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SIGHTLINE VISION (NORTH WEST) LIMITED

CHARITY NUMBER 04620457

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR

ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Michael J. Sullivan
FINANCIAL ACCOUNTANTS

24 KINGSWAY WEST, PENWORTHAM, PRESTON. LANCS. PR1 0JA

SIGHTLINE VISION (NORTH WEST) LIMITED
CHARITY NUMBER 04620457
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Objectives

Sightline's objective is to provide a premier telephone befriending service for visually impaired people which is completely free, totally secure and absolutely confidential. The service is offered across England and Wales. The service is still unique within the North West of England and only a handful of organisations provide anything similar within the rest of the UK. As a result, Sightline has forged partnerships with the likes of RNIB, Guide Dogs, Age UK, Eye Clinic Liaison Officers and many other organisations supporting blind and partially sighted people. For anyone living with a visual impairment, Sightline's telephone based befriending service is designed to reduce loneliness and isolation, increase overall wellbeing and help visually impaired people back into employment, training or volunteering. Our service is staffed by a team of dedicated, friendly, trained volunteers most of whom have close experience of sight loss, which leads to a high level of understanding, empathy and support between Service Users and Volunteers. Consequently, many of our Service Users and Volunteers are benefitting from the positive impact a telephone befriending relationship can offer, which can be seen in the Sightline Stories on our website.

Activities and Performance

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefits. Sightline recognises and adheres to a strict policy of confidentiality within our work, respect for each other and for those who contact us, together with our networking partners which we see as paramount to our success. Indeed, it is Sightline's innovative approach to partnership working that has continued to drive a rapid rise in the number of visually impaired people accessing the telephone befriending service which was only launched in 2018. The popularity of Sightline's telephone befriending service shows no sign of slowing down with a new record of new referrals in 2024 at 203 (2023 – 157) from various sources including national and local sight loss charities, local authorities, and healthcare professionals. During 2024 Sightline had an average of 155 matches per month (2023 – 101), which highlights the continued amazing progress Sightline has made during this financial year. Over a nine-month period Sightline undertakes the completion of three wellbeing and confidence score charts for all new Service Users which is showing an 81% increase in our Service Users wellbeing, confidence and general mental health. During a financial year Sightline also completes

twelve detailed feedback sessions with both Service Users and Volunteers. These feedback sessions are used to write the Sightline Stories which can be read on our website and social media channels. Sightline has increased its networking opportunities through a variety of media (e.g., website, social media, newsletters, and peer support groups). Sightline staff are now attending many events and exhibitions, and these networking activities have enabled Sightline to continue to raise its profile and the awareness of the telephone befriending service, hence the record levels of on-going demand from visually impaired people.

Our Volunteers

The delivery of our befriending service is reliant on our amazing team of volunteers, many of whom are themselves visually impaired. At the end of this financial year, we have 77 Volunteers (2023 – 70). Many of our Volunteers now support more than one Service User. All Volunteers are in regular contact with the Sightline Services Manager, to provide feedback, discuss issues and ensure that the befriending matches provide the best possible support to Service Users. All new Volunteers receive a comprehensive Induction, Training, and Support Guide together with a set of Safeguarding Procedures. Like most charities and as evidenced by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) Sightline has been unable to recruit new Volunteers at the required rate.

Financial Review

Principal funding sources including grants have supported the key objectives of the Charity, running costs and services. Overall resources available have increased by £6392 (2023 decreased by £16575).

Reserves policy and going concern

The trustees aspire to have free reserves at a level that would cover three months normal running costs. Free reserves as at the 31st December 2024 are £23792 (2023 - £22658).

Taxation

The charity has no liability to tax as all its income is used for charitable purposes.

Risk Management

The main risks to which the charity is exposed as identified by the trustees have been considered and systems have been established to mitigate those risks.

Directors and Trustees

The directors of the charitable company (the charity) are its trustees for the purpose of charity law. The trustees and officers are as follows:

Mr. P.A. Howard (Chair)

Mr. P. W. Booth

Mr. A.V. Kimpton

Ms. H. Parkinson

Miss. K.J. Ayres

Mr. I.C. Edwards (Charity Director)

Appointment of Trustees

One third of trustees must retire at each Annual General Meeting in accordance with the Articles of Association.

Trustees' Induction and Training

New trustees are briefed on their legal obligations under Charity and Company Law, the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, and are informed of the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision-making process, the business plan and recent financial performance of the charity. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate training events where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Organisation

The Board of Trustees which consists of at least three and not more than twelve individuals administer the charity. The board meet at least four times a year. The Charity Director is appointed by the trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity. The day-to-day management of the charity is delegated to the Charity Director who in turn leads a staff team with specific areas of responsibility.

Related Parties and co-operation with other Organisations

None of the trustees receive remuneration or other benefits from their work with the charity. The charity has a close working relationship with Galloways Society for the Blind, a charity which shares our passion for supporting persons who are blind or visually impaired.

Sightline Vision (North West) Limited has one trustee in common with Galloways Society for the Blind (Charity Number 526088). The trustees do not consider this charity to be under common control since there are additional trustees on both the Board of Galloways Society for the Blind and Sightline Vision (North West) Limited.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to Financial Statements

The charity trustees (who are also directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing a Trustees' Report and Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law. Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (GAAP)). Under company law the directors 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 company and the profit and loss of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements the directors are required to:

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

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

Small Company Exemptions

The report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies' regime with part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the Board on the 22nd April 2025 and signed on their behalf.



P.A. Howard (Director/Trustee)

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Sightline Vision (North West) Limited
Charity number 04620457

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the act) does not apply and that an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to a) examine the accounts (under section 145 of the Act); b) to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145 (a) of the Act; and c) to state whether matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently we do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiner's report

In the course of our examination, no matter has come to our attention :

1. which gives us reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that
 - a) proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act); and
 - b) accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or
2. to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Date:

22/4/2025

Chairperson:

Independent Scrutineer: Michael J Sullivan Financial Accountants

SIGHTLINE VISION (NORTH WEST) LIMITED
CHARITY NUMBER 04620457
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Section H		Balance sheet		
		<i>Notes</i>	2024	2023
			£	£
Fixed Assets				
Tangible Fixed Assets			<u>1,024</u>	<u>1,365</u>
Current Assets				
Debtors; grants receivable			328	852
Cash at Bank and in Hand			<u>46,981</u>	<u>41,530</u>
			47,309	42,382
Creditors falling due within 1 year			<u>0</u>	<u>1805</u>
Net Current Assets			<u>47,309</u>	<u>40,577</u>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities			<u>48,333</u>	<u>41,942</u>
Funds of the Charity				
Restricted Funds			20,426	17,919
Unrestricted Funds			27,907	24,023
			<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Funds			<u>48,333</u>	<u>41,942</u>

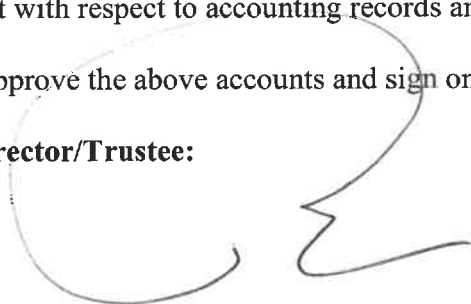
Declaration

For the financial year in question the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and no members have required the company to obtain an audit under section 476 of that act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of the accounts.

I approve the above accounts and sign on behalf of the Trustees.

Director/Trustee:



SIGHTLINE VISION (NORTH WEST) LIMITED
CHARITY NUMBER 04620457
Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Period Ended 31 December 2024

1. Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historic cost in accordance with Accounting Standards, Accounting and Reporting by Charities – Statement of Recommended practice (SORP 2015 FRSSEE) and the Charities Act 2011. There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year. Expenditure is charged on an accruals basis.

2. Tangible Fixed Assets

These are depreciated at 25% of their written down value. Depreciation is included at note 4

3. Staff Costs

The average number of employees was 2 (2023 – 2)
No amounts were paid to the Board of Trustees

4. Expenditure Charitable Activities

	Note	2024 Unrestricted £	2024 Restricted £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Salaries and Pension Costs	3	5,514	36,322	41,836	38,389
Sessional Worker		6,180	13,897	20,077	19,320
Rent & Services	4		4,612	4,612	4,602
Communications & Marketing			4,541	4,541	4,753
Training			400	400	1,378
Travelling Expenses			648	648	665
Insurance			1,297	1,297	1,227
Befriending Contract & Call Charges			9,946	9,946	8,006
Other Telephone Costs			857	857	779
Consultancy Fees					1,122
PAYE admin			114	114	
General Running Costs		150	1,648	1,798	2,269
Depreciation	2	331		331	455
Total Charitable Expenditure		12,175	74,282	86,457	82,965

-SIGHTLINE VISION (NORTH WEST) LIMITED
CHARITY NUMBER 04620457
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Section G

Statement of Financial Activities

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted	Total 31.12.24	Total 31.12.23
		£	£	£	£
Incoming and Endowments					
Grants		15,000	79,790	91,790	65,117
Interest		273	-	273	194
Other Income		786	-	786	1,079
<u>Total Income</u>		<u>16,059</u>	<u>76,790</u>	<u>92,849</u>	<u>66,390</u>
Resources Expended on:					
Charitable Activities	4	<u>12,175</u>	<u>74,282</u>	<u>86,457</u>	<u>82,965</u>
Total Resources Expended		<u>12,175</u>	<u>74,282</u>	<u>86,457</u>	<u>82,965</u>
Net Incoming Resources		3,884	2,508	6,392	-
Net Outgoing Expenditure		-	-	-	16,575
Total Funds Brought Forward		<u>24,023</u>	<u>17,918</u>	<u>41,941</u>	<u>58,516</u>
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2024		<u>27,907</u>	<u>20,426</u>	<u>48,333</u>	<u>41,941</u>

