

Company registration number 03758661 (England and Wales)

Charity registration number 1075388 (England and Wales)

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

R Bowman
S R D Coates
W A Busbridge
H A Cowd
F M Hibbert
S J Moore
V A Morrison
F P Pugh

Senior Management Team

Kevin Gregory
Nina Mitchell-Mckoy

Chief Executive officer
Office manager

Country of incorporation

United Kingdom
(England and Wales)

03758661

Charity registration

England and Wales

1075388

Registered office

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

Independent examiner

J A Rickler, FCA
Alwyns LLP
Crown House
151 High Road
Loughton
Essex
IG10 4LG

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

CONTENTS

	Page
Trustees report	1 - 10
Statement of Trustees responsibilities	11
Independent examiner's report	12
Statement of financial activities	13 - 14
Balance sheet	15
Notes to the financial statements	16 - 29

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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 and the financial statements for the period ended 31 March 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charitable Company's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)".

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.

Public benefit

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the Charitable Company should undertake.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Article 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 the 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.

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 a 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.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the Charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the Charity are set out in Note 11 to the accounts.

Ruth Bowman will resign at the next AGM, also 4 new Trustees Rachel Burrell, Sue Fairbairn, Trevor Hall and Nikki Hughes were co-opted on 11 September 2025 election to be ratified at the next AGM.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the period and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

R Bowman

S R D Coates

W A Busbridge

H A Cowd

F M Hibbert

S J Moore

V A Morrison

F P Pugh

Recruitment and appointment of 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 the Trustees are required to retire by rotation but may be re-elected.

None of the Trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the Trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

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.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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 Chief Executive Officer
Nina Mitchell-Mckoy 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 11 to the accounts.

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 trustees of Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind. Trustees who are members of this charity keep the separate interests at 'arm's length'.

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.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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.

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 511 clients, with 2,985 telephone calls. We also made 116 home visits to deliver shopping, prescriptions, essential equipment and to help out with IT problems.

There were 109 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.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

MertonVision receive Certificates of Visual Impairment (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 131 adults. Our average wait time for first contact was 4.6 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 376 people with a visual impairment and 46 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 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.

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.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

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 335 lunches.

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 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, The Powell Family Foundation have provided 2-year funding to provide regular activities for children and young people such as theatre visits, magic shows, animal interactions and even fun extreme events such as a slime workshop. This has allowed us to employ a full-time co-ordinator, who received an award from Visionary for her outstanding work and an extension of the project.

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' 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.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

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.

Martial Arts and Self-Defence Classes

A grant from Merton Borough of Sport (sponsored by Clarion Futures) has allowed us to employ a fully qualified instructor to run these weekly sessions for VI children and adults. The enjoyment, enthusiasm and respect for the instructor of the younger members is a joy to watch.

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 1112 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.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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 • Sight For Surrey
- LBM Education Dept. • Guide Dogs for the Blind
- Merton Public Health Team • Vision Foundation
- LBM Ageing Well Programme Phase 2 • Wimbledon Foundation
- Wimbledon Guild of Social Welfare • Commonsense Trust
- Age UK Merton • Merton Chamber of Commerce
- Merton Community Transport • Wimbledon Dons
- Safer Neighbourhood team • Kingston Association for the Blind
- Thomas Pocklington Trust • Sutton Vision
- The Powell Family Foundation • Croydon Vision

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).

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The future of our 'restricted freehold' site is still uncertain, the London Borough of Merton are procrastinating over the release of the covenant and the officer dealing with negotiations has left the council. We have another developer keen to undertake a project but will not commit unless the covenant is removed. Most of the works to the centre have been completed with the exception of the heating system. The roof has been patched-up, complete rewiring, gas and fire remedial work and redecoration of the classrooms on the ground floor. The total cost to our bottom line being £81,500 less permission from the National Lottery to use £20,000 of the grant monies to fund the electrical work. The Trustees will continue to remain steadfastly committed to ensuring a sustainable organisation for the benefit of its service users. The Charity's Trustees consider the overall financial performance of the Charity for the year to be extremely disappointing due to a number of factors. Repair costs as above and the loss of grants from Wimbledon Foundation £25,000 and NHS SW London ICB £32,000 plus no legacies, £36,500 received last year.

As in the previous years the Charity's income is project led but also remains heavily reliant on the public sector funds with the Local Authority. Thanks to a 2-year grant from the Powell Family worth £32,582 this year, MertonVision was able to implement its long-awaited Children's and Young Person's Project. Finally a grant of £4,930 from Merton Borough of Sport (sponsored by Clarion Futures) was also received to set-up Martial Arts and self-defence classes. 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 20 of these accounts, for their support during the year.

The Charity's incoming resources have decreased by 23.74% to £442,411 (2024: £580,156) due to the reasons listed above. The Charity's expenditure has increased to £555,035 (2024: £528,008) due to exceptional costs associated with premises repairs. The net effect of the above is a decrease in total reserves of £112,624 (2024: increase £52,148).

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

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Future plans

Our Civic Pride Grant worth £81,467 per annum, has been extended for a further year by the London Borough of Merton and will now end 31 March 2027.

The original National Lottery Grant was completed at the end of June 2025, final reports were submitted and agreed with zero underspend. Due to its outstanding success, our Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has been able to secure a new 3 year grant worth almost £500,000 over that term, which began on 20 August 2025. The first half-yearly instalment of £83,754 was received shortly after. The Community Control Project addresses the isolation and exclusion experienced by people in Merton who are partially sighted, blind or have hearing impairments, with particular attention to vulnerable populations including LGBT+ individuals, those experiencing homelessness and survivors of domestic abuse. These individuals face compounded barriers and are often underrepresented in healthcare and social activities due to limited public awareness, prejudice and systematic failures.

Due to outstanding work and commitment by our CYP outreach worker, The Thomas Powell Family Foundation have extended their funding, worth £102,651 in total for a further 3 years.

After the loss of the £32,000 NHS ICB Grant in last years accounts, our CEO and other affected local charities lobbied Merton Connected to seek a solution. They have persuaded Merton Giving to cover the fund for 2025/26.

Although the Wimbledon Foundation Outreach Project has come to an end, they have further supported us by providing a one-off Capital Building Award of £50,000 in May 2025 to offset the major improvement works carried out to the Guardian Centre last year. Further improvement works, currently totalling £51,690 have been made on 2 new fire safety doors, renovations to the washrooms and painting the lobby, kitchen, main hall, staircase and upper floor offices. New desktop computers and other IT equipment, which support Windows 11, have been purchased and installed for all staff at a cost of £12,211 in August 2025.

The adult rehabilitation contract with the London Borough of Merton (LBM) has been renewed, the fees have been increased and backdated to 1 April 2025. The contract is for one year from 1 August 2025 and allows for a part-time assistant. Congratulations to our Vision Rehabilitation Specialist who has now successfully completed her university qualification in children's Habilitation work and has been promoted to Senior Rehab Officer. A new Habilitation contract is being negotiated with LBM.

Thomas Pocklington Trust has granted MertonVision a subsidised Communications Officer internship, the successful candidate will maintain the new website and all the charity's social media communications.

Merton Talking Newspaper Association have not been administered properly since 2022 and in an effort to resurrect the charity for the future benefit of our existing and new subscribers an EGM was held on 31 July 2025. Certain Trustees and officers were retired, a small amendment made to the Constitution and 4 new Trustees appointed. Two of which are MertonVision Trustees, Wayne Busbridge and Steven Moore who will try and mend ties with bankers and the Charity Commission as soon as possible.

There is a problem with the Council Tax on Emily Villa (EV) 65, Clarendon Road. The main building, number 67 has always been exempt from Rates and latterly Council Tax. However, EV is split into 2 halves. Upstairs is classed as residential from when we had a live-in caretaker many years ago and is ludicrously double rated this year as a 'second home'. We objected to this, failed to pay the instalments and after being threatened with a bailiff's order were forced to pay the full assessment pending appeal. Downstairs is classed as commercial and rented out between December 2017 and March 2021 to Merton Library (as a favour to LBM) and 2 separate NHS departments each paying their own taxes. Since the last tenant left the whole house has been uninhabited and is considered derelict, there is no residential use and should be exempt from property taxes as is the rest of the site. A problem has arisen because the last NHS tenant has only just realised they were still paying LBM, 4 years after they had vacated. They have been refunded and Merton Council have assessed MertonVision £15,497 to recover their losses – a total shambles. Merton Councillor Laxmi Attawar (a long suffering member of our working committee for the abortive building project) has kindly offered to mediate on our behalf.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Future plans - continued

Finally, on 21 August 2025 at the Guardian Centre, MertonVision celebrated its 60th Birthday. This well attended low key event began with 3 very interesting short talks, the first by a representative of The All England Club outlined the history of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships from its beginning in Nursery Road right up to their planned extension into Wimbledon Park. Two local historians gave separate talks on the origins of Colliers Wood and of lived experiences in the area. A barbeque lunch was then served, accompanied by Colliers Wood Choir and Orchestra and followed by cake. Our Chairman, Harry Cowd gave the closing speech emphasising that no dignitaries had been invited because the party had been designed to celebrate the Charity and its Members.

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 £276,680. 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 an ongoing fundraising programme.

The Trustees report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

H A Cowd
Trustee

20 November 2025

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Trustees, who are also the directors of Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees 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 period 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 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 operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate 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.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind (the Charitable Company) for the period ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the Charitable Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the Charitable Company are not required to be audited under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the Charitable Company's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Charitable Company's gross income exceeded £250,000, the independent examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ICAEW, 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 that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charitable Company as required by section 386 of the Companies Act 2006;
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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

Ms J A Rickler, FCA

Alwyns LLP

Crown House

151 High Road

Loughton

Essex

IG10 4LG

15 December 2025

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Current financial period		Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
	Notes				
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	95,753	198,052	293,805	439,756
Charitable activities	4	140,910	-	140,910	132,486
Other trading activities	5	471	-	471	511
Investments	6	7,225	-	7,225	7,403
Total income		<u>244,359</u>	<u>198,052</u>	<u>442,411</u>	<u>580,156</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7	228	-	228	340
Charitable activities	8	310,693	244,114	554,807	527,668
Total expenditure		<u>310,921</u>	<u>244,114</u>	<u>555,035</u>	<u>528,008</u>
Net income/(expenditure) and movement in funds		<u>(66,562)</u>	<u>(46,062)</u>	<u>(112,624)</u>	<u>52,148</u>
Reconciliation of funds:					
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		<u>530,533</u>	<u>107,775</u>	<u>638,308</u>	<u>586,160</u>
Fund balances at 31 March 2025		<u>463,971</u>	<u>61,713</u>	<u>525,684</u>	<u>638,308</u>

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

The notes on pages 16 to 29 form part of these financial statements.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

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

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Prior financial year		Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
	Notes			
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	3	185,941	253,815	439,756
Charitable activities	4	132,486	-	132,486
Other trading activities	5	511	-	511
Investments	6	7,403	-	7,403
Total income		<u>326,341</u>	<u>253,815</u>	<u>580,156</u>
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	7	340	-	340
Charitable activities	8	294,304	233,364	527,668
Total expenditure		<u>294,644</u>	<u>233,364</u>	<u>528,008</u>
Net income and movement in funds		<u>31,697</u>	<u>20,451</u>	<u>52,148</u>
Reconciliation of funds:				
Fund balances at 1 April 2023		<u>498,836</u>	<u>87,324</u>	<u>586,160</u>
Fund balances at 31 March 2024		<u>530,533</u>	<u>107,775</u>	<u>638,308</u>

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

		2025	2024
	Notes	£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	59,759	57,697
Investments	15	25,000	25,000
		<u>84,759</u>	<u>82,697</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	16	633	633
Debtors	17	34,918	32,680
Cash at bank and in hand		422,307	540,210
		<u>457,858</u>	<u>573,523</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	<u>(16,933)</u>	<u>(17,912)</u>
Net current assets		<u>440,925</u>	<u>555,611</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>525,684</u>	<u>638,308</u>
The funds of the Charitable Company			
Restricted income funds	20	61,713	107,775
Unrestricted funds	21	463,971	530,533
		<u>525,684</u>	<u>638,308</u>

The notes on pages 16 to 29 form part of these financial statements.

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the period ended 31 March 2025.

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

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the period in question in accordance with section 476.

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 Trustees on 20 November 2025

H A Cowd
Trustee

S J Moore
Trustee

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is The Guardian Centre, 67 Clarendon Road, Colliers Wood, London SW19 2DX.

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charitable Company's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)". The Charitable Company is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Charitable Company has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a statement of cash flows.

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds 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 purpose within the objects of the Charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donors or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Where necessary, a quarterly report is sent to the donor detailing expenditure. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

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

1.4 Income

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

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Donated services or facilities are recognised when the Charitable Company 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 Charitable Company of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. Some management and activity of the Charitable Company 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 Charitable Company which is the amount the Charitable Company 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.

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

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accrual 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 Charitable Company'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 the time given and accordingly it is neither recorded as donated income nor as an expense in the accounts.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses. Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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

Freehold land and buildings	Fully depreciated
Office furniture and fittings	25% on reducing balance
Computer equipment	33% straight line
Motor vehicles	20% on reducing balance
Plant and machinery	20% straight line

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

1.7 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

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

1.9 Stocks

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

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

1.10 Cash and cash equivalents

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

1.11 Financial instruments

The Charitable Company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charitable Company's balance sheet when the Charitable Company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial assets

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

Basic financial liabilities

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

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

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

Derecognition of financial liabilities

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

1.12 Employee benefits

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

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

1.13 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 the workplace pensions under the Pension Act 2008. Employees were automatically enrolled into the money purchase scheme unless they have exercised their right to opt out of scheme membership.

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

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

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

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

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Donations and gifts	13,892	-	13,892	26,476	-	26,476
Legacies	-	-	-	36,554	-	36,554
Grants	81,467	198,052	279,519	122,467	253,815	376,282
Membership fees	394	-	394	444	-	444
	<u>95,753</u>	<u>198,052</u>	<u>293,805</u>	<u>185,941</u>	<u>253,815</u>	<u>439,756</u>
Grants						
London Borough Merton	81,467	-	81,467	81,467	-	81,467
Wimbledon Foundation	-	-	-	-	25,000	25,000
Thomas Powell Foundation	-	32,582	32,582	-	34,125	34,125
The National Lottery	-	-	-	-	(10,000)	(10,000)
Community Fund	-	-	-	-	28,486	28,486
DWP - Access to Work	-	12,411	12,411	-	500	32,500
NHS South West London	-	-	-	32,000	-	175,704
Big Lottery	-	147,619	147,619	-	175,704	175,704
Vision foundation for London	-	-	-	9,000	-	9,000
Merton Borough of Sport	-	4,930	4,930	-	-	-
Merton Connect Winter Grant	-	510	510	-	-	-
	<u>81,467</u>	<u>198,052</u>	<u>279,519</u>	<u>122,467</u>	<u>253,815</u>	<u>376,282</u>

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Sale of Goods and Services		
Activities income	273	326
Fees received	2,311	1,064
Catering income	1,359	559
Hall hire	4,365	3,280
Members club sales	225	1,276
Transport charges	1,032	1,276
Contracted Services		
Access to Work	27,864	34,757
Maintenance of LBM register	1,400	1,184
Merton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)	2,366	2,366
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	-	(1,988)
Rehabilitation charges	99,715	88,386
	<u>140,910</u>	<u>132,486</u>

5 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Fundraising events	-	259
100 Club	471	252
	<u>471</u>	<u>511</u>
Other trading activities		
	<u>471</u>	<u>511</u>

6 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Deposit account interest	6,298	6,550
Investment income	927	853
	<u>7,225</u>	<u>7,403</u>

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

7 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Fundraising and publicity		
Publicity and fundraising cost	58	50
100 Club prizes	170	290
	<u>228</u>	<u>340</u>

8 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Direct costs		
Wages and salaries	373,605	407,710
Depreciation and impairment	7,176	6,788
Other staff costs	13,921	17,415
Volunteer expenses	676	248
Direct project costs	16,511	7,512
Premises costs	94,333	35,959
Office costs	35,139	42,764
Sundry expenses	1,914	-
	<u>543,275</u>	<u>518,396</u>
Share of support and governance costs (see note 9)		
Governance	11,532	9,272
	<u>554,807</u>	<u>527,668</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	310,693	294,304
Restricted funds	244,114	233,364
	<u>554,807</u>	<u>527,668</u>

9 Support costs allocated to activities

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Governance	<u>11,532</u>	<u>9,272</u>

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

9 Support costs allocated to activities (Continued)

	2025	2024
	£	£
Governance costs comprise:		
Audit fees	2,580	2,063
Accountancy	1,800	1,337
Legal and professional	2,119	1,200
HR fees	2,863	2,863
Payroll fees	396	360
Subscriptions	1,774	1,449
	<u>11,532</u>	<u>9,272</u>

10 Net movement in funds

	2025	2024
	£	£

The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):

Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements

	2,580	2,063
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	7,176	6,788
	<u>7,176</u>	<u>6,788</u>

11 Trustees

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the Charitable Company during the period.

12 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the period was:

	2025	2024
	Number	Number
Senior Management Team	2	2
Other Direct Charitable Staff	11	9
	<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>

Employment costs	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	339,359	370,638
Social security costs	25,274	26,876
Other pension costs	8,972	10,196
	<u>373,605</u>	<u>407,710</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

12 Employees

(Continued)

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

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 £88,904 (2024: 68,563).

13 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Fixtures and fittings	Motor vehicles	Computer equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 April 2024	108,541	37,800	27,295	83,863	257,499
Additions	-	-	-	9,238	9,238
Disposals	-	-	-	(1,118)	(1,118)
At 31 March 2025	108,541	37,800	27,295	91,983	265,619
Depreciation and impairment					
At 1 April 2024	58,521	37,064	26,980	77,237	199,802
Depreciation charged in the period	-	348	63	6,765	7,176
Eliminated in respect of disposals	-	-	-	(1,118)	(1,118)
At 31 March 2025	58,521	37,412	27,043	82,884	205,860
Carrying amount					
At 31 March 2025	50,020	388	252	9,099	59,759
At 31 March 2024	50,020	736	315	6,626	57,697

15 Fixed asset investments

	Income Bonds £
National Savings Income Bonds- valued at cost	
At 1 April 2024 & 31 March 2025	25,000
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2025	25,000
At 31 March 2024	25,000

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

16	Stocks	2025	2024
		£	£
	Finished goods and goods for resale	633	633
		<u>633</u>	<u>633</u>
17	Debtors	2025	2024
		£	£
	Amounts falling due within one year:		
	Other debtors	22,043	27,971
	Prepayments and accrued income	12,875	4,709
		<u>34,918</u>	<u>32,680</u>
		<u>34,918</u>	<u>32,680</u>
18	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2025	2024
		£	£
	Other taxation and social security	7,015	7,324
	Trade creditors	152	922
	Other creditors	-	330
	Accruals and deferred income	9,766	9,336
		<u>16,933</u>	<u>17,912</u>
		<u>16,933</u>	<u>17,912</u>
19	Retirement benefit schemes	2025	2024
		£	£
	Defined contribution schemes		
	Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	8,972	10,196
		<u>8,972</u>	<u>10,196</u>
		<u>8,972</u>	<u>10,196</u>

The Charitable Company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charitable Company in an independently administered fund.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

20 Restricted funds

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

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£
Access to Work	4,898	12,411	(12,289)	5,020
Dora and Leslie Barter Conservatory Fund	6,250	-	-	6,250
Hearing Impaired Children	454	-	(454)	-
Wimbledon Foundation	16,462	-	(16,462)	-
Everyone Health	2,680	-	-	2,680
Big Lottery	76,531	147,619	(177,672)	46,478
NHS South West London	500	-	(500)	-
Merton Borough of Sport	-	4,930	(3,645)	1,285
Merton Connected	-	510	(510)	-
Thomas Powell Family Foundation	-	32,582	(32,582)	-
	<u>107,775</u>	<u>198,052</u>	<u>(244,114)</u>	<u>61,713</u>

Previous year:

	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
Access to Work	7,390	28,486	(30,978)	4,898
Dora and Leslie Barter Conservatory Fund	6,250	-	-	6,250
Hearing Impaired Children	454	-	-	454
Wimbledon Foundation	14,167	25,000	(22,705)	16,462
Everyone Health	4,080	-	(1,400)	2,680
National Lottery Community Fund	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Big Lottery	44,983	175,704	(144,156)	76,531
NHS South West London	-	500	-	500
Thomas Powell Family Foundation	-	34,125	(34,125)	-
	<u>87,324</u>	<u>253,815</u>	<u>(233,364)</u>	<u>107,775</u>

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

20 Restricted funds

(Continued)

Access to work

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

The Dora and Leslie Barter conservatory Fund

In accordance with the provisions of the Dora Barter legacy the funds donated therein are 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.

Everyone Health

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

Big Lottery

A three 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.

NHS South West London and Merton Connected

Winter and Spring engagement projects for half-term activities arranged to benefit visually impaired school children.

Merton Borough of Sports (sponsored by Clarion Futures)

A local authority project to run weekly Martial Arts and self-defence classes for adults and children.

Thomas Powell Family Foundation

A two year grant to support our children's and Young Person's Project, which provides regular activities for our younger members.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

21 Unrestricted funds

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

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds	189,236	244,359	(310,921)	-	122,674
Designated - Emily Wells Memorial Fund	51,526	-	-	-	51,526
Designated - General Building Maintenance	184,131	-	-	-	184,131
Designated - Hall Refurbishment	20,640	-	-	-	20,640
Designated - New Minibus	15,000	-	-	-	15,000
Designated - Removal Costs	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
Designated - Social Club Refurbishment	50,000	-	-	-	50,000
	<u>530,533</u>	<u>244,359</u>	<u>(310,921)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>463,971</u>

Previous year:	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds	172,539	326,341	(294,644)	(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 Equipment	10,640	-	-	10,000	20,640
Designated IT, High Tech Loan equipment	60,000	-	-	(60,000)	-
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
	<u>498,836</u>	<u>326,341</u>	<u>(294,644)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>530,533</u>

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

21 Unrestricted funds

(Continued)

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.

22 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
At 31 March 2025:			
Tangible assets	54,739	5,020	59,759
Investments	25,000	-	25,000
Current assets/(liabilities)	384,232	56,693	440,925
	<u>463,971</u>	<u>61,713</u>	<u>525,684</u>
	<u><u>463,971</u></u>	<u><u>61,713</u></u>	<u><u>525,684</u></u>
	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
At 31 March 2024:			
Tangible assets	52,799	4,898	57,697
Investments	25,000	-	25,000
Current assets/(liabilities)	452,734	102,877	555,611
	<u>530,533</u>	<u>107,775</u>	<u>638,308</u>
	<u><u>530,533</u></u>	<u><u>107,775</u></u>	<u><u>638,308</u></u>

23 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the period (2024 - none).

This document was delivered using electronic communications and authenticated in accordance with the registrar's rules relating to electronic form, authentication and manner of delivery under section 1072 of the Companies Act 2006.