

**BECOMING VISIBLE LIMITED
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

Becoming Visible Limited Contents

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Becoming Visible Limited
Reference and Administrative Details
For The Year Ended 31 March 2025

Trustees	Mr R J Herdman Mr F P Murphy Mr M Macmurtrie (resigned 01/10/2025) Mr A J Smare (appointed 07/09/2024) Mr M J Connolly (appointed 07/09/2024) Mrs R Craig-Murphy (appointed 07/09/2024) Mr A A Woodford (appointed 07/09/2024) (resigned 01/10/2025)
Charity Number	1117872
Company Number	5291167
Registered Office	The Victory 39-41 North Bridge Street Sunderland Tyne & Wear SR5 1AH
Independent Examiner	Valued ACCA

Becoming Visible Limited
Company No. 5291167
Trustees' Report For The Year Ended 31 March 2025

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Objectives and Activities

Aims and Objectives

With Becoming Visible's charitable objectives in mind, the charity has continued to deliver and adapt its work to promote greater social inclusion for Deaf people in the North of England, supporting participation in every sphere of life. A key focus of the charity's work remains the development of self-confidence and self-esteem through the promotion of British Sign Language and Deaf Culture.

As a specialist, forward-thinking organisation working at the heart of the Deaf Community, we provide services that benefit both Deaf and hearing people. We are proud to continue to deliver solutions that are culturally appropriate, friendly, approachable and, in the current financial climate, cost-effective.

During 2024–2025, the charity employed two full-time staff, seven part-time staff, and a bank of 7 zero-hours staff. We would like to note that Jack Murphy, an employee, graduated from Newcastle University with a distinction in his degree which we were absolutely thrilled about. He moved to London to do his Masters, so we welcomed another addition to the team in terms of Darren O'Dowd who moved to Becoming Visible after 29 years at Newcastle College. We have a steady established team which helps us to grow and expand our work.

Vision:

"The leading organisation in all things related to British Sign Language and Deaf Culture."

Mission:

"People first."

Values:

- Respect for our language, culture, heritage, and diversity is central to all we do
- Providing high-quality, accessible services, projects, and opportunities
- Working in partnership and signposting with other organisations to promote a positive image of British Sign Language, Deaf Culture, and the diversity of the Deaf Community
- Listening to feedback and continually striving to improve
- Remaining innovative to create exciting opportunities for members of the Deaf Community

Significant Activities

SERVICES

BV Interpreting

British Sign Language / English interpreting services for the public, private, and voluntary sectors have been the core of our work and income since 2003. Changes and challenges in procurement have led us to diversify our income streams, which has strengthened our overall service offer and benefited the community.

We are extremely grateful to our hardworking team of interpreters, both in-house and freelance. For the first time in the charity's history, staff interpreters were appointed, with plans to continue developing this model to address the decreasing number of qualified BSL/English Interpreters in the North-East and ensure a responsive service. We continue to develop this model.

We are proud to retain a loyal core client base and have seen an increase in new clients from across the UK, reflecting the organisation's strong reputation.

BV Translation

In this financial year, we faced issues in providing our translation work due to the lack of a central dedicated studio however we have continued to outsource this work, this is central to our mission to provide cost effective solutions.

BV Training

Following the closure of the Institute of British Sign Language, efforts to identify a suitable awarding body to continue delivery have been ongoing but challenging for several reasons. This remains an active area of development, particularly with our eye on the national development in BSL teaching and training.

Deaf ID

Deaf ID is our community support service, providing support workers and personal assistants to children, young people, and adults within the Deaf Community. Staff are employed on a mixture of full-time, part-time, and bank contracts.

...CONTINUED

**Becoming Visible Limited
Trustees' Report (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 March 2025**

Significant Activities - continued

This is a responsive and growing service that we intend to continue expanding. It enables us to be one of the largest employers of Deaf people in the region, an achievement of which we are particularly proud. 2024-2025 continues to see the service grow from strength to strength.

Community Work

Community activities are delivered in partnership with Sunderland Deaf Society and at Strawberry Lane, including coffee mornings and afternoon clubs.

These sessions provide safe, welcoming spaces for people to socialise, learn, and engage with speakers from Deaf and hearing organisations. Community outreach remains a priority as the longer-term impacts of COVID continue to affect engagement. During the early part of 2025, we launched our newsletter which has received positive feedback. We will deliver this 4 times a year in our aim to reach as many people who are not digitally confident as the newsletter, even though it is bilingual in BSL/ English is also available online and in print, reaching out to many people.

Youth Work

Holiday activities and monthly sessions continue for deaf children and young people aged 8–17, delivered by a part-time Youth Worker. Sunderland Deaf Society have been working hard to get funding so that we can offer activities for deaf children and CODAs.

Challenges during 2024/2025

In the space of 18 months – we moved three times. In Spring 2024, we moved from Newcastle to Sunderland, to the old Deaf Club at 34-35 North Bridge Street and then a few weeks later to 39-41 North Bridge Street, Sunderland – the new home of Sunderland Deaf Society. This resulted in a turbulent year operationally, with significant internal change alongside continued service delivery and expansion of new work. The office was renovated in summer 2024 and we finally moved in in late Autumn 2024, however significant building work meant we had to leave the office and we found a temporary space in North Shields for 3 months. We eventually returned to Sunderland. 2025 has been about settling down and getting used to the various sites we work from. Partnerships have been set up with Northumbria Deaf Mission, MeSign, The British Deaf Association and supporting the new network of Deaf Clubs. We remain working in the local, regional, national and international community.

Other Information

Looking to The Future

The charity remains committed to continuing service delivery while remaining responsive, innovative, and focused on meeting the needs of the Deaf Community. We have exciting developments coming in for 2025/2026 and a new board of trustees which will help us to develop robust governance.

Small Company Rules

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

The trustees' report was approved by the board of trustees and signed on its behalf by:



Mr F P Murphy

Trustee

06/03/2026

Becoming Visible Limited
Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Becoming Visible Limited
For The Year Ended 31 March 2025

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

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

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

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

Valued

Valued ACCA

06/03/2026

Becoming Visible Limited
Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)
For The Year Ended 31 March 2025

		2025	2024
		Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	Notes	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:			
Donations and legacies	3	3,283	3,660
Charitable activities:	4		
Invoices services and recharged expenses		489,403	498,073
		<u>492,686</u>	<u>501,733</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:			
Charitable activities:	6		
General charitable activities		(223,851)	(265,128)
Goverance costs		(265,717)	(229,329)
		<u>(489,568)</u>	<u>(494,457)</u>
NET INCOME		3,118	7,276
		<u>3,118</u>	<u>7,276</u>
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		3,118	7,276
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:			
Total funds brought forward		242,921	235,645
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	14	<u>246,039</u>	<u>242,921</u>

The notes on pages 7 to 10 form part of these financial statements.

Becoming Visible Limited
Balance Sheet
As At 31 March 2025

				2025	2024
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	10	9,598	-	9,598	11,635
		9,598	-	9,598	11,635
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	11	287,759	-	287,759	281,175
Cash at bank and in hand		12,245	-	12,245	11,693
		300,004	-	300,004	292,868
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	12	(63,563)	-	(63,563)	(61,582)
NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)		236,441	-	236,441	231,286
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		246,039	-	246,039	242,921
NET ASSETS		246,039	-	246,039	242,921
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Unrestricted Funds				246,039	242,921
TOTAL FUNDS	14			246,039	242,921

For the year ending 31 March 2025 the charitable company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

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

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

On behalf of the board



Mr F P Murphy

Trustee
06/03/2026

The notes on pages 7 to 10 form part of these financial statements.

Becoming Visible Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements

For The Year Ended 31 March 2025

1. General Information

Becoming Visible Limited is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England & Wales, registered number 5291167 and registered charity number 1117872. The registered office is The Victory, 39-41 North Bridge Street, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear, SR5 1AH.

2. Accounting Policies

2.1. Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) "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)", Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Companies Act 2006.

The charitable company is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

2.2. Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of the fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures & Fittings	20% reducing balance
Computer Equipment	20% straight line

2.3. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are basic financial assets and include cash in hand and deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and are readily convertible to a known amount of cash with insignificant risk of change in value, and bank overdrafts.

3. Income from Donations and Legacies

2025	2024
Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
£	£
3,283	3,660

Donations and gifts

4. Income from Charitable Activities

2025	2024
Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
£	£
489,403	498,073

Invoices services and recharged expenses

5. Net Income/(Expenditure)

The net income is stated after charging/(crediting):

2025	2024
£	£
4,126	4,177

Depreciation of tangible fixed assets - owned

Becoming Visible Limited
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 March 2025

6. Analysis of Expenditure

	2025
	Support costs
	(see note 7)
	£
General charitable activities	223,851
Governance costs	265,717
	<u>489,568</u>
	<u><u>489,568</u></u>
	2024
	Support costs
	(see note 7)
	£
General charitable activities	265,128
Governance costs	229,329
	<u>494,457</u>
	<u><u>494,457</u></u>

7. Support Costs

	2025	
	General charitable activities	Governance costs
	£	£
Employee costs	-	211,135
Premises expenses	-	13,673
General administration	-	36,783
Depreciation	-	4,126
Governance costs	223,851	-
	<u>223,851</u>	<u>265,717</u>
	<u><u>223,851</u></u>	<u><u>265,717</u></u>
		<u>489,568</u>
		<u><u>489,568</u></u>
		2024
	General charitable activities	Governance costs
	£	£
Employee costs	-	185,027
Premises expenses	-	9,600
General administration	-	30,525
Depreciation	-	4,177
Governance costs	265,128	-
	<u>265,128</u>	<u>229,329</u>
	<u><u>265,128</u></u>	<u><u>229,329</u></u>
		<u>494,457</u>
		<u><u>494,457</u></u>

Becoming Visible Limited
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 March 2025

8. Staff Costs

Staff costs were as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	197,918	173,276
Social security costs	8,169	6,905
Other pension costs	5,048	4,846
	<u>211,135</u>	<u>185,027</u>

No employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) for the reporting period of more than £60,000.

9. Average Number of Employees

Average number of employees during the year was: 14 (2024: 12)

10. Tangible Assets

	Fixtures & Fittings	Computer Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
As at 1 April 2024	10,335	31,279	41,614
Additions	1,167	921	2,088
As at 31 March 2025	<u>11,502</u>	<u>32,200</u>	<u>43,702</u>
Depreciation			
As at 1 April 2024	8,568	21,411	29,979
Provided during the period	476	3,649	4,125
As at 31 March 2025	<u>9,044</u>	<u>25,060</u>	<u>34,104</u>
Net Book Value			
As at 31 March 2025	<u>2,458</u>	<u>7,140</u>	<u>9,598</u>
As at 1 April 2024	<u>1,767</u>	<u>9,868</u>	<u>11,635</u>

11. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	287,099	280,799
Other debtors	660	376
	<u>287,759</u>	<u>281,175</u>

12. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	32,431	33,579
Other creditors	4,354	4,400
Taxation and social security	24,341	18,588
Accruals and deferred income	2,437	5,015
	<u>63,563</u>	<u>61,582</u>

Becoming Visible Limited
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 March 2025

13. Pension Commitments

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charitable company in an independently administered fund.

During the year the charge to the statement of financial activities in respect of defined contribution schemes was £5,048 (2024: £4,846).

At the balance sheet date contributions of £1,184.01 (2024 £1,138.30) were due to the fund and are included in creditors.

14. Movement in Funds

	As at 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	As at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General:				
General unrestricted fund	242,921	492,686	(489,568)	246,039
Total funds	<u>242,921</u>	<u>492,686</u>	<u>(489,568)</u>	<u>246,039</u>
	As at 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	As at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General:				
General unrestricted fund	235,645	501,733	(494,457)	242,921
Total funds	<u>235,645</u>	<u>501,733</u>	<u>(494,457)</u>	<u>242,921</u>

15. Transactions with Trustees

None of the trustees received any remuneration or any other benefits from an employment with the charity or a related entity during the current or previous year.

No trustee expenses have been incurred.

16. Related Party Disclosures

There have been no related party transactions in the reporting period that require disclosure.

17. Company limited by guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company, in the event of a winding up, such an amount as may be required not exceeding £1.

Becoming Visible Limited
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)
For The Year Ended 31 March 2025

	2025	2024
	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:		
Donations and legacies		
Donations and gifts	3,283	3,660
	<u>3,283</u>	<u>3,660</u>
Charitable Activities:		
Invoices services and recharged expenses		
Income from charitable activities	489,403	498,073
	<u>489,403</u>	<u>498,073</u>
	492,686	501,733
EXPENDITURE ON:		
Charitable Activities:		
General charitable activities		
Other governance costs	(223,851)	(265,128)
	<u>(223,851)</u>	<u>(265,128)</u>
Governance costs		
Wages and salaries	(197,918)	(173,276)
Employers NI	(8,169)	(6,905)
Employers pensions - defined contributions scheme	(5,048)	(4,846)
Rent	(13,673)	(9,600)
Travel and subsistence	(17,986)	(4,370)
Computer software costs	(226)	(1,439)
Repairs, renewals and maintenance	(1,493)	(60)
Insurance	(2,611)	(1,319)
Printing, postage and stationery	(1,123)	(943)
Training seminars and workshops	(1,077)	(3,448)
Telecommunications and data costs	(5,421)	(4,817)
Accountancy fees	(3,357)	(6,120)
Legal fees	(47)	(35)
Subscriptions	(1,568)	(1,414)
Bank charges	(245)	(276)
Charitable donations	(368)	(99)
Entertaining	(75)	(302)
Sundry expenses	(1,186)	(5,883)
Depreciation	(4,126)	(4,177)
	<u>(265,717)</u>	<u>(229,329)</u>
	<u>(489,568)</u>	<u>(494,457)</u>
NET INCOME	<u>3,118</u>	<u>7,276</u>