

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 03758661 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1075388

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2024

FOR

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
03758661 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1075388

Registered office
The Guardian Centre
67 Clarendon Road
Colliers Wood
London
SW19 2DX

Independent Examiner
Gareth Rees FCA CTA
PB Associates
Chartered Accountants & Chartered Tax Advisers
2 Castle Business Village
Station Road
Hampton
Middlesex
TW12 2BX

Principal Bankers
National Westminster Bank Plc
16 Wimbledon Hill Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 7ZD

CAF Bank
25, Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Mailing
Kent
ME19 4JQ

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Trustees (who are also directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006) are pleased to present their annual Trustees Report, together with the unaudited financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2024, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

TRUSTEES

All Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the Charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the Charity are set out in Note 12 to the accounts. The Trustees serving during the year and to the date of this report were as follows: -

H A Cowd (Chairman)	
S J Moore (Treasurer)	
R F Bowman	
W A Busbridge (Vice Chairman)	
S R D Coates	
F Hibbert	Appointed 23 November 2023
N Gibson	Resigned 23 November 2023
H McAuley	Resigned 23 November 2023
H Meade	Resigned 23 November 2023
V A Morrison	
F P Pugh	

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The charitable company's principal activity during the year was to provide services, information and support to residents of Merton who have a visual impairment. The aim is to support and empower people with a visual impairment, from their diagnosis of permanent sight loss through the entire rehabilitative process, in whatever form is appropriate for them. This includes children, adults, people with dual sensory loss and people with additional difficulties.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Articles of Association dated 23 April 1999, amended 13 October 2000 and a further amendment 9 November 2017. The Charity was originally founded in 1965 and was registered as an unincorporated charity with the Charity Commission 9 March 1966.

Following the AGM 9 November 2017, a special resolution was passed and the Articles of Association of the Charity were changed in their entirety and replaced by new Articles.

All Trustees shall automatically become members of the Charity and their names shall be entered into the Charity's register of members. The number of members of the Charity is unlimited. They remain members until they cease to be members in accordance with the Articles.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES- CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Membership shall be open to any individual aged 18 or over whom the Board decides to admit to membership. The Trustees may determine criteria for membership but are not obliged to admit any person satisfying such criteria as members and may decline in their absolute discretion any person's application and need not give reasons for such decision.

Only members are eligible to vote at the AGM/EGM, general or special meetings convened for the purposes of discussing the business of the charitable company.

Appointment of new Trustees

As set out in the Articles of Association Trustees are elected annually by the members of the charitable company attending the Annual General Meeting and serve for a period of three years and then one third of Trustees are required to retire by rotation but may be re-elected.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Trustees can be recruited by open advert or may be proposed and seconded by members and put forward for election at the AGM in accordance with the terms and timelines determined by the Board and subject to the Board's approval of such nomination.

The Make-up of the Board

The Board consists of not fewer than six and no more than fifteen persons appointed by the Trustees at any time at a meeting or in writing. The Board shall aim to have, as far as reasonable, equal representation on the Board of visually impaired, hearing impaired and sighted people with all Trustees having equal voting rights. Where this cannot be achieved the Board will still be valid irrespective of the make-up of the Board.

Filling vacancies in the Board and co-option

The Board can appoint anyone as a Trustee to fill a vacancy in the membership of the Board. They will hold office until the next annual general meeting where they may be elected by the members (unless they cease to be a Trustee prior to that by virtue of Article 38 or 39). For the purposes of this Article the Board shall decide how many vacancies there are, subject to the maximum and minimum numbers given in Article 33.1.

Trustee recruitment and induction

New Trustees are given induction on their roles, their legal obligations under charity and company law, the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, and inform them of the content of the Articles of Association, the committee and decision-making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance of the Charity.

During the induction day they meet key employees and other Trustees. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Governance and Organisational structure

The Trustees of Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind are responsible for the assets and strategic direction of the Charity. The Chief Executive Officer, who is appointed by the Trustees, is responsible for carrying out the day-to-day management of the Charity. To facilitate effective operations, the Chief Executive Officer has delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the Trustees, for operational matters including finance, employment and Charity related activities. The Trustees normally meet quarterly during the year to receive reports on all aspects of the Charity's activities and finance. The Chief Executive Officer attends all meetings.

Senior Management Team

Kevin Gregory
Nina Mitchell-Mckoy

Chief Executive Officer
Officer Manager

Pay policy for senior staff

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees and the senior management team comprise the key management personnel of the Charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the Charity on a day-to-day basis. All Trustees give of their time freely and no trustee received remuneration in the year. Details of Trustees' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in Note 12 to the accounts.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The pay of the senior staff is reviewed annually and normally increased in accordance with average earnings. The Trustees benchmark against pay levels in other local charities of a similar size, which are run on a voluntary basis.

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

None of our Trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the Charity. Any connection between a Trustee or senior management of the Charity with service user, external contractor or supplier of services must be disclosed to the Board of Trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. In the current year no such related party transactions were reported.

All related party transactions are managed in accordance with the Charity's conflicts of interest policy. All transactions and activities involving organisations in which a Trustee may have an interest are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the Charity's financial and procurement procedures. Total reimbursed expenses made to Trustees are shown in Note 11.

In the current year no such related party transactions were reported.

Merton Talking Newspaper share our premises, and members or Trustees of this charity are potential trustees of Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind. Trustees who are members of this charity keep the separate interests at 'arm's length'.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Use of volunteers

MertonVision is grateful to all its volunteers, who carry out a variety of different tasks both in and out of the Charity. Our diverse range of volunteers have a variety of interests and reasons for wanting to support the Charity - from gaining experience at the start of their careers to using their wealth of experience and knowledge to meeting the needs of our communities. All our volunteers add value to our work and make a real difference to our clients and communities. Our volunteers are supported and overseen by our Volunteer Service Manager and are managed in accordance with the Volunteers policy.

Due to the size of the Charity, staff and volunteers work closely together and several of the existing staff originally began as volunteers. Volunteers are recruited on a rolling basis. Our volunteers are made up of different groups. There are those who work with the Charity offering support to the clients and staff, sometimes running activities.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Objects

The objects for which the Charity is established are to grant assistance to all blind and partially sighted people ordinarily resident in the London Borough of Merton and if the Trustees so determines elsewhere in England and Wales. The Charity operates using the trading name of MertonVision.

Aims

Our aim is to support and empower people with a visual impairment, from their diagnosis of permanent sight loss through the entire rehabilitative process, in whatever form is appropriate for them. This includes children, adults, people with dual sensory loss and people with other difficulties in addition to their visual loss.

Our services are informed by national guidelines and good practice, in particular 'Seeing it my way' which works to ensure that blind and partially sighted people can access the support, information and services needed for independent living.

We provide a 'pathway' of services and collaborate widely to ensure that as far as possible those needs are met.

Ensuring our work delivers our aims

We review our aims, objectives and activities each year. This review looks at what we achieved and the outcomes of our work in the previous 12 months. The review looks at the success of each key activity and the benefits they have brought to those groups of people we are set up to help.

The review also helps us ensure our aims, objectives and activities remained focused on our stated purposes. We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Following the Coronavirus pandemic our staff and volunteers continue to help those members and clients who cannot leave their home with a delivery service for shopping, prescriptions and in some cases household emergencies. Any lingering concerns, requirements and anxieties are being actioned and addressed. The Guardian Centre has reintroduced our normal program of activities and added more. Members are however still reluctant to return, perhaps because pre-pandemic routines were disrupted.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE Charitable activities

PEOPLE HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION ABOUT LIVING WITH SIGHT LOSS

We feel that this is best achieved through personal contact. During the past year we have had direct contact with 566 clients, with 3,601 telephone calls. We also made 106 home visits to deliver shopping, prescriptions, essential equipment and to help out with IT problems.

There were 302 new clients during the year.

The Guardian Centre is once again open Monday - Thursday 9 am to 5 pm and on Friday 9 am to 4 pm for personal and telephone callers, and at other times by appointment. In addition we provide:

Rehabilitation

MertonVision provides a comprehensive rehabilitation service for people with a visual impairment in Merton. The service is contracted from London Borough of Merton. Rehabilitation includes 'problem solving' to help individuals find solutions to the difficulties they may face, and gives them the skills, confidence and equipment to re-order their lives. This will include daily living skills such as cooking, personal care, mobility training and a wealth of information about what is available to help live with sight loss.

MertonVision receive CVI's directly from hospital eye clinics, this enables rehabilitation and support services to be offered quickly. The Association of Directors of Social Services guidelines state that the patient should be contacted within 2 weeks. The service has been offered to 135 adults. Our average wait time for first contact was 12.25 days.

Habilitation Children

MertonVision has a project for one day per week with London Borough of Merton SENDIS (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Integrated Service) to provide mobility and independence training for children in the borough who have a visual impairment. We sub-contract a qualified rehabilitation and mobility officer to fulfil this project. MertonVision also provide early assessment and daily living skills training as appropriate to the child's age and ability.

Benefits Advice

We have a volunteer who is able to assist with filling in basic forms such as Blue Badge and Taxi Card applications.

Newsletter and other information media

Our main publication is a bi-monthly newsletter, which is distributed to 392 people with a visual impairment and 30 volunteers, supporters and local organisations. Information includes local and national issues of interest to people with a visual impairment. Each person's personal preference is

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

accommodated, with standard or customised large print, Braille, email, and memory stick (MP3) format available.

Additionally we send information on a daily or ad hoc basis to those on our distribution list who have access to email with news and information as it arrives at MertonVision.

The MertonVision website is now supported by a new provider and is updated regularly, we are also using social media.

We work closely with Merton Talking Newspaper (MTN) to distribute MP3 players on permanent loan on their behalf. This ensures that people also have the appropriate equipment to listen to audio books and newsletters.

MertonVision is an agent for Wireless for the Blind, which provides specially adapted audio equipment for those in need.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE Charitable activities

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT AS APPROPRIATE IS OFFERED

Counselling service

While depression is not an inevitable consequence of vision impairment, it is common. An estimated one-third of older adults with vision loss report clinically significant depressive symptoms. Whether a person with vision loss becomes depressed appears to be more related to the impact the vision loss has on the person's functioning, rather than the severity of vision loss. We are now working in partnership with Wimbledon Guild of Social Welfare and Merton IAPPT who will provide counselling for our clients when required.

The Guardian Centre is fully operational and offers the following activities.

Peer Support

Peer support is often crucial to those newly diagnosed with enduring sight loss. By offering social opportunities MertonVision enables visually impaired people (especially those with a recent diagnosis) to meet with others who are living with sight loss and learn from each other. Our weekly daytime or special events encourage people to meet and socialise.

Weekly social activities

This includes coffee morning, social events and local peer support.

Lunch clubs

This gives people the opportunity to meet other people and enjoy a freshly prepared meal on Thursday. We know that many people live alone and are unlikely to cook. We provided approximately 215 lunches. New menus are being trialled and a second club aimed at younger clients offering curries, burgers and lasagne held on Tuesday.

Social events

MertonVision arrange social evenings, for example Burns night, Quizzes and Bridge tournaments. During the summer months we arrange trips out on our minibus to the seaside or places of interest. We are fortunate that many of our volunteers give up their free time to accompany and guide those

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

who need it.

Macular group

The local Macular Group meet bi-monthly at MertonVision. Everyone who has macular disease, friends or family are welcome.

Transport

To enable people to get to our base at the Guardian Centre and take up our services we employ a part time driver to drive our fully accessible minibus, and to manage a team of volunteer drivers. We also hire additional minibuses when required, to ensure that we can provide the service when needed.

All our drivers are required to undertake the Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme (MiDAS) training and certification.

Young people with a visual impairment

Most of our service users are elderly, therefore our services are geared towards the needs of older people. However, we had a 5-year funded project to employ a Working Age Outreach worker to focus on communicating with this hard-to-reach client group. This project, funded by Wimbledon Foundation, has come to an end and unfortunately will not be renewed. The worker assisted and advised visually impaired working age people in Merton.

The Powell Family have provided 2-year funding to provide regular activities for children and young people such as theatre visits, magic shows and animal interactions. This has allowed us to employ a full-time co-ordinator.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

PROVIDE PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS THEY MAY FACE

Home Support

We realised that many people with poor vision have difficulty resolving a problem at home that needs vision, so we set up a service in response to the need. We have helped with a variety of 'problems' for example, restoring the settings on a TV, delivery and setting up a talking microwave, fitting a replacement light bulb for a task lamp and doing a safety check. We also deliver and set up loan CCTV's and training on their use.

Daily Living Aids and Equipment Room

The resource centre offers the opportunity to try some of the practical or specialist equipment which people with a visual impairment may find useful. Equipment is available to buy. Some items are available on short-term loan so that people can try more expensive items in their own home first. Our agreement with the RNIB gives us ordering priority for our clients.

Low Vision Aids

We offer a Low Vision Aids service to people in the community who have been referred by local optometrist practices. The aim of the service is to enable people with low vision access to low vision aids (optical magnifiers) much earlier than the conventional route by referral to GP and subsequent hospital appointment. In addition to early referral, this project allows for a more 'person centred'

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

approach, so that the patient emerges with greater skills in using their magnifiers. The service is funded by the Merton Clinical Commissioning Group, and is available at MertonVision by appointment.

Social and Adult Learning Activities

IT training

We have an accessible IT Suite equipped with 6 PC's with large monitors and accessible software. We give training on the use of the integral magnification and other specialist software, as well as using the computer. We have a part time, in-house IT Support Trainer. MertonVision provides training for using 'tablets' (iPad and ePad), as these seem particularly accessible for people without previous computer skills. We also have a qualified 'Guide' trainer to help people to set up and use 'Guide' accessible software at home.

Arts and Crafts

We employ an Arts and Craft tutor for one session per week to accommodate people with a visual impairment.

Braille training

We offer regular Braille reading tuition classes.

Falls prevention

We offer a weekly Falls Prevention Chair Based Exercise Class, which helps to deliver the Falls Strategy for Older People locally.

Falls are usually caused by one or more of four triggers: trips and hazards, polypharmacy (more than four medications) poor muscle tone or poor vision. We have been working closely with Merton Falls Prevention Lead (NHS) to add a simple sight-screening tool when assessing those who are referred to their service. Those who failed were given our information about eye tests, cheaper options for spectacles and the number to call if they need a domiciliary visit. We are hoping the screening tool will be rolled out to more community assessors.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

PROVIDE PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS THEY MAY FACE

Volunteer Services

The main focus of our volunteer services is to provide a Home Visiting Service to people with a visual impairment. This service provides a trained volunteer to people who need additional help not provided at the Guardian Centre.

Our full time Volunteer Service Manager recruits, trains and supports volunteers for a variety of roles within MertonVision. All volunteers undertake enhanced DBS checks. The volunteers have given 2632.50 hours of their time to support our clients.

We are pleased that we can accommodate volunteers from diverse cultures and those with disabilities. We are very grateful to our volunteers, without whom many of our services would not run.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

The Chief Executive Officer gives talks to community groups on the work of MertonVision. We also provide Visual Impairment Awareness Training.

During the year we have worked or collaborated with the following organisations to improve services locally for people with a visual impairment.

Close collaboration means that we can refer clients (with their permission) to other services or organisations where their need can be met.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Merton Clinical Commissioning Group | • MVSC |
| • LBM Library service | • RSBC |
| • LBM Social services | • London Vision |
| • LBM Education Dept. | • Sight For Surrey |
| • | • |
| • Merton Public Health Team | • Wandsworth Commissioning Team |
| • LBM Ageing Well Programme Phase 2 | • Vision Foundation |
| • Wimbledon Guild of Social Welfare | • Wimbledon Foundation |
| • Age UK Merton | • Commonsense Trust |
| • Merton Community Transport | • Merton Chamber of Commerce |
| • Safer Neighbourhood team | • Wimbledon Dons |
| • Merton Asian Elderly group | • The Powell Family |
| • Thomas Pocklington Trust | • Sutton Vision |
| | • Croydon Vision |

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Transcription Services

Providers of written information are required to offer accessible formats such as large print, Braille and audio.

We are pleased that we are able to offer a transcription service free to our members and on a commercial basis to our customers. MertonVision is the preferred provider of braille transcription to the London Borough of Merton.

MertonVision is a member of COTIS (Confederation of Transcribed Information Services).

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

FINANCIAL REVIEW

When we were approached over 9 years ago by a developer who wanted to demolish our building and supply a purpose-built new home for MertonVision, at no cost to us, on the ground floor it excelled our wildest dreams. On the top floor, in collaboration with the local NHS Commissioning Group, home for two GP practices. NHS England promised to contribute £1M towards the project. Constant demands for higher rents from the NHS for the GP surgeries and increases in building costs caused the developer to walk away. Top heavy bureaucracy within the NHS Commissioning Group and a complete lack of urgency caused the £1M funding offer to lapse. The NHS refuse to put in writing that the project has ended, which because of our 'restricted freehold' on the land is causing problems with any venture with the London Borough of Merton. Utterly frustrating. The Trustees will continue to remain steadfastly committed to ensuring a sustainable organisation for the benefit of its service users. The Trustees consider the overall financial performance of the Charity for the year to be extremely positive thanks to year 2 of the National Lottery grant.

As in the previous year the Charity's income is project led but also remains heavily reliant on the public sector funds with the Local Authority. The Wimbledon Foundation project to engage a Working Age Outreach Worker has ended and will not be extended. The grant from the National Lottery in respect of funding the extra cost of transporting members and clients to attend activities at the Wilson Hospital consequently, the ending of the project has meant that the grant has been repaid. Thanks to a 2-year grant from the Powell Family worth £34,125 this year, MertonVision was able to implement its long-awaited Children's and Young Person's Project. Finally, grants from Vision Foundation for cost-of-living increases and building repairs £9,000 and £32,000 from NHS SW London ICB for Loneliness and Isolation Outreach Work were also received. There have been some changes during the year within the other categories of income.

The Charity's Trustees wish to express our sincere gratitude to all our grant funders, listed in note 3 on page 24 of these accounts, for their support during the year.

The Charity's incoming resources have increased by 14.45% to £580,156 (2023: £506,889) due to the grants listed above. The Charity's expenditure has increased to £528,008 (2023: £437,043) due to additional costs associated with the National Lottery grant. The net effect of the above is an increase in total reserves of £52,148 (2023: £69,846).

The Charity's Trustees will continually attempt to keep the cost structure of the organisation stable and tightly controlled.

Future plans

Going back to the building project, for over 9 years no repairs were undertaken on the buildings because we had always assumed that they would eventually be demolished and therefore be a waste of our funds. The centre now needs to be totally recommissioned requiring a new roof, heating system, complete rewiring to gain a new Electrical Certificate, gas and fire inspections and any resulting costs. Then redecoration works to bring the property back to a suitable state to welcome staff, clients, members and guests.

This is a huge expense, which MertonVision cannot fund on its own, so we are frantically looking for external funding.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The National Lottery grant has transformed the Charity's finances with the exciting prospect of having 1 more year left to run. After our year 2 progress report, our funding manager commented that it was the best and most encouraging he had ever seen, but unfortunately he cannot sit on the panel to consider funding extensions. Special congratulations to the Outreach Team, the Chief Executive Officer, his staff and the volunteers once again.

Thanks to a 1-year grant from Merton Borough of Sport (Clarion Futures) worth £4,930 for two-thirds of the cost of a new Martial Arts and self-defence class for visually impaired children, young person's and adults.

Our Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has had discussions with our National Lottery funding manager about a possible underspend of grant funds at the end of June 2025. He will allow a certain amount to be spent on the Centre refurbishment and to pay the Outreach team for July 2025. In December 2024 our CEO will put forward a bid to the National Lottery to try and extend the grant funding for another 3 years. The very favourable response to our year 2 report should hopefully give us a good chance.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Investment policy and objectives

The Trustees, having regard to the liquidity requirements of operating the Charity, have kept available funds in an interest-bearing deposit account and seek to achieve a rate on deposit which matches or exceeds inflation as measured by the retail prices index.

The Trustees have designated the Emily Wells legacy (£51,526) as an income-generating fund. The Trustees have explored suitable short-term investments to generate income on the remainder of their free reserves. These investments have been placed with different banking institutions to mitigate any possible losses the institutions might suffer.

Reserves policy and going concern

At a committee meeting held on 11 March 2021 to address the continuing economic uncertainties ahead and the inability to attract new core funding the Trustees agreed to change their previously established policy, whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in fixed assets (the free reserves) held by the Charity should be up to six rather than twelve months of the resources expended, which now equates to approximately £264,000. At this level the Board of Trustees feel that they would still be able to continue the current activities of the Charity in the event of a significant drop in funding.

Risk management

The Trustees have reviewed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, in particular to operations and finances. Operational risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures and policies, with a regular review of these to ensure current good practice. A disaster plan to ensure business continuity in the event of unplanned events has been prepared. The Trustees have identified the inherent risks associated with having one primary funding source. Our reserves policy mitigates some of the risks of loss of funding. The Trustees have implemented and augmented a fundraising programme.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

Company law requires the Charity's Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the Trustees must not approve the Financial statements unless they are satisfied they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- :
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP 2019 (FRS102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:



H A Cowd - Chairman

21 November 2024

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

I report to the Charity's Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 18 to 32.

Respective and basis of report

As the Charity's Trustees of the charitable company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

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

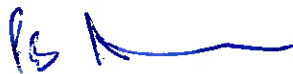
Independent examiner's report

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in Section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the charitable company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those accounting records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- (4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended practice for accounting and reporting by charities.

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



Gareth Rees FCA CTA
On behalf of
PB Associates
2 Castle Business Village
Station Road
Hampton
Middlesex
TW12 2BX

21/4/2024

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

				2024	2023
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
INCOME	Notes	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	63,474	-	63,474	25,959
Income from charitable activities:	3				
Grants		122,467	253,815	376,282	245,566
Charitable Activities		7,780	-	7,780	11,960
Contracted services		124,706	-	124,706	219,637
Other trading activities:					
Fundraising and events	4	511	-	511	1,459
Investment income	5	7,403	-	7,403	2,308
Total Income		326,341	253,815	580,156	506,889
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds	6	340	-	340	475
Charitable activities:					
Charity Activities	7	294,304	233,364	527,668	436,568
Total expenditure		294,644	233,364	528,008	437,043
NET Income/(expenditure) before transfers		31,697	20,451	52,148	69,846
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
NET Income/(expenditure) after transfers		31,697	20,451	52,148	69,846
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS	19				
Total funds brought forward		498,836	87,324	586,160	516,314
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		530,533	107,775	638,308	586,160
		=====	=====	=====	=====

CONTINUING OPERATIONS

All incoming resources and resources expended arise from continuing activities.

The notes form part of these financial statements

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2024

				2024	2023
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Total Funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	15	52,799	4,898	57,697	58,787
Investments	16	25,000	-	25,000	25,000
		<u>77,799</u>	<u>4,898</u>	<u>82,697</u>	<u>83,787</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks		633	-	633	633
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	17	27,345	5,335	32,680	49,584
Cash at bank and in hand		434,909	105,301	540,210	468,179
		<u>462,887</u>	<u>110,636</u>	<u>573,523</u>	<u>518,396</u>
LIABILITIES					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	18	(10,153)	(7,759)	(17,912)	(16,023)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>452,734</u>	<u>102,877</u>	<u>555,611</u>	<u>502,373</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>£530,533</u>	<u>£107,775</u>	<u>£638,308</u>	<u>£586,160</u>
TOTAL FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Unrestricted Funds	19			530,533	498,836
Restricted Funds	19			107,775	87,324
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>£638,308</u>	<u>£586,160</u>

The Trustees consider that the charitable company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to have an audit under the provisions of section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 ("the Act") relating to small companies and members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

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

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 21 November 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

H A Cowd – Chairman and Trustee

S J Moore – Treasurer and Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

CASHFLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	2024	2023
Cashflows from Operating Activities		
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities (see note below)	£72,031	£47,996
	=====	=====
Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents in the Reporting Period	72,031	47,996
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of the Reporting Period	468,179	420,183
	-----	-----
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of the Reporting Period	£540,210	£468,179
	=====	=====
Reconciliation of Net Income/Expenditure to Net Cashflow from Operating Activities		
Net Income/(Expenditure) for the Reporting Period (per Statement of Financial Activities)	52,148	69,846
Depreciation	6,788	4,125
(Increase) in Debtors	16,904	(18,383)
Increase in Creditors	1,889	3,494
Purchase of Fixed Assets	(5,698)	(11,086)
	-----	-----
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	£72,031	£47,996
	=====	=====
Analysis of Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash at Bank	£540,210	£468,179
	=====	=====

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Company status

Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales. The registered office and company registration number are detailed on page 1.

Basis of preparation

Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

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 Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are presented in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The Trustees have considered the company's balance sheet, trading activity and estimated cash flows for a period of at least 12 months from the date these financial statements were signed and have concluded that the charity will continue to be able to meet its obligations as these fall due.

Judgement and key sources of estimation uncertainty

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

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

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees. Unrestricted funds include designated funds where the Trustees, at their discretion, have created a fund for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the Charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Where necessary, a quarterly report is sent to the donor detailing the expenditure.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in Note 20 on pages 30 & 31 of the financial statements.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Income

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Income is deferred only when the Charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or where the donor has specified that the income is to be expended in future period.

Donated services or facilities are recognised when the Charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use of the Charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. Some of the management and activity of the Charity is carried out by volunteers. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the volunteer time is not recognised and refer to the Trustees' report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the Charity which is the amount the Charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make 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. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure headings having regard to the nature of the expenditure.

Expenditure for raising funds includes only directly related costs for traditional fundraising including staff time where applicable. All roles within the senior management team that have fundraising responsibility in its broader sense of restricted income generation in the form of, for example, larger multi-year statutory grants remain within costs for charitable activities. This is to ensure that the fundraising income and costs shown in the Statement of Financial Activities relate to each other and can be reasonably compared.

Grants paid to individuals

Certain grants are applied for on behalf of clients and where these applications are successful; the amounts received are expended in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant application.

Donated services and facilities

Gifts are recorded as received however, as the value of most gifts received cannot be measured reliably these are not included in the accounts.

Voluntary help

A certain amount of time is expended on the Charity's activities, which is donated free of charge, which includes pro bono counselling and therapist time. It is not possible to quantify the value of time given and accordingly it is neither recorded as donated income nor as an expense in the accounts.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

Since 1 August 2016 employees were able to join the money purchase scheme, which has been established in compliance with the regulations on workplace pensions under the Pensions Act 2008. Employees were automatically enrolled into the money purchase scheme unless they have exercised their right to opt out of scheme membership.

Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

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

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or valuation less depreciation. Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Asset Category	Annual Rate
Freehold buildings	Fully depreciated
Computer equipment	33% on cost
Plant and machinery	20% on cost
Office furniture and fittings	25% on reducing balance
Motor vehicles	20% on reducing balance

Investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The income arising on the investments is shown under investment income in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Gains and losses on investment assets disposed of are shown as gains and losses in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Stocks

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

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account, as well as cash in hand held by Charity at the year end.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are recognised at the invoiced cost prepaid.

Creditors and Provisions

Creditors and provisions 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 and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

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. Accordingly it is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income and capital gains received to the extent that such income or gains are applied to exclusively charitable purposes. No provision for taxation has been made in these financial statements.

2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Donations	17,394	25,107
Contribution towards accounts intern salary	9,082	4,541
Legacies	36,554	-
Membership	444	852
	<u>63,474</u>	<u>30,500</u>

Income from Donations was £63,474 (2023: £30,500) all of which was unrestricted in both financial years.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

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

3. INCOME RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activity	2024	2023
		£	£
Grants	Grants	376,282	245,566
Activities income	Charitable Activities	326	257
Fees received	Charitable Activities	1,064	4,156
Catering income	Charitable Activities	559	1,130
Hall Hire	Charitable Activities	3,280	4,354
Members club sales	Charitable Activities	1,276	967
Other income	Charitable Activities	-	218
Transport charges	Charitable Activities	1,276	878
Access to Work	Contracted Services	34,757	41,497
Maintenance of LBM register	Contracted Services	1,184	1,292
Merton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)	Contracted Services	2,366	2,684
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Contracted Services	(1,988)	21,869
Rehabilitation Charges	Contracted Services	88,386	128,239
PHP Primary care	Contracted Services	-	24,056
		<u>508,768</u>	<u>477,163</u>

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
London Borough of Merton	81,467	54,715
Merton Connect Work with Children	-	469
Wimbledon Foundation (restricted grant)	25,000	25,000
Thomas Powell Foundation (restricted grant)	34,125	-
The National Lottery Community Fund (restricted grant)	(10,000)	10,000
Merton Connect Vaccination Championships	-	2,500
DWP - Access to Work (restricted grant)	28,486	18,259
Other Small Grants	-	108
NHS South West London (part restricted grant)	32,500	500
Big Lottery (restricted grant)	175,704	129,665
Everyone Health (restricted grant)	-	4,350
Vision foundation for London	9,000	-
	<u>376,282</u>	<u>245,566</u>

4. FUNDRAISING AND EVENTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Fundraising events	259	-
MVAB Lottery	-	168
100 Club	252	468
Quiz Night	-	823
	<u>511</u>	<u>1,459</u>

All of the Charity's Fundraising income of £511 (2023: £1,459) is unrestricted.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

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

5. INVESTMENT INCOME	2024 £	2023 £
Deposit account interest	6,550	1,938
Investment income	853	370
	<u>7,403</u>	<u>2,308</u>
	=====	=====

All of the Charity's investment income of £7,403 (2023: £2,308) arises from money held in interest bearing deposit accounts and is unrestricted.

6. RAISING FUNDS COSTS	2024 £	2023 £
Publicity and fundraising cost	50	70
100 club prizes	290	405
	<u>340</u>	<u>475</u>
	=====	=====

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS	Direct costs £	Governance costs £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Charity Activities	518,396	9,272	527,668	436,568
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>518,396</u>	<u>9,272</u>	<u>527,668</u>	<u>436,568</u>
	=====	=====	=====	=====

8. ANALYSIS OF DIRECT COSTS	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 Totals £	2023 Totals £
Wages and salaries	240,339	167,371	407,710	365,797
Other staff costs	2,349	15,066	17,415	3,417
Volunteer expenses	-	248	248	379
Direct project costs	7,512	-	7,512	2,360
Premises costs	14,834	21,125	35,959	22,751
Office costs	19,998	29,554	49,552	34,014
Grants paid to individuals	-	-	-	250
	<u>285,032</u>	<u>233,364</u>	<u>518,396</u>	<u>428,968</u>
	=====	=====	=====	=====

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

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

9. GOVERNANCE COSTS	2024	2023
	£	£
Accountancy	1,337	1,260
HR fees	2,863	2,863
Independent Examiner fees	2,063	1,943
Legal fees	1,200	13
Payroll fees	360	360
Subscriptions and fees	1,449	1,161
	<u>9,272</u>	<u>7,600</u>
10. NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES		
Net resources are stated after charging/(crediting):		
Independent Examiner's fees	2,063	1,943
Depreciation - owned assets	6,788	4,125
	<u></u>	<u></u>
11. STAFF COSTS		
Gross Wages	370,638	333,937
Employers National Insurance	26,876	22,819
Pension costs	10,196	9,041
	<u>407,710</u>	<u>365,797</u>

No employees had employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2023: £60,000). Pension costs are allocated to activities in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred.

The key management personnel of the Charity comprise of the Trustees, the Chief Executive Officer and the Office Manager. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £68,563 (2023: £74,785).

The average monthly number of employees (including casual and part time staff) during the year was as follows:

	2024 No	2023 No
Senior Management Team	2	2
Other Direct Charitable Staff	9	11
	<u>11</u>	<u>13</u>

12. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

The Charity Trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the Charity in the year (2023: £Nil) During the year, no Trustees were reimbursed for disbursements (2023: £Nil) in respect of fundraising and other related expenses.

No charity Trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the Charity (2023: £Nil).

13. PENSION COSTS

The Charity has a defined contribution pension scheme, which all employees are entitled to join. From 1 April 2019 the Charity contributes 3% and the employees contribute a minimum of 5%, however employees may make further additional voluntary contributions.

During the year ended 31 March 2024, the Charity's total contributions amounted to £10,196 (2023: £9,041). The Trustees are satisfied that any foreseeable change in employer's contributions can be budgeted for without detriment to the Charity's on-going activities.

14. TRANSACTIONS AND RELATED PARTIES

There were no related party transactions during the year or the previous year, other than the remuneration of key management personnel set out in Note 11.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

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

15. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST					
At 1 April 2023	108,541	37,800	27,295	90,980	264,616
Additions	-	-	-	5,698	5,698
Disposals	-	-	-	(12,815)	(12,815)
At 31 March 2024	108,541	37,800	27,295	83,863	257,499
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 April 2023	58,521	36,818	26,901	83,589	205,829
Charge for year		246	79	6,463	6,788
Eliminated on disposal	-	-	-	(12,815)	(12,815)
At 31 March 2024	58,521	37,064	26,980	77,237	199,802
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 March 2024	50,020	736	315	6,626	57,697
At 31 March 2023	50,020	982	394	7,391	58,787

16. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2024 £	2023 £
National Savings Income Bonds - valued at cost	25,000	25,000

17. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

Other debtors & accrued income	27,971	44,397
Prepayments	4,709	5,187
	32,680	49,584

18. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

Trade creditors	922	3,024
Other creditors	330	1,209
Accruals	16,660	11,790
	17,912	16,023

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

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

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

Current Year	At 1/4/23 £	Net movement In funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31/3/24 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	172,539	31,697	(15,000)	189,236
Designated - Emily Wells Memorial Fund	51,526	-	-	51,526
Designated - General Building Maintenance	104,131	-	80,000	184,131
Designated - Gym Equipment	15,000	-	(15,000)	-
Designated - Hall Refurbishment	10,640	-	10,000	20,640
Designated - High Tech Loan Equipment	15,000	-	(15,000)	-
Designated - IT and other Equipment	45,000	-	(45,000)	-
Designated - New Minibus	-	-	15,000	15,000
Designated - Removal Costs	20,000	-	-	20,000
Designated - Resource Room Equipment	15,000	-	(15,000)	-
Designated - Social Club Refurbishment	50,000	-	-	50,000
	498,836	31,697	-	530,533
Restricted funds				
Access to Work	7,390	(2,492)	-	4,898
Dora and Leslie Barter Conservatory Fund	6,250	-	-	6,250
Hearing Impaired Children	454	-	-	454
Wimbledon Foundation	14,167	2,295	-	16,462
Everyone Health	4,080	(1,400)	-	2,680
National Lottery Community Fund	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Big Lottery	44,983	31,548	-	76,531
Thomas Powell Family Foundation	-	-	-	-
HHS South West London	-	500	-	500
	87,324	20,451	-	107,775
TOTAL FUNDS	586,160	52,148	-	638,308

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

	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Movement In Funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	326,341	(294,644)	31,697
	326,341	(294,644)	31,697
Restricted funds			
Access to Work	28,486	(30,978)	(2,492)
Wimbledon Foundation	25,000	(22,705)	2,295
Everyone Health	-	(1,400)	(1,400)
Thomas Powell Family Foundation	34,125	(34,125)	-
National Lottery Community Fund	(10,000)	-	(10,000)
Big Lottery	175,704	(144,156)	31,548
NHS South West London	500	-	500
	253,815	(233,364)	20,451
TOTAL FUNDS	580,156	(528,008)	52,148

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

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

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS continued
Comparative Year

	At 1/4/22 £	Net movement In funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31/3/23 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	114,820	2,719	55,000	172,539
Designated - Emily Wells Memorial Fund	51,526	-	-	51,526
Designated - General Building Maintenance	104,131	-	-	104,131
Designated - Gym Equipment	15,000	-	-	15,000
Designated - Hall Refurbishment	10,640	-	-	10,640
Designated - High Tech Loan Equipment	15,000	-	-	15,000
Designated - IT and other Equipment	45,000	-	-	45,000
Designated - Minibus	55,000	-	(55,000)	-
Designated - Removal Costs	20,000	-	-	20,000
Designated - Resource Room Equipment	15,000	-	-	15,000
Designated - Social Club Refurbishment	50,000	-	-	50,000
	496,117	2,719	-	498,836
Restricted funds				
Access to Work	-	7,390	-	7,390
Dora and Leslie Barter Conservatory Fund	6,250	-	-	6,250
Hearing Impaired Children	454	-	-	454
Wimbledon Foundation	10,828	3,339	-	14,167
Wimbledon Foundation-Child activities	687	(687)	-	-
Merton Connect IT Project	1,978	(1,978)	-	-
Everyone Health	-	4,080	-	4,080
National Lottery Community Fund	-	10,000	-	10,000
Big Lottery	-	44,983	-	44,983
	20,197	67,127	-	87,324
TOTAL FUNDS	516,314	69,846	-	586,160

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

	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Movement In Funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	319,615	(316,896)	2,719
	319,615	(316,896)	2,719
Restricted funds			
Access to Work	18,259	(10,869)	7,390
Wimbledon Foundation	25,000	(21,661)	3,339
Wimbledon Foundation-Child activities	-	(687)	(687)
Merton Connected IT Project	-	(1,978)	(1,978)
Everyone Health	4,350	(270)	4,080
National Lottery Community Fund	10,000	-	10,000
Big Lottery	129,665	(84,682)	44,983
	187,274	(120,147)	67,127
TOTAL FUNDS	506,889	(437,043)	69,846

20. FUNDS DETAILS

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Funds have been designated as follows:

Emily Wells Memorial Fund

This capital amount was designated in committee to provide revenue.

General Buildings Maintenance

The Trustees have taken advice on the risks involved in owning a large building and the likely repair and maintenance needs over the longer term. This amount has been set aside to meet large repair and maintenance needs.

Hall Refurbishment

The Trustees have agreed to refurbish the hall area.

Removal Costs

In a prior year, the Trustees have decided to set-up a fund to cover possible, unforeseen expenditure on our decampment during the reconstruction of The Guardian Centre.

Social Club Refurbishment

The Trustees have agreed to update and refurbish the social club area. Following a donation from the social club bank account and to recognise its source, it was decided in committee to increase the fund by a similar amount to a total now of £50,000.

New Minibus

The Trustees have agreed to transfer from General Reserves £15,000 to signify our firm contribution towards a new minibus.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

Access to Work

Funding received from the Department for Work and Pensions for various equipment and expenses by a visually impaired members of staff to assist them in carrying out their employment. Certain items of computer equipment were capitalised and are being depreciated.

20. FUNDS DETAILS - continued

The Dora and Leslie Barter Conservatory Fund

In accordance with the provisions of the Dora Barter legacy the funds donated therein are to be applied to the building of a new conservatory.

Hearing Impaired Children

Funding received from Wimbledon District Nursing and Midwifery Benevolent Society to enable hearing-impaired children to join the Eye Can Do It programme.

Wimbledon Foundation

We secured five year project funding to engage a Working Age Outreach Worker to develop social and peer support activities and to promote the take up of statutory and voluntary services for working age people with impaired vision in Merton. The project provides £25,000 per annum to cover salary costs, expenses and overheads of the Outreach Worker until 31 March 2024.

Everyone Health

A grant of £4,350 was received to support our new No One Left Behind, chair based, exercise classes.

Big Lottery

A 3 year grant to support our Outreach Team who recruit and train volunteers to assist our members and clients to live better lives despite their visual impairment.

Thomas Powell Family Foundation

A 2-year grant to support our Children's and Young Person's project, which provides regular activities for our younger members.

NHS South West London

Provision of services grant from 19 February 2024 to 31 May 2025 to Health Watch Sutton.

21. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

The Charity has authorised and contracted for expenditure of £Nil. The Charity has authorised but not contracted for expenditure of £Nil in its capital budget for the upcoming year.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

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

22. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

INCOME	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
Income and endowments from: Donations and legacies	25,959	-	25,959
Income from charitable activities:			
Grants	58,292	187,274	245,566
Charitable Activities	11,960	-	11,960
Contracted services	219,637	-	219,637
Other trading activities:			
Fundraising and events	1,459	-	1,459
Investment income	2,308	-	2,308
Total Income	319,615	187,274	506,889
EXPENDITURE ON:			
Raising funds	475	-	475
Charitable activities:			
Charity Activities	316,421	120,147	436,568
Total expenditure	316,896	120,147	437,043
NET Income/(expenditure) before transfers	2,719	67,127	69,846
NET Income/(expenditure) after transfers	2,719	67,127	69,846

The following pages do not form part of the financial statements.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
INCOME		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	17,394	20,566
Contribution towards accounts intern salary	9,082	4,541
Legacies	36,554	-
Membership	444	852
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Fundraising Income	63,474	25,959
Fundraising	259	823
MVAB Lottery	-	168
100 Club	252	468
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Investment income	511	1,459
Deposit Account Interest	6,550	1,938
Investment Income	853	370
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Income from charitable activities	7,403	2,308
Grants		
Compensation for avoidable overheads incurred	376,282	245,566
Activities Fees	-	24,056
Fees Received	326	257
Catering Income	1,064	4,156
Hall Hire	559	1,130
Members Club Sales	3,280	4,354
Other Income	1,276	967
Transport Charges	-	218
Access to work	1,276	878
Maintenance of LBM register	34,757	41,497
Merton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)	1,184	1,292
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	2,366	2,684
Rehabilitation Charges	(1,988)	21,869
	88,386	128,239
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	508,768	477,163
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Total Income	580,156	506,889
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MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
EXPENDITURE		
Raising Funds Costs	50	70
Publicity and fundraising cost	290	405
100 Club Prizes		
	340	475
Charitable Activities		
Wages	370,638	322,995
Redundancy Pay	-	10,942
Employer's National Insurance	26,876	22,819
Pension	10,196	9,041
Volunteer costs	301	155
Insurance	5,214	4,725
Light, heat and water rates	13,204	11,676
Rates	1,465	1,382
Telephone	4,151	2,955
Postage and Stationery	5,275	3,719
Sundries	2,040	593
Transport costs	4,463	3,345
Travel costs	2,679	1,425
Office cleaning and materials	9,633	1,678
Activity costs	4,427	996
Catering expenses	2,973	1,344
Members club purchases	-	360
Computer and IT costs	10,429	9,347
Repairs and maintenance	7,969	4,916
Access to work equipment	24,946	7,174
Staff training	3,904	2,389
Bank charges	439	416
Resales	386	201
Grants to individuals	-	250
Depreciation of fixtures and fittings	6,788	4,125
	518,396	428,968
Governance costs		
Accountancy	1,337	1,260
Independent Examiners fees	2,063	1,943
HR fees	2,863	2,863
Legal fees	1,200	13
Payroll Fees	360	360
Subscriptions and fees	1,449	1,161
	9,272	7,600
Total Expenditure	528,008	437,043
Net Income (expenses)	52,148	69,846

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements