

Charity Registration No. 1107499

Company Registration No. 05206358 (England and Wales)

**VISION & HEARING SUPPORT GATESHEAD AND SOUTH TYNESIDE**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

# VISION & HEARING SUPPORT GATESHEAD AND SOUTH TYNESIDE

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<b>Trustees</b>	L Elder-Atterton K Harrison I Hickson L Rhodes
<b>Co-opted member</b>	A Geddes
<b>Chief executive officer</b>	S French
<b>Charity number</b>	1107499
<b>Company number</b>	05206358
<b>Registered office</b>	Unit 2b The Bradbury Centre For Sight Stonehills Business Pelaw Gateshead Tyne and Wear NE10 0HW
<b>Independent examiner</b>	Haines Watts 17 Queens Lane Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 1RN

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# **VISION & HEARING SUPPORT GATESHEAD AND SOUTH TYNESIDE**

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# **VISION & HEARING SUPPORT GATESHEAD AND SOUTH TYNESIDE**

## **CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT**

### ***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022***

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The 2021/22 period has been another exceptional year for businesses, charities, and individuals. The Coronavirus pandemic (Covid-19) and associated restrictions has continued to impact upon all social care and welfare services, including our own. Nevertheless, we have strived to deliver the best possible services for our beneficiaries and have achieved excellent outcomes through our various projects.

Vision & Hearing Support carefully reopened face to face services during the year in accordance with Government guidelines. The staff Team welcomed beneficiaries back to the premises for individual appointments and group activities. The Living Well with Sight Loss programme has been particularly well attended and is now running monthly.

Building on information gathered from client surveys and national data, Vision and Hearing Support secured funding to directly respond to the emerging needs of people with sensory loss. This included grants for our professional counselling service in response to an increased demand for mental health support; a grant to enable greater access to digital and online services with a focus on online security; and funding to support people with sensory loss to find or remain in employment, volunteering or education.

This work has exceeded expectations with 116 people engaged in our Employability project and 87% of those said that they have felt increased self-esteem and confidence, feel less isolated and have better well-being. We engaged 146 people in the Digital project with a 96% increase in clients reporting that they have good digital skills after receiving our support (versus their response before receiving help).

Referrals for assessments under our local authority Care Act 2014 contracts have increased by 46% from 2019/20. The Board has worked hard in 2021/22 to build upon the progress made in the previous three years to stabilise the Charity's finances and build appropriate reserves for the future. This will be increasingly important as we predict the number of referrals and demand for our service in the coming year will continue to rise.

We welcomed two apprentice level trainees to the organisation under the Government's Kickstart programme. These positions supported our marketing and communications activity and digital support project.

We have spent time building effective partnerships where this will deliver better results for clients. We have sought to develop collaborative solutions where we have identified that people with a range of disabilities share concerns and priorities: isolation and loneliness; getting out and about, digital support and cyber security, access to information and having a voice, and mental health. It is apparent that these issues were exacerbated for people with disabilities during the pandemic and that we can learn from each other's responses. Three Partnership's have been formed during the year: Firstly, with Bliss=Ability, a user-led disability Charity working in South Tyneside; secondly with Your Voice Counts, a Charity supporting people with learning disabilities and autism; and thirdly with Age Gateshead and ACTS working to support older people with digital skills.



# VISION & HEARING SUPPORT GATESHEAD AND SOUTH TYNESIDE

## CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT


### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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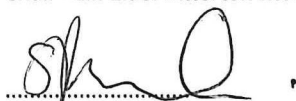
We have continued to work with our sight loss sector colleagues across the region and nationally. This has led to a collaborative project supporting mental health across Tyne & wear and Northumberland for which funding was secured at the end of the year. Through Visionary UK, we hosted a sector networking event for employees to meet and catch up after a year of online and remote working.

To strengthen our Governance the Trustees have sought to recruit new Board Members to drive forward the next phase of Vision & Hearing Support. To this end Liam Clark-Brown has been Co-Opted to the Board. Liam has spent the last 10 years leading fundraising, marketing and engagement programmes and teams across a range of third sector organisations and will support our goals to diversify our income and raise our profile. Recruitment is ongoing, supported by a skills audit to ensure Trustees contribute to the development and stability of the business.

As we move into the next financial year, the Trustees will remain agile and responsive to meet the Charity's objectives. This will be underpinned by our ambition to innovate and work collaboratively to achieve the best possible outcomes for people who are sight impaired, severely sight impaired, Deaf or hard of hearing.



Chair - Lin Elder-Atterton MVO



Chief Executive - Sarah French

Dated: 17 Nov 2022

# **VISION & HEARING SUPPORT GATESHEAD AND SOUTH TYNESIDE**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)**

### ***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022***

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The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's [governing document], the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

#### **Objectives and activities**

We are a local Charity working with people who are sight impaired, deaf or hard of hearing on their journey to independence. We ensure people have choice and control over their lives and help others better understand the needs of people with sensory loss.

In South Tyneside and Gateshead over 11,700 people are sight impaired and over 1,800 are registered blind (severely sight impaired). Over 65,500 adults in this area are deaf or hard of hearing.

We deliver early intervention, crisis prevention and integrated social activities to reduce preventable sensory loss, maintain independence and mental wellbeing and reduce social isolation. Our interventions ensure that people;

- can live more independently,
- are less socially isolated,
- are more confident and empowered,
- experience improved wellbeing.

Vision & Hearing Support is an organisation run for charitable purposes. We want to be around today and into the future to support people who are sight impaired, Deaf or hard of hearing. To achieve this, we recognise that there is a need to supplement our strategic aims with business aims that will deliver long term sustainability:

- Diversify our income sources to increase financial sustainability.
- Develop the profile of Vision & Hearing Support, so that more people know about the services we provide, to increase the numbers of people accessing services and the number of people willing to donate and volunteer.
- Engage people with lived experience and with people from a variety of ethnic backgrounds so that we learn from the strengths they bring in their diversity.

# VISION & HEARING SUPPORT GATESHEAD AND SOUTH TYNESIDE

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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The aims of the organisation are embedded within our pathway to independence which incorporates the following stages of intervention;

- Early help
- Lets make a plan
- Independence matters
- Friendship matters

Early Help includes preventative work with communities, health professional and businesses. This activity is supported by regional and national collaborations to harmonise key messages and awareness raising campaigns.

At the point of referral, we work with individuals to create a Personal Plan based on an assessment under the care Act 2014. The plan is person centred to ensure the agreed actions will achieve the persons desired outcomes.

Independence does matter and our services are all designed with independence at the fore. We promote independent living through our integrated approach combining low vision, rehabilitation, enablement, and digital support. These services combine traditional orientation and mobility services with enhanced optometry consultations, enablement advice and guidance, and digital empowerment.

We promote friendship and social activities through Peer support and our connections with local interest groups. Our quality assured Living Well with Sight Loss programme provides information and specialist support through a network of professionals and individuals with lived experience. We facilitate introductions to local community groups and support group leaders to make sessions inclusive and accessible.

Vision & Hearing Support achieves its charitable purpose by delivering a range of services in Gateshead and South Tyneside which are available to people who are sight impaired, severely sight impaired, deaf or hard of hearing and those who are deaf/blind.

We review our aims, objectives and activities each year. This report looks at what we achieved and the outcomes of our work during April 2021 to March 2022.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

#### OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

##### Our Vision

- A vision and hearing loss community that is **informed, empowered** and **resilient**

##### We will:

- **Empower** our community by giving them the tools they need to live independently and make positive decisions.
- Help our community overcome adversity by increasing **resilience** and wellbeing.
- Ensure our community are **informed** by providing first class information, advice and guidance.
- **Influence** positive change locally, regionally and nationally for our community through strong stakeholder and relationship management.

##### Our Values:

- **Supportive**
- We respond and adapt to the needs of the Vision and hearing loss community. We respect and value all our community equally. We are committed to working together to achieve shared goals.

# VISION & HEARING SUPPORT GATESHEAD AND SOUTH TYNESIDE

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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- **Trustworthy**
  - We are accountable. We are open and honest in our approach. We are reliable, act with integrity and do what it takes to support those in need.
- **Caring**
  - We are friendly and warm. We take time to listen and promote inclusivity. We treat everyone with dignity and respect.
- **Professional**
  - We are passionate and strive to be the best. We actively seek new ideas and innovation to bring about positive change. We rely on evidence to make our decisions. We challenge ourselves to be bold and resourceful. We are determined in the face of adversity.

We will work with colleagues in a supportive environment of mutual respect and empowerment to achieve the best possible outcomes for clients. We will follow the principles set out in the Visionary Sight Loss Charter 2020 and promote collaboration, integrity, and accountability in all we do.

Vision & Hearing Support must continue to work with its Members and beneficiaries to evidence our lived experience input. This is becoming ever more important to funders and society who expect Charities to engage with, listen to and respond directly to those it is there to support. Alongside this, the Board has already recognised the need to diversify Trustee and staff representation to better reflect the communities in which we work.

To achieve our strategy we deliver early intervention, crisis prevention and integrated social activities to reduce preventable sensory loss, maintain independence and mental wellbeing and reduce social isolation. Our interventions ensure that people;

- can live more independently,
- are less socially isolated,
- are more confident and empowered,
- experience improved wellbeing.

#### ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

In South Tyneside and Gateshead over 11,700 people live with sight loss and over 1,800 are registered blind. Over 65,500 adults in this area are deaf or hard of hearing.

Our unique integrated Pathway to Independence makes sure we provide the right support at the right time for individuals. Our interventions include specialist Counselling, Enablement Assessments, Rehabilitation, Social and Peer Support, Employment, Welfare and Advocacy and Digital support.

We have directly supported 3714 individuals across our services during 2021/22. The figures below show the numbers of individuals accessing each intervention by type during the year:

- 524 people have been referred for and received a personal and holistic assessment
- 94 people have accessed our intensive rehabilitation service
- 3578 people benefitted from our Information, Advice and Guidance
- 228 people accessed our low vision service
- 146 people were given digital support
- 116 people received employment support
- 12 young people have accessed our enhanced transition support
- 34 people received professional Counselling
- 70 people attended our Living Well with Sight Loss
- 1709 people received Tele-support calls from our dedicated volunteers
- Helped 83 people access the benefits they were entitled to, a collective total of £345,396 per annum

# **VISION & HEARING SUPPORT GATESHEAD AND SOUTH TYNESIDE**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)**

### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

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These activities have led to;

- 88% of our clients experiencing improved wellbeing
- 79% can live more independently
- 84% are more confident and empowered
- 69% feel less socially isolated

#### **CORE CONTRACTED PROVISION**

**Specialist person centred needs assessment and Rehabilitation Services – Gateshead Council and South Tyneside Council**

We assess what needs people have due to their sensory condition and put in place the services, support, equipment, concessions etc to meet those needs. We carry out the registration process, although we don't hold the register in Gateshead.

In 2019/20 we secured the South Tyneside Sensory Support contract for a further five years which includes equipment provision and support for those with hearing loss.

Our rehabilitation workers provide training on independent living skills, mobility and orientation, viewing techniques, communications, electronic low vision aids such as video magnifiers and new technology such as audio description, e-readers, accessible mobiles etc. They also carry out lighting assessments in people's homes and they issue small aids such as white sticks, canes and symbol canes, liquid level indicators, talking clocks and signature guides. We issue daylight bulbs as many people are struggling with the light provided by traditional low energy bulbs.

3090 new referrals made to this service during 2021/22:

- Gateshead - 1442
- South Tyneside – 1648

#### **Integrated Low Vision Clinic – Gateshead residents only (Newcastle and Gateshead CCG)**

We assess people's residual vision and prescribe optical low vision aids such as magnifiers, telescopes, high add readers etc. to help maximise use of residual vision. We also consider viewing techniques (such as eccentric viewing), lighting, colour contrast and posture all of which will again help people make best use of remaining vision. We provide a two-year review, although people can re-refer themselves sooner if they feel their sight is deteriorating. Information, Advice and Guidance is available when needed along with rehabilitation support, triage reviews and equipment advice.

During 2021/22 our key outputs as part of our low vision clinic work included:

- 75 low vision clinics were held
- 228 low vision assessments were carried out
- 1832 people were supported through the service



# **VISION & HEARING SUPPORT GATESHEAD AND SOUTH TYNESIDE**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)**

### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

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#### **ADDITIONAL SUPPORT PROVISION**

The following activities contribute to the overall success of Vision & Hearing Support's work by complementing and adding value to statutory provision:

##### **Welfare Rights and Advocacy**

We provide advice and support on disability benefits such as DLA/PIP, Attendance Allowance, Employment Support Allowance as well as Universal Credit. Help is provided from completion of the initial application, support when attending assessments all the way through to representation at Tribunal if the application isn't successful.

##### **Equipment Library**

At The Bradbury Centre for Sight in Gateshead people can call us or visit for specialist advice and information on a wide range specialist equipment. The library contains various pieces of digital and analogue equipment which we lend to people on a short-term basis so that they can try them out at home before deciding whether they would like to buy one (either they can buy it themselves if they can afford to do so or we can help to find funding).

##### **Living Well with Sight Loss Programme**

This course is for people who are newly visually impaired or new to our services. It runs for 3 weeks with 1 half-day session per week looking at the various aspects of visual impairment and help that is available. As well as providing lots of information and advice it also provides invaluable peer support.

##### **Visual Impairment Awareness Training (VIAT)**

Our team of experienced sight loss professionals provide VIAT to a wide audience including a number of hospitals, council departments, businesses, charities and care homes.

##### **Digital & Cyber Security Support**

Through a one-year grant from the Northumbria Police & Crime Commissioner Operation Payback Fund, we provided a range of support and tuition on how to make the most of digital and online services whilst avoiding online fraud and cyber scams. We engaged 1022 clients and provided 146 intensive interventions, leading to 88% of participants reporting feeling more confident and empowered when online following our cyber security information, advice and guidance, compared to 33% pre-intervention.

##### **Employment & Skills Support**

Funded by the People's Postcode Lottery and Bernicia Foundation, the project aimed to enhance employability and long-term future prospects of those engaged within this project.

Of the 116 people engaging in the project, 53 have been supported with accessing specialist employment support, 43 are engaged in local employment pathways, 11 have been supported directly by Vision & Hearing Support activity, and 9 have joined local groups.

87% of clients who engaged in this project have said that they have felt increased self-esteem and confidence, feel less isolated and have better well-being.

# **VISION & HEARING SUPPORT GATESHEAD AND SOUTH TYNESIDE**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)**

### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

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#### **Counselling**

Through funding from Independent Age, we delivered a professional Counselling service for people who are vision impaired. The Counsellor delivering the service is registered blind and offers tailored support to individuals and their families/ carers to help reduce isolation and increase emotional and mental wellbeing. We use British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP) recognised scales GAD-7 and PHQ-9 monitor clients progress. After receiving counselling, 80% of clients reported their anxiety had reduced and their feelings of depression were less. Following completion of the Counselling sessions, clients are supported through group sessions that we had developed as a next step. The group meets bi-monthly and is led by the clients themselves, promoting their independence and encouraging them to share their experiences with their peers.

#### **Telephone Support Service**

Operated entirely by volunteers, all of whom have direct experience of sight loss, our Telephone Support Service calls service users whom we are aware are particularly isolated due to other mobility issues or whom we haven't had recent contact. The support offered includes simply being a friendly voice to talk to, we promote the activities and services offered by Vision & Hearing Support and if anyone called shares any concerns then the volunteer team refer them to our sight loss support team. During the year 2021/22 volunteers supported 1709 individuals through the project.

#### **Activity and Social Groups**

We are delighted that we can once again welcome groups to meet at our premises following the pandemic. We will continue to work closely with independent groups to share information, provide support as required and to introduce new members.

#### **British Wireless for the Blind (BWFTB) and RNIB Talking Books**

We are the agents for BWFTB and issue radios, CD players etc on their behalf to people who are eligible (they must be registered either Sight Impaired (SI) or Severely Sight Impaired (SSI) and be in receipt of a qualifying means tested benefit (such as housing benefit or council tax benefit amongst others). We also help people with their initial applications for the RNIB talking book service.

# **VISION & HEARING SUPPORT GATESHEAD AND SOUTH TYNESIDE**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)**

### ***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022***

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#### **Volunteers**

We have a dedicated team of volunteers who support our work. Unfortunately, many of these activities ceased due to Covid-19 restrictions but we will reinstate this essential support through our emerging and future projects. Volunteers cover many different roles at Vision & Hearing Support from reception, telephone befriending and administration support. A team of volunteer drivers are also a vital resource who transport service users to and from medical appointments, as well as enabling the, to access a range of support services provided by Vision & Hearing Support.

#### **Newsletter**

We have produced a regular newsletter promoting both Vision & Hearing Support services and other issues of interest and relevance to people who are sight impaired, Deaf or hard of hearing. This is available in various formats i.e. large print, CD, and electronically.

#### **Case Studies and Impact**

Identifying, measuring and reporting upon the impact had by the wide range of support activities provided by Vision & Hearing Support is not straight forward. We continue to work with our funders and commissioners to not only supply the contractual monitoring information they require, but to also evidence the case for continued further investment in Vision & Hearing Supports work.

We are also continuing to work with Visionary, the national umbrella body for local sight loss charities, as they develop shared output, outcome and impact measurement tools for the sight loss sector.

However, there is nothing more powerful than hearing real life examples of the work and impact delivered by our dedicated team of sight loss professionals, supported by our volunteer team.

We have shared below a case study and a selection of quotes received throughout the year, that demonstrate the work we do. This example, along with many cases we haven't shared, shows that our personal and thorough approach delivers tangible outcomes for people and a lasting impact on their lives and the lives of those around them.

#### **Case Study;**

A 49-year-old male lost his job due to sight loss, he then lost his home due to financial difficulties. Consequently, he had exceptionally low self-esteem and deteriorating mental health.

He accessed the employment project from an internal referral and was supported with an action plan. As a result of the information, advice and guidance given, the client secured several interviews and was offered full time employment. However, the job requirements included a 6am start which was not compatible with public transport.

After being advised about the Access to Work Scheme and how it works, the client applied for transport support and now gets subsidised travel to and from work – the client pays a contribution of £2.30 per journey (the price of public transport) rather than the full taxi fare (estimated at £20).



**VISION & HEARING SUPPORT GATESHEAD AND SOUTH TYNESIDE**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

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**Quotes;**

"Having a stroke and being blinded was a massive shock in my lifetime, I had many visits to the eye hospital for many tests and felt very lonely and depressed. After being contacted by V&HS, I began to feel so much better, your charity is such a massive and worthwhile charity that made my life worth living again. Don't think I could have survived without it."

"All my challenges were discerned and understood by those who helped. It was dealt with in a swift, timely manner. I felt comfortable with the way things were done, and soon felt more confident in my communication with others. Especially the amplifier on my telephone, landline and the loop equipment"

"Yes, the team helped me through a very stressful period when my hearing aids had failed, I was stressed and agitated. Equipment was provided that helped alleviate these problems, help was giving with making appointments at audiology and doctors"

"After having my stroke I felt my world had ended, the hospital were great but your staff were very understanding and helped me tremendously, providing me with aids to help me and just friendly listening to my worries and lifting my depression to get my life back."

"Excellent service. Helen was fantastic in doing everything she could and made life a little easier and was really lovely to deal with. Much appreciated"

"I had recently had one eye removed and had dry macular and damage from radiotherapy in the remaining. It was a very traumatic experience and Vision & Hearing Support helped me cope and taught me how to deal with the loss. I will be forever grateful to Mike for support then and the ongoing help and advice"

"I feel the service responded by looking at the bigger picture in terms of how they supported me, and helped create not just a one off response, but emphasised they provide ongoing help, when needed, which in my present circumstances is very reassuring"

"I liked the telephone calls from Pat, Pauline and Craig to check I was ok. Claire's counselling every week has kept me motivated to carry out household tasks and carry on. She is a huge asset to your team."

"Helped me get through and gave me confidence after sight loss, and actually gave me back my life"

"Very efficient service, staff are hard working and caring people who understand the problems they are dealing with. Most, if not all of them suffer from the things we suffer from. Down to earth advice and practical equipment. This service is a life saver. Thank you all."

"I cannot praise enough the support I have received from the team who have dealt with me. Their kindness and understanding has helped me cope not only with the loss of my sight but the loss of my husband."

"It was good to find a place where I could get information, advice and suggestions to help me make adjustments to make life easier for my reduced sight. I think you provide a valuable service at a time when people experiencing sight loss feel vulnerable"

"Someone has always been available to help or advise me as I've needed. At the time of my diagnosis I was given access to a councillor and the sessions commenced straight away. This helped enormously during my most vulnerable time."

"I was given suitable advice and kept up to date with my assessment and provided with equipment to help maintain my independence and self confidence"

# **VISION & HEARING SUPPORT GATESHEAD AND SOUTH TYNESIDE**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)**

### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

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#### **Financial review**

##### **Financial performance and position**

Financial performance in 2021/22 has improved and delivered some stability for the Charity moving forwards. This is largely due to support through emergency Coronavirus funds which will secure our services to meet future demand by increasing our reserves.

Income in 2021/22 was £545,267 - representing an increase of £38,634 to the previous year (£506,633 – 2020/21). This is chiefly because of one-off emergency coronavirus support grants that will stabilise our activities into the future years enabling us to respond to demand.

Our expenditure has increased by £62,356 on the previous year, as we reopen services, respond to an increased demand and deliver specific grant funded projects. Expenditure in 2021/22 was £464,372 compared to £402,016 the previous year (2020/21).

##### **Reserves policy**

The Board has reviewed the reserves of the Charity and concluded that to allow the Charity to be managed efficiently and to provide a buffer for uninterrupted services, attempts should be made to increase general reserves.

It is the policy of the Charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between six and nine month's expenditure. The directors consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the Charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised.

The Charity has several restricted funds for identified projects, which have specific budgets and timescales. In order to reach the agreed level of reserves the charitable company intends to continue to look for increased income from our own fundraising efforts, as well as obtaining additional grant funding to increase unrestricted income.

At 31 March 2022 the charitable company held total reserves of £254,969 (2021: £174,074).

We will continue to review levels of expenditure.

Our main core contracted income has remained stable and we have performed well against this income achieving all the required performance indicators.

Key income streams:

- Gateshead Council
- South Tyneside Council
- Newcastle and Gateshead CCG
- Community Foundation – Bernicia Foundation
- Northumbria Police & Crime Commissioner
- People's Postcode Lottery

The receipt of this funding enables the charitable company to meet its charitable objectives to provide support advice and activities to people who are Sight Impaired, Severely Sight Impaired, Deaf, hard of hearing or Deaf/blind.

# **VISION & HEARING SUPPORT GATESHEAD AND SOUTH TYNESIDE**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)**

### ***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022***

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#### **Investment policy and objectives**

Under the memorandum and articles of association, the Charity has the power to make any investment which the Trustees see fit.

#### **Risk management**

The Board of Trustees reviewed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed. A risk register is in place and is updated regularly and at least annually.

Where appropriate, systems and procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the Charity faces.

The Risk Management process itself is periodically reviewed to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the Charity.

Risks are minimised by the implementation of internal controls with procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects.

Services continued to be externally evaluated and inspected by funders.

The excellent outcomes from these evaluations point to the excellent quality of delivery for all operational aspects of the Charity.

Significant external risks to funding have led to the development of the new Strategic Direction which allows for the diversification of funding.

#### **FUTURE PLANS**

The strategic aims of Vision & Hearing Support remain the same, but our work has adapted to meet the needs identified by clients during and resulting from Covid-19 and the associated restrictions. The coming year will focus on;

#### **Digital Empowerment and Cyber Security**

VHS has been working with people with sensory loss over the previous year to enable them to use online resources for essential services.

The Digital Support Project will deliver a programme to support people with sensory loss access information, technology, and cyber security advice. The Digital activity will be centred on a digital library and volunteer peer support. Personalised digital assessments will be undertaken by our professional lived experience team to ensure people receive relevant and appropriate advice for their needs. The assessment will form part of our Pathway to Independence and a personal plan will be developed to record the aims and outcomes. Cyber security will be embedded into all activities to keep those most vulnerable safe.

# **VISION & HEARING SUPPORT GATESHEAD AND SOUTH TYNESIDE**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)**

### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

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#### **Employability and Transition Pathway**

We want to support sight impaired, Deaf and hard of hearing people into sustainable employment and engage with them at a younger age, ideally as they leave children's services. This Transition pathway will help build relationships and inform personalised support plans. Alongside this we will work closely with employers to help them make their organisation accessible for people who are sight impaired, Deaf or hard of hearing.

#### **Mental Health and Wellbeing**

We experienced a substantial rise in the number of calls relating to mental health since the pandemic began in March 2020. Social isolation, loneliness and low mood were exacerbated by COVID-19 and measures to reduce infection rates – disproportionately so for people who are sight impaired, Deaf or hard of hearing.

We will continue to deliver professional counselling support and embed the service into our Pathway to independence. We will grow the service to include friends and family sessions, staff and volunteer training and group peer support.

#### **Community and Volunteer engagement**

We will recruit volunteers to provide one-to-one peer mentoring and facilitate people accessing the right support at the right time. Activities will come from our existing interventions/ activities but also from wider partnerships within the voluntary and public sector.

This work will enhance the support provided through statutory contracts and ensure the needs of our clients are met.

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

##### **Governing document**

The Charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

##### **Recruitment and appointment of new Trustees**

The Charity may by ordinary resolution appoint a person who is willing to act as trustee and determine the rotation in which any additional Trustees are to retire. No person other than a trustee retiring by rotation may be appointed a trustee at any general meeting unless:

- He or she is recommended for re-election by the Trustees or
- Not less than fourteen nor more than thirty-five clear days before the date of the meeting, the Charity is given notice that:
  - i) Is signed by two members entitled to vote at the meeting.
  - ii) States the members' intention to propose the appointment of a person as a trustee.
  - iii) Contains the details that, if the person were to be appointed, the Charity would have to file at Companies House, including the names and details of two referees who have not proposed their election; and
  - iv) Is signed by the person who is to be proposed to show his or her consent - full election to the Board will be at the end of a six month probationary period and will be at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

**VISION & HEARING SUPPORT GATESHEAD AND SOUTH TYNESIDE**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)**  
***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022***

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**Organisational structure**

The Board of directors meet quarterly and administer the Charity. The Board of directors may delegate any of their powers to sub-committees consisting of such members of their body and/or Charity as they think fit.

Any sub-committee so formed shall in the exercise of the powers so delegated conform to any regulations imposed on it by the directors.

**Induction and training of new Trustees**

New Trustees undergo an induction to brief them on:

- their legal obligations under charity and company law;
- the Charity Commission on public benefit;
- inform them of the content of the memorandum and articles of association;
- the committee and decision making processes;
- the business plan; and - recent financial performance of the charitable company.

During the induction they meet key employees and other Trustees.

Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.



# VISION & HEARING SUPPORT GATESHEAD AND SOUTH TYNESIDE

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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#### Key management remuneration

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees as comprising of the key management personnel of the charitable company in charge of directing, controlling and operating the charitable company. All Trustees give their time freely and no trustee remuneration was paid in the year.

#### Partnerships and Collaborations

We continue to work in close co-operation with both Gateshead and South Tyneside Councils, and Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). We have engaged in the NHS restructure of CCGs and are actively involved in the emerging Integrated Care System (ICS) and Primary Care Networks (PCN) under the North East North Cumbria (NENC) Integrated Care Board.

We have effective partnerships with Royal National Institute for the Blind, Newcastle Vision Support, RNID, Visionary and several voluntary sector organisations with whom we are working with in both Gateshead and South Tyneside, and our wider network both regionally and nationally.

During the year we have formed a collaboration with local Charities Your Voice Counts and Bliss=Ability. This has led to emerging projects to support people with disabilities and learn from each other's experiences and approaches.

#### Risk management

The Board of Trustees reviewed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed. A risk register is in place and is updated regularly and at least annually.

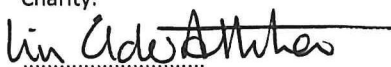
Where appropriate, systems and procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the Charity faces.

The Risk Management process itself is periodically reviewed to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the Charity.

Risks are minimised by the implementation of internal controls with procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects.

Services continued to be externally evaluated and inspected by funders.

The excellent outcomes from these evaluations point to the excellent quality of delivery for all operational aspects of the Charity.



**L Elder-Atterton**

Trustee

Dated: 17 NOV '22

# VISION & HEARING SUPPORT GATESHEAD AND SOUTH TYNESIDE

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF VISION & HEARING SUPPORT GATESHEAD AND SOUTH TYNESIDE

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I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Vision & Hearing Support Gateshead and South Tyneside ("the charity") for the year ended 31 March 2022.

#### Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

#### Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

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



Donna Bulmer BA (Hons) ACA  
For and on behalf of Haines Watts

17 Queens Lane  
Newcastle Upon Tyne  
NE1 1RN

Dated: 20 December 2022

# VISION & HEARING SUPPORT GATESHEAD AND SOUTH TYNESIDE

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

		Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
	Notes				
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	2	46,508	73,587	120,095	128,253
Charitable activities	3	419,276	4,730	424,006	378,289
Investments	4	55	-	55	91
Other trading income		1,111	-	1,111	-
<b>Total income</b>		<b>466,950</b>	<b>78,317</b>	<b>545,267</b>	<b>506,633</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable activities	5	382,588	81,784	464,372	402,016
<b>Net income for the year before transfers</b>		<b>84,362</b>	<b>( 3,467 )</b>	<b>80,895</b>	<b>104,617</b>
Transfers between funds		119	( 119 )	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>84,481</b>	<b>( 3,586 )</b>	<b>80,895</b>	<b>104,617</b>
Fund balances at 1 April 2021		149,555	24,519	174,074	69,457
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2022</b>		<b>234,036</b>	<b>20,933</b>	<b>254,969</b>	<b>174,074</b>



# VISION & HEARING SUPPORT GATESHEAD AND SOUTH TYNESIDE

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

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Prior financial year

		Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
	Notes			
<b>Income from:</b>				
Donations and legacies	2	17,391	110,862	128,253
Charitable activities	3	378,829	-	378,289
Investments	4	91	-	91
<b>Total income</b>		<b>395,771</b>	<b>110,862</b>	<b>506,633</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>				
Charitable activities	5	285,241	116,775	402,016
Gross transfers between funds				
<b>Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds</b>		<b>110,530</b>	<b>(5,913)</b>	<b>104,617</b>
Fund balances at 1 April 2020		39,025	30,432	69,457
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2021</b>		<b>149,555</b>	<b>24,519</b>	<b>174,074</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

**VISION & HEARING SUPPORT GATESHEAD AND SOUTH TYNESIDE**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 MARCH 2022**

	Notes	2022 £	£	2021 £	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	9		19,412		17,913
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	10	53,704		24,009	
Cash at bank and in hand		288,351		213,756	
		<u>342,055</u>		<u>237,765</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	11	( 106,498 )		( 22,172 )	
Net current assets			235,557		215,593
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			254,969		233,506
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>	12		-		( 59,432 )
<b>Net assets</b>			<u>254,969</u>		<u>174,074</u>
<b>Income funds</b>					
Restricted funds	13		20,933		24,519
Unrestricted funds			219,036		149,555
Designated funds			15,000		-
			<u>254,969</u>		<u>174,074</u>

## VISION & HEARING SUPPORT GATESHEAD AND SOUTH TYNESIDE

### BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

**AS AT 31 MARCH 2022**

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The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

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

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

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 17th November 2022



L Elder-Atterton  
Trustee

Company Registration No. 05206358

**VISION & HEARING SUPPORT GATESHEAD AND SOUTH TYNESIDE**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

	Notes	2022 £	£	2021 £	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Cash generated from operations	17		79,402		117,998
<b>Investing activities</b>					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		( 4,862 )		( 7,932 )	
Investment income received		52		91	
<b>Net cash (used in)/generated from investing activities</b>			( 4,810 )		( 7,841 )
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>			-		-
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>			74,592		110,157
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			213,759		103,599
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>			288,351		213,756

# **VISION & HEARING SUPPORT GATESHEAD AND SOUTH TYNESIDE**

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

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#### **1 Accounting policies**

##### **Charity information**

Vision & Hearing Support Gateshead and South Tyneside is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Unit 2b, The Bradbury Centre For Sight Stonehills Business, Pelaw, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, NE10 0HW.

##### **1.1 Accounting convention**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

##### **1.2 Going concern**

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The trustees have reviewed and considered the level of funds and forecast income and expenditure for 12 months from the date of approving the accounts. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient considering the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

##### **1.3 Charitable funds**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

##### **1.4 Income**

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

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Donated services or facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of the economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. On receipt, donated services and facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of the receipt.

# VISION & HEARING SUPPORT GATESHEAD AND SOUTH TYNESIDE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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#### 1 Accounting policies

Income from grants, including capital grants, is included within income when communication has been received in writing of both the amount and the period to which they relate. In the event that the grant was received in advance of the period to which it relates, the grant is therefore deferred and included within creditors. When the grants are for a particular restricted purpose, this income is included in incoming resources of restricted funds when receivable.

Income from other trading activities is recognised when the amount of income can be measured reliably and when it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the entity. The charitable company recognises this income once goods or services have been sold, and are stated net of trade discounts and value added tax.

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

#### 1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of providing services to the visually impaired to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

Support costs have been differentiated between governance and other support costs. Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charitable company and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include costs related to independent examination and legal fees.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned on a staff time basis.

#### 1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

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

Fixtures and fittings	15% on reducing balance
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The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

**VISION & HEARING SUPPORT GATESHEAD AND SOUTH TYNESIDE**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

**1 Accounting policies**

**1.7 Impairment of fixed assets**

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

If an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but not in excess of the amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset in prior years. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised immediately in the statement of financial activities.

**1.8 Cash and cash equivalents**

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

**1.9 Financial instruments**

The charity only has financial assets and 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.

**1.10 Taxation**

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

**1.11 Employee benefits**

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

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

**1.12 Retirement benefits**

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

**2 Donations and legacies**

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£		£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	10,761	-	10,761	2,927	-	2,927
Grants receivable	35,747	73,587	109,334	14,464	110,862	125,326
	<u>46,508</u>	<u>73,587</u>	<u>120,095</u>	<u>17,391</u>	<u>110,862</u>	<u>128,253</u>



**VISION & HEARING SUPPORT GATESHEAD AND SOUTH TYNESIDE**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

**2 Donations and legacies**

**Grants receivable for core activities**

National Lottery	-	47,603	47,603	-	71,142	71,142
Gateshead Council	-	-	-	10,000	-	10,000
Northumbria Police & Crime Commissioner	-	-	-	-	15,400	15,400
Thomas Pocklington	-	-	-	-	10,000	10,000
Community Foundation - Bernicia Foundation	-	-	-	-	9,000	9,000
The William Leech Charity	-	-	-	-	3,500	3,500
Counselling	-	14,917	14,917	-	-	-
Suicide Prevention	-	6,567	6,567	-	-	-
VCSE Transformation	-	4,500	4,500	-	-	-
Other	35,747	-	35,747	4,464	1,820	6,284
	<u>35,747</u>	<u>73,587</u>	<u>109,334</u>	<u>14,464</u>	<u>110,862</u>	<u>125,326</u>

**3 Charitable activities**

	<b>Total 2022 £</b>	<b>Total 2021 £</b>
Services provided under contract	375,495	354,321
Other income	48,511	23,968
	<u>424,006</u>	<u>378,289</u>

**4 Investments**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds 2021 £</b>
Interest receivable	<u>55</u>	<u>91</u>



**VISION & HEARING SUPPORT GATESHEAD AND SOUTH TYNESIDE**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

**5 Charitable activities,**

	<b>Total 2022 £</b>	<b>Total 2021 £</b>
Staff costs	291,373	234,234
Depreciation and impairment	3,363	2,097
Other expenditure	152,420	143,536
	<u>447,156</u>	<u>379,867</u>
Share of support costs (see note 6)	13,566	18,609
Share of governance costs (see note 6)	3,650	3,540
	<u>464,372</u>	<u>402,016</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>		
Unrestricted funds	382,588	285,241
Restricted funds	81,784	116,775
	<u>464,372</u>	<u>402,016</u>

**6 Support costs**

	<b>Support costs £</b>	<b>Governance costs £</b>	<b>2022 £</b>	<b>Support costs £</b>	<b>Governance costs £</b>	<b>2021 £</b>
Staff costs	13,526	-	13,526	14,344	-	14,344
Depreciation	3,363	-	3,363	2,097	-	2,097
Professional and consultancy fees	40	-	40	2,168	-	2,168
Legal and professional	-	3,650	-	-	3,540	3,540
	<u>16,929</u>	<u>3,650</u>	<u>20,579</u>	<u>18,609</u>	<u>3,540</u>	<u>22,419</u>
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	<u>16,929</u>	<u>3,</u>	<u>20,579</u>	<u>18,609</u>	<u>3,540</u>	<u>22,149</u>

Governance costs includes payments to the independent examiner of £3,650 (2021 - £3,540) for the independent examination.

**7 Trustees**

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

**VISION & HEARING SUPPORT GATESHEAD AND SOUTH TYNESIDE**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

**8 Employees**

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
Chief executive officer	1	1
Support, advice and activities	16	13
Administration	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>

Employment costs	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	286,120	226,805
Social security costs	20,689	14,212
Other pension costs	9,038	7,561
	<b>315,847</b>	<b>248,578</b>

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

**9 Tangible fixed assets**

	Fixtures and fittings £
<b>Cost</b>	
At 1 April 2021	75,946
Additions	4,862
<b>At 31 March 2022</b>	<b>80,808</b>
<b>Depreciation and impairment</b>	
At 1 April 2021	58,033
Depreciation charged in the year	3,363
<b>At 31 March 2022</b>	<b>61,396</b>
<b>Carrying amount</b>	
At 31 March 2022	19,412
At 31 March 2021	17,913

**VISION & HEARING SUPPORT GATESHEAD AND SOUTH TYNESIDE**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

**10 Debtors**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Other debtors	44,531	15,400
Prepayments and accrued income	9,173	8,609
	<u>53,704</u>	<u>24,009</u>

**11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Other taxation and social security	10,045	4,677
Trade creditors	364	2,419
Other creditors	12,000	6,413
Accruals and deferred income	84,089	8,663
	<u>106,498</u>	<u>22,172</u>

**12 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Other creditors	-	59,432
	<u>-</u>	<u>59,432</u>

# VISION & HEARING SUPPORT GATESHEAD AND SOUTH TYNESIDE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

#### 13 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

##### Current year

	Balance at 1 April 2021	Movement in funds			Balance at 31 March
	£	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	£
Community Foundation – Bernicia Foundation	9,000	-	( 9,000 )	-	-
Northumbria Police & Crime Commissioner	15,400	-	( 15,400 )	-	-
National Lottery – Awards for all	119	-	-	( 119 )	-
Vision Support Project	-	48,603	( 42,058 )	-	6,545
Counselling	-	14,917	( 9,917 )	-	5,000
Client Orders	-	3,730	( 3,309 )	-	421
Suicide Prevention	-	6,567	( 2,100 )	-	4,467
VCSE Digital Transformation	-	4,500	-	-	4,500
	<u>24,519</u>	<u>78,317</u>	<u>( 81,784 )</u>	<u>( 119 )</u>	<u>20,933</u>

##### Prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2020	Movement in funds			Balance at 31 March
	£	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	£
The William Leech Charity	-	3,500	( 3,500 )	-	--
National Lottery – Joint Project	30,432	30,728	( 61,160 )	-	--
Community Foundation – Bernicia Foundation	-	9,000	-	-	9,000
Northumbria Police & Crime Commissioner	-	15,400	-	-	15,400
Thomas Pocklington Trust	-	10,000	( 10,000 )	-	-
National Lottery – Awards for all	-	9,867	( 9,568 )	-	119
National Lottery – Community Coronavirus Support	-	30,727	( 30,727 )	-	-
Other	-	1,820	( 1,820 )	-	-
	<u>30,432</u>	<u>110,862</u>	<u>( 116,775 )</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,519-</u>

**VISION & HEARING SUPPORT GATESHEAD AND SOUTH TYNESIDE**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

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**13 Restricted funds**

The unrestricted fund represents the free funds of the charity, which are not designated for particular purposes.

The major restricted funds as detailed above relate to the following activities carried out by the charity:-

**Community Foundation – Bernicia Foundation**

To increase employment, skills and training opportunities for sight impaired people and to improve the transition pathway between children's and adult services. The project will work with employers to improve their understanding and awareness of support available to sight impaired employees and candidates.

**National Lottery - Joint Project (formerly Joint Lottery)**

To work in partnership with Newcastle Vision Support to develop and expand services creating a more joined up holistic and inclusive service across a wider region, reducing social isolation and health and economic inequalities through increased access to services and support.

**Community Foundation - Bernicia Foundation**

To increase employment, skills and training opportunities for sight impaired people and to improve the transition pathway between children's and adult services. The project will work with employers to improve their understanding and awareness of support available to sight impaired employees and candidates.

**Northumbria Police & Crime Commissioner, Operation Payback Fund**

The project will develop resources to increase cyber security for vulnerable adults and collaborate with partners to share the learning. Digital support will be provided with a focus on staying safe online.

**Peoples Postcode Lottery**

To increase employment, skills and training opportunities for sight impaired people and to improve the transition pathway between children's and adult services. The project will work with employers to improve their understanding and awareness of support available to sight impaired employees and candidates.

**National Lottery - Joint Project (formerly Joint Lottery)**

To work in partnership with Newcastle Vision Support to develop and expand services creating a more joined up holistic and inclusive service across a wider region, reducing social isolation and health and economic inequalities through increased access to services and support.

**Suicide Prevention Fund**

To support Counselling provision across Tyne & Wear and Northumberland in partnership with Sunderland & Durham Royal Society for the Blind, Northumberland County Blind Association and Newcastle Vision Support.

**Independent Age**

To provide bespoke counselling services for people with sensory loss to reduce isolation, increase confidence and improve mental health and wellbeing.

**VISION & HEARING SUPPORT GATESHEAD AND SOUTH TYNESIDE**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

**13 Restricted funds**

**14 Analysis of net assets between funds**

**Current year**

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Designated funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2022 are represented by:				
Tangible assets	19,412	-	-	19,412
Current assets/(liabilities)	199,624	20,933	15,000	235,557
Long term liabilities	-	-	-	-
	<u>219,036</u>	<u>20,933</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>254,696</u>

**Prior year**

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Designated funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2021 are represented by:				
Tangible assets	17,913	-	-	17,913
Current assets/(liabilities)	191,074	24,519	-	215,593
Long term liabilities	( 59,432 )	-	-	( 59,432 )
	<u>149,555</u>	<u>24,519</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>174,074</u>

**15 Related party transactions**

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2021 - none).

# VISION & HEARING SUPPORT GATESHEAD AND SOUTH TYNESIDE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

### 16 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date, the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Within one year	15,765	15,765
Between two and five years	3,747	19,513
	<u>19,512</u>	<u>35,277</u>

### 17 Cash generated from operations

	2022 £	2021 £
Surplus for the year	80,895	104,617
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	( 55 )	( 91 )
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	3,363	2,097
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	( 29,695 )	4,378
Increase in creditors	24,894	6,997
<b>Cash generated from operations</b>	<u>79,402</u>	<u>117,998</u>

### 18 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no debt during the year.

