



**THE WILBERFORCE TRUST
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

Empowering people with sight loss and visual impairment including those with other disabilities to gain confidence and independence, giving choices and enhancing their quality of life.

**COMPANY NUMBER 04228432 (ENGLAND & WALES)
CHARITY NUMBER 1087065**

THE WILBERFORCE TRUST

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LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31st March 2024. Legal and administrative information as set out forms part of the overall report. The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2016, 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 Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019). The Charity is a public benefit Entity.

CONSTITUTION

The Wilberforce Trust is a company limited by guarantee and a Registered Charity governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The date of incorporation was 4th June 2001.

GOVERNANCE OF OTHER CHARITIES

Under an order from the Charity Commissioners dated 22nd August 2002 the Wilberforce Trust is the Trustee for the Wilberforce Home for the Blind. This fund is included in the financial statements of the Charity and is now fully incorporated into the Permanent Endowment Fund following the Charity Commissioners decision effective 4th March 2005.

DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES

The directors of the charitable company ("the charity") are its Trustees for the purpose of the Charity Law and throughout this report are, collectively referred to as the Trustees.

Colin Aspinall (Chairman), Charles Anelay, Stephen Cluderay, Simon Cowell, Susan Hawksworth, Andrew Knowles (Appointed 6 November 2023), Anne Mwangi, Maria Robinson (Appointed 24 July 2023), Stuart Young (Appointed 23 October 2023), Kate Thompson (Appointed 23 July 2024), Elizabeth Wallace (Appointed 23 July 2024), Philippa Crowther (Appointed 23 July 2024), Jane Carter (Appointed 24 October 2023, Resigned 21 May 2024), Keith Larcum (Resigned 24 October 2023).

PATRON:

Dame Judi Dench.

COMPANY SECRETARY:

Philippa Crowther
(Resigned 28 August 2024)
Eleanor Stead
(Appointed 28 August 2024)

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM:

Philippa Crowther - CEO
(Resigned 28 August 2024)
Eleanor Stead- CEO
(Appointed August 2024)

Shaun Taylor- Finance Director

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 04228432

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1087065

PRINCIPAL OFFICE: Wilberforce House
The Grove
York
YO24 1AN

BANKERS: Barclays Bank plc
Parliament Street
York
YO1 1XD

INVESTMENT ADVISERS: Julius Baer
The Platform
New Station Street
Leeds
LS1 4JB

AUDITORS: HPH Chartered Accountants
54 Bootham
York
YO30 7XZ

SOLICITORS : Harland & Co
18 St Saviourgate
York
YO1 8NP

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

The names of the current Trustees are listed on page 2. The organisation is a not-for-profit charity and any surplus generated is used for the objects of the charity. No Trustee is appointed to any office of the charity paid by salary.

1. The Charity has a Chief Executive and Finance Director. The service managers run the day-to-day operations, including business support areas in Finance, HR, Fundraising, Property and IT, Housing, Care, Compliance and Training, and other services under the YORSENSORY banner i.e., rehabilitation, technology and equipment for disabled users, and other activities for learning and fun for babies, children and adults, supported by services personnel. The organisation has a fundraising department and a volunteer department.

The Chairman meets the Chief Executive monthly, to review the operational KPI's and financial position of the Charity.

The Board of Trustees' meet as a full board quarterly.

Two subcommittees meet on a quarterly basis and report and make recommendations to the full Board of Trustees meeting.

Sub- Committees:

- The Finance & Personnel Committee of three Trustees and Executives meet quarterly.
- The Compliance Committee of two Trustees, Executive and services team meet quarterly.
- Project committees are used for specific items as and when deemed appropriate by the Trustees, made up of selected Trustees and personnel.

Composition:

A quorum of at least two Trustees is required for Sub-committees.

A quorum of not less than four Trustees is required for a Trustee Board Meeting.

Chairman and Trustees. Plus: CEO and FD.

By invitation: External auditors, Investment Advisors. Other presenters.

We have a Trustee who represents and reports on the interest of Service Users and a Trustee with lived experience.

SELECTION, RECRUITMENT, AND INDUCTION OF NEW TRUSTEES

Trustees have developed a list of skills/experience they would like to have represented on the Trustee Boards and Sub- Committees.

When a vacancy occurs or is due to occur, Trustees seek through differing media, to identify potential recruits who will fill any skills deficit deemed to exist.

At present Trustees are carefully selected by application from advertising, a recruitment section on the website and recommendation. They are asked to formally apply with a CV or career synopsis, formally interviewed by the Chief Executive and a second interview by the Chairman and Deputy Chairman or another Trustee. Candidates are assessed as to their suitability to act as a Trustee, whilst the organisation carries out the required checks. If the candidate is deemed suitable the Chairman will invite the candidate to attend a Board meeting to act as an observer, following the candidate's expression of a willingness to wish to sit as a Trustee, the Chairman will formally propose them to the full board meeting to approve. On this approval they will then be invited to join the Board of Trustees and will be formally accepted at the following AGM.

Trustees may co-opt members for specific duties and periods onto the board, where full appointment as a Trustee is not appropriate.

New Trustees are offered induction, governance, risk, health & safety training, safeguarding and further ongoing training in respect of their role. Certain training is given as mandatory in finance, governance, compliance, health and safety, fire and data protection and fundraising principles for charities. This also includes access to relevant papers and reports. Visits to Wilberforce Trust premises and services are mandatory, introductions to Trust staff and service users, and meetings with the Trust Chairman and Chief Executive. A Trustee pack is given to all new Trustees, including all charity commission information, declaration of conflict and governance documentation. All Trustees, Executives and staff are DBS checked and only take up duties after clearance.

All Trustees are annually appraised, following the recommendations and guidance for Trustee appraisal. All Trustees have annual mandatory training in Governance.

INVESTMENT POLICY

Julius Baer manages the Trusts Investment portfolio and act as our Investment Advisers.

The Trust's investment aims are:

- To create sufficient financial return to enable the Trust to carry out its purposes effectively and without interruption and:
- To create sufficient surplus to meet the needs and enhance current services, create new services as applicable for those people we serve and:
- To maintain and, if possible, enhance the value of the investment funds.

The Trustees policy therefore is, on the advice of the Trust's Investment Managers, to invest in an appropriate mix of real assets, i.e., equities, fixed interest, and monetary assets to achieve these aims. The Trustees avoid investing the fund in ways they believe would counter the Charity's work. They work with their fund manager on the investment policy and review this regularly. The investment managers are required to present their reports bi – annually in order that the Trustees' can monitor performance.

RESERVES POLICY

The Trustees continue to believe that a free reserve (excluding the Permanent Endowment) equivalent to two years cover of the Charity's overhead provides adequate security for the Trust, protects its staff and the time it takes to rehouse and resettle tenants and care teams. This currently implies a reserve of approximately £1m. The total funds held by the Charity at the year end were £15,705,976, of which £53,692 were restricted, £6,135,079 were endowed, and £6,020,844 were designated, leaving unrestricted reserves of £3,496,361, which is in excess of the reserves policy.

AUDITORS

Following review, HPH Auditors have expressed to remain as The Wilberforce Trust auditors and have been appointed by the Board of Trustees

RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

The potential risks faced by the Trust have been evaluated across the Charity by the Trustees and formally recorded. A risk register and conflict of interest register are working documents held and administered on the Trust Compliance 'Radar system'. It is formally reviewed by the F&P Committee and highlighted to the Board of Trustees, and data and actions approved bi-annually. The appropriate systems and procedures have been put into place to avoid and mitigate risks together with our systems and procedures to avoid or mitigate them.

RISK MANAGEMENT FRS102

The Trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:

- An annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties the Charity may face.
- The establishment of policies, systems, and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the bi-annual review; and
- The implementation of procedures designed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should the risks materialise.
- Board meetings are used to evaluate economic and government policy changes affecting our sector. A PEST analysis is carried out in these circumstances and changes made to key objectives to mitigate any risks.

The administration of compliance and risk, including recording of training for all staff and Trustee's is monitored through our electronic system. We maintain effective internal controls, risk registers, compulsory safeguarding training and procedures, incident reporting, health & safety reporting. Fire safety audits in all premises and fire evacuation procedures and essential training. Appropriate Insurance cover.

We are externally audited annually by CQC, for regulatory care compliance and CHC, CYC and NYC against quality standards for health and social care and our financial auditors HPH.

FUNDRAISING GOVERNANCE

The activities within fundraising and our fund-raising policies are scrutinised each year by The Board of Trustees. All activities are conducted by employees or volunteers and no external agencies are retained to carry our duties on our behalf. We use several fundraising IT platforms, 'Just Giving and Local Giving'. The Trust abides by the key principles & behaviours as set by the fundraising regulators in that we are legal, honest, open, and respectful in our fundraising practices. Risk assessments are carried out for all events, for example, age of collectors for bucket collections, raffle tickets abide by gambling law.

SAFEGUARDING

Strict processes and procedures are in place to manage safeguarding. As a provider of Adult and Social Care, our aim is to deliver the highest level of quality support, care, and safety. To do this we ensure that our Trustees and staff are trained at a high- level including sight and hearing loss. Our processes and procedures must meet or exceed those standards as set down by section 20 regulations of the Health and Social Care Act.

Our aspiration is to be the best, safest, most effective provider. Where customers, families and carers feel confident to receive services from Wilberforce Trust. The events and children's area are covered under our safeguarding policies and staff are appropriately trained. We have a named Safeguarding Officer.

Our Quality Assurance is designed within the CQC, CYC, NYC frameworks to support, planning delivery and monitoring along with continuous improvement of all the support and care we provide. The Trust puts quality, safety, and our clients first in everything we do, and everything is measured and monitored against the standards as set down by external auditors, reviewed each quarter by the Compliance Committee.

Trustees Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Wilberforce Trusts report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations. Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under charity law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is appropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

They are also responsible for the safeguarding of assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

A Trustee owes duties of honesty, integrity, loyalty, and good faith to the beneficiaries of the trust. They must act exclusively in the best interests of the trust and be actively involved in any decisions.

Financial statements/ annual reports are published on the charity's website (www.wilberforcetrust.org.uk) in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements. The maintenance and integrity of the charity's website is the responsibility of the Trustees. The Trustees responsibility also extends to the ongoing integrity of the financial statements contained therein.

The Charity's Objects are:

- The provision of accommodation, care, training and other facilities and services to relieve the disabilities of persons with visual impairments, who may have other sensory loss and other physical illnesses, or other physical disorder or disability of mind; and
- Such other charitable purposes for the benefit of disabled persons in Yorkshire and elsewhere in the United Kingdom as the Trustees may from time to time determine.

Driving our strategy:

OUR PURPOSE

Empowering people with sight loss including those with other disabilities to gain confidence and independence, having choices and enhancing their quality of life.

OUR VISION

The Trusts vision is to see a world in which people with sight loss, including sensory impairment and other disabilities, be truly integrated in society with equal opportunities in all aspects of life, and to know that our passion and commitment have been influential in bringing this about.

Aim /Mission

The Trust aims to be a leading provider of high-quality accommodation, professional support, care, specialist equipment, information, and guidance to people with sight loss including those with other disabilities. To encourage and facilitate the development of services, on a local, regional and national basis by being a model of good practice. Our aim is to do this in a way which gives people of all ages choices and enhances their quality of life.

Our Values

Respect & Dignity – ensure all people who use our services or work in them are treated with respect and dignity, given supportive, inclusive choices and are acknowledged as individuals in an equal and fair way.

Integrity & Honesty- Always do the 'right' thing even if it's hard. Do not settle for others any less than you may want for yourself. Be of sound judgement and truthfulness.

Team- work – Encourage the contribution of everyone. Communicate effectively, be committed, willing and dependable to each other and the charity.

Empowerment – Encourage all to have confidence with self- development and training. To achieve aspirations for individuals and the charity through having clear goals and objectives.

Continuous Improvement – Continually look at ways to improve the way we do things. Create a quality, safe environment for all our service users and staff. Abide by the codes of practice and agencies that govern us.

OUR PUBLIC BENEFIT

We have given due consideration to the Charity Commission's published guidance on the Public Benefit requirement under the Charities Act 2011.

Empowering people

We are committed to helping those who have visual impairment including those with other disabilities to gain confidence and as much independence as they are able. Opening opportunities and encouraging people to achieve the aspirations they have for themselves and others.

Contributing to our society

We contribute to the York economy by providing employment for 130 people and committed to improving people's knowledge of the care and support needs of those with visual impairment and including those with other disabilities, through training and education and by being a rewarding place to work. We have an equal opportunities policy for employment. Any surplus funds are invested back into providing services and activities to support our purpose, so we can help people at different times of their life to get the support they need at that time. We work to be a model of good practice to facilitate the development of services on a local, regional, and national basis.

Customer needs

Whilst we work with Healthcare and Local Authority agencies to deliver statutory services, we also ensure we enhance these by addressing people's needs that are not being met within those agencies to meet the many needs of customers. This includes practical and emotional support for adults, children, families, and supporters. Helping to maintain an independent fulfilled life as much as possible. Having an ability to reach those people who require a holistic approach to their needs. Showing added value to partnership contracts.

The Environment

Sustainability of our environment is important to us. We are taking steps to minimise our carbon footprint and increasing our recycling and waste management overall. Energy efficiencies and technology form part of our green strategy and working policies. The organisation monitors our efficiencies through our Health and Safety/ Compliance Committee which form part of the Trustees Board reporting.

ALL LEADING TO OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

OUR STRATEGIC AIMS AND OBJECTIVES



Customer Centric



Empower and develop our people.



Invest and maintain our housing stock – self- sustaining affordable purpose- specific housing.



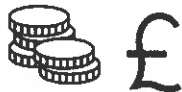
Qualitative and Quantitative driven outcomes through beneficial customer centric support packages

Wilberforce

Maintain a strong trusted reliable brand.



Create public benefit.



Financial Sustainability

**Supported Community
Supported Staff
Supported Environment**



Message from our Chairman 2023-2024

This year we celebrated our 10 year strategy, delivering on all our key objectives. Wilberforce House continued to welcome more new tenants and by March 2024 all our apartments were fully occupied. Our Tadcaster and Huntington services had full occupancy and we had delivered more care and support hours across all our sites than in any previous years.

Adult and Social care continued to be under pressure with local authorities reporting financial deficits to budgets and having to make difficult decisions, which in turn made delivery of care and support all the harder given the awarded % increases by Local Authorities, did not cover the real costs of staff employment.

Our team worked hard this year on process improvement to ensure we delivered value for money and practical solutions by supporting, and in some cases, subsidising statutory services to ensure that clients got a service which enhanced the minimum standards set out in contracts. We know that we can contribute at a higher level to the discussions on improving services in our area, if allowed around the ICB and Local Authority Management tables.

The growth in our training programme for the local private healthcare sector doubled. Our training reached hospitals in Scotland and Blackpool. We supported local prisons with training for staff dealing with blind prisoners. I commend all those seeking training for staff to deliver better quality of their services to people with a visual impairment, and we look forward to continuing this work with more companies and organisations.

Wilberforce Trust holds itself to account by managing our impact on our community, which in turn measures our public benefit. I am delighted that we saw further reach again this year, increasing in every age group from babies, children, young people and adults and also our inclusivity of working with families.

Strong financial management has allowed our surpluses gained to be invested in our charitable objects and our purpose, to empower people with sight loss including those with other disabilities, to gain confidence and independence, having choices and enhancing their quality of life. As a Board of Trustees, we are fully committed to this approach to maximise return to ensure all people have the opportunity to reach their own goals and aspirations.

I must record our thanks to all our grant funders, donors and volunteers who continue to increase our fundraising monies in seriously challenging cost of living times. Without these funds many of our programmes of support would be limited. These donations allow us to push forward with more improved enhanced services and a greater reach, ensuring our activities help with mental wellbeing as well as physical. We are looking forward to the opening of our green space sensory garden and raised beds gardening club in May and June of 2024. It is through all the generous donations that this has been made possible for 2024.

We continue our work on inclusivity in our workforce and our mental health programme for all staff. Whilst there is always more to do, we have made good strides in recruitment with our Diversity Recruitment Programme and introducing our mental health first aiders to support all staff. Our staff are dedicated to our clients and demonstrate, on a daily basis, how important they believe their role to be by just the sheer hard work they display. We are continuing to create a work environment where all people feel and know they are valued and important to the Charity and those we support.

I and the Board of Trustees, along with the Executive Team, continue to demonstrate our belief that Wilberforce Trust makes a difference to peoples' lives each day. With continued support and partnerships with local healthcare and adult and social care agencies, donors, grant givers, and a committed workforce, we can achieve the coming years objectives of further growth and reach and the continued commitment to exceptional standards of care and support in all of the Wilberforce Trusts activities.

I commend this report to the members.

Colin Aspinall- Chair



Message from our Chief Executive 2023-2024

Our strategy over the past 10 years has worked well, in helping us to deliver greater impact for people with visual impairment including those with other disabilities. Through our impact measures reporting we demonstrate our commitment to enabling and enhancing the quality of life for all those people we support.

I am delighted to report on another year of strong progress across all our services. Our build programme, our community services our children and family activities continue to push ahead, providing more accommodation, services, and activities than in previous years. We have been able to adapt and expand our reach across all the age groups, particularly in babies and children, with Babies Club Wilber sessions in partnership with CYC and children rehabilitation.

Something that Wilberforce Trust will never change is its ongoing investment to continual improvement, our monitoring and training for improved services and support. Whilst the local authorities and NHS funders struggle with the financial commitment to health and social care the Wilberforce Trust reviews and invests any surplus to its programme of continuous improvement, through its objects.

Demand for our services remains very strong and the Trusts next strategic plan will be to ensure it continues to invest in its people, clients and its facilities, giving the people the opportunity to make informed choices to suit their needs.

When it comes to our community Wilberforce Trust and its people always seek to make a difference, that includes going beyond the services we provide. We forge partnerships and relationships with other charities and providers by collective activities, community initiatives and signposting.

As a small organisation we still set ourselves the 'green' challenge to become greener and carbon friendlier. The new build design included energy efficiencies in solar panels, electric car points, recycling etc. We work with suppliers who can demonstrate their environmental values meet our own. Our green programme also saw the introduction this year of our raised beds projects introducing a gardening club for tenants to sow, grow and eat. The sensory garden with interesting areas, accessible pathways and sensory features, water fountains and tactile plants. and accessories is due to be opened in May /June 2024. Tenants and all staff are excited to see the garden area being completed and complimenting the wild meadow gardens around the building. Thank you to all who generously donated to this addition to Wilberforce House.

Looking ahead

As this is my last year as Chief Executive and so my last annual report, I would like to take the opportunity to thank my management team and all our staff for their tremendous contribution to this, another year of impressive performance. The support to me over my tenure has been without question very humbling. They have all aided in the delivery of new homes, new services, wider reach and inclusion of all age groups to access support when they most need it.

The realisation of the 10 year strategy has for me been a highlight of my career. I should like to thank everyone that has made my journey and time with Wilberforce Trust enjoyable and unforgettable.

Together we achieved outstanding things, thank you.

I am delighted that the Trust has appointed Ellie Stead as the new CEO with outstanding talent and an enormous wealth of knowledge and experience. The Trust is in exceptionally safe hands for the future.

I wish Ellie and The Trust well for the future.

Philippa Crowther CEO

Progress on our Objectives

Customer Centric

"We strive to support any person with sight loss including those with other disabilities and their families through all stages of their lives with meeting individual's goals and ambitions and needs. We aim to improve upon our services and the support we offer and reach as many people as we can".

Through supported independent living (housing, support and care)

The care and contracting team alongside the housing and facilities management team have worked with a number of differing local authority areas to maximise capacity in our housing tenancies along with care packages. As of the end of March 2024 all the accommodation had full occupancy. Introducing and orientation for new clients was delivered by all the teams to provide a home and living space, making sure that people integrated with their new surroundings and neighbours. The café area has been a hub of social space, parties and activities for people living in Wilberforce House along with people from the public enjoying a new café in the area. The houses in Tadcaster and Huntington continued to welcome new tenants over the year and new tenants soon made new friends and settled into their new home.

The care and support team in supported living delivered over 171,000 hours of support and care. With their work with each individual tenant, the tenant's outcomes for the year show continued improvement to independence through the desire to shop locally, enjoying the routes they have learned to shops and bus stops. All the tenants have adapted to cooking for themselves with support in their own apartments and some regularly invite friends and families to join them. The cookery classes last year helped with confidence. The sow, grow, eat campaign this year and into next are giving a sense of pride that they are engaging in a ground to fork experience.

Engagement with music and social activities 'on site' decreased this year as more people became more independent and ventured further to community engagement within York. Many chose very differing activities, and it proved very difficult this year to run weekly activities that people were free for on site. Each tenant has embraced some use of technology to support their needs and also enhancing their entertainment, through smart speakers and audio descriptive televisions and even using technology for closing blinds and lighting.

Attendance at **family forums** are encouraged, however attendance this year has been small. We can see that families have spoken with care and facilities management much more on an individual direct basis. The forum agenda items continue to question an activity programme on site for tenants but as individual tenants, they are not choosing those activities over others offsite.

Tenant forums have been very well attended and lots of ideas and topics have been explored and discussed. A BBQ and garden party has been a great suggestion for the summer months in 2024.

Feedback

"The care staff have been so understanding of my relative's needs"

"It just gets better, seeing the raised beds and sensory garden coming along is lovely"

The Club Wilber families have regular feedback sessions which has improved the types of activities to include skills- based activities. (See club Wilber section)

Facilities

Over the year we delivered new homes with supported living for 30 people in state-of-the-art apartments, we improved our other properties and the living space for a further 15 supported living clients. We created a community around our Wilberforce House site and introduced many more people to our charity through our community café and living and learning zone. The facilities department contributed to all the quality and safety standards measures and matrix for the compliance committee to review. With all landlord responsibilities and licences in place. Our Tadcaster and Wighill properties all had extensive improvements both internally and externally. Tenants Forums are run on a quarterly basis with both the facilities management and care and support management to gain feedback.

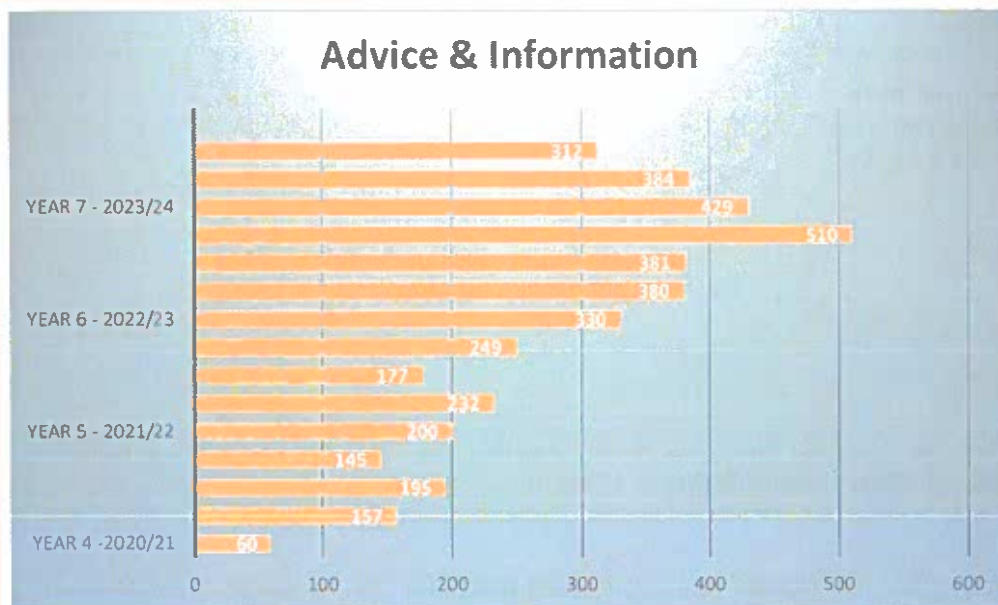
Feedback

"The Facilities department is very good I can get things in my apartment done very quickly and efficiently"

Through YORSENSORY (contracted statutory services) including non-statutory services

Operating within the Wilberforce Trust, the Yorsensory Hub demonstration centre and team provide a supportive service to anyone living with any degree of visual or hearing loss or both. As a team they use their training knowledge and experience to support people with sensory loss to live as independently as possible by providing:

Comprehensive **advice and information** that helps prevent, reduce or delay the need for on-going care and support.



Registration

Commissioned by City of York Council the team inform and advice people on the benefits of registration and complete the registration process. On average 100 people each year are registered severely sight impaired or partially sighted.

Sensory impairment referral and assessments

Contacts and assessment this year doubled from the previous year. The team supported more people and identified their daily needs, recognising risks or challenges as a result of their sensory loss.

In addition to the number of people who have been assessed, people have presented themselves to support clients in the assessment process. They have included family members, other CYC involved workers and other members of the team in training. Clients and those who accompanied them have received all the same information, advice, signposting, and support information which can be shared with their personal and professional contacts and ensure that the information is followed up on to prevent further needs arising from the same difficulties in the future.

Referrals were received from health services, hospital services, family and friends. Our presence across York and Yorkshire continues.

Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation service has been a mainstay of our organisation with qualified Rehabilitation Officers for over 25 years. The service includes Adults, Students and Children. Over 200 sessions of Rehabilitation services were delivered to adults in York. We provided 10 children with rehabilitation sessions.

Our Vision Rehabilitation Specialists continue to provide Mobility Training to children in York, aside from school holidays.

Working with higher education colleges the team have worked with a number of York based students. We are listed on the non-medical help services commissioned by Student Finance England. The team have supported students with mobility training to learn trips from home via bus routes, orientation around York train station, locating information boards, problem solving and familiarisation.

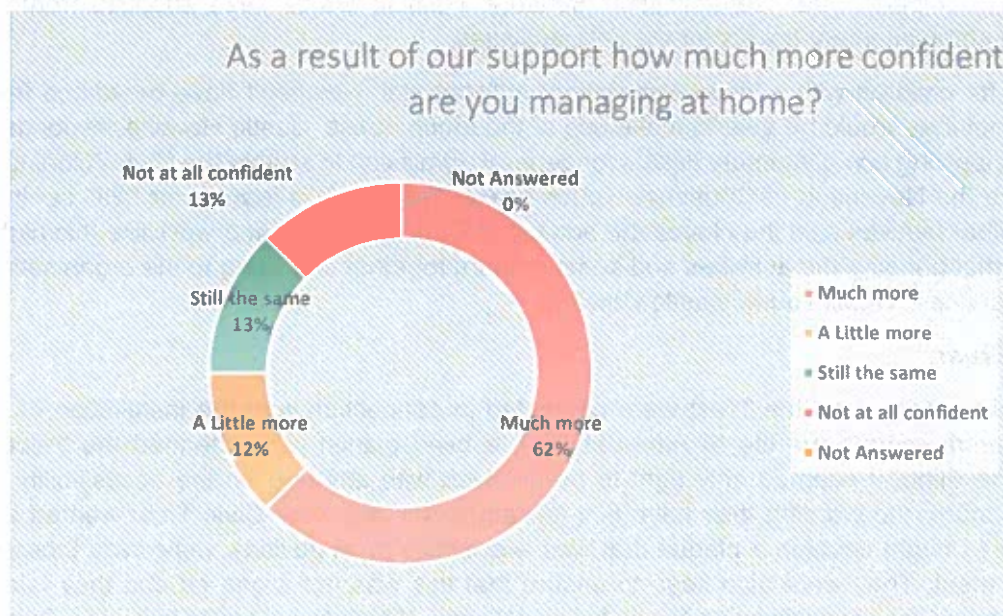
The befriending scheme continues to grow and provide much need confidence to so many people.

Outreach and signposting

This service continues each month which aims to provide advice to a wider section of the population, raise awareness of the needs of people with sensory loss, the support available to them and to ensure it is accessible where they live or spend time.

Sensory awareness training

The growth in our training programme for local business including local private healthcare sector doubled. Our training reached hospitals in Scotland and Blackpool. We supported local prisons with training for staff dealing with blind prisoners, we look forward to continuing this work with more companies and organisations.



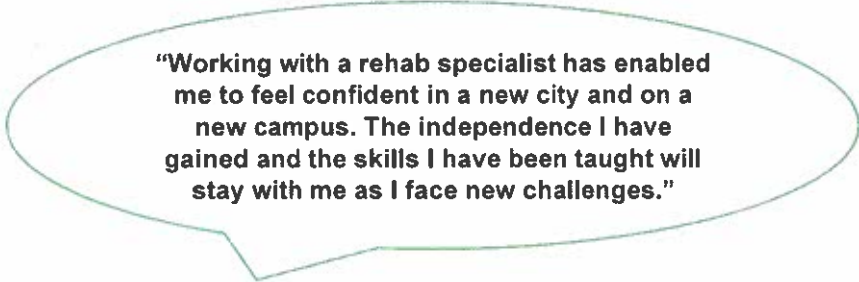
"Feedback from clients"

"I found the person who came to do my assessment so helpful "

"I would have been stumped without these services. Thank you"

"We called you, even though we knew you were out of area because people we spoke to recommended you for how responsive and through you were. Thank you"

"Feedback from a student"



"Working with a rehab specialist has enabled me to feel confident in a new city and on a new campus. The independence I have gained and the skills I have been taught will stay with me as I face new challenges."

Examples of working with partners.

Castle Howard & Club Wilber

In November 2023, we were contacted by Castle Howard who were promoting their accessible events for the festive period. The programme included a schedule of British Sign Language interpreted activities, relaxed performances, and the introduction of Touch boxes in their Christmas in Neverland exhibition. Our Rehabilitation Sensory Training Officer was supplied from Castle Howard with complimentary tickets for the BSL activities.

Club Wilber for children with a visual impairment unfortunately, wouldn't have benefitted from the BSL tickets but they would be able to make use of the touch boxes. Castle Howard responded with the offer of supplying complimentary tickets for general admission to enable the Club Wilber children to experience the Neverland at Christmas Touch boxes and star in a feature for BBC Look North. The Club Wilber families said they loved the additional Christmas treat and work like this highlights the benefits that bringing the activities and sensory team together can bring to the organisation and its various services. Thank you to Castle Howard.

York Civic Trust

Back in April the team and the Trust were contacted in connection with the installation of a Blue Plaque to commemorate the life of Alfred Hollins, a blind pianist who attended the Wilberforce School for the Blind. It seemed only right to be involved with advising on the accessibility of this plaque. By nature, the wording they have is a limiting factor and York Civic Trust wanted to think about how they might develop a plaque that was accessible to all abilities, especially those with a visual impairment. They were also keen to ensure that this was not a one off and they take what they have learned into consideration for all future plaques. When the team at the Civic Trust were ready to identify a site and the phrasing for the plaque, we were invited to a meeting to discuss our ideas. Our Rehab Officers attended a meeting in November, they met with representatives for the Civic Trust at King's Manor where the plaque will be situated. They gave advice on the location and its accessibility, the wording, and the use of accessible formats. We look forward to the plaque being revealed in April 2024 and working closely with the Civic Trust to ensure York's history is accessible to all who live there.

York Access Forum

Since the end of 2023/2024 we have been supporting, alongside other organisations in the City, a York Access Forum. Although the group has been paused, we are still able to meet to consult on important issues, especially access. It remains a great opportunity to network with other charities and clients with lived experience, however, it was mentioned that we don't want to over represent a certain characteristic. In November, we discussed and met with representatives from the York Station Gateway project and the Square at the National Railway Museum to advise on ensure accessibility is at the forefront of their thoughts. Whilst the representatives were receptive to the feedback and the disabled experience, they were both honest in admitting that first stage planning has been approved so there may be a limit as to what changes can be made. The teams promised to go away and discuss what can and can't be changed before stakeholders who needed to attend an additional meeting in 2024. During the Station gateway presentation, a lady attendee with a Visual Impairment requested a Rehab Officer be present as his influence over other projects in York was invaluable to the VI community in the City. Without overcrowding the gateway meeting with VI representatives, it will be arranged for a Vision Rehabilitation Specialist to be in attendance and pass forward the views of the three of them. It remains important to the team to be present at this group to ensure the views of the clients are passed over and to keep abreast with the accessibility plans within the City, so we are able to potentially influence them before they are implemented.

Through Club Wilber

Fully funded through business sponsors, grant and foundations.
The Club currently has:

74 Visually Impaired Children

67 Families (some families have multiple visually impaired children)

50 siblings

The aim of the club is to provide a supportive environment and an opportunity for families with visually impaired children to get together, to enjoy activities and events together as a family and spend time with people that can share similar experiences as well as gaining supportive and advice for professionals engaged in the club.

The year continued with many differing events. Some examples below as there were too many to mention them all.

The Pantomime. (Touch Tour followed by an Audio Described performance)

22 Attendees: 7 families consisting of 7 Visually impaired children with 5 siblings.

"Fun afternoon"

"The panto was great."

"Thanks for the experiences and opportunities"

"A wonderful panto trip".

The children loved it and also really appreciated the touch tour. We were all really impressed by the high standard and quality of the production.

We had some problems with the Touch Tour this year which the families commented on. We fed back a lot of honest critical feedback to the theatre as the team were keen to receive it to make improvements going forward. It hasn't put the families off, with 100% of them saying they would book on again. We have been offered more free and discounted tickets again from their pay it forward scheme.

Sam's Safari

9 Families attended consisting of 9 visually impaired children with 4 siblings.

A popular activity that we have held in the past and was requested back. Held at Wilberforce House, room at full capacity. A one-hour session from Sam's Safaris, who brought in different animals, taught the children about them and gave them opportunity to stroke them. Afterwards we provided safari-themed refreshments.

"Always an excellent activity"

" a nice and relaxing activity suitable for various ages."

"excellent"

"The girls loved it!"

Ukraine Visit

We had 7 Ukraine students, and 7 teachers visit us. A school in Poland gave refuge to the group of visually impaired students from Kharkiv. Their week-long visit to Yorkshire was organised by the RNIB and Thomas Pocklington Trust with accommodation and travel provided by Henshaws College. Club Wilber were asked to provide them with a day of activity. Our day consisted of an introduction to Wilberforce House, making chocolate easter nests, packed lunches provided by our very own Westons café. Followed by a trip on the river with City Cruises, and a visit to the National Railway Museum including their interactive exhibit Wonderlab. We had two club Wilber families join us through the day and were joined by Louise Fairhurst from RNIB.

"I hope you are well. It was great to meet you and Lucy, and I wanted to thank you both for your hospitality and making me and our guests feel so welcome. Wishing you a lovely bank holiday weekend, Louise" RNIB

"I just wanted to say the most enormous thank you for all that you did to make the Ukraine visit a success – they had the best day with you!"- Andrea Glover RNIB

March- Easter Egg Hunt

Our most well attended Club Wilber activity to date with 20 families consisting of 38 children in attendance. 20 of these children had a visual impairment. After the success last year of having it on our own grounds at Wilberforce House, we decided to go bigger and better this year, making it a full day activity 10:30-3pm, and utilising the space.

Weston's cafe was open, and we provided activities in the rainbow room including biscuit decorating and easter card/ easter bag decorating as well as a face painter who offered some fantastic 3D designs with stick ons, ensuring it was inclusive as possible.

We even purchased an easter bunny costume, that our trustee and Club Wilber sponsor Andy Knowles wore to entertain the families. We opened this activity to the public this year (not restricting it to Club Wilber only, but all children with a VI). We advertised this much more this year, pushing it out to the QTVI's. From this we got 4 new families book on, 3 of which so far have signed up/ are in the process of signing up to Club Wilber.

"What a lovely day, Thank you"

"They had a fab time. Thank you so much"

"It was a great day. The boys loved it. That face painter was amazing."

"Thank you for a lovely Easter egg hunt. X and the girls loved it. "

"(There was a) time when X was almost 3 and he attended a garden treasure hunt, where the children had to find pictures of animals to get a prize and he could not find any of them. At this time we did not know he had a visual impairment, although in hindsight, we probably should have realised. I just remember feeling confused as to why he couldn't find any and sad that he couldn't join in as well. Even now, he would probably struggle to find eggs quickly so the idea of the eggs making a noise is great!"

Our Post on our private Club Wilber Family Facebook page got a lot of engagement with 27 comments of thanks and photo sharing. We also had many emails of thanks too.

In partnership with CYC as a charitable give, the babies with VI and parents have been meeting at Wilberforce House and having a sensory session in the Rainbow Room. Discussions for 2024 are to merge the babies and parents into Club Wilber and to expand activities for them as they grow to toddlers. The CYC and Wilberforce cookery club for young people continues with great culinary successes coming from the kitchen.

We have safe guarding officers, a new objective for 2024 is to review safeguarding measures in our other departments (other than care) and recognise what needs changing or adding in.

In 2024 Club Wilber will repeat two exceptional activities we have done most years in the past that have been requested again. These are Wild Things Forest School and WetWheels. For full information please source the Club Wilber impact report. www.wilberforcetrust.org.uk

Quality

"As we are a provider of Adult and Social care, our aim is to deliver the highest level of quality support and care and safety. To do this we ensure our staff are trained at a high- level including sight and hearing loss awareness and practical training. Our processes and procedures must meet or exceed those standards as set down by section 20 regulations of the Health and Social care Act. Our aspiration is to be the best, safest, most effective provider. A provider where, customers, families and carers feel confident to receive services from Wilberforce Trust. Our Quality Assurance is designed within the CQC, CYC, NYC framework to support, planning delivery and monitoring along with continuous improvement of all support and care we provide. As a charity we put quality, safety, and our clients first in everything we do, and everything is measured and monitored against the following factors":

Taking the health and safety, security, and privacy, along with general well-being for all is accepted in the organisation as a main priority. This reflected in all our policies and procedures and is demonstrated in our compliance with local authorities and national audit and inspection bodies. The Quality Assurance Committee meet on a quarterly basis to review the internal audit KPIs and action plan accordingly. CQC have deferred site visits this year but have reviewed services at distance and have continued to rate all our services as 'good' rating. We have an embedded a complaints process and encourage people to feedback all comments. The tenants have a tenant's forum in order to feedback on all services. The improvement to the Radar system (measuring and monitoring) saw all personnel trained to record and utilise. The compliance management audit quarterly all information that is entered on monthly and quarterly audits.

We have systems in place to ensure privacy of documentation and computer data through our GDPR processes including policies for fundraising and finance. Health and Safety measures on all facilities of the Wilberforce Trust and reporting is delivered through the facilities team to the Quality Assurance Committee and subsequently to The Board of Trustees within an overall Governance Report.

During the Year the Compliance and Quality committee has

- Supported and advised on the reporting of safety measures and outcome reporting for all areas including facilities and buildings.
- Measured and monitored staff training in the areas of H&S and Compliance
- Reviewed quality and safety performance information with input from relevant governance meetings and considered matters arising from the quality reviews and other reports.
- Provided assurance regarding quality governance processes taking advice from the relevant compliance management.
- Fully reported to the Board of Trustees on the Quality and Safety for the organisation.

Our People

"Our success is dependent on our people's skills, passion and commitment of our people. Our objective is to build an environment where everyone can thrive and be recognised for the role, they perform for The Wilberforce Trust and its customers. We introduced our values award to ensure we recognise every individual for who and what they are achieving with and for our customers. We celebrate their achievements and look to find ways they can achieve their own goals and fulfil their own potential".

Our focus for the year has been two-fold to ensure we can create a supportive and caring working environment where we continue to develop the support mechanisms to ensure the wellbeing of our people both physically and their mental health and to address diversity across all areas.

We continued to offer staff access to our in- house trained mental health first aiders and counselling services when needed. We increased our benefits to give the private healthcare scheme to all staff and extra holiday days for special days.

We employ people with a diverse range of skills, ethnicities, genders, and disabilities to deliver and support our services, and have regular staff forums to welcome the view of all staff.


This year we have recruited staff through a visa sponsored scheme from an agency increasing our diversity and ethnicity groups across our support workers.

We ensure that all staff have appropriate training and updates in order to perform their roles and support additional development training. We focus on building a caring, inclusive culture where people feel they can contribute, belong, and can enjoy their work. During the year with the rise in the cost-of-living crisis an uncertain economic outlook, we did as in the previous year and reviewed all our people and gave additional supportive pay rises. All staff received a higher- than -average pay award keeping us well above the national living wage.

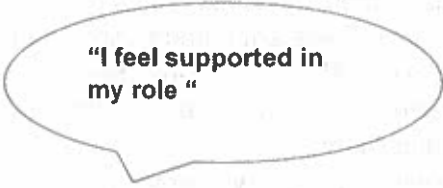
In light of a recruitment issue in adult and social care it was important that additional benefits are added to a higher- than- average pay, increased holiday days, private health benefits, reward and recognition awards continue for the foreseeable future.

Our staff have equity and diversity and inclusion training to create an inclusive culture across the Wilberforce Trust. Our HR team offer 'safe spaces' for people to discuss issues related to their personal characteristics or background, and to find support. All our terminology and documentation is reviewed to change the way in which we accommodate and address all people in their chosen and respectful way. We have a zero policy on race, gender or any type of verbal bullying and abuse. Team meetings, supervisions and appraisals form a key part of support and working together for all.

"Feedback from staff"



"The organisation as a whole has a lot of respect which is refreshing"



"I feel supported in my role"

Volunteers

Our volunteers form part of our people strategy. They come in all guises from befrienders, gardeners, fundraisers, drivers, sensory session helpers, quiz masters, music maestros, pen pals and so many more. They are the quiet unseen heroes sometimes but never undervalued by us. We continue to welcome their expertise and help in everything they do for the people we and they support.

Financial Sustainability

"A challenging year across Adult and Social care. As a charity all our income is invested back into delivering our purpose so we can help more people to achieve their goals and ambitions with a visual or hearing impairment. We look at ways to expand our ability to reach those who are in need and those in need of more than the statutory services can deliver. All services are scrutinised for a financial return or break even. We have a clear road map on cashflow and servicing of our debt through our banks."

Through tight controls operational cash flow was positive with good investment return. Major funders remain as City of York Council, North Yorkshire Council, Housing Benefit Agency, Continuing Healthcare. Negotiated rates for care, support and rents remain high on the agenda each year. Our concentration operationally has been to manage voids and agency spend. Each year we look to enhance revenues through other services from the other departments. Return on investment in fundraising is measured each year.

Financial compliance, fundraising compliance and GDPR are all measured and reported through the Finance and Personnel Committee and subsequently the Board of Trustees.

Fundraising

It would be remiss, not to mention all the supporters and donors, who on a regular basis give through individual donations and supporting events and campaigns. Thanks goes to all of you who support us however small or large, everything makes a huge difference. The Charity will need to regroup and reinforce its strategy as fundraising has been exceptionally hard for all charities in light of the cost of living crisis.

Environmental Sustainability

"The Wilberforce trust takes environmental sustainability seriously from carbon emissions, global warming, landfill and climate change. We believe that there are things that we can do to ensure we play our part in this serious issue".

We know that climate change is the biggest threat to our planet and human life, making us committed to act now. It is in no doubt that tackling climate change is a big challenge for us all. We are encouraging staff to reduce their car usage and have encouraged bike to work schemes and created a safe bike storage. Staff are encouraged to support all tenants with recycling.

To date:

- Utilities – Solar panels have been fitted to our new build.
- Carbon emissions – We encourage car sharing, bike and walk to work and have electric charging points on Wilberforce house sight.
- Waste management - An improved recycling store.
- Site maintenance improvements
- Engagement with suppliers with green policies

As with all issues including environmental ones' we encourage our people to put forward their ideas and comments on where we could improve.

Maintaining our Strong Trusted Brand

Through our 8 brand pillars:

1. Always remembering our proud history and our evolution.
2. Maintaining our logos, colour palette and design in all our communications and signage
3. Being visible and heard – never over promising and under delivering.
4. Talking with our clients gaining lived experience feedback
5. Give back to society and our community through our identified charitable give.
6. Being a part of our community.
7. Ensuring all our employees feel valued and knowledgeable and able to positively promote the organisation they work for.
8. Communication style that engages all people internal and external through its reliable authentic media channels.

Philippa Crowther CEO

Risk Management

RISK 1.	Primary Mitigations
<p>Safeguarding and regulatory and compliance risks</p> <p>Risk of any weakness in our compliance areas including in relation to safeguarding, CQC and any regulatory body standards and guidelines, causing significant impact to the organisation on any regulatory issue.</p>	<p>Established processes and controls reporting.</p> <p>Safeguarding Lead for adults (Head of Compliance, Governance and Quality, plus Yorsensory Business Manager) and Safeguarding Children Lead (Head of Compliance, Governance and Quality) trained and implemented. Providing oversight and reporting in the Executive Leadership Team.</p> <p>Regular reporting to the Executive team and Board of Trustees through the Compliance Committee</p> <p>A policy framework is insitu for all policies, review and cascade system.</p> <p>Working with other our external auditors and assurers to implement recommendations in a timely manner.</p> <p>Safeguarding Adults Policy and training in place (with regular refresher for all staff, every 2 years.</p> <p>Competencies completed with new starters as part of their induction and annually refreshed, Lone Working Risk Assessment completed with all new starters and refreshed annually, Safe Recruitment process in place, which includes:</p> <p>DBS check 2x references, measure interview documentation.</p> <p>Audit in place every 6 months to maintain safe recruitment.</p> <p>Whistle blowing Policy reviewed annually. Staff reporting all the incidents and accidents via RADAR for the Management to investigate. Discuss on monthly bases with compliance Improvement, implemented where required. Positive Behaviour Support training for all the staff to be able to support service users in challenging situations. Safe use of restrain techniques policy implemented and annually reviewed. Mental Capacity assessment and Best Interest policy and training in place for staff. Head of Compliance is trained Mental Capacity and Best Interest Assessor and advises Care Team when required.</p>

Risk 2.	Primary Mitigation
<p>Financial Risk</p> <p>Financial stability risks, including risk to a fall in authority levels of funding for support and care. Inflation risk to supplies, utilities and other service costs and ensuring appropriate levels of reserves.</p> <p>Investment portfolio review for best return for strategic direction.</p> <p>Insurance – £ value of liabilities for organisation, Trustees and professionals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Reserves policy</u>: Regular review of the Reserve Policy, minimum of reserves kept ,liquid funds,Budget audited by the external source • <u>Service provision</u>: Regular reviews of individual customers and quarterly reviews undertaken by commissioning body, annual tenant survey on satisfaction. Complaint and compliment implemented by tenants reviewed quarterly and presented to Board in report. A family survey completed annually. Whistleblowing policy review annually. Compliance and Compliments Policy reviewed annually • Tenants not having access to personal monies/ or having insufficient funds to pay utilities: Tenants money under the care of COP and monthly budget planned for each tenant accordingly. Monthly finance audit completed by Management • Loss of Capital Value in Investments: Quarterly monitoring by F& P Committee. Trustees are reviewing the overall risk strategy for Trust investment. Funds split between two found sources. Regular monitoring of each fund • Contracting from Councils: Support provided as per contracted hours is clearly documented. Annual contract reviews with Local Authorities. • Exec negotiate the hourly rates for the individuals with the Contract Manager negotiating packages of care suitable for tenants needs. • <u>Borrowing</u>- Annual review of asset held and the maintenance of. Regular cash flow forecast reviewed at Board Meeting quarterly. Maintain good relationship with potential lenders. • <u>Organisational Budget</u> -Regular review of the Organisational Budget .Planning big expenditures ahead and implement them into the Budget. In place: All department having cost centre with annual budget to manage .This also

assign them the responsibility of planning ahead big purchases and maintain the records of each transaction completed for the audit purpose. Careful planning of the annual budget for the organisation

Procedures are in place to review and action budget/cash flow variances. Budget review quarterly with the Board

Inadequate Cash Flow Sensitivity (or timing of)

Short term liquidity management. Annual budget setting, projected cash generation to cover capital accounts, control of staffing levels to reflect care hours required, Cash flow forecast regularly produced

Dependency on Income Sources

In place :Identified major dependencies

Compliance with Donor Imposed restrictions

In place :Budget in place , reviewed quarterly with the Board. Restricted funds are ring-fenced. Annual audit reviews all funds raised in order to classify whether these are restricted or designated funding and accounts for them accordingly

Not competitive Pricing Policy

In place : Comparable with other Providers

Monitoring of funder satisfaction.

Lack of funds/liquidity

In place : Monthly management account

Cash forecast

Short-term business plan

Investment policy. Professional investment

advice /management. Diversity, prudence & liquidity criteria. Regular performance monitoring,

There is always a minimum cash limit held in our bank current account, reconciled monthly, to meet unexpected demands. There are also unrestricted reserves in our accounts to use if needs be. Regularly used professional investment advice/management, Cash forecast, diversity ,prudence and liquidity criteria reviewed annually

Fraudulent use of tenant's bank account/ monies

In place: RADAR software used to implement finance related incidents for the management to investigate,

Supporting tenants with finances policy for all staff to follow, reviewed annually.

	<p>All support staff must complete Competencies in the area of managing tenants' money prior to be able to support them with finances.</p> <p><u>Loss or damage</u> Theft of assets</p> <p>In place :Safe custody arrangement for title documents,</p> <p>Each HQ staff has assigned mobile and laptop with security cabling while working.</p> <p>Assess register onto each username, WFH is monitored by CCTV. Annual inventory of all the assets. Annual Content Insurance renewal</p> <p>Review of insurance liabilities and values to fully cover organisation, Trustees and professionals.</p>
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Risk 3

Our People Risk

Risk of inadequate support worker resources and capabilities for our care and support services. Risk of cultural inadequacies

Primary Mitigation

We have continual oversight of our recruitment policy, measuring and monitoring on a monthly basis. Robust HR policies are in place and reviewed regularly through our HR and compliance team and F&P committee quarterly.

The Executive along with the Board of Trustees monitor the key HR metrics. Ongoing embedding and implementing Accessibility, Diversity and Inclusion into all working practices. Pay is reviewed and where possible above market rates for all staff.

Staff surveys are held each year with published results along with actions to be taken for measured improvement to working practices, culture and behaviours.

A rewards and recognition system is in place. Actions also identified is to place all our ongoing benefits and actions into a staff wellbeing framework.

Risk 4

Strategic objectives risk

- Ensuring we continue to deliver care and support through contracted services along with extending reach for the people we support.
- Continue to develop services with people feedback and into the sight-loss 'Independence pathway'
- Ensure all opportunities are explored to support the people we serve.

Primary Mitigation

Our plans for 2024-25 and beyond focus on opportunities to build and demonstrate impact on our clients through our delivery models.

Monitoring and measuring continuous improvement in all we do with robust impact reporting.

Senior Leaders cascading our vision to all staff with measurable objectives

FINANCIAL REPORT 2023-2024

The Trust continued with its astute financial management during the year. Operational income is contractual, investment dividends, fundraising and grants. The Trust has sufficient resources to be able to face the challenges ahead with confidence.

Operational income in the year £5.055m (2023: £4.844m), yielding a surplus on operations of £212k (2023: loss of £70k) with investment income contributing £186k (2023: £159K), £423k was added to reserves (2023: £537k) before recognition of gains/losses in financial investments.

Operating costs, including funding activities, were £4.632m (2023: £3.892m)

When revalued for reporting purposes, our investment portfolio showed, in line with global stock market changes, an unrealised gain of £208k (2023: a loss of £144k).

Cashflow was once again positive at £372k from operations supported by financial investment returns of £186k. The bank loan brought forward from last year was paid off in full in December 2023.

Message from the Board of Trustees

Through the dedication and professionalism of our employees, The Wilberforce Trust, led by our Chief Executive Philippa Crowther, as per the report, continues to fulfil its objectives, to create choices and opportunities for people with sight loss, sensory loss and other disabilities to access the services they need to lead independent fulfilled lives.

The Trustees would like to place on record our gratitude to our CEO Philippa Crowther who retires in August 2024 for the contribution, dedication and the outstanding performance during her 11 year tenure and we wish her well in her retirement.

We are delighted to be welcoming our new Chief Executive Officer Ellie Stead and look forward to working with her in the coming years.

We thank the executive team, all our staff, and our volunteers throughout this year.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEE BOARD ON 26 NOVEMBER 2024

Colin Aspinall (Chairman)



HPH

Chartered Accountants

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE WILBERFORCE TRUST

OPINION

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

BASIS OF OPINION

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

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees'/director's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

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

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

OTHER INFORMATION

The trustees/directors are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

HPH

Chartered Accountants

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE WILBERFORCE TRUST

OPINION ON OTHER MATTERS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' report, which includes the directors' report, prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the trustees' report.

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies exemption in preparing the trustees' report.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTORS

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement on page 7 the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks within which the company operates, focusing on those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The laws and regulations we considered in this context were the Companies Act 2006 together with the Charities SORP (FRS102). We assessed the required compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items.

HPH

Chartered Accountants

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE WILBERFORCE TRUST

- In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which might be fundamental to the charitable company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. The laws and regulations we considered in this context were Care Quality Commission, Health and Safety legislation, Employment legislation, Charity Commission regulations and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the Trustees and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.
- We also considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the charitable company for fraud.
- We identified the greatest risk of material impact on the financial statements from irregularities, including fraud, to be the override of controls by management and income recognition.

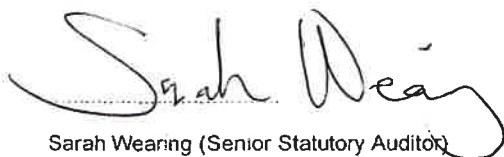
In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations and risk of fraud, we designed procedures which included but were not limited to: sample testing on the posting of journals, timing of recognition of commercial income, review of trustee's minutes and any correspondence with regulators.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations. These inherent limitations are particularly significant in the case of misstatement resulting from fraud as this may involve sophisticated schemes designed to avoid detection, including deliberate failure to record transactions, collusion, or the provision of intentional misrepresentations. We are not responsible for preventing fraud and cannot be expected to detect all fraud.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditor's report.

USE OF OUR REPORT

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



Sarah Wearing (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of HPH, Statutory Auditor

54 Bootham
York
YO30 7XZ

26 November 2024

THE WILBERFORCE TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
AND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	Unrestricted General Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Permanent Endowment Funds £	Year ended 31 March 2024 £	Year ended 31 March 2023 £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	2	19,320	-	42,889	-	62,209	40,253
Charitable activities	3	4,696,316	-	-	-	4,696,316	3,753,661
Other trading activities	4	85,418	-	-	-	85,418	27,661
Investments	5	102,407	-	-	83,787	186,194	159,002
Other income	6	25,000	-	-	-	25,000	448,264
Total		4,928,461	-	42,889	83,787	5,055,137	4,428,841
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	7 - 9	44,881	-	-	15,516	60,397	51,663
Charitable activities		4,355,403	176,983	15,848	23,667	4,571,901	3,840,500
Total		4,400,284	176,983	15,848	39,183	4,632,298	3,892,163
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds before gains on investments		528,177	(176,983)	27,041	44,604	422,839	536,678
Net (losses)/gains on investments	12	114,654	-	-	93,807	208,461	(143,847)
Net (expenditure)/income		642,831	(176,983)	27,041	138,411	631,300	392,831
Transfers between funds	18, 19 & 20	1,607,625	1,476,162	-	(3,083,787)	-	-
Net movement in funds		2,250,456	1,299,179	27,041	(2,945,376)	631,300	392,831
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		1,245,905	4,721,665	26,651	9,080,455	15,074,676	14,681,845
Total funds carried forward		£ 3,496,361	£ 6,020,844	£ 53,692	£ 6,135,079	£ 15,705,976	£ 15,074,676

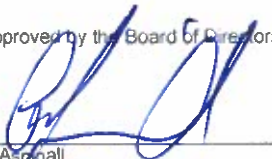
The notes on pages 37 to 50 form part of these financial statements

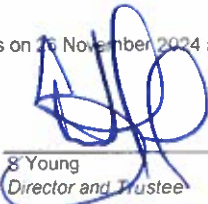
THE WILBERFORCE TRUST
(Registration number: 4228432)

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Fixed Assets	10		9,595,042		9,763,528
Investments	12		5,523,659		7,864,519
			<u>15,118,701</u>		<u>17,628,047</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stock		4,611		6,748	
Debtors	13	87,478		79,126	
Cash at Bank and in Hand	14	785,373		913,499	
		<u>877,462</u>		<u>999,373</u>	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	15	290,187		552,229	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>587,275</u>		<u>447,144</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			<u>15,705,976</u>		<u>18,075,191</u>
CREDITORS: amounts falling due after one year	16		-		3,000,515
NET ASSETS			<u><u>£15,705,976</u></u>		<u><u>£ 15,074,676</u></u>
REPRESENTED BY					
Unrestricted Funds					
Undesignated - General Fund			3,496,361		1,245,905
Designated	18		6,020,844		4,721,665
Restricted Funds	19		53,692		26,651
Endowed Funds	20				
Permanent endowment			6,002,937		8,945,310
Revaluation Reserve			132,142		135,145
FUNDS			<u><u>£15,705,976</u></u>		<u><u>£ 15,074,676</u></u>

Approved by the Board of Directors and Trustees on 26 November 2024 and signed on its behalf by:


C Aspinall
Director and Trustee


S Young
Director and Trustee

The notes on pages 37 to 50 form part of these financial statements

**THE WILBERFORCE TRUST
STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	22	<u>372,129</u>	<u>(246)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		186,194	159,002
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment		25,000	1,761,325
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(260,770)	(770,280)
Proceeds from sales of investments		4,144,308	2,192,558
Purchase of investments		<u>(1,594,987)</u>	<u>(2,153,164)</u>
Net cash provided by investing activities		<u>2,499,745</u>	<u>1,189,441</u>
Cash flows from financing activities:			
Repayments of borrowing		<u>(3,000,000)</u>	<u>(1,150,000)</u>
Net cash used in financing activities		<u>(3,000,000)</u>	<u>(1,150,000)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(128,126)	39,195
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		<u>913,499</u>	<u>874,304</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u><u>785,373</u></u>	<u><u>913,499</u></u>

Charity law requires separate administration of the cashflows of endowed and other restricted funds of the Charity. This constraint has not adversely affected cashflows as stated above.

The notes on pages 37 to 50 form part of these financial statements

THE WILBERFORCE TRUST

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

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Legal entity

The Wilberforce Trust is regulated by the Charity Commission (1087065), limited by guarantee and is registered in England and Wales. The address of the registered office and principal place of business is Wilberforce House, The Grove, York, YO24 1AN.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

The Trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The accounts are presented in UK Sterling pounds (£).

Going Concern

The Trustees have prepared financial projections, taking into consideration the current economic climate and its potential impact on the sources of income and planned expenditure. They have a reasonable expectation that adequate financial resources are available to enable the charity to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, and have adequate contingency plans in the event that income streams are reduced. Consequently the financial statements have been prepared on the basis that the charity is a going concern.

Income recognition

Income from service agreements is recognised when the Charitable Company has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the items of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. Voluntary income and donations including legacies are included in incoming resources when they are receivable, except when donors specify that they must be used in future accounting periods or donors conditions have not been fulfilled, then the income is deferred. The income from fundraising ventures is shown gross, with the associated costs included in fundraising costs. The value of services provided by volunteers is not incorporated into the accounts.

Government grants

The government has made the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme available to the charity which has been recognised as income using the accrual model.

Grant income is recognised when the conditions for receipt have been met and there is reasonable assurance that the grant will be received. It is then recognised in income on a systematic basis over the periods in which the entity recognises the related costs for which the grant is intended to compensate, except where the grant is compensation for expenses or losses already incurred or for the purpose of giving immediate financial support to the entity with no future related costs in which case it is recognised as income in the period in which it becomes receivable.

Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis, inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered. All costs have been directly attributed to one of the functional categories of reserves expended in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Support costs are those incurred directly in support of the objects of the Charitable Company.

Governance costs are those associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Fundraising costs

Fundraising expenditure comprises costs incurred in inducing people and organisations to contribute financially to the Charitable Company's work. This includes the cost of advertising for donations and the staging of special fundraising events.

Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period they are incurred.

Pension costs

The Charitable Company operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the charge in the accounts for pension costs represents the actual amount of contributions made by the employer to the pension scheme.

THE WILBERFORCE TRUST

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

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Fixed Assets

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost/revaluation on a straight line basis over their expected useful economic lives as follows:

Freehold property	2% straight line basis
Furniture, equipment etc.	20% straight line basis
IT equipment	25% straight line basis

All expenditure on all types of fixed assets of less than £2,500 is to be written off in year of purchase.

Investments and investment property

Investments and investment property are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

Fund accounting

Funds held by the Charitable Company are either:

- **Unrestricted general funds** - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Directors/Trustees.
- **Unrestricted designated funds** - these are funds earmarked by the Directors/Trustees for particular purposes.
- **Restricted funds** - these are funds which can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the Charitable Company. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.
- **Permanent endowment funds** - these funds represent those assets which must be held permanently by The Wilberforce Home for the Blind charity.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the Notes to the Financial Statements.

Stock

Stock is stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash 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 of similar account.

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 a transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or

Financial instruments

The Trust only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2024 £	2023 £
Donations	11,034	24,414
Club Wilber	5,312	15,366
Legacies	45,863	473
	<u>£ 62,209</u>	<u>£ 40,253</u>

THE WILBERFORCE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	2024 £	2023 £				
3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES						
Accommodation care & support services	4,696,190	3,728,585				
Rehabilitation services	126	25,076				
	£ 4,696,316	£ 3,753,661				
4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES						
	2024 £	2023 £				
Grants & trusts income	53,639	18,769				
Other fundraising events	20	-				
Local giving income	1,764	409				
Cafe income	29,995	8,483				
	£ 85,418	£ 27,661				
5. INVESTMENTS						
	2024 £	2023 £				
Dividends investments listed on a recognised stock exchange	163,558	144,365				
Bank & other interest	12,417	1,339				
Rent received investment property	10,219	13,298				
	£ 186,194	£ 159,002				
6. OTHER INCOME						
	2024 £	2023 £				
Gain on disposal of fixed assets	£ 25,000	£ 448,264				
7. ANALYSIS OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE						
	Staff costs £	Premises costs £	Depreciation £	Other £	2024 £	2023 £
<u>Raising funds</u>						
Fundraising costs	-	-	-	25,917	25,917	12,458
Investment management costs	-	-	-	34,480	34,480	39,205
<u>Charitable activities</u>						
Accommodation, care & support services	2,755,651	223,807	199,161	1,382,531	4,561,150	3,829,079
Rehabilitation services	-	-	1,489	3,752	5,241	3,681
Governance costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
- auditor's remuneration	-	-	-	5,510	5,510	7,740
	£ 2,755,651	£ 223,807	£ 200,650	£ 1,452,190	£ 4,632,298	£ 3,892,163
Included in the amounts shown above are support costs totalling £945,080 (2023 £722,509) as shown in Note 8.						
					2024 £	2023 £
Included in other costs are:						
Agency costs					£ 471,136	£ 303,774

THE WILBERFORCE TRUST

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

8. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management £	Office costs £	Depreciation £	2024 £	2023 £
Accommodation, care & support services	631,750	275,893	32,196	939,839	718,828
Rehabilitation services	-	3,752	1,489	5,241	3,681
	<u>£ 631,750</u>	<u>£ 279,645</u>	<u>£ 33,685</u>	<u>£ 945,080</u>	<u>£ 722,509</u>

Support costs have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

9. STAFF COSTS

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	2,417,961	2,238,368
Social security costs	242,384	197,429
Pension costs	95,306	77,728
	<u>£ 2,755,651</u>	<u>£ 2,513,525</u>

No remuneration or expenses have been paid to any Director/Trustee.

The number of employees during the year, whose gross pay and benefits (excluding employer pension contributions and awards to inventors) fell within the following bands, was:

	2024 No.	2023 No.
£60,001 - £70,000	1	1
£80,001 - £90,000	1	1

The key management personnel of the Trust, comprise the Trustees, the Chief Executive Officer and the Finance Director. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Trust were £199,168 (2023 £190,911).

The average monthly head count was 130 staff (2023 125) and the average monthly number of full-time equivalent employees (including casual and part-time staff) during the year were as follows:

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Accommodation, care, support and rehabilitation services	83	69
Administration	16	18
	<u>99</u>	<u>87</u>

THE WILBERFORCE TRUST

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

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Assets in the course of construction £	Motor vehicles £	IT equipment £	Total £
<i>Cost or valuation</i>					
At 1 April 2023	1,692,100	8,816,865	57,102	64,339	10,630,406
Additions in year	32,164	-	-	-	32,164
Disposals in year	-	-	(57,102)	-	(57,102)
Reclassification	8,816,865	(8,816,865)	-	-	-
At 31 March 2024	10,541,129	-	-	64,339	10,605,468
<i>Depreciation</i>					
At 1 April 2023	745,437	-	57,102	64,339	866,878
Charge for year	200,650	-	-	-	200,650
Disposals in year	-	-	(57,102)	-	(57,102)
At 31 March 2024	946,087	-	-	64,339	1,010,426
<i>Net book value</i>					
At 31 March 2024	£ 9,595,042	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 9,595,042
At 31 March 2023	£ 946,663	£ 8,816,865	£ -	£ -	£ 9,763,528

	2024 £	2023 £
Unrestricted - designated	5,966,044	3,110,863
Endowed	3,628,998	6,652,665
	£ 9,595,042	£ 9,763,528

The freehold property (excluding Wilberforce House) was revalued at 31 March 2018 by J L Burley of Briggs Burley Chartered Surveyors on the basis of open market value at £1,065,000
If the freehold properties had not been included at valuation they would have been included under the historical cost convention as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Cost	10,002,098	9,969,934
Accumulated depreciation	(1,662,028)	(1,461,378)
Net book value	£ 8,340,070	£ 8,508,556

11. AUDITOR'S REMUNERATION

	2024 £	2023 £
Audit of the financial statements	4,000	4,000
Other fees to auditor		
All other non-audit services	2,930	2,930
	£ 6,930	£ 6,930

THE WILBERFORCE TRUST

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

12. INVESTMENTS

	2024 £	2023 £
Market value at 1 April 2023	7,864,519	8,047,760
Additions	1,594,987	2,153,164
Disposals	(4,144,308)	(2,192,558)
Net gains	208,461	(143,847)
Market value at 31 March 2024	£ 5,523,659	£ 7,864,519
	2024 £	2023 £
Unrestricted	3,017,578	5,350,793
Endowed	2,506,081	2,513,726
	£ 5,523,659	£ 7,864,519
	2024 £	2023 £
The historical cost of the above investments amounts to:	£ 5,072,369	£ 7,577,573
Listed investments		
Within the UK	1,024,696	3,633,408
Outside the UK	4,498,963	4,231,111
	£ 5,523,659	£ 7,864,519

All investments are held primarily to provide an investment return for the Charitable Company.

13. DEBTORS

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	18,614	35,957
Prepayments	9,619	4,188
Accrued income	59,245	38,981
	£ 87,478	£ 79,126
	2024 £	2023 £
Unrestricted	£ 87,478	£ 79,126

THE WILBERFORCE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

14. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash in hand	821	981
Current account	5,000	5,000
Savings account	779,552	907,518
	<u>£ 785,373</u>	<u>£ 913,499</u>
	2024 £	2023 £
Unrestricted	731,681	972,784
Restricted	53,692	26,651
Endowed	-	(85,936)
	<u>£ 785,373</u>	<u>£ 913,499</u>

15. CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	79,715	86,974
Other creditors	2,712	21,853
Taxation and social security costs	59,640	45,596
Accruals and deferred income	147,615	397,240
Pension deficit funding agreement	505	566
	<u>£ 290,187</u>	<u>£ 552,229</u>
	2024 £	2023 £
Unrestricted	290,187	323,623
Unrestricted - designated	-	228,606
	<u>£ 290,187</u>	<u>£ 552,229</u>
	2024 £	2023 £
Deferred income	98,882	102,737
Balance brought forward	(98,882)	(102,737)
Amount released in the year	91,377	98,882
Amount deferred in the year	-	-
	<u>91,377</u>	<u>98,882</u>

The Charitable Company was holding funds received in advance of the provision of contracted services, which will be fully released in the following financial year.

16. CREDITORS: amounts falling due after one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Bank loan (see note 17)	-	3,000,000
Pension deficit funding agreement	-	515
	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 3,000,515</u>
	2024 £	2023 £
Unrestricted	-	3,000,515

THE WILBERFORCE TRUST

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

17. LOANS AND BORROWINGS

	2024 £	2023 £
Non-current loans and borrowings		
Other borrowings	£ -	£ 3,000,000

Other borrowings

Other borrowings is denominated in £ with a nominal interest rate of the bank's Fixed Refinancing Rate current from time to time plus and interest rate margin of 1.10%, and the loan facility is available until further notice by the bank. The carrying amount at year end is £nil (2023 - £3,000,000).

The loan was secured against assets held within an investment portfolio. The loans are a credit facility held with an investment manager.

18. DESIGNATED FUNDS

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Welfare Fund	9,800	-	-	-	9,800
Pension Reserve	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
Low Vision Service	25,000	-	-	-	25,000
Fixed Assets	4,666,865	-	(176,983)	1,476,162	5,966,044
	£ 4,721,665	£ -	(£ 176,983)	£ 1,476,162	£ 6,020,844

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Welfare Fund	9,800	-	-	-	9,800
Pension Reserve	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
Low Vision Service	25,000	-	-	-	25,000
Fixed Assets	3,802,184	-	(11,581)	876,262	4,666,865
	£ 3,856,984	£ -	(£ 11,581)	£ 876,262	£ 4,721,665

Welfare Fund

To ensure that any hardship applications to continue to live in a tenanted house of The Wilberforce Trust can be funded where necessary to ensure that The Wilberforce clients can integrate in activities and live as independent lives as possible with equal opportunity.

Pension Reserve

With new legislation, the Trust has identified that the pension provision needs a pension reserve.

Low Vision Service

To ensure that the Trust can have facilities and equipment to deliver where appropriate and necessary community NHS Ophthalmology Low Vision Services.

Fixed Assets

Represents net book value of new building less loan value and excludes property held as permanent endowment. Transfers relate to the repayment of loans and additions which are not part of Endowed funds.

THE WILBERFORCE TRUST

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

19. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance at 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Club Wilber	9,651	36,889	(9,848)	-	36,692
Yorsensory	17,000	6,000	(6,000)	-	17,000
Sensory Garden	-	16,990	(5,000)	-	11,990
	£ 26,651	£ 42,889	£ (15,848)	£ -	£ 53,692

	Balance at 1 April 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Eyevan	5,034	-	(5,034)	-	-
Sensory Project Fund	7,400	-	(7,400)	-	-
Ward Fund	1,500	-	(1,500)	-	-
Atrium Wall Hanging	1,000	-	(1,000)	-	-
Bradbury Foundation	250,000	-	-	(250,000)	-
Rainbow room/LLZ	-	3,649	(3,649)	-	-
Club Wilber	-	11,988	(2,337)	-	9,651
Yorsensory	-	17,000	-	-	17,000
	£ 264,934	£ 32,637	(£ 20,920)	(£ 250,000)	£ 26,651

Club Wilber

Funding for Club Wilber activities provided by Ed De Nunzio Charitable Trust, York Children's Trust, York Common Good Trust, Happy Days Children's Trust, NYCC Get Going, Blue Spark, Boshier-Hinton Foundation, Sylvia and Colin Shepherd CT and Yorkshire Building Society.

Yorsensory

Funding for Yorsensory initiatives provided by Ways to Wellbeing, Shears Foundation, W L Pratt CT, Norman Collinson CT and Benenden Health.

Sensory Garden

Funding for the creation of a sensory garden in the grounds of Wilberforce House.

THE WILBERFORCE TRUST

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

20. PERMANENT ENDOWMENT FUND

The Permanent Endowment Fund represents those assets which must be held permanently by the Charitable Company, principally property and investments. Income arising on the endowment fund can be used in accordance with the objects of the Charitable Company and are included as unrestricted income. Any capital gains or losses arising on the investments form part of the fund.

	Balance at 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Investment gains	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Wilberforce Home for the Blind	2,063,140	-	(20,664)	-	1,454,380	3,496,856
Investments	6,882,170	83,787	(15,516)	93,807	(4,538,167)	2,506,081
Revaluation reserve	135,145	-	(3,003)	-	-	132,142
	9,080,455	83,787	(39,183)	93,807	(3,083,787)	6,135,079

The above transfer from the Investments Permanent Endowment Fund to the General Unrestricted Fund relates to investment income arising on the endowment fund that can be used in accordance with the objects of the Charitable

The above transfer from the Investments Permanent Endowment Fund to the Designated fund of £3m relates to investments released from permanently endowed funds as part of the section 282 CA 2011 resolution approved by the Charity Commission in order for the charity to pay off loans used to build the new home for the blind.

The transfer between the Investments fund and the Wilberforce Home for the Blind reflects the property and investment disposal made of the period of the new build. The Wilberforce Home for the Blind and the revaluation reserve reflects the level of permanent endowed funds held in the properties of the charity.

	Balance at 1 April 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Investment losses	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Wilberforce Home for the Blind	1,502,212	448,264	(37,829)	-	150,493	2,063,140
Investments	6,940,747	50,881	(12,546)	(46,031)	(50,881)	6,882,170
Revaluation reserve	288,641	-	(3,003)	-	(150,493)	135,145
	8,731,600	499,145	(53,378)	(46,031)	(50,881)	9,080,455

The above transfer from the Revaluation reserve Permanent Endowment Fund to the Wilberforce Home for the Blind Permanent Endowment Fund relates to the properties disposed of in the year.

21. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Tangible Fixed Assets	Investments	Net Current Assets	Long term liabilities	2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March 2024 are represented by:					
Unrestricted Funds	-	3,017,578	478,783	-	3,496,361
Designated Funds	5,966,044	-	54,800	-	6,020,844
Restricted Funds	-	-	53,692	-	53,692
Permanent Endowment Fund	3,628,998	2,506,081	-	-	6,135,079
	£ 9,595,042	£ 5,523,659	£ 587,275	£ -	£ 15,705,976

THE WILBERFORCE TRUST

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

21. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS (continued)

	Tangible Fixed Assets	Investments	Net Current Assets	Long term liabilities	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March 2023 are represented by:					
Unrestricted Funds	-	5,350,793	(1,104,373)	(3,000,515)	1,245,905
Designated Funds	3,110,863	-	1,610,802	-	4,721,665
Restricted Funds	-	-	26,651	-	26,651
Permanent Endowment Fund	6,652,665	2,513,726	(85,936)	-	9,080,455
	£ 9,763,528	£ 7,864,519	£ 447,144	£ (3,000,515)	£ 15,074,676

22. RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net income for the reporting period		
Adjustments for:	631,300	392,831
Depreciation charges	200,650	52,412
Gains on disposal of fixed assets	(25,000)	(448,264)
(Gains)/losses on investments	(208,461)	143,847
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(186,194)	(159,002)
Decrease/(increase) in stock	2,137	(640)
Increase in debtors	(8,352)	(797)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(33,951)	19,367
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	£ 372,129	£ (246)

ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash at bank and in hand	785,373	913,499
Total cash and cash equivalents	£ 785,373	£ 913,499

ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At 01/04/2023	Cash-flows	At 31/03/2024
	£	£	£
Cash	913,499	(128,126)	785,373
Loans	(3,000,515)	3,000,515	-
	£ (2,087,016)	£ 2,872,389	£ 785,373

23. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

	At 31 March 2024	At 31 March 2023
	£	£
The total of future minimum lease payments is as follows:		
Operating leases which expire:		
Within one year	5,153	5,153
Within one to two years	4,496	5,153
Within two to five years	-	4,496
	£ 9,649	£ 14,802

The amount of non-cancellable operating lease payments recognised as an expense during the reporting period was £5,153 (2023 £5,153).

THE WILBERFORCE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

24. LEGAL STATUS

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of winding up is limited to £10.

25. TAXATION

No corporation tax has been provided in the Charitable Company's accounts because the income of the entity, a registered charity, is within the exemption granted within Sections 466 to 493 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010.

26. PENSION SCHEME

The Pensions Trust Retirement Solutions - The Growth Plan

The Charitable Company participates in the scheme, a multi-employer scheme which provides benefits to some 638 non-associated participating employers. The scheme is a defined benefit scheme in the UK. It is not possible for the company to obtain sufficient information to enable it to account for the scheme as a defined benefit scheme. Therefore it accounts

The scheme is subject to the funding legislation outlined in the Pensions Act 2004 which came into force on 30 December 2005. This, together with documents issued by the Pensions Regulator and Technical Actuarial Standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council, set out the framework for funding defined benefit occupational pension schemes in the UK.

The scheme is classified as a 'last-man standing arrangement'. Therefore the Charitable Company is potentially liable for other participating employers' obligations if those employers are unable to meet their share of the scheme deficit following withdrawal from the scheme. Participating employers are legally required to meet their share of the scheme deficit on an annuity purchase basis on withdrawal from the scheme.

A full actuarial valuation for the scheme was carried out at 30 September 2020. This valuation showed assets of £800.3m, liabilities of £831.9m and a deficit of £31.6m. To eliminate this funding shortfall, the Trustee has asked the participating employers to pay additional contributions to the scheme as follows:

Deficit contributions

From 1 April 2022 to 30 September 2025 £3,312,000 per annum (payable monthly)

The recovery plan contributions are allocated to each participating employer in line with their estimated share of the Series 1 and Series 2 scheme liabilities.

Where the scheme is in deficit and where the Charitable Company has agreed to a deficit funding arrangement the Charitable Company recognises a liability for this obligation. The amount recognised is the net present value of the deficit reduction contributions payable under the agreement that relates to the deficit. The present value is calculated using the discount rate detailed in these disclosures. The unwinding of the discount rate is recognised as a finance cost.

Present values of provision

	2024	2023	2022
	£	£	£
Present value of provision	505	1,081	1,696
Reconciliation of opening and closing provisions	2023		2023
	£		£
Provision at start of period	1,081		1,696
Interest expense	42		32
Deficit contribution paid	(618)		(618)
Remeasurements – impact of any change in assumptions	-		(29)
Provision at end of period	<u>505</u>		<u>1,081</u>

THE WILBERFORCE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

26. PENSION SCHEME (continued)

Income and expenditure impact	2024 £	2023 £
Interest expense	42	32
Remeasurements – impact of any change in assumptions	-	(29)

Assumptions	2024 % per annum	2023 % per annum	2022 % per annum
Rate of discount	5.31	5.52	2.35

The discount rates shown above are the equivalent single discount rates which, when used to discount the future recovery plan contributions due, would give the same results as using a full AA corporate bond yield curve to discount the same recovery plan contributions.

The following schedule details the deficit contributions agreed between the Charitable Company and the scheme at each year end period:

Deficit contributions schedule

Year ending	2024 £	2023 £	2022 £
Year 1	515	618	618
Year 2	-	515	618
Year 3	-	-	515

The Charitable Company must recognise a liability measured as the present value of the contributions payable that arise from the deficit recovery agreement and the resulting expense in the income and expenditure account i.e. the unwinding of the discount rate as a finance cost in the period in which it arises.

It is these contributions that have been used to derive the Charitable Company's balance sheet liability.

27. CONTRACTS AND COMMITMENTS

Capital commitments at 31 March 2024 in relation to building works were £nil (2023: £nil).

28. VOLUNTEERS

Trust volunteers visit our tenants on a regular basis. Many of them have become befrienders and are making a real difference to the lives of the people they visit. Every volunteer is matched with a tenant carefully ensuring the same common interest from football to museum visits, from shopping for fun to reading carefully chosen books, from writing letters to going to the park together.

Our team of over 65 volunteers bring so much to The Wilberforce Trust. Skills, passion and energy that we are so grateful for. This year they befriended, crafted, baked, fund raised amazingly, giving so much of their time that was invaluable to the people whom we support and no report can be complete without placing on record our sincere thanks for their efforts.

29. RELATED PARTIES

There were no related party transactions during the reporting period.

THE WILBERFORCE TRUST

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

30 COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES AND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	Unrestricted		Restricted	Permanent	Year ended
	General	Designated	Funds	Endowment	31 March
	Fund	Funds	Funds	Funds	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	7,616	-	32,637	-	40,253
Charitable activities	3,753,661	-	-	-	3,753,661
Other trading activities	27,661	-	-	-	27,661
Investments	108,121	-	-	50,881	159,002
Other income	-	-	-	448,264	448,264
Total	3,897,059	-	32,637	499,145	4,428,841
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	39,117	-	-	12,546	51,663
Charitable activities	3,767,167	11,581	20,920	40,832	3,840,500
Total	3,806,284	11,581	20,920	53,378	3,892,163
Net income and net movement in funds before gains on investments	90,775	(11,581)	11,717	445,767	536,678
Net losses on investments	(97,816)	-	-	(46,031)	(143,847)
Net (expenditure)/income	(7,041)	(11,581)	11,717	399,736	392,831
Transfers between funds	(575,381)	876,262	(250,000)	(50,881)	-
Net movement in funds	(582,422)	864,681	(238,283)	348,855	392,831
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	1,828,327	3,856,984	264,934	8,731,600	14,681,845
Total funds carried forward	£ 1,245,905	£ 4,721,665	£ 26,651	£ 9,080,455	£ 15,074,676

