider for a Sensory Wellbeing contract for Kent Adults (KCC)
- Rehabilitation and Voluntary Services for Sight Impaired Adults (London Borough of Bromley)
- Habilitation and Rehabilitation Services (all ages) in Medway (Medway Council)

One-to-One Support Services

Our Guide Communicator and Sight Support Services are a costed provision that provide regular support to people who are sight or dual sensory impaired. This is a community based service aimed at enabling individuals and enhancing their wellbeing. Assistance is provided with a variety of tasks including shopping, managing correspondence and household tasks, attending hospital appointments and accessing social and leisure activities.

The service is funded either privately by individuals or by Social Care as part of an agreed package of support – or sometimes a combination of both.

In 2024/5 ;

- The service supported over 70 clients, via 33 staff
- 40% of clients had a hearing impairment
- Clients were aged between 16 and 100 years
- 65% of clients lived alone
- 52 new referrals into the service were received

The Transcription Service produces accessible materials in audio, Braille, digital formats and large print, which is of huge benefit to the Charity's clients, visually impaired volunteers, Trustees and staff. We also provide small scale transcription for external bodies such as Councils and GPs, however take up has been low this year and we will need to carry out extensive marketing to ensure this service is viable.

Awareness training

KAB is pleased to be hosting a Research Intern (from October 2024 – July 2025) as part of Thomas Pocklington Trust's 'Get Set Progress' programme. This initiative aims to support more sight-impaired people to access work experience. Our Research Intern is conducting a detailed evaluation of KAB's Sensory Impairment Awareness Training, to inform our future Training model. This research includes consideration of:

- The training needs of our own staff and volunteers
- The training needs of the external market
- Potential development of e-learning packages
- Alternative options for training accreditation

While this research is undertaken, we continue to deliver a range of bespoke courses, both internally and externally. Training recipients include: KAB staff and volunteers, staff working in care homes, Local Authority colleagues, medical students and voluntary sector partners.

Clubs, Groups and Client Support

During this year, 33 KAB social groups have been in operation across Kent, Medway, Bromley and Bexley. These include art and craft sessions, groups who meet for coffee/lunch, clubs who meet for talks/entertainment and groups who go on outings. We are pleased to have supported the introduction of new groups during this year, including 2 additional art based social groups in Tunbridge Wells and Bromley.

Each club is supported by dedicated volunteers who arrange activities and entertainment, act as drivers and escorts, and help to raise funds. For some members, this may be the only face-to-face social contact of the week, so the clubs also act as something of a 'safety net' for some elderly and vulnerable visually impaired people, with volunteers ensuring that KAB is called in if someone needs help.

KAB provides financial support to Clubs via an annual grants programme, and also by meeting volunteers' expenses and providing insurance cover. The Charity also provides non-financial support such as recruiting and training volunteers, carrying out Disclosure and Barring Service checks, and helping with publicity. Our staff visit at least every six months to offer advice and support to both members and volunteers. All KAB Clubs sign up to a Handbook, which aims to ensure they operate safely and fairly and that members' needs are met as well as appropriate.

We also run more focused sessions to connect clients with shared needs e.g. Glaucoma Support groups. We are proud to have an established Advisory Council of service users and volunteers which acts as a consultative group, providing advice to the Senior Management Team and Board of Trustees on topics such as branding, policy, service development and local issues under consultation.

Counselling

In March 2025, our Counselling Service was celebrated at Healthwatch Kent and Medway's Recognition Awards. The Team won an award for excellence and innovation in preventative services. We are also very proud of our Counselling Team for achieving their goal of becoming a trauma informed Service.

We continue to offer face to face counselling from our centres, alongside telephone counselling – with the latter accounting for approximately 70% of provision.

Referrals have risen this year – from an average of 174 over the preceding 2 years, to 212 this year (22% increase). The number of counselling hours delivered has also risen, from 1391 in 23-24, to 1402 in 24-25.

Thanks to grant funding, we have successfully piloted two online peer groups to support individuals exiting the counselling service. These sessions were facilitated by a trained, sight-impaired KAB Volunteer and feedback from participants was extremely positive:

"I found (the sessions) very helpful to speak to people who are dealing with various stages of sight loss. To feel like I contributed was very rewarding.
I do hope that these meetings will be the first of many to help others with sight loss and sincerely thank everyone who planned and facilitated them".

"I was unsure when I signed up to join the group (...) but after meeting everyone, chatting and laughing I realised that this was what I needed. To talk through concerns and the hurdles that we have faced or are still facing with our various conditions was an amazing outlet and I hope that my fellow peer group members found the same".

"I realised that I am not alone in the fears and anxieties that I face and that the wonderful advice and support that was given to me by the other people within the group with such consideration and kindness was invaluable. It allowed me to make some difficult decisions that I had been struggling to make and gave me the courage to face the PIP Assessment with some forearmed knowledge of what the process would entail".

Eye Clinic Liaison Officers (ECLO)

We continue to provide immediate support within 10 hospital eye clinics across Kent, Medway and South East London. During the year, we provided 2953 interventions, including:

- Assistance with the process of being registered as sight impaired/severely sight impaired
- Emotional support
- Onward referral to access low vision aids
- Information about eye condition and treatment
- Signposting to services within the community
- Information about daily living aids, equipment and technology

We recently undertook a survey with clinicians, to measure the value of ECLOs to their professional roles. We received extremely positive feedback, including:

- Over 90% of respondents indicated that the ECLO saves them time each week
- Over 93% of respondents agree that ECLOs positively impact the emotional support of patients

'Without ECLO the department will not run efficiently. The role is now one of the foundations that our practice is dependent on.'
'The ECLO is invaluable to my patients as a link between the clinic and KAB. It is a huge relief to be able to put patients directly in touch with someone who can offer them real help. Patients are invariably grateful for the support.'

'Excellent targeted and thoughtful help. Makes eye care better and more productive.'
'The ECLO consistently goes above and beyond....to ensure every patient receives exceptional support.'

Strategic Report

Projects

Project income has increased from £91,519 in 2023/24 to £92,023 in 2024/25.

Iris – Mobile Sight Centre

Iris, our community vehicle, has continued to be a key way of increasing our reach and working in partnership. In 24-25, Iris undertook 78 events. Across these events, Iris' onboard team conducted 1,300 one-to-one consultations with individuals, as well as broader engagement with the general public. Of the 1,300 individuals supported, only 14% were previously known to KAB – meaning Iris is achieving her aim of enabling us to support more people via a local approach. The 1-2-1 consultations included information about eye health, technology, wellbeing and more – as well as onward referrals to other KAB community services for additional support with independent living or specific eye conditions. Iris event locations are diverse, including schools, garden centres, supermarkets, day centres, GP practices and hospitals. We have continued to work in partnership to increase Iris' reach and impact–with collaborators including technology suppliers, local branches of Age UK and local charities Involve Kent and Hi Kent.

Financial Review

In the year ending March 2025, the Charity's principal funding continued to come from Local Authority Contracts, Grants, Fundraising and Legacies.

Income from all areas increased from £2,541,473 in 2023/24 to £5,483,599 in 2024/25. This increase was due to an increase in Donations and Legacies. Income was used to meet KAB's charitable objectives with rehab services being the single largest areas of expenditure at £2,153,336 (2024: £2,101,789).

Total expenditure for the year is £3,037,342 (2024: £3,001,108) resulting in a surplus of £2,456,440 after investment gain, compared with a deficit of £293,747 in the previous year which was as a result of small legacies and higher staffing costs in 2023/24.

Fundraising

Total Fundraising income increased to £3,562,219 (2024: £607,235) largely attributed to two large legacies and a strategy of focusing on Trust and Foundations (T&F) for this financial year. Areas including the London Marathon event and our annual Golf Day event have over-performed, however, there was a decline in Community and Corporate income. This is partially attributable to not having a Fundraising Manager in post until October 2024 and the challenges of the external fundraising climate. We value the support of all our corporate partners and look forward to working together over the coming year.

Legacy income totalled £3,084,014 (2024: £224,324). The Trustees are very grateful to the kind supporters who have remembered KAB in their wills and through donations in memory.

We continue to gain traction on social media through new follows, with greater engagement from posts about children and younger people. Income through appeals and KAB Connect newsletter have been lower than previous years, due to the cost of living crisis. We continue to seek sponsorship to drive down the publication costs.

Unfortunately, we were greatly impacted by the cost of living crisis this year and have been unable to raise sufficient funds to meet our targets across Community and Individual Fundraising which have been predictably the hardest hit throughout the last financial year as the fundraising landscape continues to evolve.

Fundraising expenditure has been closely monitored during the year. Our focus on income streams with the greatest return on investment have been critical however the difficulties in recruiting a Fundraising Manager have hindered our business model. A new Fundraising Strategy has been developed by the new Fundraising Manager with support from our experienced Fundraising Trustee and the SMT.

We have seen ongoing success with our revised strategy for T&F, with income increasing again from £220,881 in 23-24 to £276,058 in 24-25. This success is the result of maintaining a high level of applications and seeking a range of grant values. Our current priorities for T&F funding are: Counselling, Assistive Technology, Befriending, Social groups and Children's Activities.

We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator and we are committed to following their Code of Fundraising Practice so as to ensure that the public, including vulnerable people, are protected from unreasonable or intrusive approaches. KAB carries out all fundraising activities in line with recognised standards. We are also registered as a Data Controller and Data Processor with the Information Commissioner's Office and are compliant with General Data Protection Regulation requirements.

Investment Powers and Policy

The charity's investment approach for the year was to both grow the real value of investments whilst managing return and risk in the context of uncertain financial markets, and to maximise bank interest from cash held on deposit. The Trustees employ Coutts & Co. investment managers to achieve this aim, using full discretionary powers of investment, but taking a medium to low-risk approach with a clear benchmarked target.

Investment income including bank interest increased to £50,050 in 2024/25 from £40,046 in 2023/24.

In reviewing the investment policy, the Trustees have considered any ethical restrictions they should apply and are mindful of the need to avoid undermining the credibility of KAB by profiting from, or providing capital to, activities which might be connected to those which are detrimental to eye health. KAB only holds collective investments, and as such is not at risk of investing directly in such companies. We also meet regularly with our investment managers and monitor our portfolio to ensure an adequate level of scrutiny of any potential exposure.

Reserves Policy

KAB's Trustees consider that holding reserves is an essential part of their duty of governance. The Reserves Policy is reviewed every February to coincide with the budget setting and strategic planning timetable and the review of the Investment Policy and Risk Register.

The policy for 2025/26 is to hold reserves of £862,000 (2024/25 £490,000) to cover the risks associated with loss of income necessitating winding down some or all of the organisation, loss of key workers, investment risk and the risk of legacy income being below budget. Unrestricted funds at 31 March 2025 totalled £1,186,795 (2024: £1,063,944). The planned deficit for the financial year 2024/25 is £470,557.

Trustees recognise that some reserves are required to deliver unfunded services which are intrinsic to KAB's work.

Total funds of the Charity as at 31 March 2025 were £5,235,299 (2024: £2,778,859).

The designated funds at 31 March 2025 totalled £3,506,538 (2024: £1,323,841). Details of these funds are provided in note 18.

Funds have been designated to cover building maintenance, equipment and ICT maintenance and replacement, as well as the continuation and development of key projects. Specifically, allocations linked to projects such as ECLO, Assistive Technology (AT), Training, Counselling, and Transcription reflect the anticipated cost of these services over a period of two to three years.

The maintenance fund accounts for costs expected to arise over the next three years, while the ICT equipment and replacement fund covers anticipated expenses over a one to five-year period. Additionally, there are plans to purchase a property in the Kent area to support both staff and service users.

Future funding will also be required for the Mobile Sight Centre once current funding ceases. A fixed asset fund is in place to reflect the value of operational fixed assets, which are not available for charitable expenditure. The plan to rebrand the organisation is being considered to better reflect its current contracts and activities.

Trustees are confident that their approach to reserves will enable them to maintain current work programmes in the year ahead even with the planned deficit budget, and to complete planned work in the event that income streams are adversely affected.

The restricted funds at 31 March 2025 totalled £541,966 (2024: £391,074). Details of these funds are provided in note 19.

Plans for future periods

The Trustees recognise the need to continue where possible to reduce budget deficits. We have identified our key priority areas such as Trusts and Foundations where we would hope to secure alternative means of funding and help reduce the subsidy from KAB reserves. This includes continuing to explore new funding streams for our ECLO's our Counselling Service and our Clubs and social activities.

We have exciting plans in place for Iris for 2025/26 to enable us to reach more existing and potential service users. We are very grateful to our sponsors and supporters for their continued involvement and we are aiming to further improve our profile county wide next year. This continues to be a very exciting venture for KAB with opportunities to increase the services available on Iris.

We plan to refresh our Strategic Plan in 2025/26 and will begin this process in November 2025 with a staff conference where our teams can contribute to KAB's priority setting.

Our partnership with Medway's Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Transformation Academy continues. The Transformation Academy has continued to develop and we have been providing low level HR support and increased DBS checks to small VCS organisations in Medway to help increase our income. Next year there will be a second tranche of the Academy which our Director of Services will attend.

Going concern

The Trustees have assessed the operational and financial impact in the Strategic Report on pages 5 and 6. Trustees reviewed potential risks to KAB and Trustees note that KAB remains in a stable position.

Reference and administrative details

Company Number	03339912
Charity Number	1062354
Registered Office	72 College Road Maidstone Kent ME15 6SJ Tel 01622 691357

Our Advisors

Bankers	National Westminster Bank plc 2nd Floor County Gate 2 Staceys Street Maidstone Kent ME14 1ST
Auditors	Azets Audit Services First Floor River House 1 Maidstone Road Sidcup Kent DA14 5RH
Investment Managers	Coutts & Co Wellington Gate 7-9 Church Road Royal Tunbridge Wells Tunbridge Wells TN1 1HT

Our Directors and Trustees

Honorary Officers

Mrs. Hazel Groves	Chair
Mr. James Burke	Honorary Treasurer

Other Trustees

Mr. Michael Benson	Resigned March 2025
Mr. Paul Betts	
Mr. Anthony Blackman	Resigned April 2025
Mr. Anthony Colwell	
Mr. Luke Cashin	
Mr. Alan Thorpe	Resigned April 2024
Mrs Avril Langman-Heath	
Mr. Ian Platt	

Company Secretary

Mrs Eithne Rynne

Our Senior Management Team and Key Management Personnel

Eithne Rynne	Chief Executive
Andrea Forsythe	Director of Finance
Vanessa Stanley	Director of HR
Katherine Barr	Director of Services

Structure, Governance & Management

Legal and Administrative Status
KAB is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 25 March 1997, and is also a registered Charity. The company is governed under its Articles of Association which were updated in October 2009.

Governance
The Trustees meet at least quarterly, and each year, one third of the longest serving trustees retire by rotation and are eligible for re-election. The Board can appoint new trustees at any point during the year. Our aim is to have at least a third of the Board representative from our client base.

Trustees are recruited via an open process in order to meet identified skills and knowledge gaps, and all new Trustees go through an induction process which includes visits to various areas of the Charity, and opportunities to shadow staff and undertake training. A Trustee Handbook underpins induction, and sets out the role of the Board, the role of individual Trustees and officers, relationships with staff, guidelines for performance appraisal, a code of conduct and conflict of interests policy.

No Trustee receives remuneration or other benefit from their work with the Charity.

The only permanent sub-committee is the Finance, Risk and Audit Sub-Committee, which comprises the Chair, Hon. Treasurer and Vice Chair (or another Trustee if no Vice Chair was appointed), and is attended by the Chief Executive and Director of Finance. This sub-committee meets before every full Board meeting and reports back to the Board verbally and in writing.

Governance information is available digitally and in audio, Braille or large print for staff and Trustees who have a sensory impairment; KAB also provides Guide Communicators or other support as required at Board meetings and other Trustee events.

Organisational Structure & Management
Day to day responsibility for service provision and ensuring that charitable and strategic aims are met is delegated to the Chief Executive, who is supported by a Senior Management Team.

During the year, KAB had on average 99 staff (61.77 full time equivalent) across three office bases. KAB aims to ensure that it has appropriate procedures in place to ensure staff are able to be fully engaged in all areas of the Charity's work and are given appropriate training, support and guidance to carry out their roles effectively. KAB maintains its Investor In People status and is an accredited Disability Confident Employer.

The pay of Key Management Personnel is agreed at board level. Pay scales are agreed based on extensive reviews of the pay rates of similar roles within the comparable charity sector. Management staff progress along pay scales based on length of service and satisfactory performance in the same way as all KAB staff.

Throughout this report we mention our wonderful volunteers. Our volunteers generally support rehab services by driving clients to meetings and appointments, delivering equipment, home visiting and befriending, and helping people to read their mail and manage their home affairs. Volunteers help run our clubs, help at events and help us with many of our back room functions like administration and fundraising. We are enormously grateful to them all.

Related Parties and Connected Charities
Any connections between a Trustee or senior manager and KAB's suppliers, funders, or key stakeholders must be disclosed in line with KAB's Conflict of Interest policy. In the current year no related party transactions were reported.

The Charity commits staff time and resources to collaborative working and staff are involved in many strategic groups both nationally and regionally, all with the ultimate aim of improving the lives of sight impaired people. However, this joint working is informal and KAB has no connected charities.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties
Potential risks to KAB, our beneficiaries and staff are reviewed regularly and detailed in a Risk Register. Gross risk is measured in terms of likelihood of occurrence and severity of impact, then the controls that we have in place are assessed to produce a retained or 'net' risk level.

The most significant net risks to the Charity in the current year are inability to deliver services due to loss of contracts and tendering risk and data security risk. The risks associated with the cost of living crisis and the impact on our ability to fundraise have also been retained on the Risk Register.

Risks to income are being addressed by the focus on developing a new Fundraising Strategy and making changes where needed, the regular monitoring of cash flow, increasing Guide Communicator fee income through requests to KCC, Medway and Bromley Councils and holding adequate cash reserves to cover the medium term shortfall.

Contract and tendering risk refers to the potential loss of Local Authority funding, which could pose a major threat to KAB as a whole and potentially to the quality of service received by users. This risk is being addressed in the following ways - ensuring that we have good knowledge of the sector environment and strong relationships with partner agencies; growing the already good bank of data which evidences the quality of current provision; being as involved as possible with commissioning strategy and ensuring costing of services is accurate and up to date.

Increased data security risk reflects a marked increase in the demands placed on charities by funders in terms of technical and policy compliance with challenging new information governance and data management standards. This is being addressed by continual review of the raft of policies in place surrounding data security, ongoing investment in ICT equipment and ensuring staff attend quality training on any changes and update policies accordingly.

Risks are monitored and communicated regularly to the Board, and risk management forms an integral part of our strategic planning.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities
The Trustees (who are also directors of Kent Association for the Blind for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report including the Strategic Report 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 these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- 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 that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company 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 charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Disclosure of information to auditors
In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

A resolution proposing that Azets Audit Services be reappointed as auditor of the charitable company will be put to the members.

The Trustees' Report is approved by order of the Board of Trustees and the Strategic Report (included therein) is approved by the Board of Trustees in their capacity as directors in their meeting on 3 September 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Mrs Hazel Groves
Chair

Registered Office
72 College Road
Maidstone
Kent ME15 6SJ

Kent Association for the Blind
Independent Auditors Report to the Members

Opinion
We have audited the financial statements of Kent Association for the Blind (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion
We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern
In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information
The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Kent Association for the Blind
Independent Auditors Report to the Members

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report and the incorporated Strategic Report prepared for the purpose of company law for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Report and the incorporated Strategic Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report and the incorporated Strategic Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' responsibilities set out on page 15, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above and on the Financial Reporting Council's website, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud (continued)

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud (continued)

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation (ie. gives a true and fair view).

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Azets Audit Services Limited

Michelle Wilkes FCA (Partner)
For and on behalf of Azets Audit Services
Senior Statutory Auditor
First Floor
River House,
1 Maidstone Road
Kent DA14 5RH

Date: 8 September 2025

Kent Association for the Blind
Statement of Financial Activities
(including income and expenditure)
For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 31.03.2025 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 31.03.2024 £
Income:							
Donations and Legacies	2	3,163,145	399,074	3,562,219	408,490	205,743	614,233
Charitable Activities							
Rehabilitation Services	3a	420,248	1,058,000	1,478,248	406,673	1,074,000	1,480,673
One to One Support Services		263,064	-	263,064	279,994	-	279,994
AT Service		1,319	-	1,319	1,040	-	1,040
Talking News and Transcription		1,697	-	1,697	2,193	-	2,193
Training	3b	2,267	-	2,267	6,098	-	6,098
Projects	3c	92,023	-	92,023	91,519	-	91,519
Other activities		32,712	-	32,712	25,677	-	25,677
Investments	4	50,050	-	50,050	40,046	-	40,046
Total Income		4,026,525	1,457,074	5,483,599	1,261,730	1,279,743	2,541,473
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	5	176,017	-	176,017	159,386	-	159,386
Charitable Activities	6						
Rehabilitation Services		962,529	1,190,807	2,153,336	882,229	1,219,560	2,101,789
One to One Support Services		464,341	-	464,341	459,078	-	459,078
AT Service		91,150	78,828	169,978	117,891	48,546	166,437
Talking News and Transcription		1,790	.	1,790	2,761	1,830	4,591
Training		6,592	-	6,592	34,025	60	34,085
Clubs, Groups and Client Support		11,347	36,547	47,894	10,909	48,230	59,139
Projects		17,394	-	17,394	16,603	-	16,603
Total Expenditure		1,731,165	1,306,182	3,037,342	1,682,882	1,318,226	3,001,108
		2,295,365	150,892	2,446,257	(421,152)	(38,483)	(459,635)
Net gains/losses on investments	13	10,183	-	10,183	165,888	-	165,888
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement of funds for the year		2,305,548	150,892	2,456,440	(255,264)	(38,483)	(293,747)
Total funds brought forward		2,387,785	391,074	2,778,859	2,643,049	429,557	3,072,606
Total funds carried forward		4,693,333	541,966	5,235,299	2,387,785	391,074	2,778,859

All the above amount relate to continuing activities
All recognised gains and losses are included in the Statement of Financial Activities

Kent Association for the Blind
Company Number 03339912
Balance Sheet
As at 31 March 2025

	Notes	31.03.2025	31.03.2024
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	12	900,007	945,745
Investments	13	1,232,982	1,448,611
Total Fixed Assets		2,132,989	2,394,356
Current Assets			
Stocks	14	14,592	12,693
Debtors	15	1,486,092	513,273
Cash at bank and in hand		1,876,817	146,270
Total Current Assets		3,377,501	672,236
Liabilities			
Creditors falling due within one year	16	275,191	287,733
Net Current Assets		3,102,310	384,503
Total Net Assets		**5,235,299**	**2,778,859**
The Funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted general funds		1,186,795	1,063,944
Designated funds	18	3,506,538	1,323,841
Restricted funds	19	541,966	391,074
Total charity funds	20	**5,235,299**	**2,778,859**

Approved for issue by the Trustees on 3 September 2025

Mrs Hazel Groves - Chair

Mr J Burke- Treasurer

The notes on pages 21 to 34 form part of these accounts.

Kent Association for the Blind
Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	31.03.2025	31.03.2024
Net cash used in operating activities	21	**1,457,590**	**(423,018)**
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received		31,757	3,641
Dividends received		18,293	36,406
Proceeds from sale of investment		1,063,709	1,290,727
Purchase of investments		(875,608)	(1,026,520)
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(2,906)	(18,633)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		**235,245**	**285,621**
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		1,692,835	(137,397)
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		197,680	335,077
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	22	**1,890,515**	**197,680**

1 Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows;

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The accounts show the results of the charities operations which are described in the Trustees' Report, all of which are continuing.

Kent Association for the Blind meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

b) Company status

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee and registered in the UK. The members of the company are the trustees and in the event of the Charity being wound up the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the Charity.

c) Preparation of the accounts on a Going Concern basis

The trustees have assessed the financial position of the Charity, the assumptions made in the preparation of its budgets and forecasts and the financial risks. Based on this and the level of reserves held the trustees conclude that it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

d) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the Charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for the particular areas of the charity's work. Further details of each fund as shown in note 19.

e) Income recognition

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the items of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

f) Income from local authority grants

Income from local authority grants is recognised when the Charity has entitlement to the funds and any performance conditions of the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

i) Donations

Donations are recognised upon receipt by the charity. Income from membership subscriptions received by clubs have the substance of a gift and are recognised within donations.

ii) Fundraising Events

Income from fundraising events is shown gross with the associated costs included in costs of raising funds.

iii) Legacy gifts

Legacy gifts are recognised on a case by case basis when receipt of the income is believed to be probable. Income is believed to be probable when all of the following occur: probate has been granted, the administrator/executor for the estate has communicated in writing the amount of the gift, there are sufficient funds within the estate to make a distribution, and all conditions not under the control of the charity have been met. For legacies where the gift is: a residuary legacy, in a form other than cash, or which involves assets which require liquidation prior to distribution, the legacy will only be recognised where the above conditions have been met and the amount can be reliably measured with a degree of reasonable accuracy.

Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

iv) Training courses

Income received in advance for training courses is deferred until the date of the course as these fees would be refundable in the event that KAB cancelled the training.

v) Dividends and interest receivable

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due. This is normally upon notification by our investment managers of the dividend yield of the investment portfolio.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

g) Donated services and facilities

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102) the general volunteer time of KAB volunteers is not recognised and the trustee's annual report provides more information about their contribution.

KAB receives several types of donated items and facilities such as raffle prizes, room hire, training and hospitality. On receipt, these items are recognised at the value of the gift which the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain items or services of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in the expenditure in the period of receipt.

h) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT
Liabilities are recognised as expenditure once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the expenditure heading for which it was incurred.

i) Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the various activities of KAB. These costs have been allocated between the cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The basis on which support costs have been allocated is set out in note 7.

j) Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised at their purchase price. Depreciation is provided on all tangible assets, other than freehold land, at annual rates calculated to write off the costs less the estimated residual value, of each asset over its expected useful life on a straight line basis as follows:

Asset Category:	Annual Rate:
Freehold land	0%
Freehold buildings	2%
Leasehold improvements	over the term of the lease
Fixtures, fittings, equipment and computers	10-20%
Motor vehicles	20%

k) Fixed Asset Investments

Fixed asset investments are held both to generate income and for investment potential. The investments held are listed and traded on a recognised stock exchange and are measured initially at cost and subsequently at their fair value at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The statement of financial activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

The charity does not acquire put options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments.

l) Realised gains and losses

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between the sales proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase price is acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value. Realised and unrealised investment gains and losses are combined in the statement of Financial activities.

m) Operating leases

The charity classifies the leases of the Canterbury and Bromley Sight Centres as operating leases. Rentals payable are charged in a straight line basis over the lease term.

n) Clubs and Groups

The income, expenditure, assets and liabilities of all KAB clubs and groups are included within these financial statements. All club funds are treated as restricted.

o) Stock

Stock held comprises two elements: stock associated with non-charitable trade and stock provided as part of charitable activity. Neither stock type is issued for free and as such all stock is held at the lower of costs or net realisable value. Damaged or obsolete stock is written down as an expense.

p) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the amount due less any provision for bad or doubtful debts.

q) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes only cash held in instant access bank accounts.

r) Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the Charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are recognised at their settlement amounts.

s) Pensions

Employees of the charity are entitled to join a defined contribution 'money purchase' scheme. The charity contribution is restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 7. The costs of the defined contribution scheme are included within the staff costs of the fundraising, charitable activity or support costs as appropriate. These costs are allocated to the unrestricted funds of the charity with the exception of job roles which are funded by restricted funds, namely ECLO and Kent based rehab staff, and in these instances pension costs are allocated to the relevant restricted fund. Where costs are allocated to support costs the costs are charged to the unrestricted funds of the charity using the methodology set out in note 7.

Kent Association for the Blind has two defined contributions schemes held with Aegon and The People's Pension. Since April 2014 staff who were not already members of the Aegon scheme are only able to join The People's Pension Scheme. The charity has no liability beyond making its contributions and paying across the deductions for the employees contributions to the relevant scheme.

New and existing employees who were not otherwise enrolled in a pension scheme were automatically enrolled into the People's Pension scheme where their earnings met the auto enrolment criteria unless they had exercised their right to opt out of the scheme membership.

Employees enrolled in both schemes contract directly with the companies concerned. The charity makes a matching contribution of up to 6% of salary to these pension schemes and acts as an agent collecting and paying over employee pension contributions.

t) Taxation

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

u) Management estimates and judgements

Accounting estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The Foundation makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the

related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

Useful economic lives of tangible assets
The annual depreciation charge for tangible assets is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are reassessed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimates, based on technological advancement, future investments, economic utilisation and the physical condition of the assets. See note 12 for the carrying amount of the property plant and equipment, and note 1(j) for the useful economic lives for each class of assets.

2. Donations and Legacies

	Total 31.03.2025	Total 31.03.2024
Donations	174,057	144,524
Grant income from Trusts and Foundations	276,058	220,881
Legacies	3,084,014	224,324
Club Donations	28,090	24,504
	£3,562,219	£614,233

Of the total grants from Trust and Foundations, there were funders that donated over £10,000 as follows: National Lottery and one anonymous. In 2024 the Trust and Foundations funders which donated over £10,000 were as follows; Lois Cumbers Charitable Foundation, National Lottery and Vision Foundation.

3. Income from Charitable Activities

3a. Rehabilitation Services

	Total 31.03.2025	Total 31.03.2024
Local Authority Grants from:		
Kent County Council	1,139,000	1,155,000
Medway Council	166,861	153,242
London Borough of Bromley	148,000	148,000
London Borough of Bexley	17,510	17,510
	£1,471,371	£1,473,752
Equipment Income	6,877	6,921
Total	£ 1,478,248	£ 1,480,673

3b. Training

	Total 31.03.2025	Total 31.03.2024
Short Courses	2,267	6,098
Total	£ 2,267	£ 6,098

All income associated with Training in 2025 and 2024 is unrestricted.

3c. Projects

	Total 31.03.2025	Total 31.03.2024
Other	92,023	91,519
Total	£92,023	£91,519

4. Income from investments

	Total 31.03.2025	Total 31.03.2024
Income from listed investments	31,322	36,405
Interest on cash deposits	18,728	3,641
	£ 50,050	£ 40,046

5. Expenditure on raising funds

	Donations and Legacies	Other Trading Activities	Investment costs	Total 31.03.2025	Total 31.03.24
Direct Staff Costs	97,658	5,140	-	102,798	85,157
Direct Fundraising Costs	30,570	1,609	-	32,179	31,667
Building and telephone costs	8,007	-	-	8,007	7,626
Investment management costs	-	-	6,134	6,134	8,305
Governance Costs (see note 7)	1,328	131	-	1,459	1,321
Support Costs (see note 7)	23,150	2,290	-	25,440	25,310
	£160,713	£ 9,170	£ 6,134	£ 176,017	£ 159,386

All expenditure on raising funds in unrestricted.

6. Expenditure on Charitable activities

	Staff costs	Direct costs	Support costs	Total 31.03.2025	Total 31.03.2024
Cost of raising funds	102,798	32,179	41,040	176,017	159,386
Charitable expenditure					
Rehabilitation services	1,376,841	392,674	383,821	2,153,336	2,101,789
One to one support services	336,037	9,604	118,700	464,341	459,078
AT Service	115,360	15,238	39,380	169,978	166,437
Transcription & Talking News	1,041	319	430	1,790	4,591
Training	4,711	267	1,614	6,592	34,085
Clubs, groups and client support	-	43,762	4,132	47,894	59,139
Projects	197	17,197	-	17,394	16,603
	1,834,187	479,061	548,077	2,861,325	2,841,721
	1,936,985	511,240	589,117	3,037,342	3,001,108

Included in direct costs and support costs are staff costs of £265,391 (2024: £238,604) which are allocated above.

7a. Support costs

	Total 31.03.2025	Total 31.03.2024
CEO's office	106,142	95,772
Finance	88,533	76,744
HR	70,978	65,066
IT	52,457	48,839
Establishment costs including support staff	184,876	186,202
Insurance	36,787	36,533
Professional fees	20,680	20,157
Governance (note 7b)	28,664	27,847
	589,117	557,160

7b. Governance costs

	Total 31.03.2025	Total 31.03.2024
Auditor's remuneration	12,750	12,000
CEO and finance costs	11,766	10,999
Other	4,148	4,848
	28,664	27,847

Kent Association for the Blind
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 March 2025
(continued)

8. Net expenditure for the year

This is stated after the following		Total 31.03.2025	Total 31.03.2024
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		48,643	52,959
Loss on Disposal		-	12,282
Audit Fees - Statutory Audit		12,750	12,000
Operating leases	Land and Buildings	13,000	4,333

9. Analysis of staff costs, trustee remunerations and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

	Total 31.03.2025	Total 31.03.2024
The staff costs were		
Wages and Salaries	1,940,886	1,882,842
Social Security Costs	168,131	158,358
Pension Costs	93,359	87,898
	2,202,376	2,129,098

The total amount of redundancy payments made in the financial year was £nil (2024 £3,978). Redundancy payments are set at the statutory minimum amount based on the staff members' age and period of service.

Trustees were reimbursed expenses during the year of £90 two trustees (2024 £36 one trustee). The nature of the expenses reimbursed were travel expenses in connection with attending meetings.

The average number of staff during the year was 99 (2024 100).

	2025		2024	
	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time
Head Office	4	5	3	8
Fundraising	1	4	1	3
Charitable activities	32	53	32	53
	37	62	36	64

During this year, one employee earned more than £80,000 but not more than £90,000 and one employee earned between £60,000 and £70,000 (2024: one employee earned more than £70,000 but not more than £80,000).

The key management personnel of the charity has employee benefits total £276,409 (2024: £237,092).

10. Related Party Transactions

There have been no related party transactions in the year ended 31 March 2025 (2024 nil) which require disclosure.

11. Taxation

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and, is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

12. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold land and buildings College Road Maidstone	Furniture, fittings equipment and computers	Motor Vehicles	Total
Cost				
As at 1 April 2024	1,306,924	144,532	74,162	1,525,618
Additions	-	2,906	-	2,906
Disposal	-	(8,859)	-	(8,859)
As at 31 March 2025	1,306,924	138,579	74,162	1,519,665
Depreciation				
As at 1 April 2024	443,541	91,836	44,496	579,873
Charge for the year	16,138	17,673	14,832	48,643
Disposal	-	(8,859)	-	(8,859)
As at 31 March 2025	459,679	100,650	59,328	619,657
Net Book Value				
As at 31 March 2025	847,245	37,929	14,834	900,007
As at 31 March 2024	863,383	52,696	29,666	945,745

The land value included in Freehold land and buildings is £500,000.

13. Fixed Asset Investments

Movement in fixed asset listed investments

	31.03.2025	31.03.2024
Market value brought forward at 1 April 2024	1,448,611	1,504,624
Add: additions to investments at cost	875,608	1,026,520
Movement in cash held within investments	(37,711)	42,306
Disposals at carrying value	(1,063,709)	(1,290,727)
Unrealised/realised gains and (losses)	10,183	165,888
Market value as at 31 March 2025	1,232,982	1,448,611

Net cash released from investments in the year was £250,000 (2024 £250,000).

13. Fixed Asset Investments

Investments at fair value comprised:

	31.03.2025	31.03.2024
Bonds	246,727	196,843
Equities – overseas	735,052	586,933
Equities – UK	29,630	403,858
Equities – Emerging markets	84,518	78,141
Thematic	123,356	95,639
Commodities	-	35,787
Cash held within the investment portfolio	13,699	51,410
Total	1,232,982	1,448,611

Investments include £116,422 (2024 £103,777) held on behalf of clubs and branches.

Quoted investments are carried at their fair value. The basis of fair value for quoted investments is equivalent to the market value. The charity holds investments for income and capital growth. The charity manages investment risk by retaining expert advisors at Coutts bank. Risk is also managed by directing Coutts to operate the investment portfolio using a medium risk strategy. The risk of realised losses upon needing to extract cash at short notice is mitigated by assessing cash flow needs at least 18 months into the future and holding sufficient cash outside of the portfolio to meet these needs.

The following investments represent a significant value of the portfolio:

	31.03.2025	31.03.2024
Coutts Actively Managed UK Equity	-	97,391
Coutts Actively Managed US Equity Fund	151,173	192,062
Coutts US ESG Insights Equity Fund	115,524	205,163
Coutts UK ESG Insights Equity Fund	-	277,344
Coutts Europe ex UK Equity Index GBP-C-	22,153	85,561
Coutts US and Canada Enhanced Index	102,096	-
Coutts North America ESG insights	214,723	-
Amundi Funds SICAV Shares	67,687	-
Coutts US ESG Insights Equity Fund Hedged	72,999	-
JP Morgan Fund ICVC shares	73,081	-

14. Stock

	31.03.2025	31.03.2024
Fundraising Merchandise	1,266	1,632
Rehab and Low Vision Equipment	13,326	11,061
	14,592	12,693

15. Debtors

	Total 31.03.2025	Total 31.03.2024
Trade debtors	140,098	133,953
Prepayments	50,330	48,499
Accrued Income	1,291,727	326,527
	1,486,092	513,273

16. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Total 31.03.2025	Total 31.03.2024
Trade creditors	67,299	81,071
Accruals	34,402	29,378
Deferred Income	121,212	131,266
Other Taxation and Social Security	51,099	44,929
Other creditors	1,179	1,089
	275,191	287,733

17. Deferred Income

	Total 31.03.2025	Total 31.03.2024
Balance at 1 April 2024	131,266	111,815
Released in the year	(131,266)	(111,815)
Deferred in the year	121,212	131,266
Balance at 31 March 2025	121,212	131,266

Deferred Income of £121,212 relates to income from events and project grants occurring post year-end.

18. Designated funds

Current year	Balance at 31.03.2024	New designation	Designation released	Balance at 31.03.2025
Designated Funds				
Eye Clinic Liaison Officer Fund	118,733	425,000	(102,736)	440,997
AT worker Fund	9,200	245,000	(104,200)	150,000
Transcription Fund	18,632	10,000	(3,119)	25,513
Training services Fund	23,000	27,000	(11,873)	38,127
Maintenance Fund	124,300	76,800	-	201,100
Equipment and ICT Fund	47,800	-	-	47,800
Mobile Sight Centre	-	300,000	-	300,000
Re-branding	-	50,000	-	50,000
Counselling	36,431	263,200	(46,637)	252,994
Property Purchase	-	1,100,000	-	1,100,000
Fixed asset reserve	945,745	-	(45,738)	900,007
Total	1,323,841	2,497,000	(314,303)	3,506,538

The Trustees feel that roles performed by the Eye Clinic Liaison Officers, AT workers, Mobile Sight Centre and the work undertaken by the Transcription, Counselling Service and Training services are of vital importance to KAB service users and as such, they have again designated funds (above), to enable services continue in the coming year in the event that insufficient new external funding is obtained.

The maintenance fund will allow KAB to meet the expected building maintenance costs, based on a detailed review of repairs and renewals needs.

The equipment and ICT Fund is based on the expected future costs of maintaining the charities ICT infrastructure in an increasingly challenging Information Governance environment.

There are plans to purchase a property in the Kent area to support both staff and service users.

The plan to rebrand the organisation is being considered to better reflect its current contracts and activities.

The fixed asset fund relates to funds held in fixed assets, including the freehold land and buildings that are not available for charitable expenditure.

18. Designated funds

Prior year	Balance at 31.03.2023	New designation	Designation released	Balance at 31.03.2024
Designated Funds				
Eye Clinic Liaison Officer Fund	89,711	125,000	(95,978)	118,733
AT worker Fund	49,435	95,000	(135,235)	9,200
Transcription Fund	13,793	10,000	(5,161)	18,632
Training services Fund	25,831	27,000	(29,831)	23,000
Maintenance Fund	193,100	-	(68,800)	124,300
Equipment and ICT Fund	73,400	-	(25,600)	47,800
Mobile Sight Centre	75,000	-	(75,000)	-
Counselling	80,000	-	(43,569)	36,431
Fixed asset reserve	992,352	-	(46,607)	945,745
Total	1,592,622	257,000	(525,781)	1,323,841

19. Restricted Funds

Current year	Balance at 31.03.2024	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31.03.2025
KCC Adults Grant	-	1,058,000	(1,058,000)	-
Trusts, Legacies and donations restricted to AT services	52,844	84,942	(78,828)	58,958
Trusts and donations restricted to children's activities	3,396	200	(2,035)	1,562
Trusts and donations restricted for demonstration equipment	710	-	(40)	670
Family Activities	-	5,041	(543)	4,498
Donations restricted for rehabilitation and activities for adults	4,364	123,384	(16,128)	111,620
Aiming High/ Mary Kirby	26,659	-	-	26,659
Jarrett Legacy	41,494	-	(1,774)	39,720
ECLO Funding	-	21,560	(6,750)	14,810
Counselling	61	21,297	(15,953)	5,405
Covid Funding	4,926	-	(417)	4,509
MSC	19,681	88,590	(89,167)	19,104
Clubs and Groups	236,939	54,060	(36,547)	254,452
	391,074	1,457,074	(1,306,182)	541,966

KCC Adults Grant is the grant from KCC for the provision of adult's rehabilitation services in Kent.

We are tremendously grateful for the donations from individual donors, organisations and many trusts that have supported our work this year. Trust funding has been received for AT services, children's activities, the purchase of demonstration equipment, the ongoing provision of Transcription and the support of rehabilitation and leisure activities for adults.

Also included within restricted trust donations for AT services are: grants made to pay the salary costs of our AT Worker in Bromley, which were received, from City Bridge Trust and a generous legacy bequest for our general AT services.

The Jarrett Legacy is a legacy left for the benefit of the Gravesend area.

The Aiming High/ Mary Kirby fund relates to legacy income to be spent in the Sevenoaks area.

The ECLO funding is income to be spent within the department from Kent Community Foundation and Tula Trust.

Clubs and groups represent the total funds held by the KAB clubs and groups including accrued legacies.

The Counselling funds is to be spent on telephone counselling and face to face counselling in the Bromley and Canterbury area.

The MSC Fund relates to donations restricted for the purchase and use of the Mobile Sight Centre.

The grant from the National Lottery Community Fund (RC London and South East Region) is restricted to support Iris (MSC) over a 3 year period, as well as providing some funding towards follow up Assistive Technology (AT) support in the community. The Grant amount to date is £160,976.

The Covid Funding is funding to be spent on personal protective equipment in light of the Covid Pandemic.

19. Restricted Funds

Prior year	Balance at 31.03.2023	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31.03.2024
KCC Adults Grant	-	1,074,000	(1,074,000)	-
Trusts, Legacies and donations restricted to AT services	45,765	55,625	(48,546)	52,844
Trusts and donations restricted to children's activities	1,523	2,121	(248)	3,396
Trusts and donations restricted for demonstration equipment	710	-	-	710
Trusts restricted for the Foundation Degree	60	-	(60)	-
Trusts and donations restricted for talking News	1,829	-	(1,829)	-
Donations restricted for rehabilitation and activities for adults	5,874	300	(1,810)	4,364
Aiming High/ Mary Kirby	32,815	-	(6,156)	26,659
Jarrett Legacy	56,312	-	(14,818)	41,494
ECLO Funding		3,000	(3,000)	-
Counselling	12,342	18,528	(30,809)	61
Covid Funding	5,233	-	(307)	4,926
MSC	14,487	93,607	(88,413)	19,681
Clubs and Groups	252,607	32,562	(48,230)	236,939
	429,557	1,279,743	(1,318,226)	391,074

20. Analysis of net assets between funds

Current year

	Fixed Assets	Investments	Net Current Assets	Total 31.03.2025
Restricted funds	-	116,422	425,544	541,966
Designated Funds	900,007	423,834	2,182,697	3,506,538
Unrestricted Funds	-	692,726	494,069	1,186,795
	900,007	1,232,982	3,102,310	5,235,299

Prior year

	Fixed Assets	Investments	Net Current Assets	Total 31.03.2024
Restricted funds	-	103,777	287,297	391,074
Designated Funds	945,745	378,096	-	1,323,841
Unrestricted Funds	-	966,738	97,206	1,063,944
	945,745	1,448,611	384,503	2,778,859

21. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	31.03.2025	31.03.2024
Net movement in funds	2,456,440	(293,747)
Add back depreciation charge	48,643	52,959
Deduct interest income shown in investing activities	(50,050)	(40,046)
Add back loss on disposal	-	12,282
Deduct gains/ add Losses on investments	(10,183)	(165,888)
(Increase)/ Decrease in stocks	(1,899)	(136)
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	(972,819)	(16,714)
Increase / (Decrease) in creditors	(12,542)	28,272
Net cash used in operating activities	1,457,590	(423,018)

22. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	31.03.2025	31.03.2024
Cash at bank and in hand	1,811,468	65,958
Cash held by Clubs	65,349	80,312
Cash held with Investment managers	13,695	51,410
	1,890,515	197,680

The difference in the figure for cash and cash equivalents on cash flow statement and the cash in balance sheet is due to the inclusion of cash held within Investment managers.

23. Obligations under operating leases

The company had future commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Land and Buildings		Other		Total	
	31.03.2025	31.03.2024	31.03.2025	31.03.2024	31.03.2025	31.03.2024
Payments due in less than 1 year	8,667	8,667	-	1,937	8,667	10,604
Payments due in 2-5 years	26,780	39,750	-	-	26,780	39,750
	35,447	48,417	-	1,937	35,447	50,354

KENT ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

England & Wales - Charity number 1062354

Accounts

Kent Association for the Blind
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Report & Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

Charity Number 1062354

Company Number 03339912

www.kab.org.uk

Supporting sight impaired people to live independent lives

Kent Association for the Blind

Kent Association for the Blind
Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published in October 2019.

Our Objectives and Activities
The aim of Kent Association for the Blind (KAB) is to support sight-impaired people to live independent lives. We believe that anyone who has a visual impairment should be able to live a fulfilled, healthy and safe life, exercise self-determination and make informed choices, and achieve their own personal goals. In our Articles of Association our purpose is described as the "relief of blind and partially sighted persons and the prevention of sight loss and blindness" primarily in Kent, Medway and the London Boroughs of Bromley and Bexley. We fulfil our purpose by providing a comprehensive rehabilitation and support service to sight impaired people, and by raising awareness of eye health and the impact of sight loss. 2023-24 marked Year 3 of our role as Lead Provider of a Sensory Wellbeing contract for adults, commissioned by KCC. Under this contract we deliver services directly, as well as sub-contracting provision for Deaf people to two local hearing loss organisations. We are pleased to note that due to our strong performance during the initial term of the contract, in January 2024 we received confirmation that the contract would be extended for the first of two discretionary single year extensions.

This report describes the work we do, looks at what we have achieved over the last 12 months, and highlights some of our future plans. In reviewing outcomes and planning for the future, KAB's Trustees refer to Charity Commission guidance and ensure that the Charity's activities fulfil both the Commission's public benefit criteria and KAB's charitable objectives.

KAB's Clients and Services
KAB offers help to anyone who is sight impaired: people of any age and at any stage of their sight loss journey. We have over 12,500 visually impaired clients, and for every one of them, poor sight impacts their daily lives. To reduce the impact of sight loss, we provide practical training, advice, support and equipment, and we also support families, carers, schools and employers.

Our operational area is large, and covers both urban and rural areas. Services are delivered from three Sight Centres in Maidstone, Canterbury and Bromley, and a further office base in Medway although this is currently closed due to a health and safety structural issue. Our Counselling, Eye Clinic Liaison Officer (ECLO) and One-to-One support services are available to people across South-East London and we operate two social groups in the London borough of Bexley.

The main areas of charitable activity which deliver public benefit are:

- Rehabilitation Services, including ECLO support
- Counselling services
- Assistive Technology training and advice
- One-to-One Support Services for blind and deafblind clients
- Transcription Services
- Social and Leisure groups
- Eye health and prevention advice
- Training for Professionals
- Occasional short term developmental and pilot projects
- Volunteer opportunities and placements

KAB is committed to collaborative working and is active within the sight loss sector to ensure best practice is shared, and effort isn't duplicated. Over the last year we have contributed to and benefited from our membership of Visionary (the umbrella body for local associations), this included our CEO continuing in the Chair's role within the London & South East Region CEO network and the Chair of Trustees continuing as a member of the visually impaired Chair and CEO group. The Chair of Trustees is also a part of the Visionary Group.

The backbone of rehabilitation – or 'rehab' - is practical training that helps people learn new skills to manage daily tasks at home and in the community.

Following a successful tender process, we are pleased to have been awarded a new contract from Medway Council to provide habilitation and rehabilitation to sight impaired children and adults, from 1st January 2024. This new contract sees us continue our partnership with the providers commissioned as part of the Medway Better Together Consortium – Carers First, Medway Voluntary Action and EK360 (providers of Healthwatch). The collaborative focuses of the Consortium are communications, engagement, training and funding. We also continue to provide services under contract to Kent County Council and the London Borough of Bromley.

One-to-One Support Services

We run three similar services that provide one-to-one support in the community, enabling clients to maximise their independence:

- The Guide Communicator (GC) Service, which supports people with dual sensory impairment, also known as deafblindness.
- The Sight Support Service, which supports people who have sight loss.
- The Intervenor Service, which supports congenitally deafblind people who also have a learning disability or other complex needs.

One-to-One Support is charged at an hourly rate, and is financed either by statutory social care (including care managed budgets, Direct Payments or client-controlled Personal Budgets), by clients themselves, or by a combination of sources. The service is flexible, and clients receive as much or as little input as they need on a regular basis. Call-off contracts are in place with Bromley Council and KCC, and the service also operates in Medway.

The Transcription Service produces accessible materials in audio, Braille, digital formats and large print, which is of huge benefit to the Charity's clients, visually impaired volunteers, Trustees and staff. We also provide small scale transcription for external bodies such as Councils and GPs, and continue to see a slight increase in uptake due to the Accessible Information Standard, introduced in summer 2016, which requires all publicly funded health and social care providers to record and provide information in clients' preferred formats.

Awareness training

KAB is an approved Open College Network (OCN) provider, and we deliver accredited courses in Understanding Visual Impairment, Understanding Deafblindness, Understanding Hearing Impairment, and Understanding Assistive Technology. We use these to train both our own staff and external learners who want to gain a better understanding of the issues surrounding sensory impairment. We also deliver non-accredited short courses tailored to the needs of different learners; these are adapted from approved course content, so quality is consistently high.

Following the pandemic, we have now returned to delivering the majority of courses in person, which is best suited to the practical and interactive nature of the learning.

However, online training can still be provided upon request. The trend for bespoke courses in preference to accredited training has continued this year.

Clubs, Groups and Client Support
During this year, 33 KAB social groups have been in operation across Kent, Medway, Bromley and Bexley. These include art and craft sessions, groups who meet for coffee/lunch, clubs who meet for talks/entertainment and groups who go on outings.

Each club is supported by dedicated volunteers who arrange activities and entertainment, act as drivers and escorts, and help to raise funds. For some members, this may be the only face-to-face social contact of the week, so the clubs also act as something of a 'safety net' for some elderly and vulnerable visually impaired people, with volunteers ensuring that KAB is called in if someone needs help.

KAB provides financial support to Clubs via an annual grants programme, and also by meeting volunteers' expenses and providing insurance cover. The Charity also provides non-financial support such as recruiting and training volunteers, carrying out Disclosure and Barring Service checks, and helping with publicity. Our staff visit at least every six months to offer advice and support to both members and volunteers. All KAB Clubs sign up to a Handbook, which aims to ensure they operate safely and fairly and that members' needs are met as well as possible.

We also run more focused sessions to connect clients with shared needs e.g. Glaucoma Support groups. We are proud to have an established Advisory Council of service users and volunteers which acts as a consultative group, providing advice to the Senior Management Team and Board of Trustees on topics such as branding, policy, service development and local issues under consultation.

Counselling

We continue to offer face to face counselling from our centres, alongside telephone counselling – with the latter accounting for approximately 75-80% of provision. Referrals to the service during the year were 176 – consistent with the previous financial year (171). The number of counselling hours was 1391, with interventions being tailored to the needs of the individual. We continue to develop the service, with the team currently working towards becoming a trauma informed provider.

We are very pleased to have secured multi-year funding from City Bridge Trust, which will support our counselling work in south-east London over a 3 year period.

We are delighted to have published an Impact report to highlight the outcomes achieved by our counselling clients, which can be read here
https://www.kab.org.uk/who-we-are/impact

Strategic Report

Projects
Project income has declined from £119,229 in 2022/23 to £91,519 in 2023/24.

Iris – Mobile Sight Centre
Iris, our community vehicle, has continued to be a key way of increasing our reach and working in partnership. In 23-24, Iris undertook 88 events, a significant increase on the 40 events in the previous year. Across these events, Iris' onboard team conducted 1280 one-to-one consultations with individuals, as well as broader engagement with the general public. Of the 1280 individuals supported, only 13% were previously known to KAB – meaning Iris is achieving her aim of enabling us to support more people via a local approach. The one-two-one consultations included information about eye health, technology, wellbeing and more – as well as onward referrals to other KAB community services for additional support with independent living or specific eye conditions. Iris event locations are diverse, including schools, garden centres, supermarkets, day centres, GP practices and hospitals. We have continued to work in partnership with other charities to increase Iris' impact – including local branches of Age Uk, The Macular Society, Hi Kent and Blind Veterans. In August 2023, we were delighted to secure a large multi year grant from the National Lottery (Reaching Communities) which will support Iris over a 3 year period, as well as providing some funding towards follow up Assistive Technology support in the community.

Financial Review
In the year ending March 2024, the Charity's principal funding continued to come from Local Authority Contracts, Grants, Fundraising and Legacies.

Income from all areas increased by £114,385 to £2,541,473 for the year ended March 2024 due to an increase in Donations and Legacies. Income was used to meet KAB's charitable objectives with rehab services being the single largest areas of expenditure at £2,101,789.

Total expenditure for the year is £3,001,108 resulting in a deficit of £293,747 after investment gain, compared with a deficit of £869,203 in the previous year which was as a result of small legacies and higher staffing costs in 2022/23.

Fundraising
Total Fundraising income increased by £208,554 to £607,235, reflecting largely attributed to a strategy of focusing on Trust and Foundations (T&F) for this financial year. Areas including the London Marathon event and our annual Golf Day event have over-performed, however, there was a decline in Community and Corporate income. This was partially attributable to not having a Fundraising Manager in post and the challenges of the external fundraising climate.

Legacy income totalled £224,324. The Trustees are very grateful to the kind supporters who have remembered KAB in their wills and through donations in memory.

We value the support of all our corporate partners and look forward to working together over the coming year.

We continue to gain traction on social media through new follows, with greater engagement from posts about children and younger people. Income through appeals and KAB Connect newsletter have been lower than previous years, due to the cost of living crisis. We continue to seek sponsorship to drive down the publication costs.

Unfortunately we were greatly impacted by the cost of living crisis this year and have been unable to raise sufficient funds to meet our targets across Community, Events and Individual Fundraising which have been predictably the hardest hit throughout the last financial year as the fundraising landscape continues to evolve.

Fundraising expenditure has been closely monitored during the year. Our focus on income streams with the greatest return on investment have been critical however the difficulties in recruiting a Fundraising Manager have hindered our business model. A new Fundraising Strategy is being developed with support from our experienced Fundraising Trustee and the SMT.

We have seen success with our revised strategy for T&F, with income increasing from £80,712 in 22-23 to £220,881 in 23-24. This is the result of significantly increasing the volume of applications we make, while also diversifying the type of applications to include larger and multi-year grants. We have aligned our T&F fundraising with our Services directorate, which has created greater synergy between service development needs and fundraising objectives. We are delighted to have secured 3 year funding totalling £465,430 from the National Lottery to support our Mobile Sight Centre (Iris) and follow-up Assistive Technology services. We have also been awarded a 3-year grant from City Bridge Trust to support our counselling service in South-East London. Our current priorities for T&F fundraising are counselling, assistive technology support, social groups and befriending. Our main focus is funding our existing services, but we are also applying for innovation funds to trial new initiatives – such as specialist dance based social groups to benefit the wellbeing of our clients.

We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator and we are committed to following their Code of Fundraising Practice so as to ensure that the public, including vulnerable people, are protected from unreasonable or intrusive approaches. KAB carries out all fundraising activities in line with recognised standards. We are also registered as a Data Controller and Data Processor with the Information Commissioner's Office and are compliant with General Data Protection Regulation requirements.

Investment Powers and Policy
The charity's investment approach for the year was to both grow the real value of investments whilst managing return and risk in the context of uncertain financial markets, and to maximise bank interest from cash held on deposit. The Trustees employ Coutts & Co. investment managers to achieve this aim, using full discretionary powers of investment, but taking a medium to low-risk approach with a clear benchmarked target.

Investment income including bank interest increased to £40,046 in 2023/24 from £30,889 in 2022/23.

In reviewing the investment policy, the Trustees have considered any ethical restrictions they should apply and are mindful of the need to avoid undermining the credibility of KAB by profiting from, or providing capital to, activities which might be connected to those which are detrimental to eye health. KAB only holds collective investments, and as such is not at risk of investing directly in such companies. We also meet regularly with our investment managers and monitor our portfolio to ensure an adequate level of scrutiny of any potential exposure.

Reserves Policy
KAB's Trustees consider that holding reserves is an essential part of their duty of governance. The Reserves Policy is reviewed every February to coincide with the budget setting and strategic planning timetable and the review of the Investment Policy and Risk Register.

The policy for 2023/24 is to hold reserves of £490,000 (2022/23 £490,000) to cover the risks associated with loss of income necessitating winding down some or all of the organisation, loss of key workers, investment risk and the risk of legacy income being below budget. Unrestricted funds at 31 March 2024 totalled £1,063,944 (2023: £1,050,427). The planned deficit for the financial year 2024/25 is £395,801.

Trustees recognise that some reserves are required to deliver unfunded services which are intrinsic to KAB's work.

Total funds of the Charity as at 31 March 2024 were £2,778,859 (2023: £3,072,606).

The designated funds at 31 March 2024 totalled £1,323,841 (2022: £1,522,295). Details of these funds are provided in note 18. Funds were designated to cover building maintenance, equipment and ICT maintenance and replacement, and project continuation and development. In addition, funds designated that are associated with projects namely ECLO, AT, Training, Counselling and Transcription all represent the cost of the services for a period of one year. The maintenance fund represents costs which could be incurred over the course of the next three years and the ICT equipment and replacement represents costs likely to be incurred in the next one to five years. A fixed asset fund represents the value of the fixed assets as these are operating assets and not available for charitable expenditure.

Trustees are confident that their approach to reserves will enable them to maintain current work programmes in the year ahead even with the planned deficit budget, and to complete planned work in the event that income streams are adversely affected.

The restricted funds at 31 March 2024 totalled £391,074 (2023: £429,557). Details of these funds are provided in note 19.

Plans for future Periods
The Trustees recognise the need to continue where possible to reduce budget deficits. We have identified our key priority areas such as Trusts and Foundations where we would hope to secure alternative means of funding and help reduce the subsidy from KAB reserves. This includes exploring new funding streams for our Eye Clinic Liaison Officers (ECLO's) our Counselling Service and our clubs and social activities.

We have an exciting new strategy in place for Iris for 2024/25 to enable us to reach more existing and potential service users. We are very grateful to our sponsors and supporters for their continued involvement and we are aiming to further improve our profile county wide next year. This continues to be a very exciting venture for KAB with opportunities to increase the services available on Iris.

Our partnership with Medway's Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Transformation Academy continues. The Transformation Academy has continued to develop and we are piloting providing HR support and DBS checks to small VCS organisations in Medway to help increase our income and may also help KAB to save money with more collaborative working (i.e. joint procurement initiatives).

Going concern

The Trustees have assessed the operational and financial impact in the Strategic Report on pages 5 and 6. Trustees reviewed potential risks to KAB and Trustees note that KAB remains in a stable position.

Reference and administrative details

Company Number	03339912
Charity Number	1062354
Registered Office	72 College Road Maidstone Kent ME15 6SJ Tel 01622 691357

Our Advisors

Bankers	National Westminster Bank plc 2nd Floor County Gate 2 Staceys Street Maidstone Kent ME14 1ST
Auditors	Azets Audit Services First Floor River House 1 Maidstone Road Sidcup Kent DA14 5RH
Investment Managers	Coutts & Co Wellington Gate 7-9 Church Road Royal Tunbridge Wells Tunbridge Wells TN1 1HT

Our Directors and Trustees

Honorary Officers

Mrs. Hazel Groves	Chair
Mr. James Burke	Honorary Treasurer

Other Trustees

Mr. Michael Benson	
Mr. Paul Betts	
Mr. Anthony Blackman	
Mr. Anthony Colwell	
Mrs Jennifer Terry	Resigned September 2023
Mr. Leonard Spiller	Resigned September 2023
Mr. Luke Cashin	Appointed September 2023
Mr. Alan Thorpe	Appointed December 2023
Mrs Avril Langman-Heath	Appointed March 2024
Mr. Ian Platt	Appointed March 2024

Company Secretary

Mrs Eithne Rynne

Our Senior Management Team and Key Management Personnel

Eithne Rynne	Chief Executive
Andrea Forsythe	Director of Finance
Vanessa Stanley	Director of HR
Katherine Barr	Director of Services

Structure, Governance & Management

Legal and Administrative Status
KAB is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 25 March 1997, and is also a registered Charity. The company is governed under its Articles of Association which were updated in October 2009.

Governance
The Trustees meet at least quarterly, and each year, one third of the longest serving trustees retire by rotation and are eligible for re-election. The Board can appoint new trustees at any point during the year. Our aim is to have at least a third of the Board representative from our client base.

Trustees are recruited via an open process in order to meet identified skills and knowledge gaps, and all new Trustees go through an induction process which includes visits to various areas of the Charity, and opportunities to shadow staff and undertake training. A Trustee Handbook underpins induction, and sets out the role of the Board, the role of individual Trustees and officers, relationships with staff, guidelines for performance appraisal, a code of conduct and conflict of interests policy.

No Trustee receives remuneration or other benefit from their work with the Charity.

The only permanent sub-committee is the Finance, Risk and Audit Sub-Committee, which comprises the Chair, Hon. Treasurer and Vice Chair (or another Trustee if no Vice Chair was appointed), and is attended by the Chief Executive and Director of Finance. This sub-committee meets before every full Board meeting and reports back to the Board verbally and in writing.

Governance information is available digitally and in audio, Braille or large print for staff and Trustees who have a sensory impairment; KAB also provides Guide Communicators or other support as required at Board meetings and other Trustee events.

Organisational Structure & Management
Day to day responsibility for service provision and ensuring that charitable and strategic aims are met is delegated to the Chief Executive, who is supported by a Senior Management Team.

During the year, KAB had on average 100 staff (63.32 full time equivalent) across three office bases. KAB aims to ensure that it has appropriate procedures in place to ensure staff are able to be fully engaged in all areas of the Charity's work and are given appropriate training, support and guidance to carry out their roles effectively. KAB maintains its Investor In People status and is an accredited Disability Confident Employer.

The pay of Key Management Personnel is agreed at board level. Pay scales are agreed based on extensive reviews of the pay rates of similar roles within the comparable charity sector. Management staff progress along pay scales based on length of service and satisfactory performance in the same way as all KAB staff.

Throughout this report we mention our wonderful volunteers. Our volunteers generally support rehab services by driving clients to meetings and appointments, delivering equipment, home visiting and befriending, and helping people to read their mail and manage their home affairs. Volunteers help run our clubs, help at events and help us with many of our back room functions like administration and fundraising. We are enormously grateful to them all.

Related Parties and Connected Charities

Any connections between a Trustee or senior manager and KAB's suppliers, funders, or key stakeholders must be disclosed in line with KAB's Conflict of Interest policy. In the current year no related party transactions were reported.

The Charity commits staff time and resources to collaborative working and staff are involved in many strategic groups both nationally and regionally, all with the ultimate aim of improving the lives of sight impaired people. However, this joint working is informal and KAB has no connected charities.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

Potential risks to KAB, our beneficiaries and staff are reviewed regularly and detailed in a Risk Register. Gross risk is measured in terms of likelihood of occurrence and severity of impact, then the controls that we have in place are assessed to produce a retained or 'net' risk level.

The most significant net risks to the Charity in the current year are inability to deliver services due to loss of contracts and tendering risk and data security risk. The risks associated with the cost of living crisis and the impact on our ability to fundraise have also been retained on the Risk Register.

Risks to income are being addressed by the focus on developing a new Fundraising Strategy and making changes where needed, the regular monitoring of cash flow, increasing Guide Communicator fee income through requests to KCC, Medway and Bromley Councils and holding adequate cash reserves to cover the medium term shortfall.

Contract and tendering risk refers to the potential loss of Local Authority funding, which could pose a major threat to KAB as a whole and potentially to the quality of service received by users. This risk is being addressed in the following ways - ensuring that we have good knowledge of the sector environment and strong relationships with partner agencies; growing the already good bank of data which evidences the quality of current provision; being as involved as possible with commissioning strategy and ensuring costing of services is accurate and up to date.

Increased data security risk reflects a marked increase in the demands placed on charities by funders in terms of technical and policy compliance with challenging new information governance and data management standards. This is being addressed by continual review of the raft of policies in place surrounding data security, ongoing investment in ICT equipment and ensuring staff attend quality training on any changes and update policies accordingly.

Risks are monitored and communicated regularly to the Board, and risk management forms an integral part of our strategic planning.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of Kent Association for the Blind for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report including the Strategic Report 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 these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- 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 that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company 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 charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Disclosure of information to auditors
In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

A resolution proposing that Azets Audit Services be reappointed as auditor of the charitable company will be put to the members.

The Trustees' Report is approved by order of the Board of Trustees and the Strategic Report (included therein) is approved by the Board of Trustees in their capacity as directors in their meeting on 11 September 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Mrs Hazel Groves
Chair

Registered Office
72 College Road
Maidstone
Kent ME15 6SJ

Kent Association for the Blind
Independent Auditors Report to the Members

Opinion
We have audited the financial statements of Kent Association for the Blind (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:
- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion
We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern
In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information
The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006
In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report and the incorporated Strategic Report prepared for the purpose of company law for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Report and the incorporated Strategic Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report and the incorporated Strategic Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees
As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' responsibilities set out on page 15, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud
Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above and on the Financial Reporting Council's website, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

Kent Association for the Blind
Independent Auditors Report to the Members

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud (continued)

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud (continued)

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation (ie. gives a true and fair view).

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Azets Audit Services Limited

Michelle Wilkes FCA (Partner)
For and on behalf of Azets Audit Services
Senior Statutory Auditor
First Floor
River House,
1 Maidstone Road
Kent DA14 5RH

Date: 18 September 2024

Kent Association for the Blind
Statement of Financial Activities
(including income and expenditure)
For the year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 31.03.2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 31.03.2023 £
Income:							
Donations and Legacies	2	408,490	205,743	614,233	298,557	96,366	394,923
Charitable Activities							
Rehabilitation Services	3a	406,673	1,074,000	1,480,673	416,853	1,089,533	1,506,386
One to One Support Services		279,994	-	279,994	323,643	-	323,643
AT Service		1,040	-	1,040	480	-	480
Talking News and Transcription		2,193	-	2,193	2,014	-	2,014
Training	3b	6,098	-	6,098	10,798	-	10,798
Clubs, Groups and Client Support		-	-	-	-	-	-
Projects	3c	91,519	-	91,519	119,229	-	119,229
Other CJRS		-	-	-	-	-	-
Other activities		25,677	-	25,677	38,726	-	38,726
Investments	4	40,046	-	40,046	30,889	-	30,889
Total Income		1,261,730	1,279,743	2,541,473	1,241,189	1,185,899	2,427,088
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	5	159,386	-	159,386	359,339	-	359,339
Charitable Activities	6						
Rehabilitation Services		882,229	1,219,560	2,101,789	927,638	1,175,513	2,103,151
One to One Support Services		459,078	-	459,078	473,251	-	473,251
AT Service		117,891	48,546	166,437	92,480	51,253	143,733
Talking News and Transcription		2,761	1,830	4,591	25,593	1,265	26,858
Training		34,025	60	34,085	36,702	-	36,702
Clubs, Groups and Client Support		10,909	48,230	59,139	7,666	55,689	63,355
Projects		16,603	-	16,603	11,483	-	11,483
Total Expenditure		1,682,882	1,318,226	3,001,108	1,934,152	1,283,720	3,217,872
		(421,152)	(38,483)	(459,635)	(692,963)	(97,821)	(790,784)
Net gains/losses on investments	13	165,888	-	165,888	(78,419)	-	(78,419)
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement of funds for the year		(255,264)	(38,483)	(293,747)	(771,382)	(97,821)	(869,203)
Total funds brought forward		2,643,049	429,557	3,072,606	3,414,431	527,378	3,941,809
Total funds carried forward		2,387,785	391,074	2,778,859	2,643,049	429,557	3,072,606

All the above amount relate to continuing activities

Kent Association for the Blind
Company Number 03339912
Balance Sheet
As at 31 March 2024

	Notes	31.03.2024	31.03.2023
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	12	945,745	992,352
Investments	13	1,448,611	1,504,624
Total Fixed Assets		2,394,356	2,496,976
Current Assets			
Stocks	14	12,693	12,557
Debtors	15	513,273	496,559
Cash at bank and in hand		146,270	325,973
Total Current Assets		672,236	835,089
Liabilities			
Creditors falling due within one year	16	287,733	259,459
Net Current Assets		384,503	575,630
Total Assets less current liabilities		**2,778,859**	**3,072,606**
Total Net Assets		**2,778,859**	**3,072,606**
The Funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted general funds		1,063,944	1,050,427
Designated funds	18	1,323,841	1,592,622
Restricted funds	19	391,074	429,557
Total charity funds	20	**2,778,859**	**3,072,606**

Approved for issue by the Trustees on 11 September 2024

Mrs Hazel Groves - Chair

Mr J Burke- Treasurer

The notes on pages 20 to 33 form part of these accounts.

Kent Association for the Blind
Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	31.03.2024	31.03.2023
Net cash used in operating activities	21	**(423,018)**	**(629,360)**
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received		3,641	2,279
Dividends received		36,406	28,610
Proceeds from sale of investment		1,290,727	1,001,965
Purchase of investments		(1,026,520)	(1,040,474)
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(18,633)	(44,543)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		**285,621**	**(52,163)**
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(137,397)	(681,523)
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		335,077	1,016,600
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	22	**197,680**	**335,077**

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between the sales proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase price is acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value. Realised and unrealised investment gains and losses are combined in the statement of Financial activities.

m) Operating leases

The charity classifies the leases of the Canterbury and Bromley Sight Centres as operating leases. Rentals payable are charged in a straight line basis over the lease term.

n) Clubs and Groups

The income, expenditure, assets and liabilities of all KAB clubs and groups are included within these financial statements. All club funds are treated as restricted.

o) Stock

Stock held comprises two elements: stock associated with non-charitable trade and stock provided as part of charitable activity. Neither stock type is issued for free and as such all stock is held at the lower of costs or net realisable value. Damaged or obsolete stock is written down as an expense.

p) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the amount due less any provision for bad or doubtful debts.

q) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes only cash held in instant access bank accounts.

r) Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the Charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are recognised at their settlement amounts.

s) Pensions

Employees of the charity are entitled to join a defined contribution 'money purchase' scheme. The charity contribution is restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 7. The costs of the defined contribution scheme are included within the staff costs of the fundraising, charitable activity or support costs as appropriate. These costs are allocated to the unrestricted funds of the charity with the exception of job roles which are funded by restricted funds, namely ECLO and Kent based rehab staff, and in these instances pension costs are allocated to the relevant restricted fund. Where costs are allocated to support costs the costs are charged to the unrestricted funds of the charity using the methodology set out in note 7.

Kent Association for the Blind has two defined contributions schemes held with Aegon and The People's Pension. Since April 2014 staff who were not already members of the Aegon scheme are only able to join The People's Pension Scheme. The charity has no liability beyond making its contributions and paying across the deductions for the employees contributions to the relevant scheme.

New and existing employees who were not otherwise enrolled in a pension scheme were automatically enrolled into the People's Pension scheme where their earnings met the auto enrolment criteria unless they had exercised their right to opt out of the scheme membership.

Employees enrolled in both schemes contract directly with the companies concerned. The charity makes a matching contribution of up to 6% of salary to these pension schemes and acts as an agent collecting and paying over employee pension contributions.

t) Taxation

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

u) Management estimates and judgements

Accounting estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The Foundation makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the

related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

Useful economic lives of tangible assets
The annual depreciation charge for tangible assets is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are reassessed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimates, based on technological advancement, future investments, economic utilisation and the physical condition of the assets. See note 12 for the carrying amount of the property plant and equipment, and note 1(j) for the useful economic lives for each class of assets.

2. Donations and Legacies

	Total 31.03.2024	Total 31.03.2023
Donations	144,524	192,884
Grant income from Trusts and Foundations	220,881	80,712
Legacies	224,324	93,179
Club Donations	24,504	28,148
	£614,233	£394,923

Of the total donations and legacies for the year ended 31 March 2024 £205,743 (2023 £96,366) is attributable to restricted funds and £408,490 (2023 £298,557) is added to unrestricted funds. Of the total grants from Trust and Foundations, there were funders which donated over £10,000 as follows; Lois Cumbers Charitable Foundation, National Lottery and Vision Foundation.

3. Income from Charitable Activities

3a. Rehabilitation Services

	Total 31.03.2024	Total 31.03.2023
Local Authority Grants from:		
Kent County Council	1,155,000	1,170,533
Medway Council	153,242	147,907
London Borough of Bromley	148,000	148,000
London Borough of Bexley	17,510	17,000
	£1,473,752	£1,483,440
Equipment Income	6,921	22,946
Total	£ 1,480,673	£ 1,506,386

Of the total income for rehabilitation services for the year ended 31 March 2024 £1,074,000 (2023 £1,089,533) is attributable to restricted funds and £406,673 (2023 £416,853) is added to unrestricted funds.

3b. Training

	Total 31.03.2024	Total 31.03.2023
Short Courses	6,098	10,798
Total	£ 6,098	£ 10,798

All income associated with Training in 2024 and 2023 is unrestricted.

3c. Projects

	Total 31.03.2024	Total 31.03.2023
Other	91,519	119,229
Total	£91,519	£119,229

Of the total income for projects for the year ended 31 March 2024 £nil (2023 nil) is attributable to restricted funds and £91,519 (2023 £119,229) is added to unrestricted funds.

4. Income from investments

	Total 31.03.2024	Total 31.03.2023
Income from listed investments	36,405	28,610
Interest on cash deposits	3,641	2,279
	£ 40,046	£ 30,889

All income associated with investments in 2024 and 2023 is unrestricted.

5. Expenditure on raising funds

	Donations and Legacies	Other Trading Activities	Investment costs	Total 31.03.2024	Total 31.03.2023
Direct Staff Costs	80,899	4,258	-	85,157	214,895
Direct Fundraising Costs	30,084	1,583	-	31,667	65,904
Building and telephone costs	7,626	-	-	7,626	12,390
Investment management costs	-	-	8,305	8,305	8,250
Governance Costs (see note 7)	1,202	119	-	1,321	2,708
Support Costs (see note 7)	23,032	2,278	-	25,310	55,192
	£142,843	£ 8,238	£ 8,305	£ 159,386	£ 359,339

All expenditure on raising funds in unrestricted.

6. Expenditure on Charitable activities

	Staff costs	Direct costs	Support costs	Total 31.03.2024	Total 31.03.2023
Cost of raising funds	85,157	31,667	42,562	159,386	359,339
Charitable expenditure					
Rehabilitation services	1,328,666	418,910	354,213	2,101,789	2,103,151
One to one support services	336,219	9,140	113,719	459,078	473,251
AT Service	114,980	15,223	36,234	166,437	143,733
Transcription & Talking News	1,025	2,576	990	4,591	26,858
Training	26,168	1,977	5,940	34,085	36,702
Clubs, groups and client support	-	55,637	3,502	59,139	63,355
Projects	681	15,922	-	16,603	11,483
	1,807,739	519,385	514,598	2,841,721	2,858,533
	1,892,896	551,052	557,160	3,001,108	3,217,872

Included in direct costs and support costs are staff costs of £236,202 (2023: £238,604) which are allocated above.

7a. Support costs

	Total 31.03.2024	Total 31.03.2023
CEO's office	95,772	93,459
Finance	76,744	75,775
HR	65,066	75,063
IT	48,839	61,615
Establishment costs including support staff	186,202	191,701
Insurance	36,533	34,678
Professional fees	20,157	37,950
Governance (note 7b)	27,847	26,969
	557,160	597,210

7b. Governance costs

	Total 31.03.2024	Total 31.03.2023
Auditor's remuneration	12,000	12,000
CEO and finance costs	10,999	10,024
Other	4,848	4,945
	27,847	26,969

8. Net expenditure for the year

This is stated after the following		Total 31.03.2024	Total 31.03.2023
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		52,959	58,518
Loss on Disposal		12,282	-
Audit Fees - Statutory Audit		12,000	12,000
Operating leases	Land and Buildings	4,333	-

9. Analysis of staff costs, trustee remunerations and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

	Total 31.03.2024	Total 31.03.2023
The staff costs were		
Wages and Salaries	1,882,842	1,985,862
Social Security Costs	158,358	164,876
Pension Costs	87,898	89,313
	2,129,098	2,240,051

The total amount of redundancy payments made in the financial year was £3,978 (2023 £5,454). Redundancy payments are set at the statutory minimum amount based on the staff members' age and period of service.

Trustees were reimbursed expenses during the year of £448 (2023 £30). The nature of the expenses reimbursed were travel expenses in connection with attending meetings.

The average number of staff during the year was 100 (2023 109).

	2024		2023	
	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time
Head Office	3	8	4	10
Fundraising	1	3	4	3
Charitable activities	32	53	34	54
	36	64	42	67

During this year, one employee earned more than £70,000 but not more than £80,000 (2023: one employee earned more than £60,000 but not more than £70,000).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees, CEO, Director of Finance, Director of HR and Director of Client Services. The employee benefits of key management personnel total £237,092 four staff members (2023: £295,381 five staff members).

10. Related Party Transactions

There have been no related party transactions in the year ended 31 March 2024 (2023 nil) which require disclosure.

11. Taxation

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and, is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

12. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold land and buildings College Road Maidstone	Furniture, fittings equipment and computers	Motor Vehicles	Total
Cost				
As at 1 April 2023	1,306,924	246,629	74,162	1,627,715
Additions	-	18,633	-	18,633
Disposal	-	(120,730)	-	(120,730)
As at 31 March 2024	1,306,924	144,532	74,162	1,525,618
Depreciation				
As at 1 April 2023	427,403	178,295	29,664	635,362
Charge for the year	16,138	21,989	14,832	52,959
Disposal	-	(108,448)	-	(108,448)
As at 31 March 2024	443,541	91,836	44,496	579,873
Net Book Value				
As at 31 March 2024	863,383	52,696	29,666	945,745
As at 31 March 2023	879,521	68,334	44,498	992,352

The land value included in Freehold land and buildings is £500,000.

13. Fixed Asset Investments

Movement in fixed asset listed investments

	31.03.2024	31.03.2023
Market value brought forward at 1 April 2023	1,504,624	1,562,683
Add: additions to investments at cost	1,026,520	1,040,474
Movement in cash held within investments	42,306	(18,148)
Disposals at carrying value	(1,290,727)	(1,001,966)
Unrealised/realised gains and (losses)	165,888	(78,419)
Market value as at 31 March 2024	1,448,611	1,504,624

Net cash released from investments in the year was £250,000 (2023 £nil).

13. Fixed Asset Investments

Investments at fair value comprised:

	31.03.2024	31.03.2023
Bonds	196,843	388,855
Equities – overseas	586,933	505,125
Equities – UK	403,858	425,521
Equities – Emerging markets	78,141	133,282
Thematic	95,639	42,737
Commodities	35,787	-
Cash held within the investment portfolio	51,410	9,104
Total	1,448,611	1,504,624

Investments include £103,777 (2023 £90,423) held on behalf of clubs and branches.

Quoted investments are carried at their fair value. The basis of fair value for quoted investments is equivalent to the market value. The charity holds investments for income and capital growth. The charity manages investment risk by retaining expert advisors at Coutts bank. Risk is also managed by directing Coutts to operate the investment portfolio using a medium risk strategy. The risk of realised losses upon needing to extract cash at short notice is mitigated by assessing cash flow needs at least 18 months into the future and holding sufficient cash outside of the portfolio to meet these needs.

The following investments represent a significant value of the portfolio:

	31.03.2024	31.03.2023
Coutts Actively Managed UK Equity	97,391	114,072
Coutts Actively Managed US Equity Fund	192,062	128,738
Coutts US ESG Insights Equity Fund	205,163	28,395
Coutts UK ESG Insights Equity Fund	277,344	-
Coutts Europe ex UK Equity Index GBP-C-	85,561	-
Coutts US and Canada Enhanced Index	-	248,527
Equator US Equity Shares	-	244,459
Equator UK Equity Fund Shares	-	280,798

14. Stock

	31.03.2024	31.03.2023
Fundraising Merchandise	1,632	2,587
Rehab and Low Vision Equipment	11,061	9,972
	12,693	12,559

15. Debtors

	Total 31.03.2024	Total 31.03.2023
Trade debtors	133,953	140,441
Prepayments	48,499	49,804
Accrued Income	326,527	306,314
Other debtors	4,294	-
	513,273	496,559

16. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Total 31.03.2024	Total 31.03.2023
Trade creditors	81,071	40,792
Accruals	29,378	46,333
Deferred Income	131,266	111,815
Other Taxation and Social Security	44,929	59,611
Other creditors	1,089	908
	287,733	259,459

17. Deferred Income

	Total 31.03.2024	Total 31.03.2023
Balance at 1 April 2023	111,815	13,312
Released in the year	(111,815)	(13,312)
Deferred in the year	131,266	111,815
Balance at 31 March 2024	131,266	111,815

Deferred Income of £131,266 relates to income from events and project grants occurring post year-end.

18. Designated funds

Current year	Balance at 31.03.2023	New designation	Designation released	Balance at 31.03.2024
Designated Funds				
Eye Clinic Liaison Officer Fund	89,711	125,000	(95,978)	118,733
AT worker Fund	49,435	95,000	(135,235)	9,200
Transcription Fund	13,793	10,000	(5,161)	18,632
Training services Fund	25,831	27,000	(29,831)	23,000
Maintenance Fund	193,100	-	(68,800)	124,300
Equipment and ICT Fund	73,400	-	(25,600)	47,800
Mobile Sight Centre	75,000	-	(75,000)	-
Counselling	80,000	-	(43,569)	36,431
Fixed asset reserve	992,352	-	(46,607)	945,745
Total	1,592,622	257,000	(525,781)	1,323,841

The Trustees feel that roles performed by the Eye Clinic Liaison Officers, AT workers, Mobile Sight Centre staff and the work undertaken by the Transcription, Counselling Service and Training services are of vital importance to KAB service users and as such, they have again designated funds (above), to enable services continue in the coming year in the event that insufficient new external funding is obtained.

The maintenance fund will allow KAB to meet the expected building maintenance costs, based on a detailed review of repairs and renewals needs.

The equipment and ICT Fund is based on the expected future costs of maintaining the charities ICT infrastructure in an increasingly challenging Information Governance environment.

The fixed asset fund relates to funds held in fixed assets, including the freehold land and buildings, that are not available for charitable expenditure.

18. Designated funds
Prior year

	Balance at 31.03.2022	New designation	Designation released	Balance at 31.03.2023
Designated Funds				
Eye Clinic Liaison Officer Fund	130,142	105,000	(145,431)	89,711
AT worker Fund	77,965	70,000	(98,530)	49,435
Talking News & Transcription Fund	20,017	20,000	(26,224)	13,793
Training services Fund	27,024	27,000	(28,193)	25,831
Maintenance Fund	193,100	-	-	193,100
Equipment and ICT Fund	67,720	5,680	-	73,400
Mobile Sight Centre	-	75,000	-	75,000
Counselling	-	80,000	-	80,000
Fixed asset reserve	1,006,328	-	(13,976)	992,352
Total	1,522,296	382,680	(312,354)	1,592,622

19. Restricted Funds

Current year	Balance at 31.03.2023	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31.03.2024
KCC Adults Grant	-	1,074,000	(1,074,000)	-
Trusts, Legacies and donations restricted to AT services	45,765	55,625	(48,546)	52,844
Trusts and donations restricted to children's activities	1,523	2,121	(248)	3,396
Trusts and donations restricted for demonstration equipment	710	-	-	710
Trusts restricted for the Foundation Degree	60	-	(60)	-
Trusts and donations restricted for talking News	1,829	-	(1,829)	-
Donations restricted for rehabilitation and activities for adults	5,874	300	(1,810)	4,364
Aiming High/ Mary Kirby	32,815	-	(6,156)	26,659
Jarrett Legacy	56,312	-	(14,818)	41,494
ECLO Funding		3,000	(3,000)	-
Counselling	12,342	18,528	(30,809)	61
Covid Funding	5,233	-	(307)	4,926
MSC	14,487	93,607	(88,413)	19,681
Clubs and Groups	252,607	32,562	(48,230)	236,939
	429,557	1,279,743	(1,318,226)	391,074

KCC Adults Grant is the grant from KCC for the provision of adult's rehabilitation services in Kent.

We are tremendously grateful for the donations from individual donors, organisations and many trusts that have supported our work this year. Trust funding has been received for AT services, children's activities, the purchase of demonstration equipment, the ongoing provision of Transcription and the support of rehabilitation and leisure activities for adults.

Also included within restricted trust donations for AT services are: grants made to pay the salary costs of our AT Worker in Bromley, which were received, from City Bridge Trust and a generous legacy bequest for our general AT services.

The Jarrett Legacy is a legacy left for the benefit of the Gravesend area.

The Aiming High/ Mary Kirby fund relates to legacy income to be spent in the Sevenoaks area.

The ECLO funding is income to be spent within the department from Kent Community Foundation and Tula Trust.

Clubs and groups represent the total funds held by the KAB clubs and groups including accrued legacies.

The Counselling funds is to be spent on telephone counselling and face to face counselling in the Bromley and Canterbury area.

The MSC Fund relates to donations restricted for the purchase and use of the Mobile Sight Centre.

The grant from the National Lottery Community Fund (RC London and South East Region) is restricted to support Iris (MSC) over a 3 year period, as well as providing some funding towards follow up Assistive Technology (AT) support in the community. The Grant amount to date is £129,706.

The Covid Funding is funding to be spent on personal protective equipment in light of the Covid Pandemic.

19. Restricted Funds

Prior year	Balance at 31.03.2022	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31.03.2023
KCC Adults Grant	-	1,089,533	(1,089,533)	-
Trusts, Legacies and donations restricted to AT services	67,471	29,547	(51,253)	45,765
Trusts and donations restricted to children's activities	1,864	-	(341)	1,523
Trusts and donations restricted for demonstration equipment	1,189	-	(479)	710
Trusts restricted for the Foundation Degree	60	-	-	60
Trusts and donations restricted for talking News	3,094	-	(1,265)	1,829
Donations restricted for rehabilitation and activities for adults	8,633	2,596	(5,355)	5,874
Aiming High/ Mary Kirby	34,181	-	(1,366)	32,815
Jarrett Legacy	73,791	-	(17,479)	56,312
Counselling	14	26,585	(14,257)	12,342
Covid Funding	45,463	-	(40,230)	5,233
MSC	13,720	7,240	(6,473)	14,487
Clubs and Groups	277,898	30,398	(55,689)	252,607
	527,378	1,185,899	(1,283,720)	429,557

20. Analysis of net assets between funds

Current year	Fixed Assets	Investments	Net Current Assets	Total 31.03.2024
Restricted funds	-	103,777	287,297	391,074
Designated Funds	945,745	378,096	-	1,323,841
Unrestricted Funds	-	966,738	97,206	1,063,944
	945,745	1,448,611	384,503	2,778,859

Prior year

	Fixed Assets	Investments	Net Current Assets	Total 31.03.2023
Restricted funds	-	90,423	339,134	429,557
Designated Funds	992,352	600,270	-	1,592,622
Unrestricted Funds	-	813,931	236,496	1,050,427
	992,352	1,504,624	575,630	3,072,606

21. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	31.03.2024	31.03.2023
Net movement in funds	(293,747)	(869,201)
Add back depreciation charge	52,959	58,518
Deduct interest income shown in investing activities	(40,046)	(30,889)
Add back loss on disposal	12,282	-
Deduct gains/ add Losses on investments	(165,888)	78,419
(Increase)/ Decrease in stocks	(136)	(1,330)
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	(16,714)	26,444
Increase / (Decrease) in creditors	28,272	108,679
Net cash used in operating activities	(423,018)	(629,360)

22. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	31.03.2024	31.03.2023
Cash at bank and in hand	65,958	221,512
Cash held by Clubs	80,312	104,461
Cash held with Investment managers	51,410	9,104
	197,680	335,077

The difference in the figure for cash and cash equivalents on cash flow statement and the cash in balance sheet is due to the inclusion of cash held within Investment managers.

23. Obligations under operating leases

The company had future commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Land and Buildings		Other		Total	
	31.03.2024	31.03.2023	31.03.2024	31.03.2023	31.03.2024	31.03.2023
Payments due in less than 1 year	8,667	-	1937	2,113	10,604	2,113
Payments due in 2-5 years	39,750	-	-	1,937	39,750	1,937
	48,417	-	1,937	4,050	50,354	4,050

KENT ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

England & Wales - Charity number 1062354

Accounts

Kent Association for the Blind

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Report & Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2023

Charity Number 1062354

Company Number 03339912

www.kab.org.uk

Supporting sight impaired people to live independent lives

Kent Association for the Blind

Kent Association for the Blind
Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2023

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published in October 2019.

Our Objectives and Activities

The aim of Kent Association for the Blind (KAB) is to support sight-impaired people to live independent lives. We believe that anyone who has a visual impairment should be able to live a fulfilled, healthy and safe life, exercise self-determination and make informed choices, and achieve their own personal goals. In our Articles of Association our purpose is described as the "relief of blind and partially sighted persons and the prevention of sight loss and blindness…" primarily in Kent, Medway and the London Boroughs of Bromley and Bexley. We fulfil our purpose by providing a comprehensive rehabilitation and support service to sight impaired people, and by raising awareness of eye health and the impact of sight loss. 2022-23 marked Year 2 of our role as Lead Provider of a Sensory Wellbeing contract for adults, commissioned by KCC. Under this contract we deliver services directly, as well as sub-contracting provision for Deaf people to two local hearing loss organisations.

During this year, Covid-19 has had much less impact; however, we have continued to utilise some of the positive learning from the pandemic, in terms of offering virtual services (e.g. telephone befriending or online support groups) alongside our face to face provision.

This report describes the work we do, looks at what we have achieved over the last 12 months, and highlights some of our future plans. In reviewing outcomes and planning for the future, KAB's Trustees refer to Charity Commission guidance and ensure that the Charity's activities fulfil both the Commission's public benefit criteria and KAB's charitable objectives.

KAB's Clients and Services

KAB offers help to anyone who is sight impaired: people of any age and at any stage of their sight loss journey. We have over 12,500 visually impaired clients, and for every one of them, poor sight impacts their daily lives. To reduce the impact of sight loss, we provide practical training, advice, support and equipment, and we also support families, carers, schools and employers.

Our operational area is large, and covers both urban and rural areas. Services are delivered from three Sight Centres in Maidstone, Canterbury and Bromley, and two office bases in Gravesend and Medway. Our Counselling, Eye Clinic Liaison Officer (ECLO) and One-to-One support services are available to people across South-East London and we operate two social groups in the London borough of Bexley.

The main areas of charitable activity which deliver public benefit are:

- Rehabilitation Services, including Eye Clinic Liaison Officer support (ECLO)
- Counselling service
- Assistive Technology training and advice
- One-to-One Support Services for blind and deafblind clients
- Transcription Services
- Social and Leisure groups
- Training for Professionals
- Occasional short term developmental and pilot projects
- Volunteer opportunities and placements

KAB is committed to collaborative working and is active within the sight loss sector to ensure best practice is shared, and effort isn't duplicated. Over the last year we have contributed to and benefited from our membership of Visionary (the umbrella body for

local associations), this included our CEO continuing in the Chair's role within the London & South East Region CEO network and the Chair of Trustees continuing as a member the visually impaired Chair and CEO group. The Chair of Trustees is also a part of the Visionary Group.

Rehabilitation Services

The backbone of rehabilitation – or 'rehab' - is practical training that helps people learn new skills to manage daily tasks at home and in the community. This individually tailored support is normally delivered one-to-one in peoples' homes, but is also carried out in small groups at our Centres.

KAB provides rehab services under contract to Kent County Council (KCC), Medway Council and the London Borough of Bromley, for whom we discharge all the statutory responsibilities for supporting sight-impaired people.

One-to-One Support Services

We run three similar services that provide one-to-one support in the community, enabling clients to maximise their independence:

- The Guide Communicator (GC) Service, which supports people with dual sensory impairment, also known as deafblindness.
- The Sight Support Service, which supports people who have sight loss.
- The Intervenor Service, which supports congenitally deafblind people who also have a learning disability or other complex needs.

One-to-One Support is charged at an hourly rate, and is financed either by statutory social care (including care managed budgets, Direct Payments or client-controlled Personal Budgets), by clients themselves, or by a combination of sources. The service is flexible, and clients receive as much or as little input as they need on a regular basis. Call-off contracts are in place with Bromley Council and KCC, and the service also operates in Medway.

The Transcription Service produces accessible materials in audio, Braille, digital formats and large print, which is of huge benefit to the Charity's clients, visually impaired volunteers, Trustees and staff. We also provide small scale transcription for external bodies such as Councils and GPs, and continue to see a slight increase in uptake due to the Accessible Information Standard, introduced in summer 2016, which requires all publicly funded health and social care providers to record and provide information in clients' preferred formats.

Awareness training

KAB is an approved Open College Network (OCN) provider, and we deliver accredited courses in Understanding Visual Impairment, Understanding Deafblindness, Understanding Hearing Impairment, and Understanding Assistive Technology. We use these to train both our own staff and external learners who want to gain a better understanding of the issues surrounding sensory impairment. We also deliver non-accredited short courses tailored to the needs of different learners; these are adapted from approved course content, so quality is consistently high.

Following the pandemic, we have now returned to delivering the majority of courses in person, which is best suited to the practical and interactive nature of the learning. However, online training can still be provided upon request. We are pleased to be delivering regular training to frontline staff within East Kent Hospitals University Foundation Trust and have observed a general trend towards bespoke sessions, rather than accredited courses.

Clubs, Groups and Client Support

Pre Covid 19 KAB had a network of 46 social and leisure clubs across the region, providing leisure and social opportunities and peer support. Unfortunately as a consequence of the activities ceasing during the pandemic it has been difficult to restart all clubs. The Volunteer Co-ordinators have been working closely with our volunteers and members and we now have 33 clubs and leisure activities in operation. Each club is supported by dedicated volunteers who arrange activities and entertainment, act as drivers and escorts, and help to raise funds. For some members, this may be the only face-to-face social contact of the week, so the clubs also act as something of a 'safety net' for some elderly and vulnerable visually impaired people, with volunteers ensuring that KAB is called in if someone needs help. We have also seen an increase in more active clubs of younger people, including arts, photography and leisure groups.

KAB provides financial support to Clubs via an annual grants programme, and also by meeting volunteers' expenses and providing insurance cover. The Charity also provides non-financial support such as recruiting and training volunteers, carrying out Disclosure and Barring Service checks, and helping with publicity. Our staff visit at least every six months to offer advice and support to both members and volunteers. All KAB Clubs sign up to a Handbook, which aims to ensure they operate safely and fairly and that members' needs are met as well as possible.

Counselling

Our Counselling service has continued to develop, with the introduction of face to face counselling from our Canterbury Sight Centre (building on existing face to face provision in Maidstone and Bromley) in July 2022. Telephone counselling remains in highest demand and both the number of new referrals (140 in 21/22 and 171 in 22/23) and the number of counselling hours (1309 in 21/22 and 1785 in 22/23) increased during this period.

Strategic Report

Achievements and Performance
Whilst last year's report highlighted the impact of Covid 19 on our services, this year we have re-established services, introduced new services and we have reintroduced face to face services whilst maintaining on line support services where appropriate and requested.

Covid 19 has certainly taught us to do things differently. There have been major improvements on the way we use technology. There has been an impact on the use of our office space and we have much more flexibility with our staffing patterns. There has been a positive increase in collaborative working and opportunities to reshape KAB to meet new demands going forward.

New initiatives

In September 2022, two existing KAB staff commenced a 2 year Apprenticeship to qualify as Rehabilitation Workers (Visual Impairment). This is a new way for KAB to train Rehabilitation Workers, having previously used a Foundation Degree. If successful, this will support our overall strategy in terms of succession planning and retention of Local Authority contracts.

From November 2022, our usual KCC grant to provide short break (social and leisure) activities for sight impaired children and their families has been enhanced by additional funding specifically for families with children aged 5-8 years. This is due to a lack of opportunities for this demographic. Our short break activities during this year have included athletics, climbing and swimming.

Award success

In March 2023, KAB received a recognition award from Healthwatch Kent. This was to celebrate our commitment to improving reach and access through our Mobile Sight Centre, Iris.

Projects
Project income has declined from £212,268 in 2021/22 to £119,229 in 2022/23.

Medway Together

As part of the Community Renewal funded Medway Together project (a consortium delivered initiative led for Medway Council by CYMCA and the University Of Greenwich) in 2022 we delivered;

- Awareness training to 52 people across 10 employers, including staff within libraries, museums and care homes.
- Environmental assessments of 14 workplaces in Medway, including a church, art gallery and Chatham Dockyard.
- Surveying with 25 sight impaired people about their experience of using the Medway Job Centre.
- Skills training and business focused mentoring for 76 sight impaired people.

The aim of this project was to remove barriers to employment and support sight impaired people to build skills for work.

Iris – Mobile Sight Centre

Following the launch in August 2021, our Mobile Sight Centre has continued to become established, testing new locations and exploring marketing strategies to ensure we reach as many people as possible. The aims of Iris are to drive the prevention of avoidable sight loss by raising awareness of eye health, as well as providing accessible and local support to sight impaired people within their communities.

Partnership has been key to this, with local organisations helping us to promote Iris' visits or visiting specialists (e.g. Hi Kent for hearing impairment) offering additional support to our target audience. During this year, Iris engaged with 763 people across 40 events – including sessions at schools, Age UK Centres, Supermarkets and Hospitals.

From January 2023, KAB has joined a project with Visionary (funded by The Vision Foundation) which aims to promote Lived Experience Leadership within the Sight Loss Sector. Drawing on experiences of Senior Leaders and Sight Impaired staff, the project aims to explore barriers and themes and will report on its findings in Autumn 2023.

KAB has also renewed its partnership with the Royal Society for Blind Children (RSBC), as part of their National Lottery Funded Access Unlimited (England) project. KAB's main role over this 2 year project is to provide referral pathways into RSBC services.

Financial Review

In the year ending March 2023, the Charity's principal funding continued to come from Grants, Fundraising and Legacies.

Income from all areas decreased by £331,740 to £2,427,088 for the year ended March 2023 due to a decline in Donations and Legacies. Income was used to meet KAB's charitable objectives with rehab services being the single largest areas of expenditure at £2,103,151.

Total expenditure for the year is £3,217,872 resulting in a deficit of £869,203 after investment losses, compared with a deficit of £151,275 in the previous year which was as a result of a large legacy in 2021/22.

Fundraising

Total Fundraising income finished the financial year at £398,681, reflecting a negative variance of £399,019 against budget. Whilst some areas including our events over-performed we were impacted by the decline in community income, corporate and trusts and foundations. In part this decline was attributable to not having key staff in post but also the challenges of the external fundraising climate also.

Legacy income totalled £93,179. The Trustees are grateful to the kind supporters who have remembered KAB in their wills and through donations in memory.

Highlights of the year included our partnership with the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce (KICC) as their Charity of the Year. We are very grateful to KICC and in particular for hosting our Golf Day at the Cave in March this year which was our most successful to date. We value the support of all our corporate partners and look forward to working together over the coming year.

The KAB Connect newsletter continues to go from strength to strength, attracting sponsorship to help cover the majority of costs for the print. The articles are used as content for social media, to enrich the stories shared. Our social media reach increased by 185% on Facebook and by 233% on Instagram, compared with the last financial year. This was helped by advertising fundraising events, volunteering opportunities and by utilising the social media budget (funded by CYMCA) for our free training packages to businesses in Medway.

Unfortunately we were greatly impacted by the cost of living crisis and have been unable to raise sufficient funds to meet our targets across Community, Events and Individual Fundraising which have been predictably the hardest hit throughout the last financial year as the fundraising landscape continues to evolve.

Fundraising expenditure has been closely monitored. Our focus on income streams with the greatest return on investment have been critical whilst essential development of our marketing collateral continues.

Due to the unpredictable funding climate Trustees agreed to review the Fundraising business model. Following a Fundraising review we restructured the Fundraising Team and have clear priorities in place to increase our income generation.

From December 2022, we have adopted a refreshed strategy in relation to Trust and Foundation fundraising. The new approach sees this area of Fundraising become more prominent within our overall Fundraising strategy and includes the following objectives;

- To increase the overall volume of applications made to Trusts and Foundations
- To diversify our grant portfolio by applying for larger and/or multi-year grants, alongside small and medium value grants
- To maintain and develop our current relationships with funders, while also exploring new opportunities

We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator and we are committed to following their Code of Fundraising Practice so as to ensure that the public, including vulnerable people, are protected from unreasonable or intrusive approaches. KAB carries out all fundraising activities in line with recognised standards. We are also registered as a Data Controller and Data Processor with the Information Commissioner's Office and are compliant with General Data Protection Regulation requirements.

Investment Powers and Policy
The charity's investment approach for the year was to both grow the real value of investments whilst managing return and risk in the context of uncertain financial markets, and to maximise bank interest from cash held on deposit. The Trustees employ Coutts & Co. investment managers to achieve this aim, using full discretionary powers of investment, but taking a medium to low-risk approach with a clear benchmarked target.

Investment income including bank interest increased to £30,889 in 2022/23 from £24,509 in 2021/22.

In reviewing the investment policy, the Trustees have considered any ethical restrictions they should apply and are mindful of the need to avoid undermining the credibility of KAB by profiting from, or providing capital to, activities which might be connected to those which are detrimental to eye health. KAB only holds collective investments, and as such is not at risk of investing directly in such companies. We also meet regularly with our investment managers and monitor our portfolio to ensure an adequate level of scrutiny of any potential exposure.

Reserves Policy
KAB's Trustees consider that holding reserves is an essential part of their duty of governance. The Reserves Policy is reviewed every February to coincide with the budget setting and strategic planning timetable and the review of the Investment Policy and Risk Register.

The policy for 2022/23 was to hold reserves of £490,000 (2021/22 £390,000) to cover the risks associated with loss of income necessitating winding down some or all of the organisation, loss of key workers, investment risk and the risk of legacy income being below budget. Unrestricted funds at 31 March 2023 totalled £1,050,427 (2022: £1,892,136).The planned deficit for the financial year 2023/24 is £498,702.
Trustees recognise that some reserves are required to deliver unfunded services which are intrinsic to KAB's work.

Total funds of the Charity as at 31 March 2023 were £3,072,606 (2022: £3,941,809).

The designated funds at 31 March 2023 totalled £1,592,622 (2022: £1,522,295). Details of these funds are provided in note 18. Funds were designated to cover building maintenance, equipment and ICT maintenance and replacement, and project continuation and development. In addition, funds designated that are associated with projects namely

ECLO, AT, Training, Mobile Sight Centre, Counselling and Transcription all represent the cost of the services for a period of one year. The maintenance fund represents costs which could be incurred over the course of the next three years and the ICT equipment and replacement represents costs likely to be incurred in the next one to five years. A fixed asset fund represents the value of the fixed assets as these are operating assets and not available for charitable expenditure.

Trustees are confident that their approach to reserves will enable them to maintain current work programmes in the year ahead even with the planned deficit budget, and to complete planned work in the event that income streams are adversely affected.

The restricted funds at 31 March 2023 totalled £429,557 (2022: £527,378). Details of these funds are provided in note 19.

Plans for future Periods

The Trustees recognise the need to continue where possible to reduce budget deficits. We have identified our key priority areas such as Trusts and Foundations where we would hope to secure alternative means of funding and help reduce the subsidy from KAB reserves. This includes exploring new funding streams for our Eye Clinic Liaison Officers (ECLO's) our Counselling Service and our clubs and social activities.

We have an exciting new strategy in place for Iris for 2023/24 to enable us to reach more existing and potential service users. We are very grateful to our sponsors and supporters for their continued involvement and we are aiming to further improve our profile county wide next year. This continues to be a very exciting venture for KAB with opportunities to increase the services available on Iris.

Our Counselling Service continues to grow and we will need to expand the service to meet this growing demand. We are now able to see clients at more locations throughout the county.

This year we joined Medway's VCS Transformation Academy. The Transformation Alliance has continued to develop and we are joining the Alliance with a view to becoming a supplier of HR, Finance and DBS checks to increase our income and may also help KAB to save money with more collaborative working (i.e. joint procurement initiatives).

Going concern

The Trustees have assessed the operational and financial impact in the Strategic Report on pages 5 and 6. Trustees reviewed potential risks to KAB and Trustees note that KAB remains in a stable position.

Reference and administrative details

Company Number	03339912
Charity Number	1062354
Registered Office	72 College Road Maidstone Kent ME15 6SJ Tel 01622 691357

Our Advisors

Bankers	National Westminster Bank plc 2nd Floor County Gate 2 Staceys Street Maidstone Kent ME14 1ST
Auditors	Azets Audit Services 5th Floor Ashford Commercial Quarter 1 Dover Place Ashford, Kent TN23 1FB
Investment Managers	Coutts & Co Wellington Gate 7-9 Church Road Royal Tunbridge Wells Tunbridge Wells TN1 1HT

Our Directors and Trustees

Honorary Officers

Mrs. Hazel Groves	Chair
Mrs. Jenni Terry	Vice Chair
Mr. James Burke	Honorary Treasurer

Other Trustees

Mr. Michael Benson	
Mrs. Kathryn Bosley	resigned September 2022
Mr. Anthony Blackman	
Mr. Anthony Colwell	
Mr. Leonard Spiller	
Mr. Paul Betts	joined March 2023

Company Secretary

Mrs Eithne Rynne

Our Senior Management Team and Key Management Personnel

Eithne Rynne	Chief Executive
Andrea Forsythe	Director of Finance
Vanessa Stanley	Director of HR
Katherine Barr	Director of Services

Structure, Governance & Management

Legal and Administrative Status
KAB is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 25 March 1997, and is also a registered charity. The company is governed under its Articles of Association which were updated in October 2009.

Governance
The Trustees meet at least quarterly, and each year, one third of the longest serving trustees retire by rotation and are eligible for re-election. The Board can appoint new trustees at any point during the year. Our aim is to have at least a third of the Board representative from our client base.

Trustees are recruited via an open process in order to meet identified skills and knowledge gaps, and all new Trustees go through an induction process which includes visits to various areas of the Charity, and opportunities to shadow staff and undertake training. A Trustee Handbook underpins induction, and sets out the role of the Board, the role of individual Trustees and officers, relationships with staff, guidelines for performance appraisal, a code of conduct and a conflict of interests policy.

No Trustee receives remuneration or other benefit from their work with the Charity.

The only permanent sub-committee is the Finance Sub-Committee, which comprises the Chair, Vice-Chair and Hon. Treasurer, and is attended by the Chief Executive and Director of Finance. This sub-committee meets before every full Board meeting and reports back to the Board verbally and in writing.

Governance information is available digitally and in audio, Braille or large print for staff and Trustees who have a sensory impairment; KAB also provides Guide Communicators or other support as required at Board meetings and other Trustee events.

Organisational Structure & Management
Day to day responsibility for service provision and ensuring that charitable and strategic aims are met is delegated to the Chief Executive, who is supported by a Senior Management Team.

During the year, KAB had on average 109 staff (70.21 full time equivalent) across five office bases. KAB aims to ensure that it has appropriate procedures in place to ensure staff are able to be fully engaged in all areas of the Charity's work and are given appropriate training, support and guidance to carry out their roles effectively. KAB maintains its Investor In People status and is an accredited Disability Confident Employer.

The pay of Key Management Personnel is agreed at board level. Pay scales are agreed based on extensive reviews of the pay rates of similar roles within the comparable charity sector. Management staff progress along pay scales based on length of service and satisfactory performance in the same way as all KAB staff.

Throughout this report we mention our wonderful volunteers. Our volunteers generally support rehab services by driving clients to meetings and appointments, delivering equipment, home visiting and befriending, and helping people to read their mail and manage their home affairs. Volunteers help run our clubs, help at events and help us with many of our back room functions like administration and fundraising. We are enormously grateful to them all.

Related Parties and Connected Charities

Any connections between a trustee or senior manager and KAB's suppliers, funders, or key stakeholders must be disclosed in line with KAB's Conflict of Interest policy. In the current year no related party transactions were reported.

The Charity commits staff time and resources to collaborative working and staff are involved in many strategic groups both nationally and regionally, all with the ultimate aim of improving the lives of sight impaired people. However, this joint working is informal and KAB has no connected charities.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

Potential risks to KAB, our beneficiaries and staff are reviewed regularly and detailed in a Risk Register. Gross risk is measured in terms of likelihood of occurrence and severity of impact, then the controls that we have in place are assessed to produce a retained or 'net' risk level.

The two most significant net risks to the Charity in the current year are inability to deliver services due to loss of contracts and tendering risk and data security risk. The risks associated with COVID 19 and other pandemics have also been retained on the Risk Register.

Risks to income are being addressed by the continued focus on the effectiveness of the Fundraising strategy and making changes where needed, the regular monitoring of cash flow, looking at the possibility of increasing Guide Communicator fee income (put on hold due to pandemic) and holding adequate cash reserves to cover the medium term shortfall.

Contract and tendering risk refers to the potential loss of Local Authority funding, which could pose a major threat to KAB as a whole and potentially to the quality of service received by users. This risk is being addressed by ensuring that we have good knowledge of the sector environment and strong relationships with partner agencies, growing the already good bank of data which evidences the quality of current provision, being as involved as possible with commissioning strategy and ensuring costing of services is accurate and up to date.

Increased data security risk reflects a marked increase in the demands placed on charities by funders in terms of technical and policy compliance with challenging new information governance and data management standards. This is being addressed by continual review of the raft of policies in place surrounding data security, ongoing investment in ICT equipment and ensuring staff attend quality training on any changes and update policies accordingly.

Risks are monitored and communicated regularly to the Board, and risk management forms an integral part of our strategic planning.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of Kent Association for the Blind for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report including the Strategic Report 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 these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- 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 that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company 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 charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Disclosure of information to auditors
In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

A resolution proposing that Azets Audit Services be reappointed as auditor of the charitable company will be put to the members.

The Trustees' Report is approved by order of the Board of Trustees and the Strategic Report (included therein) is approved by the Board of Trustees in their capacity as directors in their meeting on 6 September 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Mrs Hazel Groves
Chair

Registered Office
72 College Road
Maidstone
Kent ME15 6SJ

Kent Association for the Blind
Independent Auditors Report to the Members

Opinion
We have audited the financial statements of Kent Association for the Blind (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:
- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion
We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern
In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information
The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report and the incorporated Strategic Report prepared for the purpose of company law for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Report and the incorporated Strategic Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report and the incorporated Strategic Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' responsibilities set out on page 15, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above and on the Financial Reporting Council's website, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud (continued)

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.

Kent Association for the Blind
Independent Auditors Report to the Members

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud (continued)

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation (ie. gives a true and fair view).

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Azets Audit Services Limited

Michelle Wilkes FCA (Partner)
For and on behalf of Azets Audit Services
Senior Statutory Auditor
5th Floor
Ashford Commercial Quarter,
1 Dover Place,

Ashford

Kent TN23 1FB

Date: 18 September 2023

Kent Association for the Blind
Statement of Financial Activities
(including income and expenditure)
For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 31.03.2023 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 31.03.2022 £
Income:							
Donations and Legacies	2	298,557	96,366	394,923	599,847	97,504	697,351
Charitable Activities							
Rehabilitation Services	3a	416,853	1,089,533	1,506,386	417,090	1,089,533	1,506,623
One to One Support Services		323,643	-	323,643	267,432	2,000	269,432
AT Service		480	-	480	180	-	180
Talking News and Transcription		2,014	-	2,014	2,051	-	2,051
Training	3b	10,798	-	10,798	5,921	-	5,921
Clubs, Groups and Client Support		-	-	-	-	-	-
Projects	3c	119,229	-	119,229	85,204	127,064	212,268
Other CJRS		-	-	-	22,528	-	22,528
Other activities		38,726	-	38,726	17,965	-	17,965
Investments	4	30,889	-	30,889	24,509	-	24,509
Total Income		1,241,189	1,185,899	2,427,088	1,442,727	1,316,101	2,758,828
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	5	359,339	-	359,339	320,960	-	320,960
Charitable Activities	6						
Rehabilitation Services		927,638	1,175,513	2,103,151	751,514	1,309,095	2,060,609
One to One Support Services		473,251	-	473,251	383,772	2,000	385,772
AT Service		92,480	51,253	143,733	123,379	7,758	131,137
Talking News and Transcription		25,593	1,265	26,858	21,712	6,286	27,998
Training		36,702	-	36,702	37,519	-	37,519
Clubs, Groups and Client Support		7,666	55,689	63,355	6,378	19,899	26,277
Projects		11,483	-	11,483	5,325	-	5,325
Total Expenditure		1,934,152	1,283,720	3,217,872	1,650,559	1,345,038	2,995,597
		(692,963)	(97,821)	(790,784)	(207,832)	(28,937)	(236,769)
Net (losses)/gains on investments	13	(78,419)	-	(78,419)	85,494	-	85,494
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement of funds for the year		(771,382)	(97,821)	(869,203)	(122,338)	(28,937)	(151,275)
Total funds brought forward		3,414,431	527,378	3,941,809	3,536,769	556,315	4,093,084
Total funds carried forward		2,643,049	429,557	3,072,606	3,414,431	527,378	3,941,809

Kent Association for the Blind
Company Number 03339912
Balance Sheet
As at 31 March 2023

	Notes	31.03.2023	31.03.2022
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	12	992,352	1,006,328
Investments	13	1,504,624	1,562,683
Total Fixed Assets		2,496,976	2,569,011
Current Assets			
Stocks	14	12,557	11,227
Debtors	15	496,559	523,003
Cash at bank and in hand		325,973	989,349
Total Current Assets		835,089	1,523,579
Liabilities			
Creditors falling due within one year	16	259,459	150,780
Net Current Assets		575,630	1,372,799
Total Assets less current liabilities		**3,072,606**	**3,941,809**
Total Net Assets		**3,072,606**	**3,941,809**
The Funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted general funds		1,050,427	1,892,136
Designated funds	18	1,592,622	1,522,295
Restricted funds	19	429,557	527,378
Total charity funds	20	**3,072,606**	**3,941,809**

Approved for issue by the Trustees on 6 September 2023

Mrs Hazel Groves - Chair

Mr J Burke- Treasurer

The notes on pages 20 to 33 form part of these accounts.

Kent Association for the Blind
Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	31.03.2023	31.03.2022
Net cash used in operating activities	21	**(629,360)**	**(149,071)**
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received		2,279	481
Dividends received		28,610	24,028
Proceeds from sale of investment		1,001,965	566,678
Purchase of investments		(1,040,474)	(576,107)
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(44,543)	(62,545)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		**(52,163)**	**(47,466)**
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(681,533)	(196,517)
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		1,016,600	1,213,137
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	22	**335,077**	**1,016,620**

1 Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows;

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The accounts show the results of the charities operations which are described in the Trustees' Report, all of which are continuing.

Kent Association for the Blind meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

b) Company status

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee and registered in the UK. The members of the company are the trustees and in the event of the Charity being wound up the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the Charity.

c) Preparation of the accounts on a Going Concern basis

The trustees have assessed the financial position of the charity, the assumptions made in the preparation of its budgets and forecasts and the financial risks it faces especially during the Covid 19 pandemic. Based on this and the level of reserves held the trustees conclude that it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

d) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for the particular areas of the charity's work. Further details of each fund as shown in note 19.

e) Income recognition

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the items of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

f) Income from local authority grants

Income from local authority grants is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds and any performance conditions of the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

i) Donations

Donations are recognised upon receipt by the charity. Income from membership subscriptions received by clubs have the substance of a gift and are recognised within donations.

ii) Fundraising Events

Income from fundraising events is shown gross with the associated costs included in costs of raising funds.

iii) Legacy gifts

Legacy gifts are recognised on a case by case basis when receipt of the income is believed to be probable. Income is believed to be probable when all of the following occur: probate has been granted, the administrator/executor for the estate has communicated in writing the amount of the gift, there are sufficient funds within the estate to make a distribution, and all conditions not under the control of the charity have been met. For legacies where the gift is: a residuary legacy, in a form other than cash, or which involves assets which require liquidation prior to distribution, the legacy will only be recognised where the above conditions have been met and the amount can be reliably measured with a degree of reasonable accuracy.

Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

iv) Training courses

Income received in advance for training courses is deferred until the date of the course as these fees would be refundable in the event that KAB cancelled the training.

v) Dividends and interest receivable

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due. This is normally upon notification by our investment managers of the dividend yield of the investment portfolio.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

g) Donated services and facilities

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102) the general volunteer time of KAB volunteers is not recognised and the trustee's annual report provides more information about their contribution.

KAB receives several types of donated items and facilities such as raffle prizes, room hire, training and hospitality. On receipt, these items are recognised at the value of the gift which the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain items or services of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in the expenditure in the period of receipt.

h) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the expenditure heading for which it was incurred.

i) Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the various activities of KAB. These costs have been allocated between the cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The basis on which support costs have been allocated is set out in note 7.

j) Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised at their purchase price. Depreciation is provided on all tangible assets, other than freehold land, at annual rates calculated to write off the costs less the estimated residual value, of each asset over its expected useful life on a straight line basis as follows:

Asset Category:	Annual Rate:
Freehold land	0%
Freehold buildings	2%
Leasehold improvements	over the term of the lease
Fixtures, fittings, equipment and computers	10-20%
Motor vehicles	20%

k) Fixed Asset Investments

Fixed asset investments are held both to generate income and for investment potential. The investments held are listed and traded on a recognised stock exchange and are measured initially at cost and subsequently at their fair value at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The statement of financial activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

The charity does not acquire put options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments.

l) Realised gains and losses

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between the sales proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase price is acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value. Realised and unrealised investment gains and losses are combined in the statement of Financial activities.

m) Operating leases

The charity classifies the leases of the Canterbury and Bromley Sight Centres as operating leases. Rentals payable are charged in a straight line basis over the lease term.

n) Clubs and Groups

The income, expenditure, assets and liabilities of all KAB clubs and groups are included within these financial statements. All club funds are treated as restricted.

o) Stock

Stock held comprises two elements: stock associated with non-charitable trade and stock provided as part of charitable activity. Neither stock type is issued for free and as such all stock is held at the lower of costs or net realisable value. Damaged or obsolete stock is written down as an expense.

p) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the amount due less any provision for bad or doubtful debts.

q) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes only cash held in instant access bank accounts.

r) Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are recognised at their settlement amounts.

s) Pensions

Employees of the charity are entitled to join a defined contribution 'money purchase' scheme. The charity contribution is restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 7. The costs of the defined contribution scheme are included within the staff costs of the fundraising, charitable activity or support costs as appropriate. These costs are allocated to the unrestricted funds of the charity with the exception of job roles which are funded by restricted funds, namely ECLO and Kent based rehab staff, and in these instances pension costs are allocated to the relevant restricted fund. Where costs are allocated to support costs the costs are charged to the unrestricted funds of the charity using the methodology set out in note 7.

Kent Association for the Blind has two defined contributions schemes held with Aegon and The People's Pension. Since April 2014 staff who were not already members of the Aegon scheme are only able to join The People's Pension Scheme. The charity has no liability beyond making its contributions and paying across the deductions for the employees contributions to the relevant scheme.

New and existing employees who were not otherwise enrolled in a pension scheme were automatically enrolled into the People's Pension scheme where their earnings met the auto enrolment criteria unless they had exercised their right to opt out of the scheme membership.

Employees enrolled in both schemes contract directly with the companies concerned. The charity makes a matching contribution of between 1% and 6% of salary to these pension schemes and acts as an agent collecting and paying over employee pension contributions.

t) Taxation

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

u) Management estimates and judgements

Accounting estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The Foundation makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the

related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

Useful economic lives of tangible assets
The annual depreciation charge for tangible assets is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are reassessed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimates, based on technological advancement, future investments, economic utilisation and the physical condition of the assets. See note 12 for the carrying amount of the property plant and equipment, and note 1(j) for the useful economic lives for each class of assets.

v) Government grants accounting policy (in respect of Job Retention Policy)

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

A grant that specifies performance conditions is recognised in income when the performance conditions are met. Where a grant does not specify performance conditions, it is recognised in income when the proceeds are received or receivable. A grant received before the recognition criteria are satisfied is recognised as a liability.

2. Donations and Legacies

	Total 31.03.2023	Total 31.03.2022
Donations	192,884	217,351
Grant income from Trusts and Foundations	80,712	86,474
Legacies	93,179	371,642
Club Donations	28,148	21,884
	£394,923	£697,351

Of the total donations and legacies for the year ended 31 March 2023 £96,366 (2022 £97,504) is attributable to restricted funds and £298,557 (2022 £599,847) is added to unrestricted funds. Of the total grants from Trust and Foundations, there were two funders which donated over £10,000 as follows; Overwhelm and Vision Foundation.

3. Income from Charitable Activities

3a. Rehabilitation Services

	Total 31.03.2023	Total 31.03.2022
Local Authority Grants from:		
Kent County Council	1,170,533	1,170,533
Medway Council	147,907	146,563
London Borough of Bromley	148,000	148,000
London Borough of Bexley	17,000	17,000
	£1,483,440	£1,482,096
Equipment Income	22,946	24,527
Total	£ 1,506,386	£ 1,506,623

Of the total income for rehabilitation services for the year ended 31 March 2023 £1,089,533 (2022 £1,089,533) is attributable to restricted funds and £416,853 (2022 £417,090) is added to unrestricted funds.

3b. Training

	Total 31.03.2023	Total 31.03.2022
Short Courses	10,798	5,921
Total	£ 10,798	£ 5,921

All income associated with Training in 2023 and 2022 is unrestricted.

3c. Projects

	Total 31.03.2023	Total 31.03.2022
Other	119,229	212,268
Total	£119,229	£212,268

Of the total income for projects for the year ended 31 March 2022 £nil (2022 £127,064) is attributable to restricted funds and £119,228 (2022 £85,204) is added to unrestricted funds.

4. Income from investments

	Total 31.03.2023	Total 31.03.2022
Income from listed investments	28,610	24,028
Interest on cash deposits	2,279	481
	£ 30,889	£ 24,509

All income associated with investments in 2023 and 2022 is unrestricted.

5. Expenditure on raising funds

	Donations and Legacies	Other Trading Activities	Investment costs	Total 31.03.2023	Total 31.03.2022
Direct Staff Costs	204,150	10,745	-	214,895	182,260
Direct Fundraising Costs	62,609	3,295	-	65,904	63,998
Building and telephone costs	12,390	-	-	12,390	11,494
Investment management costs	-	-	8,250	8,250	8,357
Governance Costs (see note 7)	2,464	244	-	2,708	2,386
Support Costs (see note 7)	50,225	4,967	-	55,192	52,465
	£331,838	£ 19,251	£ 8,250	£ 359,339	£ 320,960

All expenditure on raising funds in unrestricted.

6. Expenditure on Charitable activities

	Staff costs	Direct costs	Support costs	Total 31.03.2023	Total 31.03.2022
Cost of raising funds	214,895	65,905	78,539	359,339	320,960
Charitable expenditure					
Rehabilitation services	1,291,412	452,492	359,247	2,103,151	2,060,609
One to one support services	347,241	9,045	116,965	473,251	385,772
AT Service	98,995	16,662	28,076	143,733	131,137
Transcription & Talking News	18,747	3,059	5,052	26,858	27,998
Training	28,192	2,681	5,829	36,702	37,519
Clubs, groups and client support	-	59,853	3,502	63,355	26,277
Projects	1,965	9,518	-	11,483	5,325
	1,786,552	553,310	518,671	2,858,533	2,674,637
	2,001,447	619,215	597,210	3,217,872	2,995,597

Included in direct costs and support costs are staff costs of £238,604 (2022: £234,263) which are allocated above.

7a. Support costs

	Total 31.03.2023	Total 31.03.2022
CEO's office	93,459	85,419
Finance	75,775	73,985
HR	75,063	70,907
IT	61,615	63,215
Establishment costs including support staff	191,701	165,645
Insurance	34,678	31,354
Professional fees	37,950	49,544
Governance (note 7b)	26,969	24,944
	597,210	565,013

7b. Governance costs

	Total 31.03.2023	Total 31.03.2022
Auditor's remuneration	12,000	9,650
CEO and finance costs	10,024	9,809
Other	4,945	5,485
	26,969	24,944

8. Net expenditure for the year

This is stated after the following		Total 31.03.2023	Total 31.03.2022
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		58,518	50,179
Audit Fees - Statutory Audit		12,000	9,650
Operating leases	Land and Buildings	-	25,350

9. Analysis of staff costs, trustee remunerations and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

	Total 31.03.2023	Total 31.03.2022
The staff costs were		
Wages and Salaries	1,985,862	1,834,851
Social Security Costs	164,876	143,292
Pension Costs	89,313	79,995
	2,240,051	2,058,138

The total amount of redundancy payments made in the financial year was £5,454 (2022 no staff redundancy). Redundancy payments are set at the statutory minimum amount based on the staff members' age and period of service.
One trustee was reimbursed expenses during the year of £30 (2022 no trustee was reimbursed). The nature of the expenses reimbursed were travel expenses in connection with attending meetings.

The average number of staff during the year was 109 (2022 111).

	2023		2022	
	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time
Head Office	4	10	3	11
Fundraising	4	3	5	3
Charitable activities	34	54	32	57
	42	67	40	71

During this year, one employee earned more than £70,000 but not more than £80,000 (2022: one employee earned more than £60,000 but not more than £70,000).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees, CEO, Head of Finance, Head of HR, Head of Fundraising, and Head of Client Services. The employee benefits of key management personnel total £295,381 (2022: £291,400).

10. Related Party Transactions

There have been no related party transactions in the year ended 31 March 2023 (2022 nil) which require disclosure.

11. Taxation

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and, is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

12. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold land and buildings College Road Maidstone	Furniture, fittings equipment and computers	Motor Vehicles	Total
Cost				
As at 1 April 2022	1,306,924	202,086	74,162	1,583,172
Additions	-	44,543	-	44,543
As at 31 March 2023	1,306,924	246,629	74,162	1,627,715
Depreciation				
As at 1 April 2022	411,265	150,747	14,832	576,844
Charge for the year	16,138	27,548	14,832	58,518
As at 31 March 2023	427,403	178,295	29,664	635,362
Net Book Value				
As at 31 March 2023	879,521	68,334	44,498	992,352
As at 31 March 2022	895,659	51,339	59,330	1,006,328

The land value included in Freehold land and buildings is £500,000.

13. Fixed Asset Investments

Movement in fixed asset listed investments

	31.03.2023	31.03.2022
Market value brought forward at 1 April 2022	1,562,683	1,461,518
Add: additions to investments at cost	1,040,474	576,107
Movement in cash held within investments	(18,148)	6,242
Disposals at carrying value	(1,001,966)	(566,678)
Unrealised/realised gains and (losses)	(78,419)	85,494
Market value as at 31 March 2023	1,504,624	1,562,683

Net cash released from investments in the year was £nil (2022 £nil).

13. Fixed Asset Investments

Investments at fair value comprised:

	31.03.2023	31.03.2022
Bonds	388,855	309,906
Equities - overseas	505,125	592,420
Equities - UK	425,521	439,398
Equities - Emerging markets	133,282	111,764
Thematic	42,737	81,943
Cash held within the investment portfolio	9,104	27,252
Total	1,504,624	1,562,683

Investments include £90,423 (2022 £59,533) held on behalf of clubs and branches.

Quoted investments are carried at their fair value. The basis of fair value for quoted investments is equivalent to the market value. The charity holds investments for income and capital growth. The charity manages investment risk by retaining expert advisors at Coutts bank. Risk is also managed by directing Coutts to operate the investment portfolio using a medium risk strategy. The risk of realised losses upon needing to extract cash at short notice is mitigated by assessing cash flow needs at least 18 months into the future and holding sufficient cash outside of the portfolio to meet these needs.

The following investments represent a significant value of the portfolio:

	31.03.2023	31.03.2022
Coutts Actively Managed UK Equity	114,072	116,537
Coutts Actively Managed US Equity Fund	128,738	86,767
Coutts US ESG Insights Equity Fund	28,395	88,872
Equator UK Sovereign Bond Index Fund	-	194,487
Coutts US and Canada Enhanced Index	248,527	-
Equator US Equity Shares	244,459	245,596
Equator UK Equity Fund Shares	280,798	188,597

14. Stock

	31.03.2023	31.03.2022
Fundraising Merchandise	2,587	1,137
Rehab and Low Vision Equipment	9,972	10,090
	12,559	11,227

15. Debtors

	Total 31.03.2023	Total 31.03.2022
Trade debtors	140,441	96,440
Prepayments	49,804	58,710
Accrued Income	306,314	367,853
Other debtors	-	-
	496,559	523,003

16. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Total 31.03.2023	Total 31.03.2022
Trade creditors	40,792	58,858
Accruals	46,333	30,817
Deferred Income	111,815	13,312
Other Taxation and Social Security	59,611	46,807
Other creditors	908	986
	259,459	150,780

17. Deferred Income

	Total 31.03.2023	Total 31.03.2022
Balance at 1 April 2022	13,312	16,285
Released in the year	(13,312)	(16,285)
Deferred in the year	111,815	13,312
Balance at 31 March 2023	111,815	13,312

Deferred Income of £111,815 relates to income from events and project grants occurring post year-end.

18. Designated funds

Current year	Balance at 31.03.2022	New designation	Designation released	Balance at 31.03.2023
Designated Funds				
Eye Clinic Liaison Officer Fund	130,142	105,000	(145,431)	89,711
AT worker Fund	77,965	70,000	(98,530)	49,435
Talking News & Transcription Fund	20,017	20,000	(26,224)	13,793
Training services Fund	27,024	27,000	(28,193)	25,831
Maintenance Fund	193,100	-	-	193,100
Equipment and ICT Fund	67,720	5,680	-	73,400
Mobile Sight Centre	-	75,000	-	75,000
Counselling	-	80,000	-	80,000
Fixed asset reserve	1,006,328		(13,976)	992,352
Total	1,522,296	382,680	(312,354)	1,592,622

The Trustees feel that roles performed by the Eye Clinic Liaison Officers, AT workers, Mobile Sight Centre staff and the work undertaken by the Transcription, Counselling Service and Training services are of vital importance to KAB service users and as such, they have again designated funds (above), to enable services continue in the coming year in the event that insufficient new external funding is obtained.

The maintenance fund will allow KAB to meet the expected building maintenance costs, based on a detailed review of repairs and renewals needs.

The equipment and ICT Fund is based on the expected future costs of maintaining the charities ICT infrastructure in an increasingly challenging Information Governance environment.

The fixed asset fund relates to funds held in fixed assets, including the freehold land and buildings, that are not available for charitable expenditure.

18. Designated funds

Prior year	Balance at 31.03.2021	New designation	Designation released	Balance at 31.03.2022
Designated Funds				
Eye Clinic Liaison Officer Fund	130,142	113,234	(113,234)	130,142
AT worker Fund	96,059	70,000	(88,094)	77,965
Talking News & Transcription Fund	25,043	20,000	(25,026)	20,017
Training services Fund	32,212	27,000	(32,188)	27,024
Maintenance Fund	193,100	-	-	193,100
Equipment and ICT Fund	67,720	-	-	67,720
Fixed asset reserve	993,961	12,367	-	1,006,328
Total	1,538,237	242,601	(258,542)	1,522,296

19. Restricted Funds

Current year	Balance at 31.03.2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	Balance at 31.03.2023
KCC Adults Grant	-	1,089,533	(1,089,533)	-	-
Trusts, Legacies and donations restricted to AT services	67,471	29,547	(51,253)	-	45,765
Trusts and donations restricted to children's activities	1,864	-	(341)	-	1,523
Trusts and donations restricted for demonstration equipment	1,189	-	(479)	-	710
Trusts restricted for the Foundation Degree	60	-	-	-	60
Trusts and donations restricted for talking News	3,094	-	(1,265)	-	1,829
Donations restricted for rehabilitation and activities for adults	8,633	2,596	(5,355)	-	5,874
Aiming High/ Mary Kirby	34,181	-	(1,366)	-	32,815
Jarrett Legacy	73,791	-	(17,479)	-	56,312
Counselling	14	26,585	(14,257)	-	12,342
Covid Funding	45,463	-	(40,230)	-	5,233
MSC	13,720	7,240	(6,473)	-	14,487
Clubs and Groups	277,898	30,398	(55,689)	-	252,607
	527,378	1,185,899	(1,283,720)	-	429,557

KCC Adults Grant is the grant from KCC for the provision of adult's rehabilitation services in Kent.

We are tremendously grateful for the donations from individual donors, organisations and many trusts that have supported our work this year. Trust funding has been received for AT services, children's activities, the purchase of demonstration equipment, the ongoing provision of Talking News and the support of rehabilitation and leisure activities for adults.

Also included within restricted trust donations for AT services are: grants made to pay the salary costs of our AT Worker in Bromley, which were received, from City Bridge Trust and a generous legacy bequest for our general AT services.

The Jarrett Legacy is a legacy left for the benefit of the Gravesend area.

The Aiming High/ Mary Kirby fund relates to legacy income to be spent in the Sevenoaks area.

The ECLO funding is income to be spent within the department from Roger De Haan Trust.

Clubs and groups represent the total funds held by the KAB clubs and groups including accrued legacies.

The Counselling funds is to be spent on telephone counselling and face to face counselling in the Bromley and Canterbury area.

The MSC Fund relates to donations restricted for the purchase and use of the Mobile Sight Centre.

The Covid Funding is funding to be spent on personal protective equipment in light of the Covid Pandemic.

CRM fund relates to income for a new IT database.

Transfers between funds represent the purchase of capital items.

19. Restricted Funds

Prior year	Balance at 31.03.2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	Balance at 31.03.2022
KCC Adults Grant	-	1,089,533	(1,089,533)	-	-
Trusts, Legacies and donations restricted to AT services	48,471	26,758	(7,758)	-	67,471
Trusts and donations restricted to children's activities	3,045	-	(1,181)	-	1,864
Trusts and donations restricted for demonstration equipment	1,189	-	-	-	1,189
Trusts restricted for the Foundation Degree	60	-	-	-	60
Trusts and donations restricted for talking News	9,355	25	(6,286)	-	3,094
Donations restricted for rehabilitation and activities for adults	10,131	5,356	(6,854)	-	8,633
ECLO Funding	2,000	-	(2,000)	-	-
Aiming High/ Mary Kirby	34,981	-	(800)	-	34,181
Jarrett Legacy	76,121	-	(2,330)	-	73,791
Counselling	7,074	11,846	(18,906)	-	14
Covid Funding	5,262	117,367	(77,166)	-	45,463
MSC	64,815	41,229	(92,324)	-	13,720
CRM	10,000	-	(10,000)	-	-
Clubs and Groups	283,811	23,987	(29,900)	-	277,898
	556,315	1,316,101	(1,345,038)	-	527,378

20. Analysis of net assets between funds

Current year

	Fixed Assets	Investments	Net Current Assets	Total 31.03.2023
Restricted funds	-	90,423	339,134	429,557
Designated Funds	992,352	600,270	-	1,592,622
Unrestricted Funds	-	813,931	236,496	1,050,427
	992,352	1,504,624	575,630	3,072,606

Prior year

	Fixed Assets	Investments	Net Current Assets	Total 31.03.2022
Restricted funds	-	59,533	467,845	527,378
Designated Funds	1,006,328	515,967	-	1,522,295
Unrestricted Funds	-	987,181	904,955	1,892,136
	1,006,328	1,562,681	1,372,800	3,941,809

21. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	31.03.2023	31.03.2022
Net movement in funds	(869,201)	(151,275)
Add back depreciation charge	58,518	50,179
Deduct interest income shown in investing activities	(30,889)	(24,509)
Deduct gains/ add Losses on investments	78,419	(85,494)
(Increase)/ Decrease in stocks	(1,330)	(445)
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	26,444	60,016
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	108,679	2,456
Net cash used in operating activities	(629,360)	(149,074)

22. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	31.03.2023	31.03.2022
Cash at bank and in hand	221,512	844,891
Cash held by Clubs	104,461	144,458
Cash held with Investment managers	9,104	27,271
	335,077	1,016,620

The difference in the figure for cash and cash equivalents on cash flow statement and the cash in balance sheet is due to the inclusion of cash held within Investment managers.

23. Obligations under operating leases

The company had future commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Land and Buildings		Other		Total	
	31.03.2023	31.03.2022	31.03.2023	31.03.2022	31.03.2023	31.03.2022
Payments due in less than 1 year	-	12,675	2,113	2,113	2,113	14,788
Payments due in 2-5 years	-	-	1,937	4,050	1,937	4,050
	-	12,675	4,050	6,163	4,050	18,838

Accounts

Kent Association for the Blind

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Report & Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2022

Charity Number 1062354

Company Number 03339912

www.kab.org.uk

Supporting sight impaired people to live independent lives

Kent Association for the Blind

Kent Association for the Blind
Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2022

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2022, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes. The financial statements comply with the Charity Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable in the UK (effective January 2015) updated by bulletin 1.

Our Objectives and Activities

The aim of Kent Association for the Blind (KAB) is to support sight-impaired people to live independent lives. We believe that anyone who has a visual impairment should be able to live a fulfilled, healthy and safe life, exercise self-determination and make informed choices, and achieve their own personal goals. In our Articles of Association our purpose is described as the "relief of blind and partially sighted persons and the prevention of sight loss and blindness..." primarily in Kent, Medway and the London Boroughs of Bromley and Bexley. We fulfil our purpose by providing a comprehensive rehabilitation and support service to sight impaired people, and by raising awareness of eye health and the impact of sight loss. This year we increased our provision of services to the Deaf Community as part of a pan sensory contract commissioned by Kent County Council. We subcontracted this work to two organisations providing deaf services in Kent.

It should be acknowledged that 2021/22 continued to be affected by Covid 19 and whilst our core objectives remained the same, our delivery model remained similar to 2020/21 and some services were significantly altered to respond to Covid 19 restrictions. Towards the end of the year we reopened many face to face services but we will continue to provide online and telephone services to those clients who request them.

This report describes the work we do, looks at what we have achieved over the last 12 months, and highlights some of our future plans. In reviewing outcomes and planning for the future, KAB's Trustees refer to Charity Commission guidance and ensure that the Charity's activities fulfil both the Commission's public benefit criteria and KAB's charitable objectives.

KAB's Clients and Services
KAB offers help to anyone who is sight impaired: people of any age and at any stage of their sight loss journey. We have over 12,500 visually impaired clients, and for every one of them, poor sight impacts their daily lives. To reduce the impact of sight loss, we provide practical training, advice, support and equipment, and we also support families, carers, schools and employers.

Our operational area is large, and covers both urban and rural areas. Services are delivered from three Sight Centres in Maidstone, Canterbury and Bromley, and two office bases in Gravesend and Medway. We also have one staff member supporting people in the London Borough of Bexley and we deliver other Rehabilitation services in the London Borough of Lewisham.

The main areas of charitable activity which deliver public benefit are:

- Rehabilitation Services, including Eye Clinic Liaison Officer support (ECLO)
- Assistive Technology training and advice
- One-to-One Support Services for blind and deafblind clients
- Talking Newspapers
- Transcription Services
- Social and Leisure Clubs
- Training for Professionals
- Occasional short term developmental and pilot projects
- Volunteer opportunities and placements

KAB is committed to collaborative working and is active within the sight loss sector to ensure best practice is shared, and effort isn't duplicated. Over the last year we have contributed to and benefited from our membership of Visionary (the umbrella body for local associations), this included our CEO taking on the Chair's role within the London & South East Region CEO network and the Chair of Trustees joining the visually impaired Chair and CEO group. The Chair of Trustees is also a part of the Visionary Group.

Rehabilitation Services
This is by far our largest area of charitable activity. The backbone of rehabilitation – or 'rehab' - is practical training that helps people learn new skills to manage daily tasks at home and in the community. This individually tailored support is normally delivered one-to-one in peoples' homes, but is also carried out in small groups at our centres.

KAB provides rehab services under contract to Kent County Council (KCC), Medway Council and the London Borough of Bromley, for whom we discharge all the statutory responsibilities for supporting sight-impaired people. We also provide ECLO support in the London Borough of Bexley and have a spot purchase contract to carry out rehabilitation support with London Borough of Lewisham. We are pleased to note that our services continued throughout the Covid 19 pandemic.

One-to-One Support Services
We run three similar services that provide one-to-one support in the community, enabling clients to maximise their independence:

- The Guide Communicator (GC) Service, which supports people with dual sensory impairment, also known as deafblindness.
- The Sight Support Service, which supports people who have sight loss.
- The Intervenor Service, which supports congenitally deafblind people who also have a learning disability or other complex needs.

One-to-One Support is charged at an hourly rate, and is financed either by statutory social care (including care managed budgets, Direct Payments or client-controlled Personal Budgets), by clients themselves, or by a combination of sources. The service is flexible, and clients receive as much or as little input as they need on a regular basis. Call-off contracts are in place with Bromley Council and KCC, and the service also operates in Medway.

In order to increase awareness and understanding of these services, a rebranding exercise was undertaken. This included market research, a staff competition to generate potential names and extensive market testing with Clients and Stakeholders to choose a new name for the Service. The rates charged by the Service have also been reviewed, having been static for an extensive period, to ensure the offer remains sustainable for the future. Both the launch of the rebrand and the implementation of the new rates was paused until April 22 due to Covid-19.

Assistive Technology
Almost every week, new apps and devices are launched that have the potential to increase independence, promote wellbeing and transform the lives of sight-impaired people. Our Rehab Workers are highly skilled and knowledgeable about how new technology can help our clients, and we provide regular training to make sure they maintain their skills. The pace of change is so fast that we also employ specialist Assistive Technology staff to provide bespoke advice and tuition to our clients. This normally takes place in IT Suites in our Sight Centres, and in clients' homes however to comply with government guidelines during the Covid 19 pandemic we adapted our approach and provided a more mobile, outdoor home based approach.

Talking Newspapers and Transcription Services
KAB has been providing free Talking Newspapers (TNs) since the 1970s. However over the past number of years the numbers of listeners has rapidly declined. In 2021 the SMT carried out a review of our Talking News Service and sadly made the recommendation to

Trustees that the service was in decline and no longer viable. Listeners accessing the service regularly dropped to below 100 and on occasion below 50 on a weekly basis.

Our Transcription Service is a 'sister service' to TN, in that it uses the same equipment, office space, staff and volunteers. The Transcription Service produces accessible materials in audio, Braille, digital formats and large print, which is of huge benefit to the charity's clients, visually impaired volunteers, trustees and staff. We also provide small scale transcription for external bodies such as Councils and GPs, and continue to see a slight increase in uptake due to the new Accessible Information Standard, introduced in summer 2016, which requires all publicly funded health and social care providers to record and provide information in clients' preferred formats.

Training - Short Courses

KAB is an approved Open College Network (OCN) provider, and we deliver accredited courses in Understanding Visual Impairment, Understanding Deafblindness, Understanding Hearing Impairment, and Understanding Assistive Technology. We use these to train both our own staff and external learners who want to gain a better understanding of the issues surrounding sensory impairment. We also deliver non-accredited short courses tailored to the needs of different learners; these are adapted from approved course content, so quality is consistently high.

We aim to encourage uptake of all forms of training because this increases awareness of sight loss, which in turn benefits our clients, so we are pleased to report that enquiries about bespoke courses has been particularly high in the past year. Due to COVID 19, adaptations were made to move our courses online. This proved to be very successful and although we have reopened face to face training we are still providing some courses on line and will continue to do so.

Clubs, Groups and Client Support

Pre Covid 19 KAB had a network of 46 social and leisure clubs across the region, providing leisure and social opportunities and peer support. Each club is supported by dedicated volunteers who arrange activities and entertainment, act as drivers and escorts, and help to raise funds. For some members, this may be the only face-to-face social contact of the week, so the clubs also act as something of a 'safety net' for some elderly and vulnerable visually impaired people, with volunteers ensuring that KAB is called in if someone needs help. We have also seen an increase in more active clubs of younger people, including arts, photography and leisure groups. KAB began to reopen our clubs, however the landscape has changed and some clubs felt unable to continue. Volunteer Coordinators have been supporting our club leaders to find new members and volunteers.

KAB provides financial support to Clubs via an annual grants programme, and also by meeting volunteers' expenses and providing insurance cover. The Charity also provides non-financial support such as recruiting and training volunteers, carrying out Disclosure and Barring Service checks, and helping with publicity. Our staff visit at least every six months to offer advice and support to both members and volunteers. All KAB Clubs sign up to a Handbook, which aims to ensure they operate safely and fairly and that members' needs are met as well as possible.

Strategic Report

Achievements and Performance

As previously noted Covid 19 continued to affect the way in which we delivered our services at KAB. However, we remain very proud of the way our organisation proved its resilience and continued to deliver services to our clients throughout the pandemic. We were agile in the way we changed course and adapted our services to current guidelines. We reinstated face to face services when appropriate to do so and under government guidance. We continued to provide regular updates to staff, Trustees and Volunteers. We are grateful to our local authorities for their continued support, particularly with emergency infection control funding and PPE. Although many challenges, our staff worked tirelessly to ensure our clients received excellent services and our organisation thrived under difficult circumstances.

Rehabilitation Services

Contracts

2021/22 was the first year for KAB as Lead Provider of Kent County Council's (KCC) Adult Sensory Wellbeing contract. Due to additional priority areas identified with KCC during the mobilisation period, KAB has introduced a second sub-contractor to their delivery partnership. BSL Community CIC is a deaf-led organisation who are sub-contracted to provide information, social and wellbeing services to users of British Sign Language.

In Medway, a contract variation has been used to combine our two contracts for work with children and adults. The new combined contract has been extended for 2 years, until December 2023. To support commissioners in securing the extension, KAB worked with other members of the Better Together Consortium, a group of five providers commissioned simultaneously in 2018/19, to provide information on collective achievements and the shared forward plan.

Covid-19 response

This year saw KAB continue to respond to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. KAB's Health and Safety representatives have continued to meet regularly to review and update KAB's guidance for service delivery, in line with government legislation.

In October 2021 we received a grant of £105,824.56 from KCC's Contain Outbreak Management Fund. This fund was intended to:

- Support people with sensory impairments who have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic
- Enable people to re-access their communities safely
- Help prevent and control local outbreaks of covid-19

KAB used grant agreements to share this fund with 3 other providers – BSL Community CIC, The Mess Room CIC and Hi Kent; in order to provide a range of support and reach people with different sensory and communication needs. Collectively, the providers offered a range of initiatives, including:

- Accessible information regarding covid-19 guidance
- Support to access vaccination or testing
- Additional social and wellbeing activities, including outdoor events
- A virtual art programme

Another aspect of Covid-19 recovery saw KAB's face to face social groups resume from July 2021. Extensive support was provided by KAB's Volunteer Coordinators to update risk assessments, find new premises for groups and match new volunteers with clubs, where required.

New initiatives

The pandemic has reinforced the importance of technology for our service users and KAB has responded by introducing a new **Assistive Technology loan scheme**. Funded by an innovation grant from Bromley Third Sector Enterprise (£38,787) and KAB's Summer 2021 fundraising appeal, the scheme provides technology (such as mobile phones or laptops with speech software) to service users on long term loan – alongside training and support to ensure the equipment is as helpful as possible.

In 2021, we published a new **prevention strategy** to reinforce our commitment to preventing and reducing avoidable sight loss, while also seeking to increase awareness of this strategic aim amongst our stakeholders. The strategy highlights:

- Our target audience
- What we want to achieve
- How we will achieve it
- How we will measure our success

The strategy has already contributed to changes to new staff induction programmes and has also resulted in a new KAB leaflet about Good Eye Health.

2021 also saw the launch of **Iris**, KAB's new mobile sight centre. The aims of Iris are to:

- Raise KAB's profile, awareness of local services and of sensory impairments.
- Reach more people with sight impairments, especially hard to reach groups including people living in rural areas or from minority communities.
- Promote KAB's Prevention Strategy, helping to reduce avoidable sight loss amongst the general public through increased awareness of good eye health.

Between August 2021 and March 2022, Iris reached over 1200 people at a range of locations, including schools, sporting events and day centres. Thanks to the generous support of our funders, sponsors and suppliers, Iris is extremely well equipped with the latest technology and equipment for our friendly on-board experts to demonstrate to service users, their families and carers.

In 2021, KAB joined a second consortium, **'Medway Together'** to work in partnership using Community Renewal Funding on a project led by Medway Council, the University of Greenwich and the Central YMCA. The project is focused on supporting local people into employment, education or training. KAB is working on addressing barriers to employment for sight impaired people, with initiatives to support both employers and service users.

Award success

In September 2021, KAB was proud to be a Charity of the Year finalist in the Kent Charity Awards, in the category of Disability or Mental Health. The nomination was focused on our Covid-19 response and using innovative ways to deliver services.

Our Counselling service was also recognised in 2021, as a winner at the Kent Mental Health and Wellbeing Awards. This is a person centred service which has grown significantly over the last two years, in response to increased awareness and need. The service uses a combination of qualified and trainee counsellors, therefore also helping to support the development of local professionals and specialist knowledge of the challenges affecting people with sight impairments.

In March 2022, KAB received a recognition award from Healthwatch Kent. This was to celebrate our collaboration to improve the accessibility of Covid-19 testing for people with sight impairments and other access needs.

Talking Newspapers and Transcription Services
This year has been spent reviewing the Talking News service with a view to either increasing listenership or closing the service. Sadly, although we piloted new ways of delivering the newspaper editions utilising readers at home throughout the pandemic, we were unable to attract new listeners. Trustees are aware that in line with national trends, Talking News in recent years has seen falling listener numbers, with older clients sadly passing on and a younger generation being able to access information independently from a growing range of media and not needing to take up the service.

Whilst we are aware of how much of a difference the service continues to make to those older and often house bound sight impaired clients who aren't able to access their local news via other methods we are mindful of the increasing resource required to keep this service active. Following the review Trustees were asked to approve the recommendations that we cease providing a Talking News service in 2022. We are researching alternative ways to get information to our listeners.

Our Transcription service suffered greatly from the pandemic and is still not working to full capacity due to the lack of take up from external organisations. A key aim for 2022/2023 is to implement a marketing strategy with the aim of promoting awareness of the service and increasing our customer base and income.

Training
As a result of COVID 19 we reviewed our training strategy and identified new ways of delivering our training courses. We moved our short courses online and adapted our Environmental Assessments for online use as well. Our Fundraising Team have been very successful in recruiting new corporate supporters which in turn has led to an increased demand for our training. The involvement in the Medway Together project has seen an increase in requests for Environmental Assessments and this is an area of growth for the Training Department. Although the Training Department has recommenced it's face to face training there is still a need for online courses which we will continue to meet.

Clubs and Social Groups
Some of our clubs began to reopen from July 2021 although sadly some club coordinators have resigned and other clubs decided not to reopen as members were not keen to come back after a long period of shielding. We are very grateful to those Club Leaders and volunteers who continue to provide a much needed social outlet for our clients and Volunteer coordinators continue to work closely with the Club Leaders to advise of changes to health and safety and to help recruit new club volunteers.

Volunteering
Although some of our volunteers continued to shield and self-isolate during 2021/22 we are very proud of the resilience of our volunteers who quickly helped us adapt from online contact with our clients to face to face delivery. We have retained our telephone befriending and online support for those that wish to continue receiving services this way. KAB rely heavily on our volunteers to help us deliver our range of services and we are incredibly grateful to all those who give their time and skills so enthusiastically. Our Volunteer Coordinators are keeping in contact with our volunteers and although sadly we have lost some long standing volunteers we are immensely grateful to our newly recruited volunteers who are giving freely of their time to support our great work. Trustees would like to express their sincere thanks and good wishes to every one of them.

Projects
Project income has increased from £109,130 in 2020/21 to £212,268 in 2021/22. We continue to deliver Rehabilitation Services to LB Lewisham and partner with colleagues in Medway to deliver both the Better Together project and the Medway Together programme.

Financial Review
In the year ending March 2022, the Charity's principal funding continued to come from Grants, Fundraising and Legacies.

Income from all areas increased by £129,510 to £2,758,828 for the year ended March 2022 due to an increase in statutory funding. Income was used to meet KAB's charitable objectives with rehab services being the single largest areas of expenditure at £2,060,609.

Total expenditure for the year totalled £2,995,597 resulting in a deficit of £151,275 after investment gains, compared with a surplus of £417,074 in the previous year which was as a result of a large unaccounted for legacy. The planned deficit for the year was £347,448 resulting in positive variance of £196,173.

Fundraising
Total Fundraising income finished the financial year at £685,303, reflecting a negative variance of £22,647 against budget. Whilst some areas including our events over-performed we were impacted by the decline in community income, corporate and trusts and foundations. In part this decline was attributable to not having key staff in post but also the challenges of the external fundraising climate also.

KAB has seen a decrease in fundraising income of 42% when comparing previous year's income; we remain acutely aware of the importance of addressing this trend. Throughout these ongoing turbulent times the generosity and support from so many has enabled us to continue to raise much-needed funds at a time when the increasing demands on our services and support continues.

Legacy income totalled £371,642. The Trustees are grateful to the kind supporters who have remembered KAB in their wills and through donations in memory.

Donations from the Community, Corporates, Events and Individual Fundraising have been predictably the hardest hit throughout the last financial year as the fundraising landscape continues to evolve. With the pandemic surging again at the end of '21 we sadly had to cancel our celebratory plans for our Carol Concert at Rochester Cathedral incurring costs with no expected income from ticket sales.

Highlights of the year included our Superhero Family Run which took place in August '21 following the initial cancellation in our Centenary year. This event was the culmination of much hard work and investment. It is thanks to our sponsors and supporters who enabled us to deliver a high profile successful fun event highlighting accessibility for all whilst raising vital funds. We will continue to build on our success in years two and three ensure the event is bigger and better.

Fundraising expenditure has been closely monitored and investments made wisely despite rising costs. Our focus on income streams with the greatest return on investment have been critical to our success whilst essential development of our marketing collateral continues. Set up costs for our inaugural Superhero event for year one were predictably high but definitely worth the investment.

Following the official launch of our new Mobile Sight Centre, Iris, in September 21 we are delighted with the success and impact of taking our services and support to the communities across the county. Iris has been very well received and a catalyst for multi-faceted messaging and engagements having attend 34 events, received over 1,430 visitors including 95 referrals in the first seven months. We will continue to build upon this success and strive to increase footfall and reach going forwards. KAB remain enormously grateful to the generous funders who have enabled us to realise our ambitions through their financial support and Gifts in Kind donations. We continue to raise funds for on-going costs and are thankful for this continued support.

The implementation of a new database, Raiser's Edge, has been much needed and the benefits will be realised in the future. Training and integration has taken most of the year but implementation is being progressively rolled out and we will soon be realising the full value across the entire organisation. Whilst we continue to protect the integrity of our data we strive to improve the quality of our records and boost our engagement and number of supporters.

Our marketing and communications continues to be our priority with vital investment in our website, social media platforms and marketing collateral essential to maintain key messaging and engagement. We are incredibly proud of releasing our bumper 'Connect' Newsletter in Autumn '21 with a wide range of information and advice which was well received. It is thanks to our key sponsors who enabled us to provide such vital well received information.

The Fundraising Team have remained resilient and agile throughout this challenging period, responding well to the shifting trends in income generation as well as the external factors beyond our control. Recruitment has been at the forefront of our challenges and for most the financial year we have been short staffed (including a secondment) with critical targets being compromised. The commitment and dedication of the team throughout has been exemplary and they are all to be commended on their superb hard work.

We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator and we are committed to following their Code of Fundraising Practice so as to ensure that the public, including vulnerable people, are protected from unreasonable or intrusive approaches. KAB carries out all fundraising activities in line with recognised standards. We are also registered as a Data Controller and Data Processor with the Information Commissioner's Office and are compliant with General Data Protection Regulation requirements.

Investment Powers and Policy
The charity's investment approach for the year was to both grow the real value of investments whilst managing return and risk in the context of uncertain financial markets, and to maximise bank interest from cash held on deposit. The Trustees employ Coutts & Co. investment managers to achieve this aim, using full discretionary powers of investment, but taking a medium to low-risk approach with a clear benchmarked target.

Investment income including bank interest increased to £24,509 in 2021/22 from £22,720 in 2020/21.

In reviewing the investment policy, the Trustees have considered any ethical restrictions they should apply and are mindful of the need to avoid undermining the credibility of KAB by profiting from, or providing capital to, activities which might be connected to those which are detrimental to eye health. KAB only holds collective investments, and as such is not at risk of investing directly in such companies. We also meet regularly with our investment managers and monitor our portfolio to ensure an adequate level of scrutiny of any potential exposure.

Reserves Policy
KAB's Trustees consider that holding reserves is an essential part of their duty of governance. The Reserves Policy is reviewed every February to coincide with the budget setting and strategic planning timetable and the review of the Investment Policy and Risk Register.

The policy for 2021/22 was to hold reserves of £390,000 (2020/21 £390,000) to cover the risks associated with loss of income necessitating winding down some or all of the organisation, loss of key workers, investment risk and the risk of legacy income being below budget. Unrestricted funds at 31 March 2022 totalled £1,892,136 (2021: £1,998,532). Trustees recognise that some reserves are required to deliver unfunded services which are intrinsic to KAB's work. This will result in a planned deficit while alternative funding is sought.

Total funds of the Charity as at 31 March 2022 were £3,941,809 (2021: £4,093,084).

The designated funds at 31 March 2022 totalled £1,522,295 (2021: £1,538,237). Details of these funds are provided in note 18. Funds were designated to cover building maintenance, equipment and ICT maintenance and replacement, and project continuation and development. In addition, funds designated that are associated with projects namely ECLO, AT, Training, Talking News and Transcription all represent the cost of the services for a period of one year or less. The maintenance fund represents costs which could be incurred over the course of the next three years and the ICT equipment and replacement represents costs likely to be incurred in the next one to five years. A fixed asset fund represents the value of the fixed assets as these are operating assets and not available for charitable expenditure.

Trustees are confident that their approach to reserves will enable them to maintain current work programmes in the year ahead even with the planned deficit budget, and to complete planned work in the event that income streams are adversely affected.

The restricted funds at 31 March 2022 totalled £527,378 (2021: £556,315). Details of these funds are provided in note 19.

Plans for future Periods

The Trustees recognise the need to continue where possible to reduce any budget deficits. We have identified our key priority areas where we would hope to secure alternative means of funding and help reduce the subsidy from KAB reserves. This includes exploring new funding streams for our Eye Clinic Liaison Officers (ECLO's) our Counselling Service and our pan sensory work.

As detailed above, our Mobile Sight Centre (Iris) has completed her first year and has been very successful in extending our coverage around the county. We have an exciting new strategy in place for Iris for 2022/23 to make sure to enable us to reach more existing and potential service users. We are very grateful to our sponsors and supporters for their continued involvement and we are aiming to improve our profile county wide next year. This continues to be a very exciting venture for KAB and Trustees look forward to hearing of Iris's successes next year.

Our Counselling Service continues to grow and we will need to expand the service to meet this growing demand. We are now able to see clients at more locations throughout the county and will shortly be extending the service to our Bromley clients also.

We are keen to work with Medway's VCS Transformation Academy and will be hoping to join the Transformation Alliance in 2022/23. This will give us new opportunities to further our relationships within the VCS in Medway and may also help KAB to save money with more collaborative working (i.e. joint procurement initiatives)

Going concern

The trustees have assessed the operational and financial impact in the Strategic Report on pages 5 and 6. Trustees reviewed potential risks to KAB and Trustees note that whilst the impact of the Covid pandemic had both financial and non-financial implications, in the main KA is in a positive position. Therefore, KAB remains stable and has not been adversely affected.

Reference and administrative details

Company Number	03339912
Charity Number	1062354
Registered Office	72 College Road Maidstone Kent ME15 6SJ Tel 01622 691357

Our Advisors

Bankers	National Westminster Bank plc 2nd Floor County Gate 2 Staceys Street Maidstone Kent ME14 1ST
Auditors	Azets Audit Services 5th Floor Ashford Commercial Quarter 1 Dover Place Ashford, Kent TN23 1FB
Investment Managers	Coutts & Co Wellington Gate 7-9 Church Road Royal Tunbridge Wells Tunbridge Wells TN1 1HT

Our Directors and Trustees

Honorary Officers

Mrs. Hazel Groves	Chair
Mrs. Jenni Terry	Vice Chair
Mr. James Burke	Honorary Treasurer

Other Trustees

Mr. Michael Benson
Mrs. Kathryn Bosley
Mr. Anthony Blackman
Mr. Anthony Colwell
Mr. Malcolm Ketley
Mr. Leonard Spiller

Company Secretary

Mrs Eithne Rynne

Our Senior Management Team and Key Management Personnel

Eithne Rynne	Chief Executive
Andrea Forsythe	Head of Finance
Sue Piper	Head of Fundraising
Vanessa Stanley	Head of HR
Katherine Barr	Head of Client Services

Structure, Governance & Management

Legal and Administrative Status
KAB is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 25 March 1997, and is also a registered charity. The company is governed under its Articles of Association which were updated in October 2009.

Governance
The trustees meet at least quarterly, and each year, one third of the longest serving trustees retire by rotation and are eligible for re-election. The Board can appoint new trustees at any point during the year. Our aim is to have at least a third of the Board representative from our client base.

Trustees are recruited via an open process in order to meet identified skills and knowledge gaps, and all new Trustees go through an induction process which includes visits to various areas of the charity, and opportunities to shadow staff and undertake training. A Trustee Handbook underpins induction, and sets out the role of the Board, the role of individual Trustees and officers, relationships with staff, guidelines for performance appraisal, a code of conduct and a conflict of interests policy.

No Trustee receives remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity.

The only permanent sub-committee is the Finance Sub-Committee, which comprises the Chair, Vice-Chair and Hon. Treasurer, and is attended by the Chief Executive and Head of Finance. This sub-committee meets before every full Board meeting and reports back to the Board verbally and in writing.

Governance information is available digitally and in audio, Braille or large print for staff and Trustees who have a sensory impairment; KAB also provides Guide Communicators or other support as required at Board meetings and other Trustee events.

Organisational Structure & Management
Day to day responsibility for service provision and ensuring that charitable and strategic aims are met is delegated to the Chief Executive, who is supported by a Senior Management Team.

During the year, KAB had on average 111 staff (66.74 full time equivalent) across five office bases. KAB aims to ensure that it has appropriate procedures in place to ensure staff are able to be fully engaged in all areas of the charity's work and are given appropriate training, support and guidance to carry out their roles effectively. KAB maintains its Investor In People status and is an accredited Disability Confident Employer.

The pay of Key Management Personnel is agreed at board level. Pay scales are agreed based on extensive reviews of the pay rates of similar roles within the comparable charity sector. Management staff progress along pay scales based on length of service and satisfactory performance in the same way as all KAB staff. A salary benchmarking exercise was carried out by the trustees this year.

Throughout this report we mention our wonderful volunteers. Although very different this year due to the pandemic volunteers generally support rehab services by driving clients to meetings and appointments, delivering equipment, home visiting and befriending, and helping people to read their mail and manage their home affairs. Volunteers help run our clubs, help at events, ensure that the low vision clinics at our Sight Centres run smoothly, record our local Talking Newspapers, and help us with many of our back room functions like administration and fundraising. We are enormously grateful to them all.

Related Parties and Connected Charities
Any connections between a trustee or senior manager and KAB's suppliers, funders, or key stakeholders must be disclosed in line with KAB's Conflict of Interest policy. In the current year no related party transactions were reported.

The charity commits staff time and resources to collaborative working and staff are involved in many strategic groups both nationally and regionally, all with the ultimate aim of improving the lives of sight impaired people. However, this joint working is informal and KAB has no connected charities.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties
Potential risks to KAB, our beneficiaries and staff are reviewed regularly and detailed in a Risk Register. Gross risk is measured in terms of likelihood of occurrence and severity of impact, then the controls that we have in place are assessed to produce a retained or 'net' risk level.

The three most significant net risks to the charity in the current year are inability to deliver services due to Covid 19, loss of contracts and tendering risk and data security risk. The risks associated with COVID 19 have also been added to the Risk Register and a separate COVID 19 exit strategy report developed.

Risks to income are being addressed by the continued focus on the effectiveness of the fundraising strategy and making changes where needed, the regular monitoring of cash flow, looking at the possibility of increasing Guide Communicator fee income (put on hold due to pandemic) and holding adequate cash reserves to cover the medium term shortfall.

Contract and tendering risk refers to the potential loss of Local Authority funding, which could pose a major threat to KAB as a whole and potentially to the quality of service received by users. This risk is being addressed by ensuring that we have good knowledge of the sector environment and strong relationships with partner agencies, growing the already good bank of data which evidences the quality of current provision, being as involved as possible with commissioning strategy and ensuring costing of services is accurate and up to date.

Increased data security risk reflects a marked increase in the demands placed on charities by funders in terms of technical and policy compliance with challenging new information governance and data management standards. This is being addressed by continual review of the raft of policies in place surrounding data security, ongoing investment in ICT equipment and ensuring staff attend quality training on any changes and update policies accordingly.

Risks are monitored and communicated regularly to the Board, and risk management forms an integral part of our strategic planning.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities
The Trustees (who are also directors of Kent Association for the Blind for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report including the Strategic Report 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 these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- 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 that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company 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 charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Disclosure of information to auditors
In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

A resolution proposing that Azets Audit Services be reappointed as auditor of the charitable company will be put to the members.

The Trustees' Report is approved by order of the board of trustees and the Strategic Report (included therein) is approved by the board of trustees in their capacity as directors in their meeting on 7 September 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

H Groves

Mrs Hazel Groves
Chair

Registered Office
72 College Road
Maidstone
Kent ME15 6SJ

Kent Association for the Blind
Independent Auditors Report to the Members

Opinion
We have audited the financial statements of Kent Association for the Blind (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion
We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern
In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information
The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Kent Association for the Blind
Independent Auditors Report to the Members

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report and the incorporated Strategic Report prepared for the purpose of company law for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Report and the incorporated Strategic Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report and the incorporated Strategic Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' responsibilities set out on page 15, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above and on the Financial Reporting Council's website, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

Kent Association for the Blind
Independent Auditors Report to the Members

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud (continued)

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.

Kent Association for the Blind
Independent Auditors Report to the Members

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud (continued)

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation (ie. gives a true and fair view).

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Azets Audit Services Limited

Michelle Wilkes FCA (Partner)
For and on behalf of Azets Audit Services
Senior Statutory Auditor
5th Floor
Ashford Commercial Quarter,
1 Dover Place,

Ashford

Kent TN23 1FB

Date: 20 September 2022

Kent Association for the Blind
Statement of Financial Activities
(including income and expenditure)
For the year ended 31 March 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 31.03.2022	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 31.03.2021
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income:							
Donations and Legacies	2	599,847	97,504	697,351	718,136	260,676	978,812
Charitable Activities							
Rehabilitation Services	3a	417,090	1,089,533	1,506,623	383,104	803,809	1,186,913
One to One Support Services		267,432	2,000	269,432	141,153	-	141,153
AT Service		180	-	180	610	-	610
Talking News and Transcription		2,051	-	2,051	3,530	-	3,530
Training	3b	5,921	-	5,921	225	-	225
Clubs, Groups and Client Support		-	-	-	-	-	-
Projects	3c	85,204	127,064	212,268	109,130	-	109,130
Other CJRS		22,528	-	22,528	174,885	-	174,885
Other activities		17,965	-	17,965	11,341	-	11,341
Investments	4	24,509	-	24,509	22,720	-	22,720
Total Income		1,442,727	1,316,101	2,758,828	1,564,834	1,064,485	2,629,319
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	5	320,960	-	320,960	307,957	-	307,957
Charitable Activities	6						
Rehabilitation Services		751,514	1,309,095	2,060,609	814,211	870,363	1,684,574
One to One Support Services		383,772	2,000	385,772	325,192	-	325,192
AT Service		123,379	7,758	131,137	105,566	13,328	118,894
Talking News and Transcription		21,712	6,286	27,998	21,671	3,703	25,374
Training		37,519	-	37,519	35,046	-	35,046
Clubs, Groups and Client Support		6,378	18,899	26,277	7,885	8,561	16,446
Projects		5,325	-	5,325	14,881	-	14,881
Total Expenditure		1,650,559	1,345,038	2,995,597	1,632,409	895,955	2,528,364
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		(207,832)	(28,937)	(236,769)	(67,575)	168,530	100,955
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	27,992	(27,992)	-
Net income/(expenditure) after transfers		(207,832)	(28,937)	(236,769)	(39,583)	140,538	100,955
Net (losses)/gains on investments	13	85,494	-	85,494	316,119	-	316,119
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement of funds for the year		(122,338)	(28,937)	(151,275)	276,536	140,538	417,074
Total funds brought forward		3,536,769	556,315	4,093,084	3,260,233	415,777	3,676,010
Total funds carried forward		3,414,431	527,378	3,941,809	3,536,769	556,315	4,093,084

Kent Association for the Blind
Company Number 03339912
Balance Sheet
As at 31 March 2022

	Notes	31.03.2022	31.03.2021
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	12	1,006,328	993,961
Investments	13	1,562,683	1,461,518
Total Fixed Assets		2,569,011	2,455,479
Current Assets			
Stocks	14	11,227	10,782
Debtors	15	523,003	583,019
Cash at bank and in hand		989,349	1,192,127
Total Current Assets		1,523,579	1,785,928
Liabilities			
Creditors falling due within one year	16	150,780	148,323
Net Current Assets		1,372,799	1,637,605
Total Assets less current liabilities		**3,941,809**	**4,093,084**
Total Net Assets		**3,941,809**	**4,093,084**
The Funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted general funds		1,892,136	1,998,532
Designated funds	18	1,522,295	1,538,237
Restricted funds	19	527,378	556,315
Total charity funds	20	**3,941,809**	**4,093,084**

Approved for issue by the Trustees on 7 September 2022

Mrs Hazel Groves - Chair

Mr J Burke- Treasurer

The notes on pages 22 to 35 form part of these accounts.

Kent Association for the Blind
Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended 31 March 2022
(continued)

	Notes	31.03.2022	31.03.2021
Net cash used in operating activities	21	**(149,071)**	**320,898**
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received		481	1,686
Dividends received		24,028	21,034
Proceeds from sale of investment		566,678	991,684
Purchase of investments		(576,107)	(1,061,092)
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(62,545)	(44,120)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		**(47,466)**	**(90,808)**
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(196,517)	230,088
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		1,213,137	983,047
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	22	**1,016,620**	**1,213,137**

1 Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows;

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 (FRS102) (Effective 1 January 2015)-(Charities SORP (FRS 102)), as amended by Bulletin 1, the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

The accounts show the results of the charities operations which are described in the Trustees' Report, all of which are continuing.

Kent Association for the Blind meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

b) Company status

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee and registered in the UK. The members of the company are the trustees and in the event of the Charity being wound up the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the Charity.

c) Preparation of the accounts on a Going Concern basis

The trustees have assessed the financial position of the charity, the assumptions made in the preparation of its budgets and forecasts and the financial risks it faces especially during the Covid 19 pandemic. Based on this and the level of reserves held the trustees conclude that it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

d) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for the particular areas of the charity's work. Further details of each fund as shown in note 19.

e) Income recognition

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the items of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

f) Income from local authority grants

Income from local authority grants is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds and any performance conditions of the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

i) Donations

Donations are recognised upon receipt by the charity. Income from membership subscriptions received by clubs have the substance of a gift and are recognised within donations.

ii) Fundraising Events

Income from fundraising events is shown gross with the associated costs included in costs of raising funds.

iii) Legacy gifts

Legacy gifts are recognised on a case by case basis when receipt of the income is believed to be probable. Income is believed to be probable when all of the following occur: probate has been granted, the administrator/executor for the estate has communicated in writing the amount of the gift, there are sufficient funds within the estate to make a distribution, and all conditions not under the control of the charity have been met. For legacies where the gift is: a residuary legacy, in a form other than cash, or which involves assets which require liquidation prior to distribution, the legacy will only be recognised where the above conditions have been met and the amount can be reliably measured with a degree of reasonable accuracy.

Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

iv) Training courses

Income received in advance for training courses is deferred until the date of the course as these fees would be refundable in the event that KAB cancelled the training.

v) Dividends and interest receivable

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due. This is normally upon notification by our investment managers of the dividend yield of the investment portfolio.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

g) Donated services and facilities

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102) the general volunteer time of KAB volunteers is not recognised and the trustee's annual report provides more information about their contribution.

KAB receives several types of donated items and facilities such as raffle prizes, room hire, training and hospitality. On receipt, these items are recognised at the value of the gift which the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain items or services of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in the expenditure in the period of receipt.

h) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the expenditure heading for which it was incurred.

i) Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the various activities of KAB. These costs have been allocated between the cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The basis on which support costs have been allocated is set out in note 7.

j) Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised at their purchase price. Depreciation is provided on all tangible assets, other than freehold land, at annual rates calculated to write off the costs less the estimated residual value, of each asset over its expected useful life on a straight line basis as follows:

Asset Category:	Annual Rate:
Freehold land	0%
Freehold buildings	2%
Leasehold improvements	over the term of the lease
Fixtures, fittings, equipment and computers	10-20%
Motor vehicles	20%

k) Fixed Asset Investments

Fixed asset investments are held both to generate income and for investment potential. The investments held are listed and traded on a recognised stock exchange and are measured initially at cost and subsequently at their fair value at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The statement of financial activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

The charity does not acquire put options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments.

l) Realised gains and losses

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between the sales proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase price is acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value. Realised and unrealised investment gains and losses are combined in the statement of Financial activities.

m) Operating leases

The charity classifies the leases of the Canterbury and Bromley Sight Centres as operating leases. Rentals payable are charged in a straight line basis over the lease term.

n) Clubs and Groups

The income, expenditure, assets and liabilities of all KAB clubs and groups are included within these financial statements. All club funds are treated as restricted.

o) Stock

Stock held comprises two elements: stock associated with non-charitable trade and stock provided as part of charitable activity. Neither stock type is issued for free and as such all stock is held at the lower of costs or net realisable value. Damaged or obsolete stock is written down as an expense.

p) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the amount due less any provision for bad or doubtful debts.

q) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes only cash held in instant access bank accounts.

r) Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are recognised at their settlement amounts.

s) Pensions

Employees of the charity are entitled to join a defined contribution 'money purchase' scheme. The charity contribution is restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 7. The costs of the defined contribution scheme are included within the staff costs of the fundraising, charitable activity or support costs as appropriate. These costs are allocated to the unrestricted funds of the charity with the exception of job roles which are funded by restricted funds, namely ECLO and Kent based rehab staff, and in these instances pension costs are allocated to the relevant restricted fund. Where costs are allocated to support costs the costs are charged to the unrestricted funds of the charity using the methodology set out in note 7.

Kent Association for the Blind has two defined contributions schemes held with Aegon and The People's Pension. Since April 2014 staff who were not already members of the Aegon scheme are only able to join The People's Pension Scheme. The charity has no liability beyond making its contributions and paying across the deductions for the employees contributions to the relevant scheme.

New and existing employees who were not otherwise enrolled in a pension scheme were automatically enrolled into the People's Pension scheme where their earnings met the auto enrolment criteria unless they had exercised their right to opt out of the scheme membership.

Employees enrolled in both schemes contract directly with the companies concerned. The charity makes a matching contribution of between 1% and 6% of salary to these pension schemes and acts as an agent collecting and paying over employee pension contributions.

t) Taxation

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

u) Management estimates and judgements

Accounting estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The Foundation makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

Useful economic lives of tangible assets
The annual depreciation charge for tangible assets is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are reassessed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimates, based on technological advancement, future investments, economic utilisation and the physical condition of the assets. See note 12 for the carrying amount of the property plant and equipment, and note 1(j) for the useful economic lives for each class of assets.

v) Government grants accounting policy (in respect of Job Retention Policy)

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

A grant that specifies performance conditions is recognised in income when the performance conditions are met. Where a grant does not specify performance conditions, it is recognised in income when the proceeds are received or receivable. A grant received before the recognition criteria are satisfied is recognised as a liability.

2. Donations and Legacies

	Total 31.03.2022	Total 31.03.2021
Donations	217,351	155,573
Grant income from Trusts and Foundations	86,474	146,397
Legacies	371,642	664,861
Club Donations	21,884	11,981
	£697,351	£ 978,812

Of the total donations and legacies for the year ended 31 March 2022 £97,504 (2021 £260,675) is attributable to restricted funds and £599,847 (2021 £718,137) is added to unrestricted funds. Of the total grants from Trust and Foundations, there were two funders which donated over £10,000 as follows; Overwhelm and the Clothworkers.

3. Income from Charitable Activities

3a. Rehabilitation Services

	Total 31.03.2022	Total 31.03.2021
Local Authority Grants from:		
Kent County Council	1,170,533	884,809
Medway Council	146,563	144,635
London Borough of Bromley	148,000	124,690
London Borough of Bexley	17,000	17,000
	£1,482,096	£1,171,134
Equipment Income	24,527	15,779
Total	£ 1,506,623	£ 1,186,913

Of the total income for rehabilitation services for the year ended 31 March 2022 £1,089,533 (2021 £803,809) is attributable to restricted funds and £417,090 (2021 £383,104) is added to unrestricted funds.

3b. Training

	Total 31.03.2022	Total 31.03.2021
Short Courses	5,921	225
Total	£ 5,921	£ 225

All income associated with Training in 2022 and 2021 is unrestricted.

3c. Projects

	Total 31.03.2022	Total 31.03.2021
Other	212,268	109,130
Total	£212,268	£109,130

Of the total income for projects for the year ended 31 March 2022 £127,064 (2021 £nil) is attributable to restricted funds and £85,204 (2021 £109,130) is added to unrestricted funds.

4. Income from investments

	Total 31.03.2022	Total 31.03.2021
Income from listed investments	24,028	21,034
Interest on cash deposits	481	1,686
	£ 24,509	£ 22,720

All income associated with investments in 2022 and 2021 is unrestricted.

5. Expenditure on raising funds

	Donations and Legacies	Other Trading Activities	Investment costs	Total 31.03.2021	Total 31.03.2021
Direct Staff Costs	173,147	9,113	-	182,260	181,410
Direct Fundraising Costs	60,798	3,200	-	63,998	60,187
Building and telephone costs	11,494	-	-	11,494	8,704
Investment management costs	-	-	8,357	8,357	7,873
Governance Costs (see note 7)	2,171	215	-	2,386	2,591
Support Costs (see note 7)	47,743	4,722	-	52,465	47,192
	£295,353	£ 17,250	£ 8,357	£ 320,960	£ 307,957

All expenditure on raising funds in unrestricted.

6. Expenditure on Charitable activities

	Staff costs	Direct costs	Support costs	Total 31.03.2022	Total 31.03.2021
Cost of raising funds	182,260	63,998	74,702	320,960	307,957
Charitable expenditure					
Rehabilitation services	1,228,498	499,914	332,197	2,060,609	1,684,574
One to one support services	278,854	8,942	97,974	385,772	325,192
AT Service	88,309	17,604	25,224	131,137	118,894
Talking news & transcription	16,128	5,174	6,696	27,998	25,374
Training	28,984	3,032	5,503	37,519	35,046
Clubs, groups and client support	-	3,560	22,717	26,277	16,446
Projects	840	4,485	-	5,325	14,881
	1,641,615	542,711	490,311	2,674,637	2,220,407
	1,823,875	606,709	565,013	2,995,597	2,528,364

Included in direct costs and support costs are staff costs of £234,263 (2021: £230,947) which are allocated above.

7a. Support costs

	Total 31.03.2022	Total 31.03.2021
CEO's office	85,419	77,994
Finance	73,985	66,544
HR	70,907	62,670
IT	63,215	42,536
Establishment costs including support staff	165,645	136,028
Insurance	31,354	34,067
Professional fees	49,544	35,589
Governance (note 7b)	24,944	23,525
	565,013	478,953

7b. Governance costs

	Total 31.03.2022	Total 31.03.2021
Auditor's remuneration	9,650	9,200
CEO and finance costs	9,809	10,161
Other	5,485	4,164
	24,944	23,525

8. Net expenditure for the year

This is stated after the following		Total 31.03.2022	Total 31.03.2021
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		50,179	33,572
Audit Fees - Statutory Audit		9,650	8,950
Operating leases	Land and Buildings	25,350	47,310
	Other assets	-	883

9. Analysis of staff costs, trustee remunerations and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

	Total 31.03.2022	Total 31.03.2021
The staff costs were		
Wages and Salaries	1,834,851	1,772,131
Social Security Costs	143,292	134,644
Pension Costs	79,995	78,979
	2,058,138	1,985,754

The charity trustees were not paid nor did they receive any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2021 £nil), neither did the received any payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity.

No trustee was reimbursed expenses during the year (2021 no trustee was reimbursed). The nature of the expenses reimbursed were travel expenses in connection with attending meetings.

The average number of staff during the year was 111 (2021 107).

	2022		2021	
	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time
Head Office	3	11	3	10
Fundraising	5	3	5	3
Charitable activities	32	57	33	53
	40	71	41	66

During this year, one employee earned more than £70,000 but not more than £80,000 (2021: one employee earned more than £60,000 but not more than £70,000).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees, CEO, Head of Finance, Head of HR, Head of Fundraising, and Head of Client Services. The employee benefits of key management personnel total £291,400 (2021: £267,183).

10. Related Party Transactions

There have been no related party transactions in the year ended 31 March 2022 (2021 nil) which require disclosure.

11. Taxation

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and, is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

12. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold land and buildings College Road Maidstone	Bromley Leasehold Improvements	Furniture, fittings equipment and computers	Motor Vehicles	Total
Cost					
As at 1 April 2021	1,306,924	95,679	185,211	28,492	1,616,306
Additions	-	-	16,875	45,670	62,545
Disposals	-	(95,679)	-	-	(95,679)
As at 31 March 2022	1,306,924	-	202,086	74,162	1,583,172
Depreciation					
As at 1 April 2021	395,127	95,679	131,539	-	622,345
Charge for the year	16,138		19,208	14,832	50,179
Disposals	-	(95,679)	-	-	(95,679)
As at 31 March 2022	411,265	-	150,747	14,832	576,844
Net Book Value					
As at 31 March 2022	895,659	-	51,339	59,330	1,006,328
As at 31 March 2021	911,797	-	53,672	28,492	993,961

The land value included in Freehold land and buildings is £500,000.

13. Fixed Asset Investments

Movement in fixed asset listed investments

A schedule of investments can be seen on request at 72 College Road, Maidstone, Kent.

	31.03.2022	31.03.2021
Market value brought forward at 1 April 2021	1,461,518	1,132,239
Add: additions to investments at cost	576,107	1,061,092
Movement in cash held within investments	6,242	(56,248)
Disposals at carrying value	(566,678)	(991,684)
Unrealised/realised gains and (losses)	85,494	316,119
Market value as at 31 March 2022	1,562,683	1,461,518

Net cash released from investments in the year was £nil (2021 £nil).

13. Fixed Asset Investments

Investments at fair value comprised:

	31.03.2022	31.03.2021
Bonds	309,906	290,920
Equities – overseas	592,420	538,219
Equities – UK	439,398	443,734
Equities – Emerging markets	111,764	98,036
Property	-	4,627
Thematic	81,942	64,970
Cash held within the investment portfolio	27,252	21,010
Total	1,562,683	1,461,518

Investments include £59,533 (2021 £58,932) held on behalf of clubs and branches.

Quoted investments are carried at their fair value. The basis of fair value for quoted investments is equivalent to the market value. The charity holds investments for income and capital growth. The charity manages investment risk by retaining expert advisors at Coutts bank. Risk is also managed by directing Coutts to operate the investment portfolio using a medium risk strategy. The risk of realised losses upon needing to extract cash at short notice is mitigated by assessing cash flow needs at least 18 months into the future and holding sufficient cash outside of the portfolio to meet these needs.

The following investments represent a significant value of the portfolio:

	31.03.2022	31.03.2021
Cash	27,252	21,010
Coutts Actively Managed UK Equity	116,537	122,439
Coutts Actively Managed US Equity Fund	86,767	58,434
Coutts US ESG Insights Equity Fund	88,872	-
Equator UK Sovereign Bond Index Fund	194,487	183,885
Equator US Equity Shares	245,596	265,715
Equator UK Equity Fund Shares	188,597	200,278

14. Stock

	31.03.2022	31.03.2021
Fundraising Merchandise	1,137	2,131
Rehab and Low Vision Equipment	10,090	8,651
	11,227	10,782

15. Debtors

	Total 31.03.2022	Total 31.03.2021
Trade debtors	96,440	90,835
Prepayments	58,710	49,596
Accrued Income	367,853	442,588
Other debtors	-	-
	523,003	583,019

16. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Total 31.03.2022	Total 31.03.2021
Trade creditors	58,858	50,316
Accruals	30,817	38,146
Deferred Income	13,312	16,285
Other Taxation and Social Security	46,807	43,069
Other creditors	986	507
	150,780	148,323

17. Deferred Income	Total 31.03.2022	Total 31.03.2021
Balance at 1 April 2021	16,285	15,057
Released in the year	(16,285)	(15,057)
Deferred in the year	13,312	16,285
Balance at 31 March 2022	13,312	16,285

Deferred Income of £13,312 relates to income from events and project grants occurring post year-end.

18. Designated funds

Current year	Balance at 31.03.2021	New designation	Designation released	Balance at 31.03.2022
Designated Funds				
Eye Clinic Liaison Officer Fund	130,142	113,234	(113,234)	130,142
AT worker Fund	96,059	70,000	(88,094)	77,965
Talking News & Transcription Fund	25,043	20,000	(25,026)	20,017
Training services Fund	32,212	27,000	(32,188)	27,024
Maintenance Fund	193,100	-	-	193,100
Equipment and ICT Fund	67,720	-	-	67,720
Fixed asset reserve	993,961	12,367	-	1,006,328
Total	1,538,237	242,601	(258,542)	1,522,296

The Trustees feel that roles performed by the Eye Clinic Liaison Officers, AT workers, and the work undertaken by the Talking News, Transcription, and Training services are of vital importance to KAB service users and as such, they have again designated funds (above), to enable services continue in the coming year in the event that insufficient new external funding is obtained.

The maintenance fund will allow KAB to meet the expected building maintenance costs, based on a detailed review of repairs and renewals needs.

The equipment and ICT Fund is based on the expected future costs of maintaining the charities ICT infrastructure in an increasingly challenging Information Governance environment.

The fixed asset fund relates to funds held in fixed assets, including the freehold land and buildings, that are not available for charitable expenditure.

18. Designated funds

Prior year	Balance at 31.03.2020	New designation	Designation released	Balance at 31.03.2021
Designated Funds				
Eye Clinic Liaison Officer Fund	130,142	127,810	(127,810)	130,142
AT worker Fund	97,815	70,000	(71,756)	96,059
Talking News & Transcription Fund	20,000	20,000	(14,957)	25,043
Training services Fund	30,003	24,000	(21,791)	32,212
Maintenance Fund	193,100	-	-	193,100
Equipment and ICT Fund	67,720	-	-	67,720
Fixed asset reserve	983,412	10,549	-	993,961
Total	1,522,192	252,359	(236,314)	1,538,237

19. Restricted Funds

Current year	Balance at 31.03.2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	Balance at 31.03.2022
KCC Adults Grant	-	1,089,533	(1,089,533)	-	-
Trusts, Legacies and donations restricted to AT services	48,471	26,758	(7,758)	-	67,471
Trusts and donations restricted to children's activities	3,045	-	(1,181)	-	1,864
Trusts and donations restricted for demonstration equipment	1,189	-	-	-	1,189
Trusts restricted for the Foundation Degree	60	-	-	-	60
Trusts and donations restricted for talking News	9,355	25	(6,286)	-	3,094
Donations restricted for rehabilitation and activities for adults	10,131	5,356	(6,854)	-	8,633
ECLO Funding	2,000	-	(2,000)	-	-
Aiming High/ Mary Kirby	34,981	-	(800)	-	34,181
Jarrett Legacy	76,121	-	(2,330)	-	73,791
Counselling	7,074	11,846	(18,906)	-	14
Covid Funding	5,262	117,367	(77,166)	-	45,463
MSC	64,815	41,229	(92,324)	-	13,720
CRM	10,000	-	(10,000)	-	-
Clubs and Groups	283,811	23,987	(29,900)	-	277,898
	556,315	1,316,101	(1,345,038)	-	527,378

KCC Adults Grant is the grant from KCC for the provision of adult's rehabilitation services in Kent.

We are tremendously grateful for the donations from individual donors, organisations and many trusts that have supported our work this year. Trust funding has been received for AT services, children's activities, the purchase of demonstration equipment, the ongoing provision of Talking News and the support of rehabilitation and leisure activities for adults.

Also included within restricted trust donations for AT services are: grants made to pay the salary costs of our AT Worker in Bromley, which were received, from City Bridge Trust and a generous legacy bequest for our general AT services.

The Jarrett Legacy is a legacy left for the benefit of the Gravesend area.

The Aiming High/ Mary Kirby fund relates to legacy income to be spent in the Sevenoaks area.

The ECLO funding is income to be spent within the department from Roger De Haan Trust.

Clubs and groups represent the total funds held by the KAB clubs and groups including accrued legacies.

The Counselling funds is to be spent on telephone counselling and face to face counselling in the Bromley and Canterbury area.

The MSC Fund relates to donations restricted for the purchase and use of the Mobile Sight Centre.

The Covid Funding is funding to be spent on personal protective equipment in light of the Covid Pandemic.

CRM fund relates to income for a new IT database.

Transfers between funds represent the purchase of capital items.

19. Restricted Funds

Prior year	Balance at 31.03.2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	Balance at 31.03.2021
KCC Adults Grant	-	803,809	(803,809)	-	-
Trusts, Legacies and donations restricted to AT services	47,947	13,852	(13,328)	-	48,471
Trusts and donations restricted to children's activities	4,045	-	(1,000)	-	3,045
Trusts and donations restricted for demonstration equipment	1,189	-	-	-	1,189
Trusts restricted for the Foundation Degree	60	-	-	-	60
Trusts and donations restricted for talking News	9,355	-	-	-	9,355
Donations restricted for rehabilitation and activities for adults	9,579	4,255	(3,703)	-	10,131
ECLO Funding	2,000	10,000	(10,000)	-	2,000
Aiming High/ Mary Kirby	35,013	-	(32)	-	34,981
Jarrett Legacy	82,464	-	(6,343)	-	76,121
Counselling	13,545	20,600	(27,071)	-	7,074
Covid Funding	-	27,370	(22,108)	-	5,262
MSC	-	92,807	-	(27,992)	64,815
CRM	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
Clubs and Groups	210,580	81,792	(8,561)	-	283,811
	415,777	1,064,485	(895,955)	(27,992)	556,315

20. Analysis of net assets between funds

Current year

	Fixed Assets	Investments	Net Current Assets	Total 31.03.2022
Restricted funds	-	59,533	467,845	527,378
Designated Funds	1,006,328	515,967	-	1,522,295
Unrestricted Funds	-	987,181	904,955	1,892,136
	1,006,328	1,562,681	1,372,800	3,941,809

Prior year

	Fixed Assets	Investments	Net Current Assets	Total 31.03.2021
Restricted funds	-	58,932	497,383	556,315
Designated Funds	993,961	544,276	-	1,538,237
Unrestricted Funds	-	858,310	1,140,222	1,998,532
	993,961	1,461,518	1,637,605	4,093,084

21. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	31.03.2022	31.03.2021
Net movement in funds	(151,275)	417,074
Add back depreciation charge	50,179	33,572
Deduct interest income shown in investing activities	(24,509)	(22,720)
Deduct gains/ add Losses on investments	(85,494)	(316,119)
(Increase)/ Decrease in stocks	(445)	1,110
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	60,016	152,957
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	2,456	55,024
Net cash used in operating activities	(149,071)	320,898

KENT ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

England & Wales - Charity number 1062354

Accounts

Kent Association for the Blind

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Report & Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2021

Charity Number 1062354

Company Number 03339912

www.kab.org.uk

Supporting sight impaired people to live independent lives

Kent Association for the Blind

Kent Association for the Blind
Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2021

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2021, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes. The financial statements comply with the Charity Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable in the UK (effective January 2015) updated by bulletin 1.

Our Objectives and Activities

The aim of Kent Association for the Blind (KAB) is to support sight-impaired people to live independent lives. We believe that anyone who has a visual impairment should be able to live a fulfilled, healthy and safe life, exercise self-determination and make informed choices, and achieve their own personal goals. In our Articles of Association our purpose is described as the "relief of blind and partially sighted persons and the prevention of sight loss and blindness…" primarily in Kent, Medway and the London Boroughs of Bromley and Bexley. We fulfil our purpose by providing a comprehensive rehabilitation and support service to sight impaired people, and by raising awareness of eye health and the impact of sight loss.

It should be acknowledged that 2020/21 has been a tumultuous year and whilst our core objectives remained the same, our delivery model had to be adapted and some services were significantly altered to respond to Covid 19 restrictions.

This report describes the work we do, looks at what we have achieved over the last 12 months, and highlights some of our future plans. In reviewing outcomes and planning for the future, KAB's Trustees refer to Charity Commission guidance and ensure that the charity's activities fulfil both the Commission's public benefit criteria and KAB's charitable objectives.

KAB's Clients and Services
KAB offers help to anyone who is sight impaired: people of any age and at any stage of their sight loss journey. We have over 12,500 visually impaired clients, and for every one of them, poor sight impacts their daily lives. To reduce the impact of sight loss, we provide practical training, advice, support and equipment, and we also support families, carers, schools and employers.

Our operational area is large, and covers both urban and rural areas. Services are delivered from three Sight Centres in Maidstone, Canterbury and Bromley, and two office bases in Gravesend and Medway. We also have one staff member supporting people in the London Borough of Bexley and we deliver other Rehabilitation services in the London Borough of Lewisham.

The main areas of charitable activity which deliver public benefit are:

- Rehabilitation Services, including Eye Clinic Liaison Officer support (ECLO)
- Assistive Technology training and advice
- One-to-One Support Services for blind and deafblind clients
- Talking Newspapers
- Transcription Services
- Social and Leisure Clubs
- Training for Professionals
- Occasional short term developmental and pilot projects
- Volunteer opportunities and placements

KAB is committed to collaborative working and is active within the sight loss sector to ensure best practice is shared, and effort isn't duplicated. Over the last year we have contributed to and benefited from our membership of Visionary (the umbrella body for local associations), this included our Head of Fundraising being active in leading fundraising workshops for the wider Visionary membership.

Rehabilitation Services
This is by far our largest area of charitable activity. The backbone of rehabilitation – or 'rehab' - is practical training that helps people learn new skills to manage daily tasks at home and in the community. This individually tailored support is normally delivered one-to-one in peoples' homes, but is also carried out in small groups at our centres.

KAB provides rehab services under contract to Kent County Council (KCC), Medway Council and the London Borough of Bromley, for whom we discharge all the statutory responsibilities for supporting sight-impaired people. We also provide ECLO support in the London Borough of Bexley and have a contract to carry out rehabilitation support with London Borough of Lewisham. We are pleased to note that our services continued throughout the Covid 19 pandemic.

One-to-One Support Services
We run three similar services that provide one-to-one support in the community, enabling clients to maximise their independence:

- The Guide Communicator (GC) Service, which supports people with dual sensory impairment, also known as deafblindness.
- The Sight Support Service, which supports people who have sight loss.
- The Intervenor Service, which supports congenitally deafblind people who also have a learning disability or other complex needs.

One-to-One Support is charged at an hourly rate, and is financed either by statutory social care (including care managed budgets, Direct Payments or client-controlled Personal Budgets), by clients themselves, or by a combination of sources. The service is flexible, and clients receive as much or as little input as they need on a regular basis. Call-off contracts are in place with Bromley Council and KCC, and the service also operates in Medway.

In order to increase awareness and understanding of these services, a rebranding exercise was undertaken. This included market research, a staff competition to generate potential names and extensive market testing with Clients and Stakeholders to choose a new name for the Service. The rates charged by the Service have also been reviewed, having been static for an extensive period, to ensure the offer remains sustainable for the future. Both the launch of the rebrand and the implementation of the new rates have been paused due to Covid-19.

Assistive Technology
Almost every week, new apps and devices are launched that have the potential to increase independence, promote wellbeing and transform the lives of sight-impaired people. Our Rehab Workers are highly skilled and knowledgeable about how new technology can help our clients, and we provide regular training to make sure they maintain their skills. The pace of change is so fast that we also employ specialist Assistive Technology staff to provide bespoke advice and tuition to our clients. This normally takes place in IT Suites in our Sight Centres, and in clients' homes however to comply with government guidelines during the Covid 19 pandemic we adapted our approach and provided a more mobile, outdoor home based approach.

Talking Newspapers and Transcription Services
KAB has been providing free Talking Newspapers (TNs) since the 1970s. Thirteen local editions are recorded each week by teams of volunteers around the region. The vast majority of listeners are vulnerable and housebound people in their 80s and 90s, and Talking News is a way for them to stay in touch with their local community. We also use TN to let people know about what's new in the field of visual impairment and to tell people about KAB events or new social groups.

TN is available free on request to people with any level of sight loss. It is entirely financed by charitable donations, and we rely on the generosity of our supporters and donors to run the service. TN editions were suspended during 2020-21 due to Covid 19.

Our Transcription Service is a 'sister project' to TN, in that it uses the same equipment, office space, staff and volunteers. The Transcription Service produces accessible materials in audio, Braille, digital formats and large print, which is of huge benefit to the charity's clients, visually impaired volunteers, trustees and staff. We also provide small scale transcription for external bodies such as Councils and GPs, and continue to see a slight increase in uptake due to the new Accessible Information Standard, introduced in summer 2016, which requires all publicly funded health and social care providers to record and provide information in clients' preferred formats.

Training - Short Courses
KAB is an approved Open College Network (OCN) provider, and we deliver accredited courses in Understanding Visual Impairment, Understanding Deafblindness, Understanding Hearing Impairment, and Understanding Assistive Technology. We use these to train both our own staff and external learners who want to gain a better understanding of the issues surrounding sensory impairment. We also deliver non-accredited short courses tailored to the needs of different learners; these are adapted from approved course content, so quality is consistently high.

We aim to encourage uptake of all forms of training because this increases awareness of sight loss, which in turn benefits our clients, so we are pleased to report that enquiries about bespoke courses has been particularly high in the past year. However currently our Training programme is on hold due to COVID 19, although adaptations are being made to move our courses online.

Training –Rehabilitation Worker Visual Impairment Apprenticeship
We have established there is a need to develop this training course across London and the South East. A survey we carried out in 2019 indicated there was a high demand and we are in discussions with the current providers at Birmingham City University to establish a partnership to deliver this course locally. Again, Covid 19 meant progress has been stalled however we remain hopeful that we can resume with a 2022 start date.

Clubs, Groups and Client Support
KAB has a network of 48 social and leisure clubs across the region, providing leisure and social opportunities and peer support. Each club is supported by dedicated volunteers who arrange activities and entertainment, act as drivers and escorts, and help to raise funds. For some members, this is the only face-to-face social contact of the week, so the clubs also act as something of a 'safety net' for some elderly and vulnerable visually impaired people, with volunteers ensuring that KAB is called in if someone needs help. We have also seen an increase in more active clubs of younger people, including arts, photography and leisure groups.

KAB provides financial support to Clubs via an annual grants programme, and also by meeting volunteers' expenses and providing insurance cover. The charity also provides non-financial support such as recruiting and training volunteers, carrying out Disclosure and Barring Service checks, and helping with publicity. Our staff visit at least every six months to offer advice and support to both members and volunteers. All KAB Clubs sign up to a Handbook, which aims to ensure they operate safely and fairly and that members' needs are met as well as possible.

Strategic Report

Achievements and Performance

As previously noted this year has been a tumultuous year for KAB. However, we are proud of the way our organisation proved its resilience and continued to deliver services to our clients throughout. Immediately, the leadership team reviewed KAB's Risk Register and Business Continuity Plan. They very quickly developed a Covid-19 strategy, which included an exit plan. We were agile in the way we changed course and adapted our services. Where possible we utilised the Governments Job Retention Scheme and our Fundraising efforts ensured we benefited from emergency grant funding. We are grateful to our local authorities for their support, particularly with PPE. The Board of Trustees received regular updates from the Senior Management Team and Trustees volunteered to keep in touch with staff and volunteers. This helped the leadership team stay connected with all those working and volunteering from home. The CEO provided regular updates to the staff team to offer guidance and support, and to keep staff up to date with changing guidelines.

Rehabilitation Services

During 2020, we successfully tendered for two local authority contracts. Our new contract with the London borough of Bromley (LBB) started on 1st October 2020. This contract is for a four-year period, with the potential for two single year extensions. The contract is for the delivery of rehabilitation services to adults, including volunteer led services. Following a successful business case to LBB prior to the procurement process, the annual contract value increased from £105,470 to £143,910 from October 2020, significantly reducing the need for KAB to subsidise local service delivery.

The second contract is to deliver Pan-Sensory wellbeing services to adults in Kent. From April 2021, KAB is the lead provider, working in partnership with sub-contractor Hi Kent. This contract is worth £3,221,532 over 3 years, with two potential single year extensions.

We also saw success with the negotiation of a new service level agreement to deliver an Eye Clinic Liaison Officer (ECLO) service on behalf of East Kent Hospitals University Foundation Trust from April 2021. This is an existing service that is currently funded by KAB so will again reduce reliance on reserves and voluntary income, with a value of £39K per annum.

Our other main achievement during 20/21 was the ongoing Covid-19 response, which saw us publish social distancing guidance for our client group and launch a number of new online social and support groups.

Our counselling service has continued to grow during 20/21, with the impact of the pandemic resulting in increased referrals and a higher number of sessions per client due to additional complexity of need. KAB is now employing a qualified Lead Counsellor who triages referrals and works directly with complex cases, while a team of volunteer trainee counsellors continues to add capacity and provide a learning opportunity for those on placement. To offer choice to our clients during the pandemic, we have introduced video counselling as a safe means of providing a face to face service.

KAB's Assistive Technology (AT) service has also been a key part of the Covid-19 response. With technology playing an increasingly important role in how service users shop and communicate during the pandemic, it was crucial to provide responsive and safe services to quickly support existing technology users who experienced difficulties with their access or software. In many cases we were able to help remotely. Our AT team has also supported people who are newer to technology; for example, those who needed to use video calling for the first time.

As we move to gradually increase face to face service delivery as Covid-19 restrictions are eased, we are also reflecting on the learning from the pandemic and some of the positives of providing remote and virtual services. Our long-term aim is to provide choice in how our service users access a range of blended (face to face and virtual) provision, to maximise our reach and accessibility.

Our one-to-one services more or less ceased at the beginning of the pandemic with most clients shielding. However, we identified a need to support our more vulnerable clients with a shopping service as many were struggling to get supermarket deliveries and did not have family or a support network. We maintained this service until lockdown restrictions eased and were able to resume visits at a much reduced level. Income from these services declined to £141,153 compared to last year £295,217.

Talking Newspapers and Transcription Services
During 2020 Talking News celebrated its 45th year in operation. Sadly, we were unable to have the celebration we were planning and instead due to many of our volunteers shielding we were not able to deliver a service. One edition piloted a new way of delivering its newspaper utilising readers at home and this led to that edition providing a service. Trustees are aware that in line with national trends, Talking News in recent years has seen falling listener numbers, with older clients sadly passing on and a younger generation being able to access information independently from a growing range of media and not needing to take up the service.

Whilst we are aware of how much of a difference the service continues to make to those older and often house bound sight impaired clients who aren't able to access their local news via other methods we are mindful of the resource required to keep this service active. Trustees have asked that we spend the coming year identifying new ways of getting information to our clients with a view to reporting back with recommendations in February 2020.

TN continues to be an entirely free service, relying on charitable donations to meet its running costs.

Our Transcription service suffered greatly from the pandemic and we had to utilise the Governments Job Retention Scheme for much of the year for our Digital Co-ordinator and Talking news officer.

A key aim for 2021/2022 is to implement a marketing strategy with the aim of promoting awareness of the service and increasing our customer base and income.

Training
As a result, of COVID 19 we are revising our training strategy and looking at new ways in which we can deliver our training courses. Much work has already been down to move our short courses online and adapt our Environmental Assessments. Our Fundraising team have been very successful in recruiting new corporate supporters which in turn has led to an increased demand for our training. Plans are in place to begin a partnership with Birmingham City University to deliver the Apprenticeship in Rehabilitation in London and the South East, using KAB's offices in Maidstone as the base.

Clubs and Social Groups
Early on in 2020/21 saw the closure of our clubs and social groups. Many have not yet reopened due to government guidelines. 2020 saw some great creativity with online groups and virtual events for our members to enjoy. Our Art Ambassador designed a "doorstep" art project thus allowing our art club members to continue to enjoy their creativity. Some volunteer club leaders organised their own phone/video calling groups and people enjoyed virtual quizzes and other entertainment. Volunteer coordinators are working closely with the Club Leaders to advise of changes to government guidance.

Volunteering
Although many of our volunteers had to shield and self-isolate during 2020/21 we are very proud of the resilience of our volunteers who quickly helped us adapt from face to face contact with our clients to telephone befriending and support. KAB rely heavily on our volunteers to help us deliver our range of services and we are incredibly grateful to all those who give their time and skills so enthusiastically. Our Volunteer coordinators are keeping in contact with our volunteers and we hope that once we are allowed to meet face to face that our volunteers will again give freely of their time to support our great work. All the services described above benefit from the support of 667 wonderful volunteers, who give their time, skills and enthusiasm freely to KAB and our clients. The Trustees would like to express their sincere thanks and good wishes to every one of them.

Projects
Project income has increased from £89,542 in 2019/20 to £109,130 in 2020/21. We continue to deliver Rehabilitation Services to LB Lewisham and partner with the Royal Society for Blind Children for family engagement work.

COVID-19
This is largely due to Covid 19 related income such as the Government's Job Retention Scheme and the income from KAB's shopping service which we implemented to support vulnerable clients (non-profit making).

Financial Review
In the year ending March 2021, the charity's principal funding continued to come from Grants, Fundraising and Legacies.

Income from all areas fell by £336,377 to £2,629,319 for the year ended March 2021 due to a reduction in legacies. Income was used to meet KAB's charitable objectives with rehab services being the single largest areas of expenditure at £1,684,574.

Total expenditure for the year totalled £2,528,364 resulting in a surplus of £417,074 after investment gains, compared with a surplus of £265,528 in the previous year.

Fundraising

Total Fundraising income is £978,812, reflecting a positive variance of £332,619 against budget. For our Centenary year 2020/21 we had originally budgeted for a higher annual turnover backed by ambitious plans to celebrate and fundraise, this was subsequently revised in light of the changing landscape enforced by COVID-19. Legacy income has been strong with £664,861 secured. The Trustees are grateful to the kind supporters who have remembered KAB in their wills and through donations in memory. High performing areas include our Direct Marketing (Appeals and Newsletters) and Trusts and Foundation income which saw a steep rise to £146,397 primarily attributable to available crisis funding and a robust pipeline managed by an excellent fundraiser.

Donations from the Community, Corporates, Events and Individual Fundraising have been predictably the hardest hit throughout the last financial year and the fundraising landscape has more than likely changed forever. We remain agile in our shift to hybrid events and responding to new opportunities to ensure our objectives are met.

Our Mobile Sight Centre appeal was launched in the Summer of 2020 and to date we have received £92,807. Our fundraising continues to ensure that our plans are realised and 'Iris' as she is now known is launched Summer 2021 with clear aims and objectives to engage the wider community and raise our profile. We remain enormously grateful to all those who have supported our appeal both financially and through Gifts in Kind who have enabled us to reach this landmark stage for KAB.

Fundraising expenditure has been closely monitored and investments made wisely. Our focus on income streams with the greatest return on investment have been critical to our success whilst essential development of our marketing collateral continues. This will ensure we continue to increase awareness of our work and importantly build our limited supporter base as well as our income.

The Fundraising Team have responded well to enforced change and the challenges faced throughout the last year. Their commitment, dedication and resilience in the face of adversity has enabled us to achieve so much and positions us well for continued success.

In summary whilst the unpredictability of the pandemic has been challenging the opportunity for Fundraising to pause, recharge and reset through our new strategy has proved valuable. We remain ever confident of building back better and ensuring KAB continues to achieve above and beyond.

We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator and we are committed to following their Code of Fundraising Practice so as to ensure that the public, including vulnerable people, are protected from unreasonable or intrusive approaches. KAB carries out all fundraising activities in line with recognised standards. We are also registered as a Data Controller and Data Processor with the Information Commissioner's Office and are compliant with General Data Protection Regulation requirements.

Investment Powers and Policy
The charity's investment approach for the year was to both grow the real value of investments whilst managing return and risk in the context of uncertain financial markets, and to maximise bank interest from cash held on deposit. The Trustees employ Coutts & Co. investment managers to achieve this aim, using full discretionary powers of investment, but taking a medium to low-risk approach with a clear benchmarked target.

Investment income including bank interest fell to £22,720 in 2020/21 from £32,500 in 2019/20.

In reviewing the investment policy, the Trustees have considered any ethical restrictions they should apply and are mindful of the need to avoid undermining the credibility of KAB by profiting from, or providing capital to, activities which might be connected to those which are detrimental to eye health. KAB only holds collective investments, and as such is not at risk of investing directly in such companies. We also meet regularly with our investment managers and monitor our portfolio to ensure an adequate level of scrutiny of any potential exposure.

Reserves Policy
KAB's Trustees consider that holding reserves is an essential part of their duty of governance. The Reserves Policy is reviewed every February to coincide with the budget setting and strategic planning timetable and the review of the Investment Policy and Risk Register.

The policy for 2020/21 was to hold reserves of £390,000 (2019/20 £390,000) to cover the risks associated with loss of income necessitating winding down some or all of the organisation, loss of key workers, investment risk and the risk of legacy income being below budget. Unrestricted funds at 31 March 2021 totalled £1,998,532 (2020: £1,738,041).

Total funds of the Charity as at 31 March 2021 were £4,093,084 (2020: £3,676,010).

The designated funds at 31 March 2021 totalled £1,538,237 (2020: £1,522,192). Details of these funds are provided in note 18. Funds were designated to cover building maintenance, equipment and ICT maintenance and replacement, and project continuation and development. In addition, funds designated that are associated with projects namely ECLO, AT, Training, Talking News and Transcription all represent the cost of the services for a period of one year or less. The maintenance fund represents costs which could be incurred over the course of the next three years and the ICT equipment and replacement represents costs likely to be incurred in the next one to five years. A fixed asset fund has also been created representing the value of the fixed assets as these are operating assets and not available for charitable expenditure.

Trustees are confident that their approach to reserves will enable them to maintain current work programmes in the year ahead even with the planned deficit budget, and to complete planned work in the event that income streams are adversely affected.

The restricted funds at 31 March 2021 totalled £556,315 (2020: £415,777). Details of these funds are provided in note 19.

Plans for future Periods

The Trustees recognise the need to continue where possible to reduce any budget deficits. Work has commenced on identifying our key priority areas where we would hope to secure alternative means of funding and help reduce the subsidy from KAB reserves. Covid 19 paused this however gave us greater access to emergency funding which has been hugely helpful.

Our Mobile Sight Centre (Iris) campaign has been very successful and we are planning to ensure greater KAB coverage around the county with Iris. Different departments will use Iris, so for example the Fundraising Team will be able to enjoy greater coverage at events throughout the year thus improving our profile county wide. Our Rehabilitation Team will reach more service users and potentially new service users too. this is a very exciting venture for KAB and Trustees look forward to hearing Iris's successes.

KAB's Strategic Plan is being reviewed mainly in light of Covid 19 and the need to revisit our priorities to ensure we are still fit for purpose. We acknowledge that whilst being very successful at adapting our services we may need to continue these new ways of working for some time.

A Client Survey was started in January 2020, with postal questionnaires delivered to some areas and online surveying complete. The completion of all areas was postponed due to Covid-19, but the eventual results will be used for service redesign and new service development.

Going concern
The trustees have assessed the operational and financial impact in the Strategic Report on pages 5 and 6. Trustees reviewed potential risks to KAB and Trustees note that whilst the impact of the Covid pandemic has had both financial and non-financial implications, in the main these are positive. Therefore, KAB remains in a stable position and has not been adversely affected.

Reference and administrative details

Company Number	03339912
Charity Number	1062354
Registered Office	72 College Road Maidstone Kent ME15 6SJ Tel 01622 691357

Our Advisors

Bankers	National Westminster Bank plc 2nd Floor County Gate 2 Staceys Street Maidstone Kent ME14 1ST
Auditors	Azets Audit Services 5th Floor Ashford Commercial Quarter 1 Dover Place Ashford, Kent TN23 1FB
Investment Managers	Coutts & Co Wellington Gate 7-9 Church Road Royal Tunbridge Wells Tunbridge Wells TN1 1HT

Our Directors and Trustees

Honorary Officers

Mrs. Hazel Groves	Chair (from September 2020)
Mrs. Jenni Terry	Vice Chair (from September 2020)
Mr. James Burke	Honorary Treasurer

Other Trustees

Mr. Michael Benson
Mrs. Kathryn Bosley
Mr. Anthony Blackman (appointed June 2020)
Mr. Anthony Colwell
Mr. Tim Harris (resigned September 2020)
Mr. Malcolm Ketley
Mr. Leonard Spiller

Company Secretary

Mrs Eithne Rynne

Our Senior Management Team and Key Management Personnel

Eithne Rynne	Chief Executive
Andrea Forsythe	Head of Finance
Sue Piper	Head of Fundraising
Vanessa Stanley	Head of HR
Katherine Barr	Head of Client Services

Structure, Governance & Management

Legal and Administrative Status
KAB is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 25 March 1997, and is also a registered charity. The company is governed under its Articles of Association which were updated in October 2009.

Governance
The trustees meet at least quarterly, and each year, one third of the longest serving Trustees retire by rotation and are eligible for re-election. The Board can appoint new trustees at any point during the year. Our aim is to have at least a third of the Board representative from our client base.

Trustees are recruited via an open process in order to meet identified skills and knowledge gaps, and all new Trustees go through an induction process which includes visits to various areas of the charity, and opportunities to shadow staff and undertake training. A Trustee Handbook underpins induction, and sets out the role of the Board, the role of individual Trustees and officers, relationships with staff, guidelines for performance appraisal, a code of conduct and a conflict of interests policy.

No Trustee receives remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity.

The only permanent sub-committee is the Finance Sub-Committee, which comprises the Chair, Vice-Chair and Hon. Treasurer, and is attended by the Chief Executive and Head of Finance. This sub-committee meets before every full Board meeting and reports back to the Board verbally and in writing.

Governance information is available digitally and in audio, Braille or large print for staff and Trustees who have a sensory impairment; KAB also provides Guide Communicators or other support as required at Board meetings and other Trustee events.

Organisational Structure & Management
Day to day responsibility for service provision and ensuring that charitable and strategic aims are met is delegated to the Chief Executive, who is supported by a Senior Management Team.

During the year, KAB had on average 107 staff (62.45 full time equivalent) across five office bases. KAB aims to ensure that it has appropriate procedures in place to ensure staff are able to be fully engaged in all areas of the charity's work and are given appropriate training, support and guidance to carry out their roles effectively. KAB maintains its Investor In People status and is an accredited Disability Confident Employer.

The pay of Key Management Personnel is agreed at board level. Pay scales are agreed based on extensive reviews of the pay rates of similar roles within the comparable charity sector. Management staff progress along pay scales based on length of service and satisfactory performance in the same way as all KAB staff. A salary benchmarking exercise was carried out by the trustees this year.

Throughout this report we mention our wonderful volunteers. Although very different this year due to the pandemic volunteers generally support rehab services by driving clients to meetings and appointments, delivering equipment, home visiting and befriending, and helping people to read their mail and manage their home affairs. Volunteers help run our clubs, help at events, ensure that the low vision clinics at our Sight Centres run smoothly, record our local Talking Newspapers, and help us with many of our back room functions like administration and fundraising. We are enormously grateful to them all.

Related Parties and Connected Charities

Any connections between a trustee or senior manager and KAB's suppliers, funders, or key stakeholders must be disclosed in line with KAB's Conflict of Interest policy. In the current year no related party transactions were reported.

The charity commits staff time and resources to collaborative working and staff are involved in many strategic groups both nationally and regionally, all with the ultimate aim of improving the lives of sight impaired people. However, this joint working is informal and KAB has no connected charities.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

Potential risks to KAB, our beneficiaries and staff are reviewed regularly and detailed in a Risk Register. Gross risk is measured in terms of likelihood of occurrence and severity of impact, then the controls that we have in place are assessed to produce a retained or 'net' risk level.

The three most significant net risks to the charity in the current year are inability to deliver services due to Covid 19, loss of contracts and tendering risk and data security risk. The risks associated with COVID 19 have also been added to the Risk Register and a separate COVID 19 exit strategy report developed.

Risks to income are being addressed by the continued focus on the effectiveness of the fundraising strategy and making changes where needed, the regular monitoring of cash flow, looking at the possibility of increasing Guide Communicator fee income (put on hold due to pandemic) and holding adequate cash reserves to cover the medium term shortfall.

Contract and tendering risk refers to the potential loss of Local Authority funding, which could pose a major threat to KAB as a whole and potentially to the quality of service received by users. This risk is being addressed by ensuring that we have good knowledge of the sector environment and strong relationships with partner agencies, growing the already good bank of data which evidences the quality of current provision, being as involved as possible with commissioning strategy and ensuring costing of services is accurate and up to date.

Increased data security risk reflects a marked increase in the demands placed on charities by funders in terms of technical and policy compliance with challenging new information governance and data management standards. This is being addressed by continual review of the raft of policies in place surrounding data security, ongoing investment in ICT equipment and ensuring staff attend quality training on any changes and update policies accordingly.

Risks are monitored and communicated regularly to the Board, and risk management forms an integral part of our strategic planning.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of Kent Association for the Blind for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report including the Strategic Report 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 these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- 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 that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company 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 charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Disclosure of information to auditors
In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

A resolution proposing that Azets Audit Services be reappointed as auditor of the charitable company will be put to the members.

On 7 September 2020 Group Audit Services Limited, trading as Wilkins Kennedy Audit Services, changed its name to Azets Audit Services Limited. The name they practice under is Azets Audit Services and accordingly they have signed their report in their new name.

The Trustees' Report is approved by order of the board of trustees and the Strategic Report (included therein) is approved by the board of trustees in their capacity as directors in their meeting on 8 September 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

H Groves

Mrs Hazel Groves
Chair

Registered Office
72 College Road
Maidstone
Kent ME15 6SJ

Kent Association for the Blind
Independent Auditors Report to the Members

Opinion
We have audited the financial statements of Kent Association for the Blind (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion
We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern
In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information
The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Kent Association for the Blind
Independent Auditors Report to the Members

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report and the Incorporated Strategic Report prepared for the purpose of company law for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Report and the incorporated Strategic Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report and the incorporated Strategic Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' responsibilities set out on page 15, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above and on the Financial Reporting Council's website, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud (continued)

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud (continued)

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation (ie. gives a true and fair view).

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Michelle Wilkes FCA (Partner)
For and on behalf of Azets Audit Services
Senior Statutory Auditor
5th Floor
Ashford Commercial Quarter,
1 Dover Place,
Ashford
Kent TN23 1FB

Date:

Kent Association for the Blind
Statement of Financial Activities
(including income and expenditure)
For the year ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 31.03.2021 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 31.03.2020 £
Income:							
Donations and Legacies	2	718,136	260,676	978,812	1,239,760	91,112	1,330,872
Charitable Activities							
Rehabilitation Services	3a	383,104	803,809	1,186,913	368,345	803,809	1,172,154
One to One Support Services		141,153	-	141,153	295,217	-	295,217
AT Service		610	-	610	720	-	720
Talking News and Transcription		3,530	-	3,530	694	2,500	3,194
Training	3b	225	-	225	13,527	-	13,527
Clubs, Groups and Client Support		-	-	-	2,970	-	2,970
Projects	3c	109,130	-	109,130	89,542	-	89,542
Other CJRS		174,885	-	174,885	623	-	623
Other activities		11,341	-	11,341	24,377	-	24,377
Investments	4	22,720	-	22,720	32,500	-	32,500
Total Income		1,564,834	1,064,485	2,629,319	2,068,275	897,421	2,965,696
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	5	307,957	-	307,957	253,802	-	253,802
Charitable Activities	6						
Rehabilitation Services		814,211	870,363	1,684,574	781,957	821,953	1,603,910
One to One Support Services		325,192	-	325,192	424,978	-	424,978
AT Service		105,566	13,328	118,894	108,012	1,363	109,375
Talking News and Transcription		21,671	3,703	25,374	30,193	2,360	32,553
Training		35,046	-	35,046	36,985	-	36,985
Clubs, Groups and Client Support		7,885	8,561	16,446	14,971	79,169	94,140
Projects		14,881	-	14,881	1,433	-	1,433
Total Expenditure		1,632,409	895,955	2,528,364	1,652,331	904,845	2,557,176
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		(67,575)	168,530	100,955	-	-	-
Transfers between funds		27,992	(27,992)	-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure) after transfers		(39,583)	140,538	100,955	-	-	-
Net (losses)/gains on investments	13	316,119	-	316,119	(142,992)	-	(142,992)
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement of funds for the year		276,536	140,538	417,074	272,952	(7,424)	265,528
Total funds brought forward		3,260,233	415,777	3,676,010	2,987,281	423,201	3,410,482
Total funds carried forward		3,536,769	556,315	4,093,084	3,260,233	415,777	3,676,010

Kent Association for the Blind
Company Number 03339912
Balance Sheet
As at 31 March 2021

	Notes	31.03.2021	31.03.2020
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	12	993,961	983,412
Investments	13	1,461,518	1,132,239
Total Fixed Assets		2,455,479	2,115,651
Current Assets			
Stocks	14	10,782	11,892
Debtors	15	583,019	735,977
Cash at bank and in hand		1,192,127	905,789
Total Current Assets		1,785,928	1,653,658
Liabilities			
Creditors falling due within one year	16	148,323	93,299
Net Current Assets		1,637,605	1,560,359
Total Assets less current liabilities		**4,093,084**	**3,676,010**
Total Net Assets		**4,093,084**	**3,676,010**
The Funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted general funds		1,998,532	1,738,041
Designated funds	18	1,538,237	1,522,192
Restricted funds	19	556,315	415,777
Total charity funds	20	**4,093,084**	**3,676,010**

Approved for issue by the Trustees on 8 September 2021

H Groves

Mrs Hazel Groves - Chair

Mr J Burke- Treasurer

The notes on pages 22 to 35 form part of these accounts.

Kent Association for the Blind
Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended 31 March 2021
(continued)

	Notes	31.03.2021	31.03.2020
Net cash used in operating activities	21	**320,898**	**(4,041)**
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received		1,686	4,151
Dividends received		21,034	28,349
Proceeds from sale of investment		991,684	544,952
Purchase of investments		(1,061,092)	(549,296)
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(44,120)	(14,706)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		**(90,808)**	**13,451**
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		230,088	9,409
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		983,047	973,638
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	22	**1,213,137**	**983,047**

1 Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows;

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 (FRS102) (Effective 1 January 2015)-(Charities SORP (FRS 102)), as amended by Bulletin 1, the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

The accounts show the results of the charities operations which are described in the Trustees' Report, all of which are continuing.

Kent Association for the Blind meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

b) Company status

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee and registered in the UK. The members of the company are the trustees and in the event of the Charity being wound up the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the Charity.

c) Preparation of the accounts on a Going Concern basis

The trustees have assessed the financial position of the charity, the assumptions made in the preparation of its budgets and forecasts and the financial risks it faces especially during the Covid 19 pandemic. Based on this and the level of reserves held the trustees conclude that it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

d) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for the particular areas of the charity's work. Further details of each fund as shown in note 19.

e) Income recognition

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the items of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

f) Income from local authority grants

Income from local authority grants is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds and any performance conditions of the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

i) Donations

Donations are recognised upon receipt by the charity. Income from membership subscriptions received by clubs have the substance of a gift and are recognised within donations.

ii) Fundraising Events

Income from fundraising events is shown gross with the associated costs included in costs of raising funds.

iii) Legacy gifts

Legacy gifts are recognised on a case by case basis when receipt of the income is believed to be probable. Income is believed to be probable when all of the following occur: probate has been granted, the administrator/executor for the estate has communicated in writing the amount of the gift, there are sufficient funds within the estate to make a distribution, and all conditions not under the control of the charity have been met. For legacies where the gift is: a residuary legacy, in a form other than cash, or which involves assets which require liquidation prior to distribution, the legacy will only be recognised where the above conditions have been met and the amount can be reliably measured with a degree of reasonable accuracy.

Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

iv) Training courses

Income received in advance for training courses is deferred until the date of the course as these fees would be refundable in the event that KAB cancelled the training.

v) Dividends and interest receivable

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due. This is normally upon notification by our investment managers of the dividend yield of the investment portfolio.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

g) Donated services and facilities

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102) the general volunteer time of KAB volunteers is not recognised and the trustee's annual report provides more information about their contribution.

KAB receives several types of donated items and facilities such as raffle prizes, room hire, training and hospitality. On receipt, these items are recognised at the value of the gift which the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain items or services of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in the expenditure in the period of receipt.

h) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the expenditure heading for which it was incurred.

i) Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the various activities of KAB. These costs have been allocated between the cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The basis on which support costs have been allocated is set out in note 7.

j) Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised at their purchase price. Depreciation is provided on all tangible assets, other than freehold land, at annual rates calculated to write off the costs less the estimated residual value, of each asset over its expected useful life on a straight line basis as follows:

Asset Category:	Annual Rate:
Freehold land	0%
Freehold buildings	2%
Leasehold improvements	over the term of the lease
Fixtures, fittings, equipment and computers	10-20%
Motor vehicles	20%

k) Fixed Asset Investments

Fixed asset investments are held both to generate income and for investment potential. The investments held are listed and traded on a recognised stock exchange and are measured initially at cost and subsequently at their fair value at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The statement of financial activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

The charity does not acquire put options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments.

l) Realised gains and losses

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between the sales proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase price is acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value. Realised and unrealised investment gains and losses are combined in the statement of Financial activities.

m) Operating leases

The charity classifies the leases of the Canterbury and Bromley Sight Centres as operating leases. Rentals payable are charged in a straight line basis over the lease term.

n) Clubs and Groups

The income, expenditure, assets and liabilities of all KAB clubs and groups are included within these financial statements. All club funds are treated as restricted.

o) Stock

Stock held comprises two elements: stock associated with non-charitable trade and stock provided as part of charitable activity. Neither stock type is issued for free and as such all stock is held at the lower of costs or net realisable value. Damaged or obsolete stock is written down as an expense.

p) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the amount due less any provision for bad or doubtful debts.

q) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes only cash held in instant access bank accounts.

r) Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are recognised at their settlement amounts.

s) Pensions

Employees of the charity are entitled to join a defined contribution 'money purchase' scheme. The charity contribution is restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 7. The costs of the defined contribution scheme are included within the staff costs of the fundraising, charitable activity or support costs as appropriate. These costs are allocated to the unrestricted funds of the charity with the exception of job roles which are funded by restricted funds, namely ECLO and Kent based rehab staff, and in these instances pension costs are allocated to the relevant restricted fund. Where costs are allocated to support costs the costs are charged to the unrestricted funds of the charity using the methodology set out in note 7.

Kent Association for the Blind has two defined contributions schemes held with Aegon and The People's Pension. Since April 2014 staff who were not already members of the Aegon scheme are only able to join The People's Pension Scheme. The charity has no liability beyond making its contributions and paying across the deductions for the employees contributions to the relevant scheme.

New and existing employees who were not otherwise enrolled in a pension scheme were automatically enrolled into the People's Pension scheme where their earnings met the auto enrolment criteria unless they had exercised their right to opt out of the scheme membership.

Employees enrolled in both schemes contract directly with the companies concerned. The charity makes a matching contribution of between 1% and 6% of salary to these pension schemes and acts as an agent collecting and paying over employee pension contributions.

t) Taxation

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

u) Management estimates and judgements

Accounting estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The Foundation makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

Useful economic lives of tangible assets
The annual depreciation charge for tangible assets is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are reassessed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimates, based on technological advancement, future investments, economic utilisation and the physical condition of the assets. See note 12 for the carrying amount of the property plant and equipment, and note 1(j) for the useful economic lives for each class of assets.

v) Government grants accounting policy (in respect of Job Retention Policy)

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.
A grant that specifies performance conditions is recognised in income when the performance conditions are met. Where a grant does not specify performance conditions, it is recognised in income when the proceeds are received or receivable. A grant received before the recognition criteria are satisfied is recognised as a liability.

2. Donations and Legacies

	Total 31.03.2021	Total 31.03.2020
Donations	155,573	178,296
Grant income from Trusts and Foundations	146,397	58,401
Legacies	664,861	1,036,436
Club Donations	11,981	57,739
	£978,812	£1,330,872

Of the total donations and legacies for the year ended 31 March 2021 £260,675 (2020 £91,112) is attributable to restricted funds and £718,137 (2020 £1,239,760) is added to unrestricted funds. Of the total grants from Trust and Foundations, there were three funders which donated over £10,000 as follows; National Lottery, Foundation Givaudan and Overwhelm.

3. Income from Charitable Activities

3a. Rehabilitation Services

	Total 31.03.2021	Total 31.03.2020
Local Authority Grants from:		
Kent County Council	884,809	884,809
Medway Council	144,635	143,319
London Borough of Bromley	124,690	105,471
London Borough of Bexley	17,000	16,629
	£1,171,134	£1,150,228
Equipment Income	15,779	19,152
Other Income	-	2,774
Total	£ 1,186,913	£ 1,172,154

Of the total income for rehabilitation services for the year ended 31 March 2021 £803,809 (2020 £803,809) is attributable to restricted funds and £383,104 (2020 £368,345) is added to unrestricted funds.

3b. Training

	Total 31.03.2021	Total 31.03.2020
Short Courses	225	13,527
Total	£ 225	£ 13,527

All income associated with Training in 2021 and 2020 is unrestricted.

3c. Projects

	Total 31.03.2021	Total 31.03.2020
Other	109,130	89,542
Total	£109,130	£89,542

Of the total income for projects for the year ended 31 March 2021 £nil (2020 £nil) is attributable to restricted funds and £109,130 (2020 £89,542) is added to unrestricted funds.

4. Income from investments

	Total 31.03.2021	Total 31.03.2020
Income from listed investments	21,034	28,349
Interest on cash deposits	1,686	4,151
	£ 22,720	£ 32,500

All income associated with investments in 2021 and 2020 is unrestricted.

5. Expenditure on raising funds

	Donations and Legacies	Other Trading Activities	Investment costs	Total 31.03.2021	Total 31.03.2020
Direct Staff Costs	172,339	9,071	-	181,410	164,872
Direct Fundraising Costs	57,178	3,009	-	60,187	30,582
Building and telephone costs	8,704	-	-	8,704	9,151
Investment management costs	-	-	7,873	7,873	7,875
Governance Costs (see note 7)	2,358	233	-	2,591	2,414
Support Costs (see note 7)	42,945	4,247	-	47,192	38,908
	£283,524	£ 16,560	£ 7,873	£ 307,957	£ 253,802

All expenditure on raising funds in unrestricted.

6. Expenditure on Charitable activities

	Staff costs	Direct costs	Support costs	Total 31.03.2021	Total 31.03.2020
Cost of raising funds	181,410	60,187	66,360	307,957	253,802
Charitable expenditure					
Rehabilitation services	1,194,146	185,393	305,035	1,684,574	1,603,910
One to one support services	254,356	9,232	61,604	325,192	424,978
AT Service	77,903	20,188	20,802	118,894	109,375
Talking news & transcription	16,519	2,674	6,181	25,374	32,553
Training	28,218	1,748	5,080	35,046	36,985
Clubs, groups and client support	2,255	300	13,891	16,446	94,140
Projects	-	14,881	-	14,881	1,433
	1,573,397	234,416	412,593	2,220,407	2,303,374
	1,754,807	294,603	478,953	2,528,364	2,557,176

Included in direct costs and support costs are staff costs of £230,947 (2020: £146,573) which are allocated above.

7a. Support costs

	Total 31.03.2021	Total 31.03.2020
CEO's office	77,994	79,612
Finance	66,544	61,351
HR	62,670	61,300
IT	42,536	40,033
Establishment costs including support staff	136,028	122,247
Insurance	34,067	32,285
Professional fees	35,589	32,607
Governance (note 7b)	23,525	26,645
	478,953	456,080

7b. Governance costs

	Total 31.03.2021	Total 31.03.2020
Auditor's remuneration	8,950	8,950
CEO and finance costs	10,161	11,112
Other	4,414	6,583
	23,525	26,645

8. Net expenditure for the year

This is stated after the following		Total 31.03.2021	Total 31.03.2020
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		33,572	30,445
Audit Fees - Statutory Audit		8,950	8,950
Operating leases	Land and Buildings	47,310	48,350
	Other assets	883	1,136

9. Analysis of staff costs, trustee remunerations and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

	Total 31.03.2021	Total 31.03.2020
The staff costs were		
Wages and Salaries	1,772,131	1,746,876
Social Security Costs	134,644	133,670
Pension Costs	78,979	77,185
	1,985,754	1,957,731

The charity trustees were not paid nor did they receive any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2020 £nil), neither did the received any payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity.
No trustee was reimbursed expenses during the year (2020 One trustee reimbursed £60). The nature of the expenses reimbursed were travel expenses in connection with attending meetings.

The average number of staff during the year was 107 (2020 111).

	2021		2020	
	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time
Head Office	3	10	4	11
Fundraising	5	3	3	5
Charitable activities	33	53	34	54
	41	66	41	70

During the previous year and this year, one employee earned more than £60,000 but not more than £70,000 2020 : one employee earned more than £60,000 but not more than £70,000).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees, CEO, Head of Finance, Head of HR, Head of Fundraising, and Head of Client Services. The employee benefits of key management personnel total £267,183 (2020: £240,427).

10. Related Party Transactions

There have been no related party transactions in the year ended 31 March 2021 (2020 nil) which require disclosure.

11. Taxation

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and, is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

12. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold land and buildings College Road Maidstone	Bromley Leasehold Improvements	Furniture, fittings equipment and computers	Motor Vehicles	Total
Cost					
As at 1 April 2020	1,306,924	95,679	169,583	-	1,572,186
Additions	-	-	15,628	28,492	44,120
As at 31 March 2021	1,306,924	95,679	185,211	28,492	1,616,306
Depreciation					
As at 1 April 2020	378,989	95,679	114,105	-	588,773
Charge for the year	16,138	-	17,434	-	33,572
As at 31 March 2021	395,127	95,679	131,539	-	622,345
Net Book Value					
As at 31 March 2021	911,797	-	53,672	28,492	993,961
As at 31 March 2020	927,934	-	55,478	-	983,412

The land value included in Freehold land and buildings is £500,000.

Motor vehicles have not been depreciated in the year as the asset, a Mobile Site Centre, is undergoing construction.

13. Fixed Asset Investments

Movement in fixed asset listed investments

A schedule of investments can be seen on request at 72 College Road, Maidstone, Kent.

	31.03.2021	31.03.2020
Market value brought forward at 1 April 2020	1,132,239	1,254,757
Add: additions to investments at cost	1,061,092	549,296
Movement in cash held within investments	(56,248)	16,130
Disposals at carrying value	(991,684)	(544,952)
Unrealised/realised gains and (losses)	316,119	(142,992)
Market value as at 31 March 2021	1,461,518	1,132,239

Net cash released from investments in the year was £nil (2020 £nil).

13. Fixed Asset Investments

Investments at fair value comprised:

	31.03.2021	31.03.2020
Bonds	290,920	247,334
Equities – overseas	538,219	341,488
Equities – UK	443,73	388,384
Equities – Emerging markets	98,036	43,694
Property	4,629	5,131
Thematic	64,970	28,950
Cash held within the investment portfolio	21,010	77,258
Total	1,461,518	1,132,239

Investments include £58,932 (2020 £60,489) held on behalf of clubs and branches.

Quoted investments are carried at their fair value. The basis of fair value for quoted investments is equivalent to the market value. The charity holds investments for income and capital growth. The charity manages investment risk by retaining expert advisors at Coutts bank. Risk is also managed by directing Coutts to operate the investment portfolio using a medium risk strategy. The risk of realised losses upon needing to extract cash at short notice is mitigated by assessing cash flow needs at least 18 months into the future and holding sufficient cash outside of the portfolio to meet these needs.

The following investments represent a significant value of the portfolio:

	31.03.2021	31.03.2020
Cash	21,010	77,258
Coutts Actively Managed UK Equity	122,439	-
Invesco Markets II Plc shares Hedged Treasury Bond	-	85,921
Equator UK Sovereign Bond Index Fund	183,885	28,460
Equator US Equity Shares	265,715	256,618
Equator ICAV Coutts Multi Asset UK Growth Fund	-	143,345
Equator UK Equity Fund Shares	200,278	245,039

14. Stock

	31.03.2021	31.03.2020
Fundraising Merchandise	2,131	1,261
Rehab and Low Vision Equipment	8,651	10,631
	10,782	11,892

15. Debtors

	Total 31.03.2021	Total 31.03.2020
Trade debtors	90,835	175,622
Prepayments	49,596	42,552
Accrued Income	442,588	517,364
Other debtors	-	439
	583,019	735,977

16. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Total 31.03.2021	Total 31.03.2020
Trade creditors	50,316	15,193
Accruals	38,146	28,751
Deferred Income	16,285	15,057
Other Taxation and Social Security	43,069	33,813
Other creditors	507	485
	148,323	93,299

17. Deferred Income	Total 31.03.2021	Total 31.03.2020
Balance at 1 April 2020	15,057	15,805
Released in the year	(15,057)	(15,805)
Deferred in the year	16,285	15,057
Balance at 31 March 2021	16,285	15,057

Deferred Income of £16,285 relates to income from events and project grants occurring post year-end.

18. Designated funds

Current year	Balance at 31.03.2020	New designation	Designation released	Balance at 31.03.2021
Designated Funds				
Eye Clinic Liaison Officer Fund	130,142	127,810	(127,810)	130,142
AT worker Fund	97,815	70,000	(71,756)	96,059
Talking News & Transcription Fund	20,000	20,000	(14,957)	25,043
Training services Fund	30,003	24,000	(21,791)	32,212
Maintenance Fund	193,100	-	-	193,100
Equipment and ICT Fund	67,720	-	-	67,720
Fixed asset reserve	983,412	10,549	-	993,961
Total	1,522,192	252,359	(236,314)	1,538,237

The Trustees feel that roles performed by the Eye Clinic Liaison Officers, AT workers, and the work undertaken by the Talking News, Transcription, and Training services are of vital importance to KAB service users and as such, they have again designated funds (above), to enable services continue in the coming year in the event that insufficient new external funding is obtained.

The maintenance fund will allow KAB to meet the expected building maintenance costs, based on a detailed review of repairs and renewals needs.

The equipment and ICT Fund is based on the expected future costs of maintaining the charities ICT infrastructure in an increasingly challenging Information Governance environment.

The fixed asset fund relates to funds held in fixed assets, including the freehold land and buildings, that are not available for charitable expenditure.

18. Designated funds

Prior year	Balance at 31.03.2019	New designation	Designation released	Balance at 31.03.2020
Designated Funds				
Eye Clinic Liaison Officer Fund	130,142	91,805	(91,805)	130,142
AT worker Fund	99,571	70,000	(71,756)	97,815
Talking News & Transcription Fund	20,000	20,000	(20,000)	20,000
Training services Fund	27,794	24,000	(21,792)	30,003
Maintenance Fund	193,100	-	-	193,100
Equipment and ICT Fund	67,720	-	-	67,720
Fixed asset reserve	-	983,412	-	983,412
Total	538,327	1,189,217	(205,352)	1,522,192

19. Restricted Funds

Current year	Balance at 31.03.2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	Balance at 31.03.2021
KCC Adults Grant	-	803,809	(803,809)	-	-
Trusts, Legacies and donations restricted to AT services	47,947	13,852	(13,328)	-	48,471
Trusts and donations restricted to children's activities	4,045	-	(1,000)	-	3,045
Trusts and donations restricted for demonstration equipment	1,189	-	-	-	1,189
Trusts restricted for the Foundation Degree	60	-	-	-	60
Trusts and donations restricted for talking News	9,355	-	-	-	9,355
Donations restricted for rehabilitation and activities for adults	9,579	4,255	(3,703)	-	10,131
ECLO Funding	2,000	10,000	(10,000)	-	2,000
Aiming High/ Mary Kirby	35,013	-	(32)	-	34,981
Jarrett Legacy	82,464	-	(6,343)	-	76,121
Counselling	13,545	20,600	(27,071)	-	7,074
Covid Funding	-	27,370	(22,108)	-	5,262
MSC	-	92,807	-	(27,992)	64,815
CRM	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
Clubs and Groups	210,580	81,792	(8,561)	-	283,811
	415,777	1,064,485	(895,955)	(27,992)	556,315

KCC Adults Grant is the grant from KCC for the provision of adult's rehabilitation services in Kent.

We are tremendously grateful for the donations from individual donors, organisations and many trusts that have supported our work this year. Trust funding has been received for AT services, children's activities, the purchase of demonstration equipment, the ongoing provision of Talking News and the support of rehabilitation and leisure activities for adults.

Also included within restricted trust donations for AT services are: grants made to pay the salary costs of our AT Worker in Bromley, which were received, from City Bridge Trust and a generous legacy bequest for our general AT services.

The Jarrett Legacy is a legacy left for the benefit of the Gravesend area.

The Aiming High/ Mary Kirby fund relates to legacy income to be spent in the Sevenoaks area.

The ECLO funding is income to be spent within the department from Roger De Haan Trust.

Clubs and groups represent the total funds held by the KAB clubs and groups including accrued legacies.

The Counselling funds is to be spent on telephone counselling and face to face counselling in the Bromley and Canterbury area.

The MSC Fund relates to donations restricted for the purchase and use of the Mobile Sight Centre.

The Covid Funding is funding to be spent on personal protective equipment in light of the Covid Pandemic.

CRM fund relates to income for a new IT database.

Transfers between funds represent the purchase of capital items.

19. Restricted Funds

Prior year	Balance at 31.03.2019	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	Balance at 31.03.2020
KCC Adults Grant	-	803,809	(803,809)	-	-
Trusts, Legacies and donations restricted to AT services	47,691	1,619	(1,363)	-	47,947
Trusts and donations restricted to children's activities	1,643	3,518	(1,116)	-	4,045
Trusts and donations restricted for demonstration equipment	1,189	-	-	-	1,189
Trusts restricted for the Foundation Degree	60	-	-	-	60
Trusts and donations restricted for talking News	9,215	2,500	(2,360)	-	9,355
Donations restricted for rehabilitation and activities for adults	8,916	6,380	(5,717)	-	9,579
ECLO Funding	5,000	7,363	(10,363)	-	2,000
Aiming High/ Mary Kirby	35,013	-	-	-	35,013
Jarrett Legacy	82,464	-	-	-	82,464
Counselling	-	14,493	(948)	-	13,545
Clubs and Groups	232,010	57,739	(79,169)	-	210,580
	423,201	897,421	(904,845)	-	415,777

20. Analysis of net assets between funds

Current year

	Fixed Assets	Investments	Net Current Assets	Total 31.03.2021
Restricted funds	-	58,932	497,383	556,315
Designated Funds	993,961	544,276	-	1,538,237
Unrestricted Funds	-	858,310	1,140,222	1.998,532
	993,961	1,461,518	1,637,605	4,093,084

Prior year

	Fixed Assets	Investments	Net Current Assets	Total 31.03.2020
Restricted funds	-	60,489	355,288	415,777
Designated Funds	983,412	538,780	-	1,522,192
Unrestricted Funds	-	532,970	1,205,071	1,738,041
	983,412	1,132,239	1,560,359	3,676,010

21. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	31.03.2021	31.03.2020
Net movement in funds	417,074	265,528
Add back depreciation charge	33,572	30,445
Deduct interest income shown in investing activities	(22,720)	(32,500)
Deduct gains/ add Losses on investments	(316,119)	142,992
Decrease/(Increase) in stocks	1,110	(832)
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	152,957	(393,690)
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	55,024	(15,984)
Net cash used in operating activities	320,898	(4,041)

22. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	31.03.2021	31.03.2020
Cash at bank and in hand	1,051,019	769,659
Cash held by Clubs	141,108	136,130
Cash held with Investment managers	21,010	77,258
	1,213,137	983,047

The difference in the figure for cash and cash equivalents on cash flow statement and the cash in balance sheet is due to the inclusion of cash held within Investment managers.

23. Obligations under operating leases

The company had future commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Land and Buildings		Other		Total	
	31.03.2021	31.03.2020	31.03.2021	31.03.2020	31.03.2021	31.03.2020
Payments due in less than 1 year	26,350	39,350	3,623	5,513	29,973	44,863
Payments due in 2-5 years	13,675	41,025	6,162	9,785	19,837	50,810
	40,025	80,375	9,785	15,298	49,810	95,673

24. Capital commitments

The charity has had capital commitments at the year end as follows:	**2021**	**2020**
Mobile Sight Centre	42,738	-