

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

England & Wales · Charity number 1123220

Details

Other names WAB, WARWICKSHIRE VISION SUPPORT

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [06511954](#)

Registered 2008-03-17

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Warwickshire Vision Support
14 Market Place
Warwick
CV34 4SL

Phone 01926411331

Email enquiries@warwickshire.vision

Website www.warwickshire.vision

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE THE WELFARE OF THE BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED RESIDENTS IN COVENTRY AND WARWICKSHIRE BY THE PROVISION OF GOOD QUALITY SERVICES IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHER VOLUNTARY AND STATUTORY ORGANISATIONS.

Activities: SUPPORTS RESIDENTS OF WARWICKSHIRE AND COVENTRY WITH SIGHT LOSS PROBLEMS. PROVIDES REHABILITATION SERVICES, SUPPORT, ADVICE AND COMPANIONSHIP TO PEOPLE OF ALL AGES. ACHIEVES THIS BY ONE-ONE ADVICE, SOCIAL CLUBS, DROP IN CENTRES AS WELL AS TALKING NEWSPAPERS, TALKING BOOKS AND IT TECHNOLOGY TRAINING.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Disability, Amateur Sport, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** People With Disabilities

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** COVENTRY AND WARWICKSHIRE
- Warwickshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£565,416	£690,899	£3,604,689	22
2024-03-31	£1,455,111	£628,777	£3,735,779	22
2023-03-31	£503,228	£701,713	£2,745,023	22
2022-03-31	£963,842	£583,108	£3,098,130	21
2021-03-31	£1,410,702	£457,652	£2,611,704	16

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Louise Emma Wallis	Chair	2023-11-21
Arthur Marklew Liggins		2023-11-21
DAVID ADAMS		2018-08-24
Harmeelat Rasheed		2025-11-23
Paul Christopher Anthony		2025-11-20
Richard Charles Orme		2014-11-13
Susan Mary Ayres		2021-05-05
Thuy Thi Bien Pham		2023-11-21

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

England & Wales - Charity number 1123220

Accounts

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

and

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

**FOR WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(T/A WARWICKSHIRE VISION SUPPORT)**

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

TRUSTEES	David ADAMS (Treasurer) Susan Mary AYRES Tom BULPITT (Resigned 31.10.2024) Stacey Louise FENNELL Amer HERIAN (Deceased 09.12.2024) Arthur Marklew LIGGINS Richard Charles ORME Thuy PHAM Elizabeth Ann THIEBE (Resigned 1.07.2025) Louise WALLIS (Chair)
COMPANY SECRETARY	Stacey Louise FENNELL
REGISTERED OFFICE	14 Market Place Warwick, Warwickshire United Kingdom CV34 4SL
REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER	06511954 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER	1123220
AUDITOR	Harrison Beale & Owen Limited Chartered Accountants Highdown House 11 Highdown Road Leamington Spa Warwickshire CV31 1XT
BANKERS	Lloyds Bank Business Banking BX1 1LT
INVESTMENT MANAGERS	Quilter Cheviot Investment Management Two Snow Hill Snow Hill Queensway Birmingham B4 6GA

FOREWORD FROM LOUISE WALLIS, CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

This year marked the opening of our new headquarters in Warwick following a major refurbishment programme. This gives Warwickshire Vision Support a fabulous new resource for us to use to develop and deliver a range of services for our community.

The refurbishment included our new multi-function room, which is bright and modern, and includes a fully equipped training kitchen. The space has been designed with input from staff, volunteers and our service users ensuring that it will meet community needs, and help future proof the charity.



This year we have also introduced a new Visual Impairment Awareness Training service, which has been well received by participants. The training is aimed at local employers and service providers to increase understanding of visual impairment.

We continue to develop our support for visually impaired people in the county. Through our services we allow individuals to live independent and fulfilled lives, and reduce the risk of social isolation and prevents avoidable health and care issues.

- Our Eye Clinic Liaison Officers (ECLO's) continue to provide crucial support at the point people are diagnosed at eye clinics. ECLO's give both emotional and practical support at a distressing and uncertain time, and are able to connect people to rehabilitation and community services.
- Our Rehabilitation Services delivered by trained staff allow visually impaired individuals to live independently. The service includes training for mobility and orientation, safe walking, and using the kitchen and public transport. Alongside this we help with home adaptations including lighting, cooking and specialist equipment. We also provide IT skills training allowing those with sight loss to use digital tools to stay connected with family and friends whilst maintaining independence.
- Our Social Clubs and Vision Support Centres together with our befriending service provide crucial advice and support but also help reduce social isolation.

Next year we will look to build on the services we offer and continue to extend our reach within the visually impaired community in Warwickshire.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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).

About Warwickshire Vision Support

Warwickshire Vision Support is the trading name of Warwickshire Association for the Blind; a registered charity incorporated in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee and governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Mission

Founded in 1911, Warwickshire Vision Support exists to provide emotional and practical support for blind and partially sighted people across the county. We achieve this each year by providing:

- **at diagnosis:** offering immediate support to help individuals acknowledge and understand their condition.
- **in the weeks that follow diagnosis:** delivering training and providing practical aids to help individuals adjust, remain safe and live independently;
- **over the following years:** continuing to offer advice, information, and skills training that open up more choices, greater independence and healthier lifestyles.

Aims and Objectives – our Five I’s of Impact

We organise our work and measure our success by working to achieve these five outcomes for the people we work with. We want visually impaired individuals to be, and feel, included, involved, informed, inspired and as independent as they want to be:

Included	Ensuring our services are available, accessible, inclusive, and open to all visually impaired people across Warwickshire.
Involved	Actively seeking feedback and collaborating with the people we support to shape services that are relevant and effective.
Informed	Providing clear, practical advice, information, and training to help people living with sight loss stay safe and make confident decisions
Inspired	Encouraging people to embrace new opportunities, build confidence, and take positive steps towards maintaining a fulfilling and active life.
Independent	Supporting and empowering people to continue to look after themselves and their affairs with a sense of purpose, keep family and social connections, and avoid the isolation and loneliness that often accompanies sight loss.

Key activities

- Offering emotional and practical support in hospital eye clinics and other settings where people first receive a diagnosis of sight loss.
- Delivering specialist rehabilitation on behalf of Warwickshire County Council, teaching skills to improve safety at home and independence in the community.
- Promoting awareness of the impact of visual impairment among employers, service providers, and businesses across Warwickshire.
- Providing access to expert advice, information and guidance through our county-wide network of Vision Support Centres.
- Reducing isolation and loneliness through our befriending services.
- Building social connections through clubs and online conferencing opportunities.
- Supporting inclusion and empowerment through IT training and advocacy.
- Keeping people connected and informed through our magazine and regular updates.

Our Values and Guiding Principles

One Team: we believe we are at our strongest when we work together. By sharing ideas, expertise, and resources, we create a culture where collaboration drives success. We strive to agree on common objectives, aspirations, and values, recognising that a united approach allows us to achieve more for the people we serve.

Person Centred: the needs and aspirations of our beneficiaries sit at the heart of everything we do. We listen carefully, respect individual choices, and continually review our systems and processes to ensure they respond to real life experiences. Our aim is to provide support that reflects the lives of the people we serve, always prioritising independence, and wellbeing.

Outcome Focussed: we understand that every person has different goals and priorities. That is why our rehabilitation services, and all the support we provide, are tailored to help each beneficiary achieve the outcomes they identify as most important to themselves. By staying flexible and personalising our approach, we enable people to build skills, confidence, and independence in ways that matter most in their own lives.

Caring and Respectful: we focus on the person, not the impairment, treating everyone with dignity, fairness, and kindness. Our services are designed in partnership with the people we support, ensuring they reflect lived experience and empower people to thrive.

Reflective, Learning and Developing: we are committed to learning and evolving so we can continually improve. We reflect honestly on our work, listen to feedback, and adapt quickly to meet the changing needs and expectations of our beneficiaries and stakeholders. Innovation and growth are part of who we are, we seek new ideas, embrace change, and strive to set the standard for responsive, high-quality support.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Major Developments in 2024/2025

The year included two major project milestones in addition to our normal services: the reconfiguration and refurbishment of our premises in Warwick, and the launch of our new Visual Impairment Awareness Training service.



The refurbishment project was more than a year in the planning and delivery, and has transformed our premises, a 19th Century building, into a modern, functional space. We created a welcoming office environment alongside a larger multi-purpose resource centre featuring a fully equipped training kitchen.

The redevelopment of the upper floors of the building also provided two self-contained office spaces, now generating rental income. By the end of the year, the resource centre was in regular use and is set to become a vital community hub as we expand its role and reach.

Our new Visual Impairment Awareness Training service also had a strong start. Designed to increase understanding of the needs and experiences of people with visual impairments, it quickly attracted interest from local businesses, employers, and service providers.

Our Services in 2024/2025

"I have a much better understanding of what is available for me when I need it so I feel more confident. Warwickshire Vision Support has made a big difference to my life... everything has been great, every problem I have has been sorted out by you"

Our frontline services are built around two distinct yet interconnected teams. One team supports people who are newly adjusting to sight loss, while the other works with those who have been living with sight loss for some time. Together, they ensure that support is available at every stage of the sight loss journey. Behind the scenes, a small but dedicated back-office team provides vital fundraising and administrative support, helping to keep the charity running smoothly and effectively.

How We Help People Adjust to Sight Loss

Eye Care Liaison Officers (ECLOs)

"The Eye Care Liaison Officer service provided by Warwickshire Vision Support is an invaluable resource for our patients...for many, receiving a diagnosis related to sight loss can be life-

changing and emotionally challenging. Having knowledgeable and compassionate ECLOs available to offer tailored support, practical guidance, and up-to-date information ensures that our patients feel reassured and well-informed...their presence helps facilitate a smoother journey through the care pathway and significantly enhances the overall patient experience..."
Claire Vyce, Operations Lead – Warwickshire, Newmedica

In the past year, our Eye Care Liaison Officers (ECLOs) have been a crucial first point of contact for **more than 600 people** who have experienced some form of sight loss.

Working alongside NHS Eye Clinics and Ophthalmology departments, our ECLOs are specially trained to provide immediate, empathetic emotional and practical support at a time of uncertainty and distress. They assess individual needs and connect people with our other rehabilitation or community services as well as services offered by our local, regional, and national partners in the health and welfare sector.

By offering this support early, our ECLOs play a key role in preventing avoidable deterioration in people's health and wellbeing. Timely advice, emotional reassurance, and practical guidance, help individuals adapt to sight loss more safely and confidently, reducing risks such as falls, isolation, and mental health crises. The early interventions by our ECLOs are preventative, they lessen the likelihood of hospital admissions or the need for long-term care, enabling people to remain independent in their own homes for longer and improving their overall quality of life.

Rehabilitation Services

"Your staff have been very professional, kind and patient. I've really appreciated the help with independent living, all your advice is very professional and personalised and your staff have a thorough knowledge of what they are imparting"

Our Vision Rehabilitation services are delivered on behalf of Warwickshire County Council. As part of this partnership, we provide quarterly reports and an annual (calendar) report to WCC, including monitoring data, case studies, and evidence against agreed performance standards.

In the 2024 calendar year, we provided rehabilitation support to **761 people**, with an additional **230 people** supported in the first quarter of 2025.

Our highly trained Rehabilitation Officers deliver early, preventative interventions that focus on building independent living skills. This includes mobility and orientation training, which enables people stay confident in their homes and when out in the local community. Support includes learning how to use public transport, mobility aids, and safe walking routes by recognising and navigating sensory street infrastructure.

In the home environment, we help people make simple but life-changing adaptations such as improving lighting, using specialist equipment, and learning practical techniques for safe cooking, storing and preparing food, and making hot drinks. These interventions not only reduce the risk of accidents and falls, but also build confidence and resilience, enabling people to continue living independently.

We help to prevent avoidable health and care needs, reduce social isolation, and improve wellbeing. By equipping people with the skills and confidence to manage sight loss safely, we reduce the likelihood of accidents, falls, and the resultant hospital admissions. This in turn eases pressure on the NHS and helps reduce the need for costly long-term care packages, making the service both life-enhancing for individuals and cost-effective for our health and social care partners, and our many funders.

How We Help People Living with Sight Loss

Vision Support Centres

"I feel I am part of the community much more and I can talk to people who have similar difficulties...the support centre has given me more confidence in dealing with my disability...all the information, support and guidance from staff and volunteers they go beyond the norm to help us all out...that is the difference Warwickshire Vision make..."

Vision Support Centres are at the heart of our community-based work. They provide a safe and welcoming environment for blind and partially sighted people, where individuals can find advice, guidance, and reassurance as they navigate the challenges of living with sight loss. Whether someone needs practical help with their changing condition, information about benefits or services, or simply the chance to spend time with others who understand their experiences, the centres are there to meet those needs.

In the year, we delivered **276 weekly and monthly support centre sessions in 11 different towns** across Warwickshire. We experienced a small increase in the average number of people attending each centre, with many new faces joining us for the first time.

A key part of our support centres is the variety of guest speakers and equipment demonstrations we host. These sessions allow people to hear directly from professionals, ask questions, and learn about services that could benefit them. The equipment demonstrations are especially valuable, giving people the chance to try before they buy and discover tools that can make daily life more accessible and independent.

"I know my sight will worsen but what WVS has is the ability to give hope as well as a sense of community. The difference you have made is I now feel included rather than on the outside"

None of this would be possible without our incredible volunteer workforce, who ensure every centre is a welcoming, supportive, and safe environment. Their dedication creates the warm, friendly atmosphere that makes our centres so special, turning them into places where people feel connected, valued, and understood.

'IT4U' Digital Inclusion Training Service

"My employers have noticed improvements in word processing accuracy and have now become more engaged in proactively finding appropriate reasonable adjustments, after an Occupational Health report you helped organise. So thank you and your colleagues for the invaluable IT assistance you have given me to manage my visual impairments"

The IT4U service empowers people with sight loss, to build confidence in using digital tools, assistive technology, and accessibility software, helping them to stay connected, manage their affairs online, and maintain independence.

Last year, we supported **120 people in 1:1 sessions** delivered at our weekly and monthly Vision Support Centres. Alongside face-to-face appointments, we offered personalised support delivered via phone and email.

A particularly valued feature of the service is the opportunity to 'try before you buy,' enabling individuals to test a range of devices and software to identify the solutions best suited to their needs and abilities.

Befriending Service

"My Dad has started receiving Home Visits from you, which are worth their weight in gold... we recently lost my Mum and then his eye sight...he's still trying to remain independent...but he needs help because he is struggling"

In the past year, we made **1,552 befriending contacts, via telephone calls and home visits**. These services are a lifeline for some of our most isolated, lonely, and vulnerable service users, offering not only companionship but also consistency, reassurance, and a sense of connection.

Designed to enhance welfare and wellbeing, the services provide regular contact, a listening ear, and the opportunity to share weekly experiences, challenges, and feelings about life. Beyond companionship, they also serve a crucial safeguarding role. Our staff and volunteers are trained to listen attentively and spot potential concerns, such as poor health or diet, lack of dignity, or the presence of unwanted visitors. In more serious cases, we have referred individuals to Adult Social Care for mental health support and, when necessary, contacted paramedics to respond swiftly to falls or ill health.

Social Clubs

"I definitely would recommend the club because it is the best thing I ever did was to go and it brought me out of my shell as I was in denial. I have come out of my shell now and I have made some lovely friends"

There were **148 social club meetings** held last year.

By contrast with our Vision Support Centres, the emphasis in these clubs is less on information, advice, and training, and more on companionship, fun, and meaningful activities that keep members engaged, active, and socially connected.

Members work alongside our staff and volunteers to plan, schedule, and organise each club, shaping the programme to reflect their interests and preferences. Activities range from creative projects, quizzes, and games to music sessions, talks from hobby speakers, visiting entertainers, and shared luncheons. For many, these clubs provide not just recreation but also a vital sense of belonging, reducing loneliness and helping to build confidence in everyday life.

Volunteers

"it's the feeling of satisfaction and knowing you are making a difference.... a fantastic team of people to work with!"

Warwickshire Vision Support is proud to have the support of **150 dedicated volunteers**, who generously give their time to assist our support centres, social clubs, and befriending services, as well as helping in the office and at events and fundraising collections.

Without the commitment and generosity of our volunteer team, we simply could not have achieved the breadth and scale of services delivered over the past year. Their time, energy, and compassion enable us to extend our reach, support more people living with sight loss, and strengthen our presence across Warwickshire.

Warwickshire Vision Magazine

Our magazine has provided news, practical information, and personal stories tailored to the interests and needs of people living with sight loss. It helps to keep our service users connected, informed, and engaged with both the charity and the wider community.

In the year, we produced **4 seasonal magazines to more than 3,000 people** and supporters of the charity.

The magazine is supplied to an individual's communication preference, whether as an audio file, digital edition, or printed copy, ensuring it remains fully accessible to everyone. Beyond sharing updates from Warwickshire Vision Support, the magazine highlights inspiring personal experiences, community initiatives, and developments within the sight loss sector, making it an important channel for both information and connection.

Grants Received in 2024/2025

We would like to thank the following grant makers who supported our charitable work in the 2024/2025 financial year:

Alcester Town Council
Coventry and District Charitable Trust
Develop Warwickshire Community Fund
David Family Foundation
Dumbreck Charity
Edgar E Lawley Foundation
The Forrester Family Trust
Garfield Weston Foundation
George Perkins Charitable Trust
The GJW Turner Trust
The Goodenough Charitable Trust
The Grace Trust
Inclusive Communities Fund
National Lottery Community Fund
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
Royal Leamington Spa Town Council
Schroder Charity Trust
Warwickshire CC Councillor grants x 5
Warwick District Council
The WPH Charitable Trust

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial Performance

During the year, the charity generated an **income of £565,416**. Against this, we delivered services and activities with **total costs of £690,899**, resulting in an operating deficit of £125,483. This outcome reflects the planned use of our reserves, enabling us to continue supporting blind and partially sighted people across Warwickshire despite wider financial pressures. In addition, the value of our investments reduced by £5,607, in line with global market fluctuations.

Overall, the total reduction in funds for the year was £131,090. This position remains consistent with our financial strategy and commitment to investing our resources in direct support for the people we support.

We completed the fully funded refurbishment of our offices and multi-purpose room during the year. The project created a more welcoming, accessible, and functional space for staff, volunteers, and service beneficiaries. Alongside improving the way we deliver services, the refurbishment also strengthened our assets with an increase in the value of the property by £490,501.

Investment Policy and Objectives

The charity's reserves have originated from two exceptional legacies in the last few years and are managed to balance financial sustainability with the responsible pursuit of income to support the work of the charity. Reserves are held in both long-term and short-term investment portfolios, with distinct purposes and objectives:

Long-term Investments

Longer term investments are placed with Quilter Cheviot in a charity-specific portfolio, considered 'locked-in' for a minimum of 5-7 years. The portfolio is managed on a 'moderate' risk basis, with an expected dividend yield of 3.5% plus inflation (CPI) after management fees. The Board of Trustees meet with a Fund Manager at Quilter Cheviot annually, to review the performance of the investment and to ensure it remains aligned to the risk expectations of the Board and its members. Over a five-year period, the moderate-risk portfolio is expected to generate annualised gains (growth) of approximately 15%, with potential losses not exceeding 6%.

Short-term investments

Short term investments are managed on the Charities Aid investment platform, Flagstone, to provide liquidity for operational cashflow, while also enabling the charity to resource new ventures and initiatives as opportunities arise.

This dual approach allows the charity to maintain financial resilience, generate sustainable income, and ensure funds are available to meet both immediate needs and long-term commitments.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have reviewed the charity's reserves and agreed a policy that ensures funds are managed responsibly while safeguarding the charity's ability to deliver services sustainably.

At 31st March 2025, Warwickshire Vision Support held total unrestricted reserves of **£3,572,346** (2024: £3,702,337). Of this, £2,922,340 is not freely available for day-to-day use, as it is either invested in fixed assets or has been designated by the Trustees for specific purposes over the next 1- 3 years.

Breakdown of Unrestricted Funds

Total unrestricted reserves	£3,572,346
Less: funds tied up in fixed assets (property, equipment)	(£1,222,340)
Less: designated fund for future service development (funding for Living Better with Sight Loss project, match funding innovation fund, new service development eg. family counselling)	(£500,000)
Less: designated fund for asset replacement (IT hardware refresh, boiler and heating system replacement)	(£50,000)
Less: contingency fund (operational risk provision, redundancies etc)	(£400,000)
Less: designated investment in infrastructure and organisational development (a new satellite office in the north of county)	<u>(£750,000)</u>
Free reserves available	£650,006

Free Reserves

After these designations, free reserves stand at £650,006, representing approximately 12 months of core operating expenditure. The Trustees consider this level appropriate to:

- provide short-term protection against fluctuations in income, potential loss of rehabilitation services contract
- ensure continuity of essential services for visually impaired people across Warwickshire, and
- allow time to adapt in the event of unforeseen financial pressures.

Prudent Use of Reserves

The Trustees recognise that the charity's reserves are invested to generate income through interest and dividends. This investment income makes an important contribution to our running costs and helps to reduce reliance on short-term fundraising or grant income.

When considering the use of reserves for infrastructure or service development, the Trustees will act with caution. Any planned expenditure from reserves will be assessed not only in terms of the benefit it brings to service users, but also the financial impact on the charity's long-term sustainability.

Specifically, the Trustees will ensure that investment in new services, assets, or infrastructure, is likely to generate a comparable return, either by:

- creating opportunities for new or increased income,
- reducing ongoing operating costs through efficiency gains, or
- enhancing the charity's ability to deliver services more effectively and sustainably.

This disciplined approach means that reserves are used strategically, balancing today's needs with tomorrow's security. By doing so, Warwickshire Vision Support can continue to invest in the future while maintaining the steady income stream from interest and dividends that underpins our financial resilience.

The Trustees will review the reserves policy annually to ensure that the level and designation of reserves remain aligned with the charity's strategic priorities, risk profile, and income generation strategy.

Trustees recognise that whilst we are very fortunate to have access to free reserves, it is vital that the Charity continues to fundraise year-round to achieve its goals, especially continuing to access small, medium and larger grants to support our work in the community. We hope that our reserves plans offer funders and supporters reassurance that the charity is sustainable and well-managed.

FUTURE PLANS

Over the coming year, we will continue to develop our services so that blind and partially sighted people across the county can access the support they need, where and when they need it. In particular, we will focus on:

Expanding services in the north of the county: We recognise the higher levels of health inequality in the north of the county and plan to increase our presence there. This will include providing additional IT training capacity to help people improve digital skills, whilst building on our network of support centres and social clubs. These developments will bring vital services closer to those who need them most.

Creating and growing community-based Eye Clinic Liaison Services (ECLOs): We will work to establish and strengthen ECLO provision within community settings, ensuring that people experiencing sight loss have access to clear referral pathways for our support. Alongside this, we will raise the organisation's profile with opticians, GP practices, and other local services where people with new or suspected sight problems are likely to visit.

Developing our Vision Impairment (VI) awareness training: We will continue to expand our VI awareness programme, aimed at employers, businesses, and community organisations. This training will raise understanding of the impact of sight loss and highlight the adjustments that blind and partially sighted people would benefit from in workplaces and public services.

Investigate options for a satellite premises in the north of the county: To reduce barriers to access, we will explore options for establishing a satellite base in the north of the county. This would not only make our services more accessible to local communities but would also reduce the environmental impact by minimising the need for unnecessary travel across the county.

Developing services for working age and younger people: We will expand our range of activities and services to better meet the needs of people of working age, including support with employment and training. In addition, we will seek to identify and offer services or activities that are of particular interest to younger people with vision impairment, ensuring that our offer remains inclusive across all age groups.

Expanding use of our new multi-purpose room in Warwick: We will make full use of our new multi-purpose space, which includes a training kitchen, to host a wider range of training and development activities. This facility will allow us to run living with sight loss programmes for individuals (and their family members, friends or carers), adjusting to sight loss, life skills courses, confidence-building sessions, and practical workshops, supporting people with sight loss to live more independently.

Raising Awareness: Sharing the story of our charity and the difference we make is vital every year. By raising awareness, we can ensure that everyone in Warwickshire experiencing sight loss knows where to turn for support. Greater awareness also helps inspire our community of supporters and funders, whose generosity makes it possible for us to continue and grow our life-changing work.

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

Trustees are required to have a professional or commercial background with a knowledge of business management, and one or more specialities such as legal, HR, financial, publicity, fundraising and administration. We also seek people who have experience of living with sight loss or are professionals in eye care.

Applicants are invited to an interview with a Selection Committee, as defined in the Articles of Association. After interview, the Selection Committee report to the Board, which may invite the Applicant to attend Board meetings on an ad-hoc basis with no right to vote. After attending a minimum of two meetings, the Board may co-opt the Applicant as a Trustee. All Trustees are required to attend seminars and training to ensure that they are aware of changes in legislation.

Each year, one third of the Trustees have to retire by rotation and seek re-election.

The Trustees meet at least quarterly to receive and action management accounts. Additional meetings are scheduled throughout the year to address specific issues and training. The work of the Trustees is organised into four sub-committees which are responsible for producing reports and recommendations to the Board.

Under the Articles of Association, the Trustees are permitted to appoint a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) who has day-to-day responsibility for the management of staff and the running of the charity.

Key management remuneration

The salary of the CEO is determined by the Chair of the Board of Trustees in consultation with the Human Resources Committee following an annual performance appraisal and an assessment of appropriate market rates for the position.

Risk management

The trustees have a responsibility to identify, assess, and regularly review the risks facing the charity. They must also ensure that robust systems and controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud, error, and mismanagement.

To support this, the CEO maintains a comprehensive Risk Register, which is presented to the Board of Trustees as a standing agenda item at every full Board meeting. This process enables the Board to monitor emerging risks, evaluate the effectiveness of mitigating actions, and ensure the charity operates to the highest standards of accountability and transparency.

The main (top 5) risks being monitored by trustees at March 2025 are:

Risk 1: Income from trusts and grants is insufficient to meet charity ambitions and costs associated with charitable service delivery.

Risk Response: Identify new areas of potential funding and lessen the reliance on traditional areas of income generation.

Risk 2: The charity fails to meet its regulatory or quality obligations in respect of services provided as part of the service level agreement with the local county council, or other charitable services, and suffers reputational and potentially long-term damage.

Risk Response: The Board of Trustees review performance updates provided by the CEO to ensure the team remain sufficiently skilled and qualified, with systems and processes reviewed regularly to ensure delivery of services meet expectations.

Risk 3: The charity fails to secure a renewal of the contract to provide Rehabilitation Services as from 2027.

Risk Response: Ensure the standards and performance requirements of the existing contract are being met, with services and reporting developed on a continual basis to align with the expectations of key stakeholders.

Risk 4: Loss of key staff jeopardises the delivery of services, especially in areas of Rehabilitation Services where recruitment of appropriately qualified personnel is known to be challenging.

Risk Response: Review and update succession plans on a regular basis, whilst creating a pipeline of personnel undertaking training and formal qualifications.

Risk 5: Charity data is compromised or interrupted from a cyberattack, leading to the loss of sensitive service beneficiary and other information.

Risk Response: Undertake review of cybersecurity controls, taking regular backups and staff training.

Report of the trustees, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 2nd October 2025 and signed on the Board's behalf by:



.....

Louise Wallis – Chair of Board of Trustees

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of Warwickshire Association for the Blind ('the Company')

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's 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.

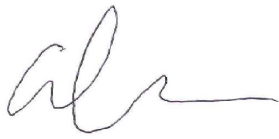
Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the 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:

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.



Gregg Olnier

2nd October 2025

Date

HB&O Ltd
Chartered Accountants
Highdown House
11 Highdown Road
Leamington Spa
Warwickshire
CV31 1XT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	19,714	37,039	56,753	1,038,781
Charitable activities					
Statutory and rehabilitation services	5	95,922	252,789	348,711	321,514
Other trading activities	3	33,645	-	33,645	650
Investment income	4	126,307	-	126,307	94,166
Other income		-	-	-	-
Total		<u>275,588</u>	<u>289,828</u>	<u>565,416</u>	<u>1,455,111</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	6	54,087	-	54,087	57,661
Charitable activities					
Statutory and rehabilitation services	7	213,891	422,921	636,812	571,116
Total		<u>267,978</u>	<u>422,921</u>	<u>690,899</u>	<u>628,777</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments		<u>(5,607)</u>	-	<u>(5,607)</u>	<u>164,422</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		2,003	(133,093)	(131,090)	990,756
Transfers between funds	19	<u>(131,995)</u>	<u>131,995</u>	-	-
Net movement in funds		(129,992)	(1,098)	(131,090)	990,756
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		<u>3,702,337</u>	<u>33,442</u>	<u>3,735,779</u>	<u>2,745,023</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>3,572,345</u></u>	<u><u>32,344</u></u>	<u><u>3,604,689</u></u>	<u><u>3,735,779</u></u>

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

BALANCE SHEET 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	13	396,799	-	396,799	401,569
Investments					
Investments	14	1,591,271	-	1,591,271	1,596,878
Investment property	15	<u>825,541</u>	-	<u>825,541</u>	<u>335,040</u>
		2,813,611	-	2,813,611	2,333,487
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	16	-	-	-	2,255
Debtors	17	34,601	-	34,601	41,640
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>741,245</u>	<u>170,539</u>	<u>911,784</u>	<u>1,435,607</u>
		775,846	170,539	946,385	1,479,502
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	18	<u>(17,111)</u>	<u>(138,196)</u>	<u>(155,307)</u>	<u>(77,210)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>758,735</u>	<u>32,343</u>	<u>791,078</u>	<u>1,402,292</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES					
		<u>3,572,346</u>	<u>32,343</u>	<u>3,604,689</u>	3,735,779
NET ASSETS		<u><u>3,572,346</u></u>	<u><u>32,343</u></u>	<u><u>3,604,689</u></u>	<u><u>3,735,779</u></u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds	19			3,572,346	3,702,337
Restricted funds				<u>32,343</u>	<u>33,442</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u><u>3,604,689</u></u>	<u><u>3,735,779</u></u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and

- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each 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 charitable company.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 2nd October 2025, and were signed on its behalf by:



.....

Louise Wallis – Chair of Board of Trustees

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Cash generated from operations 1	<u>(138,791)</u>	<u>817,205</u>
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	<u>(138,791)</u>	<u>817,205</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of fixed asset investments	-	(449,395)
Purchase of investment property	(490,501)	(210,040)
Sale of fixed asset investments	-	857,874
Interest received	56,006	37,697
Dividends received	<u>49,463</u>	<u>39,736</u>
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>(385,032)</u>	<u>275,872</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		
	(523,823)	1,093,077
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	<u>1,435,607</u>	<u>342,530</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	<u>911,784</u>	<u>1,435,607</u>

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(131,090)	990,756
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	4,770	5,051
(Gain)/losses on investments	5,607	(164,422)
Interest received	(56,006)	(37,697)
Dividends received	(49,463)	(39,736)
Decrease in stocks	2,255	-
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	7,039	23,204
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	78,097	40,049
	<u>(138,791)</u>	<u>(817,205)</u>
Net cash provided by/(used in) operations	<u>(138,791)</u>	<u>(817,205)</u>

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.4.24	Cash flow	At 31.3.25
	£	£	£
Net cash			
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>1,435,607</u>	<u>523,823</u>	<u>911,784</u>
	<u>1,435,607</u>	<u>523,823</u>	<u>911,784</u>
Total	<u><u>1,435,607</u></u>	<u><u>523,823</u></u>	<u><u>911,784</u></u>

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 March 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, 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 financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards. The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below and have remained unchanged from the previous year.

Preparation of consolidated financial statements

The financial statements contain information about Warwickshire Association For The Blind as an individual company and do not contain consolidated financial information as the parent of a group. The charity is exempt under Section 399(2A) of the Companies Act 2006 from the requirements to prepare consolidated financial statements.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Voluntary income, including donations and legacies, are recognised where there is entitlement, probable receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

Income from charitable activities includes grant funding subject to specific performance conditions. Grant income included in this category provides funding to support charitable activities and is recognised where there is entitlement, probable receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grant income received from the UK's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has been recognised in the period in which the related staff expense was incurred. This income has been recognised in other income.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Costs of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income.

Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Overhead costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Improvements to property - Straight line over 4 years

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued for the year ended 31 March 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Tangible fixed assets

Fixtures and fittings - Straight line over 4 years

Computer equipment - Straight line over 4 years

No depreciation is provided on the freehold property as the value included within these financial statements is considered to be consistent with the residual value of the asset concerned.

Fixed assets with an individual cost of over £1,000 are capitalised.

Investment property

Investment property is shown at most recent valuation. Any aggregate surplus or deficit arising from changes in fair value is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving items.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable

Irrecoverable VAT is included in the expense heading to which the invoice relates.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Debtors and creditors receivable/payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

When employees have rendered service to the charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service.

Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Donations	55,253	38,781
Legacies	1,500	1,000,000
	<u>56,753</u>	<u>1,038,781</u>

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Fundraising events	<u>33,645</u>	<u>650</u>

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2025	2024
	£	£
Rents received	20,838	16,733
Investment portfolio income	49,463	39,736
Deposit account interest	<u>56,006</u>	<u>37,697</u>
	<u>126,307</u>	<u>94,166</u>

5. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

		2025	2024
	Activity	£	£
Contract Income	Statutory and rehabilitation services	210,000	210,000
Grants	Charitable activity	<u>138,711</u>	<u>111,514</u>
		<u>348,711</u>	<u>321,514</u>

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
W.C.C.	2,806	3,601
National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF)	52,000	50,718
Heart of England Charitable Foundation	21,995	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	20,000	20,000
Other grants below £10,000	41,910	37,195
	<u>138,711</u>	<u>111,514</u>

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

6. RAISING FUNDS

Raising donations and legacies

	2025		2024
	£		£
Staff costs	<u>54,087</u>		<u>57,661</u>

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs £	Support costs (see note 8) £	Totals £
Statutory and charitable services	<u>448,171</u>	<u>188,641</u>	<u>636,812</u>

8. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management £	Finance £	Other £	Governance costs £	Totals £
Statutory and charitable services	<u>173,694</u>	<u>921</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>14,026</u>	<u>188,641</u>

9. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2025		2024
	£		£
Auditors' remuneration	-		6,300
Depreciation - owned assets	4,770		5,052
Other operating leases	<u>3,079</u>		<u>4,688</u>

10. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2025

11. STAFF COSTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	439,787	413,442
Social security costs	27,942	31,428
Other pension costs	11,123	11,267
	<u>478,852</u>	<u>456,137</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2025	2024
Charitable and administrative staff	<u>22</u>	<u>22</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

12. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	1,002,413	36,368	1,038,781
Charitable activities			
Statutory and rehabilitation services	114,793	206,721	321,514
Other trading activities	-	650	650
Investment income	<u>94,166</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>94,166</u>
Total	<u>1,211,372</u>	<u>243,739</u>	<u>1,455,111</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	57,661		57,661
Charitable activities			
Statutory and charitable services	<u>182,479</u>	<u>388,637</u>	<u>571,116</u>
Total	<u>240,140</u>	<u>388,637</u>	<u>628,777</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	<u>164,422</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>164,422</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	1,135,654	(144,898)	990,756
Transfers between funds	<u>(93,641)</u>	<u>93,641</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds	1,042,013	(51,257)	990,756
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	<u>2,660,317</u>	<u>84,706</u>	<u>2,745,023</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>3,702,330</u>	<u>33,449</u>	<u>3,735,779</u>

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Improvements to property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST					
At 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025	<u>396,192</u>	<u>19,398</u>	<u>44,015</u>	<u>2,916</u>	<u>462,521</u>
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 April 2024	-	19,398	39,786	1,768	60,952
Charge for year	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,041</u>	<u>729</u>	<u>4,770</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>-</u>	<u>19,398</u>	<u>43,827</u>	<u>2,497</u>	<u>65,722</u>
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 March 2025	<u>396,192</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>188</u>	<u>419</u>	<u>396,799</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>396,192</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,229</u>	<u>1,148</u>	<u>401,569</u>

14. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Listed investments £
MARKET VALUE	
At 1 April 2024	1,596,878
Revaluations	<u>(5,607)</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>1,591,271</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2025	<u>1,591,271</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,596,878</u>

There were no investment assets outside the UK.
Cost or valuation at 31 March 2025 is represented by:

	Listed investments £
Valuation in 2025	141,343
Cost	<u>1,449,928</u>
	<u>1,591,271</u>

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

15. INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	£
FAIR VALUE	
At 1 April 2024	335,040
Additions	<u>490,501</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>825,541</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2025	<u>825,541</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>335,040</u>

16. STOCKS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Stocks	<u>-</u>	<u>2,255</u>

17. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	5,258	379
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>29,343</u>	<u>41,261</u>
	<u>34,601</u>	<u>41,640</u>

18. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	135,422	61,414
Social Security and Other Taxes	66	-
VAT	2,049	487
Other creditors	2,760	2,661
Accruals and deferred income	<u>15,010</u>	<u>12,648</u>
	<u>155,307</u>	<u>77,210</u>

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2025

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.24 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.25 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	975,307	(38,496)	(539,016)	397,795
Clubs and branches and other financial obligations	47,163	(3,355)	-	43,808
Operations contingency fund	153,596	-	-	153,596
Premises reserve	395,000	-	-	395,000
Long term investment	<u>2,131,271</u>	<u>43,855</u>	<u>407,021</u>	<u>2,582,147</u>
	3,702,337	2,004	(131,995)	3,572,346
Restricted funds				
Home visitor service general	(1,494)	(110,768)	112,262	-
Vision support centres	33,637	(34,039)	402	-
Clubs	-	(19,331)	19,331	-
Rehabilitation services	-	31,044	-	31,044
IT4U General	833	-	-	833
Equipment	<u>466</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>466</u>
	<u>33,442</u>	<u>(133,094)</u>	<u>131,995</u>	<u>32,343</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>3,735,779</u>	<u>(131,090)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,604,689</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	226,125	(264,621)	-	(38,496)
Clubs and branches and other financial obligations	-	(3,355)	-	(3,355)
Long term investment	<u>49,463</u>	<u>(1)</u>	<u>(5,607)</u>	<u>43,855</u>
	275,588	(267,977)	(5,607)	2,004
Restricted funds				
Home visitor service general	35,846	(146,614)	-	(110,768)
Vision support centres	43,982	(78,021)	-	(34,039)
Clubs	(1)	(19,330)	-	(19,331)
Rehabilitation services	<u>210,001</u>	<u>(178,957)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>31,044</u>
	<u>289,828</u>	<u>(422,922)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(133,094)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>565,416</u>	<u>(690,899)</u>	<u>(5,607)</u>	<u>(131,090)</u>

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2025

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued
Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.24 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	94,315	935,100	(54,108)	975,307
Clubs and branches and other financial obligations	51,471	(4,308)	-	47,163
Operations contingency fund	153,596	-	-	153,596
Innovation fund	-	-	-	-
Premises reserve	395,000	-	-	395,000
Long term investment	<u>1,965,935</u>	<u>204,869</u>	<u>(39,533)</u>	<u>2,131,271</u>
	2,660,317	1,135,661	(93,641)	3,702,337
Restricted funds				
Home visitor service general	-	(22,185)	20,691	(1,494)
Vision support centres	65,382	(31,745)	-	33,637
Clubs	1,758	(16,083)	14,325	-
Magazine	-	(11,546)	11,546	-
Rehabilitation services	17,100	(64,179)	47,079	-
IT4U General	-	833	-	833
Equipment	<u>466</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>466</u>
	<u>84,706</u>	<u>(144,905)</u>	<u>93,641</u>	<u>33,442</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>2,745,023</u>	<u>990,756</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,735,779</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	1,170,854	(235,754)	-	935,100
Clubs and other financial obligations		(4,308)		(4,308)
Long term investment	<u>40,519</u>	<u>(72)</u>	<u>164,422</u>	<u>204,869</u>
	1,211,373	(240,134)	164,422	1,135,661
Restricted funds				
Home visitor service general	90,715	(112,900)	-	(22,185)
Vision support centres	49,829	(81,574)	-	(31,745)
Clubs	992	(17,075)	-	(16,083)
Magazine	651	(12,197)	-	(11,546)
Rehabilitation services	97,796	(161,975)	-	(64,179)
IT4U General	<u>3,755</u>	<u>(2,922)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>833</u>
	<u>243,738</u>	<u>(388,643)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(144,905)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,455,111</u>	<u>(628,777)</u>	<u>164,422</u>	<u>990,756</u>

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.25 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	94,315	896,604	(593,124)	397,795
Clubs and branches and other financial obligations	51,471	(7,663)	-	43,808
Operations contingency fund	153,596	-	-	153,596
Innovation fund	-	-	-	-
Premises reserve	395,000	-	-	395,000
Long term investment	<u>1,965,935</u>	<u>248,724</u>	<u>367,488</u>	<u>2,582,147</u>
	2,660,317	1,137,665	(225,636)	3,572,346
Restricted funds				
Home visitor service general	-	(132,953)	132,953	-
Vision support centres	65,382	(65,784)	402	-
Clubs	1,758	(35,414)	33,656	-
Magazine	-	(11,546)	11,546	-
Rehabilitation services	17,100	(33,135)	47,079	31,044
IT4U General	-	833	-	833
Equipment	<u>466</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>466</u>
	<u>84,706</u>	<u>(277,999)</u>	<u>225,636</u>	<u>32,343</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>2,745,023</u></u>	<u><u>859,666</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>3,604,689</u></u>

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	1,396,979	(500,375)	-	896,604
Clubs and branches and other financial obligations	-	(7,663)	-	(7,663)
Long term investment	<u>89,982</u>	<u>(73)</u>	<u>158,815</u>	<u>248,724</u>
	1,486,961	(508,111)	158,815	1,137,665
Restricted funds				
Home visitor service general	126,561	(259,514)	-	(132,953)
Vision support centres	93,811	(159,595)	-	(65,784)
Clubs	991	(36,405)	-	(35,414)
Magazine	651	(12,197)	-	(11,546)
Rehabilitation services	307,797	(340,932)	-	(33,135)
IT4U General	<u>3,755</u>	<u>(2,922)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>833</u>
	<u>533,566</u>	<u>(811,565)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(277,999)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>2,020,527</u></u>	<u><u>(1,319,676)</u></u>	<u><u>158,815</u></u>	<u><u>859,666</u></u>

General funds are available for use at the directors/trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity. Designated funds are amounts set aside out of general funds for use on specific projects. Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

20. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme in respect of certain employees. The scheme and its assets are held by independent managers. The pension charge represents contributions due from the charity and amounted to £11,123 (2024: £11,267). Outstanding contributions to the fund at the yearend totalled £1,983 (2024: £1,847).

Defined benefit plans

The charity participates in the Warwickshire County Council Pension Fund, a multi-employer defined benefit final salary scheme where the share of the assets and liabilities applicable to each employer is not identifiable. As such the scheme is accounted for as if it was a defined contribution scheme. The amount recognised as an expense in the period was £nil (2024: £nil) and there was a defined benefit contribution liability of £nil (2024: £nil) at the year end.

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

21. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2025.

22. CONTROLLING INTERESTS

The director/trustees are considered to be the ultimate controlling parties by virtue of their ability to act in concert in respect of the financial and operating policies of the charity.

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

	2025 £	2024 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	55,253	38,781
Legacies	<u>1,500</u>	<u>1,000,000</u>
	56,753	1,038,781
Other trading activities		
Fundraising events	33,645	650
Investment income		
Rents received	20,838	16,733
Investment portfolio income	49,463	39,736
Deposit account interest	<u>56,006</u>	<u>37,697</u>
	126,307	94,166
Statutory and Charitable activities		
Contract Income	210,000	210,000
Grants	<u>138,711</u>	<u>111,514</u>
	348,711	<u>321,514</u>
Total incoming resources	565,416	1,455,111
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Wages	49,662	52,472
Social security	3,165	4,036
Pensions	<u>1,260</u>	<u>1,153</u>
	54,087	57,661
Charitable activities		
Wages	390,125	360,970
Social security	24,777	27,392
Pensions	9,863	10,114
Travel	<u>23,406</u>	<u>24,599</u>
	448,171	423,075
Support costs		
Management		
Rent and service charges	3,079	4,688
Insurance	9,753	8,998
Light, heat and water	12,261	10,380
Carried forward	25,093	24,066

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

	2025	2024
	£	£
Management		
Brought forward	25,093	24,066
Telephone	6,894	5,723
Postage	668	601
Photocopying and printing	26,340	28,631
Stationery	1,826	1,947
Training	19,475	12,064
Computer system	12,606	10,419
DBS disclosures	15,697	16,477
Repairs and maintenance	26,973	(4,749)
Office equipment maintenance	26,067	17,010
Sundry	7,285	8,436
Depreciation of tangible and heritage assets	4,770	5,051
	173,694	125,676
Finance		
Bank charges	921	4,981
Other		
Investment manager fees	-	72
Governance costs		
Auditors' remuneration	-	6,300
Legal & professional fees	14,026	11,012
	14,026	17,312
Total resources expended	690,899	628,777
Net income/(expenditure) before gains and losses	(125,483)	826,334
Realised recognised gains and losses		
Realised gains/(losses) on fixed asset investments	(5,607)	164,422
Net income/(expenditure)	(131,090)	990,756

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

England & Wales - Charity number 1123220

Accounts

WARWICKSHIRE **VISION**

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

and

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

**FOR WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(T/A WARWICKSHIRE VISION SUPPORT)**

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

TRUSTEES	Elizabeth Ann Thiebe (Chair) David Adams Susan Mary Ayres Stacey Louise Fennell Amer Herian Richard Charles Orme Thuy Pham Tom Bulpitt Arthur Marklew Liggins Louise Wallis
COMPANY SECRETARY	Stacey Louise Fennell
REGISTERED OFFICE	14 Market Place Warwick, Warwickshire United Kingdom CV34 4SL
REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER	06511954 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER	1123220
AUDITOR	Harrison Beale & Owen Limited Chartered Accountants Highdown House 11 Highdown Road Leamington Spa Warwickshire CV31 1XT
BANKERS	Lloyds Bank 12 Swan Street Warwick Warwickshire CV34 4BJ
INVESTMENT MANAGERS	Quilter Cheviot Investment Management Two Snow Hill Snow Hill Queensway Birmingham B4 6GA

FOREWORD FROM ELIZABETH THIEBE, CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

Supporting our community with a steady hand

We have had a year of small and steady improvements as we continue to implement our vision to bring our services to more people.

This year, we expanded our ECLO (hospital-based Eye Clinic Liaison Officer) services to people in the north of the county. We are now able to meet the needs of people in all parts of the county through the entire length of their sight loss journey. Supporting people at the early stage of diagnosis is key to linking them into the wide range of services that we can either provide or sign post them to.

We have also increased the numbers of people attending our support centres and social clubs throughout Warwickshire by 5%. We have done this with the support of a steady and dedicated team of volunteers and a team of dedicated and experienced staff. We are pleased to see little turnover in our staff numbers.

We are in the second year of our Rehabilitation contract with Warwickshire County Council. And throughout the year, we have looked for ways to support the continuation of this care by efficient scheduling, supporting the training and education of staff to reach the qualification of Vision Rehabilitation Specialist.

However, the most visual change this year has been everything but small. Our renovation project of the Warwick Town Centre office space which is intended to raise our profile and provide a permanent home for the charity is underway. The design of the space from floor layout to paint colours has been undertaken with input from staff, volunteers and those using our services. We look ahead at this newly renovated space as a launch pad for more services to help our community.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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).

About Warwickshire Vision Support

Warwickshire Vision Support is the trading name of Warwickshire Association for the Blind, a registered charity incorporated in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee and governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Mission

Warwickshire Vision Support was established in 1911 with a mission to provide emotional and practical support for blind and partially sighted people who live in the county. We achieve this each year by providing:

- support at the point of diagnosis with the first practical steps in acknowledging and coming to terms with the condition;
- support in the weeks following diagnosis with training and other aids that enable an adjustment to remain safe and independent;
- support through the following years, with advice, information and other skills training which enable more choice, greater independence and healthier lifestyles.

Aims and Objectives

We organise ourselves and measure our effectiveness based on achieving the following outcomes for the people we support:

Included	We provide services which are accessible, designed to empower and enable people with disabilities of all ages and from all Warwickshire communities to fully engage with us.
Involved	We invite feedback and collaborate with the people we support on the development of services, so our services are more relevant and effective for the people who will use them.
Informed	We provide comprehensive advice, information and training to people experiencing and living with sight loss so they are able to stay safe and make good decisions for themselves.
Independent	We support people to maintain a sense of purpose, their family or social connections, and avoid the feelings of isolation which are commonplace when people experience sight loss.

Key activities

- Providing emotional and practical support to people in hospital eye clinics and other places where a diagnosis of sight loss is made.
- Teaching new skills to improve safety in the home and mobility in the community through our Rehabilitation Service provided on behalf of Warwickshire County Council.
- Providing access to advice, information and guidance through our network of Vision Support Centres
- Reducing isolation through our Befriending services
- Enabling social networks through our social clubs and web conferencing facilities
- Facilitating social inclusion and empowerment through IT Training and Advocacy
- Keeping people informed, with the Magazine and other regular communication updates

Our Values and Guiding Principles

One Team:

we recognise that we are at our best when we share and agree on common objectives, aspirations and values.

Person Centred:

we place the interests of our beneficiaries at the heart of everything we do, reviewing our systems and processes based on the needs of the people we support.

Outcome Focussed:

we adapt and personalise our rehabilitation and other services to achieve the outcomes our beneficiaries identify as most important for themselves.

Caring and Respectful:

we care about people and focus on the person and not the impairment, recognising that it is diversity and difference in ourselves that make us stronger. We design our services with the people we serve.

Reflective, Learning and Developing:

we adapt and innovate quickly to ensure we learn from experience and meet the changing expectations of our beneficiaries and other stakeholders.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Our Services in 2023/2024

“There are no words to express how very grateful we are for all of the support, advice, companionship and fun get togethers from this group for our Mum, Rosemary. She loved the meetings and credited Warwickshire Vision Support for making her life so much easier. She felt so supported by all of your volunteers and group leaders”

Our different services connect seamlessly to provide practical and emotional support for anyone living in Warwickshire who experiences sight loss. We are with someone at every step along the sight loss pathway, from formal diagnosis, through adjustment to the changing condition, to when life with a visual impairment becomes normalized.

We help develop new mobility and orientation skills, provide adaptations to the home, and offer the social benefits of blind and partially sighted people coming together at our support centres and social clubs. We provide advocacy for the people we support so they are properly represented when issues arise or they experience poor service. We offer a befriending service for isolated people experiencing or living with sight loss.

We strive to ensure the people we support feel included, involved, informed and as independent as they want to be. In 2023/24 our community services directly engaged over 2,000 visually impaired individuals and often their spouse, other family member, friends, carers and guide dogs. We know from feedback and our monitoring and evaluation over the year that our services continue to be highly valued by the people we work with, and have a significant impact on their daily lives, and those of the people around them.

Eye Care Liaison Officers (ECLOS)

“A massive thank you to Del the ECLO from Warwickshire Vision Support, her advice is invaluable in our Ophthalmology Clinics, I don't know what we'd do without her support” (NHS Trust Ophthalmology Manager)

In the year our Eye Care Liaison Officers (ECLOs) continued to provide a highly regarded and valued service, working with NHS staff at hospitals, and providing a crucial first point of contact for 688 people experiencing sight loss. Our three part-time ECLOs are based at eye clinics at Stratford Hospital and Warwick Hospital, with in the last year, an increasing presence at Camp Hill Health Centre and George Eliot Hospital in the north of the county, where we know there is greater social deprivation and health inequalities.

Our ECLOs are trained to provide immediate, empathic emotional and practical support. They assess and refer people to our community services, especially our Rehabilitation Team, and also those services of our partners in the local, regional and national health and welfare sector.

Our ECLOs complement NHS Eye Clinics and Ophthalmology departments by filling a vital gap in terms of immediate aftercare and pastoral support following the disorientating, distressing and often devastating diagnosis of sight loss. Early interventions by ECLOs help people to fully understand the clinical and social impact of sight loss, and access other services and support that they will need.

Rehabilitation Services

"I just want to say a massive thank you for all your help and support over the last few months, you have been fabulous and given me the confidence and support I need"

Our Vision Rehabilitation programme for visually impaired adults is delivered under contract on behalf of Warwickshire County Council. We deliver a report to WCC on a quarterly basis with monitoring, case studies and performance standards. In the last year, the reports detailed our support to more than 900 people referred to the service, and the gifting of more than 450 items of specialist equipment to help with independent daily living.

Rehabilitation Officers deliver early, preventative, independent living skills including mobility and orientation training, helping keep people safe, confident and independent in their homes and when out and about in the community. This includes using public transport, the use of mobility aids, learning routes to and from key locations and how to understand and interpret sensory street infrastructure. We help keep people safe and confident at home, addressing areas such as effective lighting, and how to safely cook and make hot drinks.

Vision Support Centres

"Since being made alone the WVS centre cannot be faulted. I have all the company and support I need...it has made a difference all round, I don't feel as isolated... it's so lovely to be with people who understand... people who can see don't get it in the same way"

Our four weekly and seven monthly 'Vision Support Centres' (VSCs) are facilitated gatherings of mainly older, blind and partially sighted people, who come together for social time and activities, but also for 1:1 and group information, advice, guidance and training.

There are also regular demonstrations of the latest assistive and accessible equipment. There are weekly VSCs in Leamington, Nuneaton, Rugby and Stratford, and monthly VSCs in Alcester, Atherstone, Bedworth, Coleshill, Kenilworth, Shipston and Southam.

In the year we delivered 271 support centre sessions, with 3,622 visits from more than 300 people attending regularly and a further 120 people making their first visit. Speakers from different organisations visited our VSCs to consult with our service users; we based our 2023/24 programme on what our service users want to hear about, and their most pressing issues and concerns.

Much of our work in the last year has been to do with the cost-of-living, especially energy use, and changes to benefits e.g. from Disability Living Allowance to Universal Credit. We have also focused more on wellbeing activities, including seated exercise, relaxation, meditation, aromatherapy and creative activities such as poetry and musical performances.

'IT4U' Digital Skills Training Programme

"My employers have noticed improvements in word processing accuracy and have now become more engaged in proactively finding appropriate reasonable adjustments, after an Occupational Health report you helped organise. So thank you and your colleagues for the invaluable IT assistance you have given me to manage my visual impairments"

Our peripatetic Interactive Technology training was very active again last year, with 138 people receiving 1:1 training at one of our weekly or monthly Vision Support Centres. The training has continued to empower mainly older, visually impaired people to learn new digital skills and to make the most of assistive technology and accessibility software to communicate and manage their affairs online. As well as the face-to-face appointments at the VSCs, more 1:1 support was given by phone, email and on VOIP platforms. One of the most valued aspects of the training is that people can 'try before they buy', so working with different equipment to see what is best and most appropriate for their needs and skill levels.

Befriending and Home Visiting Service

"My Dad has started receiving Home Visits from you, which are worth their weight in gold.... we recently lost my Mum and then his eye sight...he's still trying to remain independent...but he needs help because he is struggling"

We continue to run a Telephone Befriending Service and Home Visiting Service for 60 of our most isolated, lonely and vulnerable service users. Both services aim to help improve welfare and wellbeing, the regular contact allows people to discuss their week and talk about challenges they are experiencing, and how they are feeling about their lives.

As well as a friendly chat and company, both Befriending Services have a vital safeguarding element. Our staff and volunteers are trained to listen and look for welfare or safeguarding issues, such as poor health or diet, lack of dignity, being bothered by unwanted visitors, etc. In the most serious cases we have made referrals to Adult Social Care regarding mental health issues, and we have called paramedics following reports of falls and ill-health.

Social Clubs

"I definitely would recommend the club because it is the best thing I ever did was to go and it brought me out of my shell as I was in denial. I have come out of my shell now and I have made some lovely friends"

We run Social Clubs for more than 200 visually impaired people across the county, in Atherstone, Coleshill, Kenilworth, Leamington, Nuneaton, Rugby, Southam and Stratford.

These are different to our VSCs in that the emphasis is less on information, advice, guidance and training, and more upon companionship and activities to keep members active and sociable. Five clubs meet monthly and four meet twice monthly. Members work with our staff and volunteers to plan, schedule and organise the clubs, including creative activities, quizzes, music, games, hobby speakers, entertainers and luncheons.

Volunteers

"it's the feeling of satisfaction and knowing you are making a difference.... a fantastic team of people to work with!"

The charity is very fortunate to have 150 active volunteers, giving their time to support our VSCs, social clubs and befriending services, and helping us at events and in high street fundraising collections. We established a monthly volunteer newsletter, to help celebrate their work and keep them abreast of the latest developments in the charity and sight loss sector. Warwickshire Vision Support also celebrated Volunteers Week in June 2023, which was an opportunity to recognise the significant contribution our volunteers make to our communities across Warwickshire.

In a survey we conducted, 91% of volunteers considered their volunteering experience to be a positive and satisfying experience, 87% of volunteers said they were likely to recommend volunteering with Warwickshire Vision Support to others, and 84% said they felt valued by the charity. In March 2024, six of our volunteers and our chair received recognition at the Warwickshire High Sheriff awards ceremony.

Warwickshire Vision Magazine

Our print and audio magazine provides news, information and stories especially of interest to visually impaired people. Over 3,000 of our service users now receive this publication as an audio file, digital file or printed version. The magazine is now published seasonally and has received very positive feedback throughout the year.

Building Renovation Project

A significant development in the last year has been the start of a project to renovate our premises in Warwick, creating a new resource and training centre from where we will launch new services in 2025. The facilities will be a community hub, made available for use by other regional charities and community groups.

Consultation on the vision and design of the building has been undertaken in the last year with a wide range of stakeholders, including service beneficiaries, staff and volunteers.

Conclusion of the renovation project towards the end of 2024 will mean the achievement of a key objective from the 2020 Strategy Refresh, to relocate the charity to a high profile and accessible location, generating new forms of income in the form of rent from parts of the building. This is significant, reversing a trend of occupying rental premises over the recent history of the charity.

Grants received in 2023/2024

We would like to thank all of the grant makers who supported our services in 2023/2024:

Austin Edwards Charity Trust
Baron Davenport's Charity
Clifford Chambers Charities
Dumbreck Charity
Edith & Jack Griffiths Charitable Trust
Garfield Weston Foundation
George Perkins Charitable Trust
Goodenough Charitable Trust
L & Q Foundation
Misses Barrie Charitable Trust
National Lottery Awards for All
National Lottery Community Fund Reaching Communities
Royal Leamington Spa Town Council
Rowlands Trust
Screwfix Foundation
The 29th May 1961 Trust
Ulverscroft Foundation
Warwick District Council
Warwickshire Royal Arch Freemasons
Warwickshire County Councillor grants (x4)
W.G. Edwards Charitable Foundation

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial performance

Income in the year of £1,455,111 included a single legacy donation of £1,000,000 from a grateful service beneficiary. After deducting expenses of £628,777, the charity achieved an operating surplus of £826,334.

The value of investments increased by £164,422, reversing a loss in value from the previous year of £154,622. The total increase in funds for the year totalled £990,756 enabling the Board of Trustees to proceed with ambitious plans for the renovation of premises and the development of a training centre and community hub.

Investment policy and objectives

The charity uses its reserves to generate income in the form of dividends from long term investments (considered unavailable for more than 5 years) and interest from shorter term investments deposited with the Charities Aid Foundation Investment Platform, Flagstone.

Long term investments are made in 'moderate' risk portfolios and should achieve a dividend of 3.5% (plus inflation) after management fees. The risk status of the portfolio is assessed at least annually with the Board of Trustees and a Fund Manager to ensure it remains relevant and appropriate for the charity. The moderate risk status should achieve annualised gains over a 5-year term of 15% or losses not exceeding 6%.

Short term investments are used to support operating cashflow including the resourcing of a new resource and training centre and other new ventures or initiatives.

Reserves policy

The Balance Sheet at 31st March 2024 sets out our total funds and reserves figure of £3,735,779 (2023: £2,745,023), including £33,442 (2023: £84,706) which are designated as restricted.

We have committed £650,000 for investment in creating a new resource and training centre at our premises in Warwick. The new facilities, due to open in December 2024, will be used to launch new services and will be shared with other local charities and community groups.

We have ring-fenced a further £750,000 for the purchase of satellite premises in the north of the county. This would support our ambition to increase our presence in an area of the county with highest levels of social deprivation and health inequality. This would also enable us to reduce our carbon impact by targeting reduced travel across the county.

Remaining reserves will continue to provide an invaluable source of income from interest and dividends whilst safeguarding the sustainability of the charity.

Restricted reserves are those surplus funds carried forward from income received with a

restricted purpose after deducting expenditure in the delivery of activities in line with the donor's specifications.

FUTURE PLANS

Our focus for 2024 and beyond is on meeting the needs of increasing numbers of people who experience sight loss.

In 2024 we will maintain a high level of service delivery despite the inevitable disruption from a major renovation of our premises in Warwick throughout the next year.

The renovated premises will provide a modern and welcoming environment for our service beneficiaries and other visitors to what will quickly become a resource and training centre, and community hub. The opening of the building will represent one of the most significant milestones in the 113-year history of the charity, providing a base from where we will launch new services.

We aim to increase the profile and prominence of the charity throughout Warwickshire, and will start our search for satellite premises in the north of the county in 2025. We know that people living in the north of the county are exposed to greater levels of social deprivation than other parts of the county and consequently experience greater difficulty in accessing eye care and other health services. This would further complement our ambition to reduce the carbon footprint of the organisation by reducing the movement of staff and volunteers across the county.

We will continue to explore opportunities to build and enhance our service offer. This will include increasing what we deliver in collaboration with others, using our communication channels to share and promote information from other local charities and community groups.

We will launch a new training service at the beginning of 2025, offering local businesses and others visual impairment awareness training. This will be a venture aimed at helping employers meet their legislative responsibilities whilst supporting others to understand how they should engage with blind and partially sighted people when delivering services.

To ensure service delivery is maintained at the high standards we set for ourselves, we will invest further in training and professional development of our team, including an apprenticeship training scheme for Rehabilitation Officers.

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

Trustees are required to have a professional or commercial background with a knowledge

of business management, and one or more specialities such as legal, HR, financial, publicity, fundraising and administration. We also seek people who have experience of living with sight loss or are professionals in eye care.

Applicants are invited to an interview with a Selection Committee, as defined in the Articles of Association. After interview, the Selection Committee report to the Board, which may invite the Applicant to attend Board meetings on an ad-hoc basis with no right to vote. After attending a minimum of two meetings, the Board may co-opt the Applicant as a Trustee. All Trustees are required to attend seminars and training to ensure that they are aware of changes in legislation.

Each year, one third of the Trustees have to retire by rotation and seek re-election.

The Trustees meet at least quarterly to receive and action management accounts. Additional meetings are scheduled throughout the year to address specific issues and training. The work of the Trustees is organised into four sub-committees which are responsible for producing reports and recommendations to the Board.

Under the Articles of Association, the Trustees are permitted to appoint a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) who has day-to-day responsibility for the management of staff and the running of the charity.

Key management remuneration

The salary of the CEO is determined by the Chair of the Board of Trustees in consultation with the Human Resources Committee following an annual performance appraisal and an assessment of appropriate market rates for the position.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

A Risk Register is prepared by the CEO and reviewed by the Board of Trustees on a regular basis. The main risks being monitored by trustees at March 2024 are:

Risk 1: Income from trusts and grants is insufficient to meet charity growth ambitions and costs associated with charitable service delivery.

Risk Response: Identify new areas of potential funding and lessen the reliance on traditional areas of income generation.

Risk 2: The charity fails to meet its regulatory or quality obligations in respect of services provided as part of the service level agreement with the local county council, or other charitable services, and suffers reputational and potentially long-term damage.

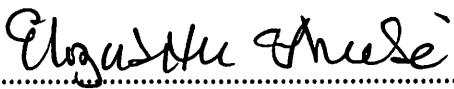
Risk Response: The Board of Trustees review performance updates provided by the CEO to ensure the team remain sufficiently skilled and qualified, with systems and processes

reviewed regularly to ensure delivery of services meet expectations.

Risk 3: Loss of key staff jeopardises the delivery of services, especially in areas of Rehabilitation Services where recruitment of appropriately qualified personnel is known to be challenging.

Risk Response: Review and update succession plans on a regular basis, whilst creating a pipeline of personnel undertaking training and formal qualifications. This includes establishing a new Rehabilitation Apprenticeship from 2023.

Report of the trustees, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 21st November 2024 and signed on the Board's behalf by:



.....

Elizabeth Ann Thiebe – Chair of Board of Trustees

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Warwickshire Association for The Blind (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises

the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- the charitable company has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

Responsibilities of trustees

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

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

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditors under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

The audit process includes an assessment of the entity's risk environment, through enquiry of and discussion with management, including an assessment of any key laws and regulations with which the company must comply in the ordinary course of business.

Additionally, the overall risks of irregular transactions occurring are assessed following our observations and confirmation of the design and implementation of management's controls. Whilst we are mindful of these risks, our audit focus is geared towards the risk of material misstatement in the financial statements as a whole.

As such, our procedures cannot guarantee that all transactions have been fully compliant with all relevant laws and regulations, including those regulations relating to fraud, as our

procedures are not designed to detect all instances of non-compliance. By definition, the risk of our detection of non-compliance is greater where compliance with a law of regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involved intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.


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

Comparative information

Attention is drawn to the fact that the prior period financial statements were not subject to audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.


Harrison Beale & Owen Limited
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
Eligible to act as an auditor in terms of Section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006
Highdown House
11 Highdown Road
Leamington Spa
Warwickshire
CV31 1XT

Date: 21/11/2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	1,002,413	36,367	1,038,780	20,820
Charitable activities					
Statutory and rehabilitation services	5	114,794	206,721	321,515	389,073
Other trading activities	3	-	650	650	10,635
Investment income	4	94,166	-	94,166	78,242
Other income		-	-	-	4,458
Total		1,211,373	243,738	1,455,111	503,228
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	6	57,661	-	57,661	57,700
Charitable activities					
Statutory and rehabilitation services	7	182,479	388,637	571,116	644,013
Total		240,140	388,637	628,777	701,713
Net gains/(losses) on investments		164,422	-	164,422	(154,622)
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		1,135,655	(144,899)	990,756	(353,107)
Transfers between funds	19	(93,641)	93,641	-	-
Net movement in funds		1,042,014	(51,258)	990,756	(353,107)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		2,660,317	84,706	2,745,023	3,098,130
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		3,702,331	33,448	3,735,779	2,745,023

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**BALANCE SHEET
31 March 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	13	401,569	-	401,569	406,621
Investments					
Investments	14	1,596,878	-	1,596,878	1,840,935
Investment property	15	<u>335,040</u>	-	<u>335,040</u>	<u>125,000</u>
		2,333,487	-	2,333,487	2,372,556
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	16	2,255	-	2,255	2,255
Debtors	17	41,640	-	41,640	64,844
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>1,400,671</u>	<u>34,936</u>	<u>1,435,607</u>	<u>342,530</u>
		1,444,566	34,936	1,479,502	409,629
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	18	<u>(75,716)</u>	<u>(1,494)</u>	<u>(77,210)</u>	<u>(37,162)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>1,368,850</u>	<u>33,442</u>	<u>1,402,292</u>	<u>372,467</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES					
		<u>3,702,337</u>	<u>33,442</u>	<u>3,735,779</u>	2,745,023
NET ASSETS		<u>3,702,337</u>	<u>33,442</u>	<u>3,735,779</u>	<u>2,745,023</u>
FUNDS					
	19				
Unrestricted funds				3,702,337	2,660,317
Restricted funds				<u>33,442</u>	<u>84,706</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>3,735,779</u>	<u>2,745,023</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The members have not deposited notice, pursuant to Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006 requiring an audit of these financial statements.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the

The notes form part of these financial statements

charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each 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 charitable company.

These financial statements have been audited under the requirements of Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 21st November 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:


.....
Elizabeth Ann Thiebe - Trustee

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	<u>817,205</u>	<u>(302,200)</u>
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		<u>817,205</u>	<u>(302,200)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		-	(1,668)
Purchase of fixed asset investments		(449,395)	-
Purchase of investment property		(210,040)	-
Sale of fixed asset investments		857,874	2,202
Interest received		37,697	1,540
Dividends received		<u>39,736</u>	<u>58,469</u>
Net cash provided by investing activities		<u>275,872</u>	<u>60,543</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		<u>342,530</u>	<u>584,187</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u>1,435,607</u>	<u>342,530</u>

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	990,756	(353,107)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	5,051	5,524
(Gain)/losses on investments	(164,422)	154,622
Interest received	(37,697)	(1,540)
Dividends received	(39,736)	(58,469)
Decrease in stocks	-	65
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	23,204	(39,806)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	<u>40,049</u>	<u>(9,489)</u>
Net cash provided by/(used in) operations	<u>817,205</u>	<u>(302,200)</u>

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.4.23	Cash flow	At 31.3.24
	£	£	£
Net cash			
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>342,530</u>	<u>1,093,077</u>	<u>1,435,607</u>
	<u>342,530</u>	<u>1,093,077</u>	<u>1,435,607</u>
Total	<u>342,530</u>	<u>1,093,077</u>	<u>1,435,607</u>

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 March 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, 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 financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards. The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below and have remained unchanged from the previous year.

Preparation of consolidated financial statements

The financial statements contain information about Warwickshire Association for The Blind as an individual company and do not contain consolidated financial information as the parent of a group. The charity is exempt under Section 399(2A) of the Companies Act 2006 from the requirements to prepare consolidated financial statements.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Voluntary income, including donations and legacies, are recognised where there is entitlement, probable receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

Income from charitable activities includes grant funding subject to specific performance conditions. Grant income included in this category provides funding to support charitable activities and is recognised where there is entitlement, probable receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grant income received from the UK's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has been recognised in the period in which the related staff expense was incurred. This income has been recognised in other income.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Continued ...

Costs of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income.

Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Overhead costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Improvements to property - Straight line over 4 years

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued for the year ended 31 March 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Tangible fixed assets

- Fixtures and fittings - Straight line over 4 years
- Computer equipment - Straight line over 4 years

No depreciation is provided on the freehold property as the value included within these financial statements is considered to be consistent with the residual value of the asset concerned.

Fixed assets with an individual cost of over £1,000 are capitalised.

Investment property

Investment property is shown at most recent valuation. Any aggregate surplus or deficit arising from changes in fair value is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving items.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable

Irrecoverable VAT is included in the expense heading to which the invoice relates.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Debtors and creditors receivable/payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

When employees have rendered service to the charity, short-term employee benefits to which the

Continued ...

employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service.

Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Donations	38,780	18,820
Legacies	<u>1,000,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>
	<u>1,038,780</u>	<u>20,820</u>

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Fundraising events	<u>650</u>	<u>10,635</u>

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2024	2023
	£	£
Rents received	16,733	18,233
Investment portfolio income	39,736	58,469
Deposit account interest	<u>37,697</u>	<u>1,540</u>
	<u>94,166</u>	<u>78,242</u>

5. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Grants	<u>321,515</u>	<u>389,073</u>

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
W.C.C.	213,602	210,066
Big Lottery	50,718	116,629
Other grants below £10,000	37,195	62,378
Garfield Weston Foundation	<u>20,000</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>321,515</u>	<u>389,073</u>

Continued ...

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

6. RAISING FUNDS

Raising donations and legacies

	2024	2023
	£	£
Staff costs	57,661	55,982
Sundries	<u>-</u>	<u>1,718</u>
	<u>57,661</u>	<u>57,700</u>

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs £	Support costs (see note 8) £	Totals £
Statutory and rehabilitation services	<u>423,075</u>	<u>148,041</u>	<u>571,116</u>

8. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management £	Finance £	Other £	Governance costs £	Totals £
Statutory and rehabilitation services	<u>125,676</u>	<u>4,981</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>17,312</u>	<u>148,041</u>

9. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2024	2023
	£	£
Auditors' remuneration	6,300	-
Depreciation - owned assets	5,052	5,524
Other operating leases	<u>4,688</u>	<u>7,586</u>

10. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Continued ...

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

11. STAFF COSTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	413,442	437,835
Social security costs	31,428	36,077
Other pension costs	<u>11,267</u>	<u>11,514</u>
	<u>456,137</u>	<u>485,426</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2024	2023
Charitable and administrative staff	<u>22</u>	<u>22</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

12. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted		Restricted
	funds	Total	funds
	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	16,275	4,545	20,820
Charitable activities			
Statutory and rehabilitation services	50,081	338,992	389,073
Other trading activities	-	10,635	10,635
Investment income	78,242	-	78,242
Other income	<u>3,718</u>	<u>740</u>	<u>4,458</u>
Total	<u>148,316</u>	<u>354,912</u>	<u>503,228</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	56,595	1,105	57,700
Charitable activities			
Statutory and rehabilitation services	<u>256,888</u>	<u>387,125</u>	<u>644,013</u>
Total	<u>313,483</u>	<u>388,230</u>	<u>701,713</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	<u>(154,622)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(154,622)</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(319,789)	(33,318)	(353,107)

Continued ...

Transfers between funds	<u>(70,157)</u>	<u>70,157</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds	(389,946)	36,839	(353,107)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	3,050,266	47,864	3,098,130
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u><u>2,660,320</u></u>	<u><u>84,703</u></u>	<u><u>2,745,023</u></u>

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Improvements to property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST					
At 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024	<u>396,192</u>	<u>19,398</u>	<u>44,015</u>	<u>2,916</u>	<u>462,521</u>
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 April 2023	-	19,398	35,461	1,041	55,900
Charge for year	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,325</u>	<u>727</u>	<u>5,052</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>19,398</u>	<u>39,786</u>	<u>1,768</u>	<u>60,952</u>
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 March 2024	<u>396,192</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,229</u>	<u>1,148</u>	<u>401,569</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>396,192</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,554</u>	<u>1,875</u>	<u>406,621</u>

14. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Listed investments £
MARKET VALUE	
At 1 April 2023	1,840,935
Additions	449,395
Disposals	(857,874)
Revaluations	<u>164,422</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,596,878</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,596,878</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>1,840,935</u>

There were no investment assets outside the UK.
Cost or valuation at 31 March 2024 is represented by:

	Listed investments £
Valuation in 2024	146,950
Cost	<u>1,449,928</u>
	<u>1,596,878</u>

Continued ...

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

15. INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	£
FAIR VALUE	
At 1 April 2023	125,000
Additions	<u>210,040</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>335,040</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2024	<u>335,040</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>125,000</u>

16. STOCKS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Stocks	<u>2,255</u>	<u>2,255</u>

17. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	379	52,879
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>41,261</u>	<u>11,965</u>
	<u>41,640</u>	<u>64,844</u>

18. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	61,414	21,587
VAT	487	755
Other creditors	2,661	2,983
Accruals and deferred income	<u>12,648</u>	<u>11,837</u>
	<u>77,210</u>	<u>37,162</u>

Continued ...

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2024

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.24 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	94,315	935,100	(54,108)	975,307
Clubs and branches and other financial obligations	51,471	(4,308)	-	47,163
Operations contingency fund	153,596	-	-	153,596
Premises reserve	395,000	-	-	395,000
Long term investment	<u>1,965,935</u>	<u>204,869</u>	<u>(39,533)</u>	<u>2,131,271</u>
	2,660,317	1,135,661	(93,641)	3,702,337
Restricted funds				
Home visitor service general	-	(22,185)	20,691	(1,494)
Vision support centres	65,382	(31,745)	-	33,637
Clubs	1,758	(16,083)	14,325	-
Magazine	-	(11,546)	11,546	-
Rehabilitation services	17,100	(64,179)	47,079	-
IT4U General	-	833	-	833
Equipment	<u>466</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>466</u>
	<u>84,706</u>	<u>(144,905)</u>	<u>93,641</u>	<u>33,442</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>2,745,023</u>	<u>990,756</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,735,779</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	1,170,854	(235,754)	-	935,100
Clubs and branches and other financial obligations	-	(4,308)	-	(4,308)
Long term investment	<u>40,519</u>	<u>(72)</u>	<u>164,422</u>	<u>204,869</u>
	1,211,373	(240,134)	164,422	1,135,661
Restricted funds				
Home visitor service general	90,715	(112,900)	-	(22,185)
Vision support centres	49,829	(81,574)	-	(31,745)
Clubs	992	(17,075)	-	(16,083)
Magazine	651	(12,197)	-	(11,546)
Rehabilitation services	97,796	(161,975)	-	(64,179)
IT4U General	<u>3,755</u>	<u>(2,922)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>833</u>
	<u>243,738</u>	<u>(388,643)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(144,905)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,455,111</u>	<u>(628,777)</u>	<u>164,422</u>	<u>990,756</u>

Continued ...

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.23 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	-	(239,323)	333,638	94,315
Clubs and branches and other financial obligations	55,266	-	(3,795)	51,471
Operations contingency fund	400,000	-	(246,404)	153,596
Innovation fund	400,000	-	(400,000)	-
Premises reserve	395,000	-	-	395,000
Long term investment	<u>1,800,000</u>	<u>(80,469)</u>	<u>246,404</u>	<u>1,965,935</u>
	3,050,266	(319,792)	(70,157)	2,660,317
Restricted funds				
Home visitor service general	3,793	(16,518)	12,725	-
Advice desks	2,932	(34,862)	31,930	-
Economic/social empowerment	12,501	(23,923)	11,422	-
Vision support centres	20,800	47,240	(2,658)	65,382
Clubs	6,735	(15,834)	10,857	1,758
Access to work	-	(1,282)	1,282	-
Rehabilitation services	-	19,491	(2,391)	17,100
IT4U General	-	(21,406)	21,406	-
Equipment	<u>1,103</u>	<u>13,779</u>	<u>(14,416)</u>	<u>466</u>
	<u>47,864</u>	<u>(33,315)</u>	<u>70,157</u>	<u>84,706</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>3,098,130</u></u>	<u><u>(353,107)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>2,745,023</u></u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	71,613	(310,936)	-	(239,323)
Long term investment	<u>76,702</u>	<u>(2,549)</u>	<u>(154,622)</u>	<u>(80,469)</u>
	148,315	(313,485)	(154,622)	(319,792)
Restricted funds				
Home visitor service general	1,499	(18,017)	-	(16,518)
Advice desks	(1)	(34,861)	-	(34,862)
Economic/social empowerment	-	(23,923)	-	(23,923)
Vision support centres	125,786	(78,546)	-	47,240

Continued ...

Clubs	1,239	(17,073)	-	(15,834)
Access to work	2,115	(3,397)	-	(1,282)
Rehabilitation services	210,066	(190,575)	-	19,491
IT4U General	30	(21,436)	-	(21,406)
Equipment	<u>14,179</u>	<u>(400)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,779</u>
	<u>354,913</u>	<u>(388,228)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(33,315)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>503,228</u></u>	<u><u>(701,713)</u></u>	<u><u>(154,622)</u></u>	<u><u>(353,107)</u></u>

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.4.22	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	At 31.3.24
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	-	695,777	279,530	975,307
Clubs and branches and other financial obligations	55,266	(4,308)	(3,795)	47,163
Operations contingency fund	400,000	-	(246,404)	153,596
Innovation fund	400,000	-	(400,000)	-
Premises reserve	395,000	-	-	395,000
Long term investment	<u>1,800,000</u>	<u>124,400</u>	<u>206,871</u>	<u>2,131,271</u>
	3,050,266	815,869	(163,798)	3,702,337
Restricted funds				
Home visitor service general	3,793	(38,703)	33,416	(1,494)
Advice desks	2,932	(34,862)	31,930	-
Economic/social empowerment	12,501	(23,923)	11,422	-
Vision support centres	20,800	15,495	(2,658)	33,637
Clubs	6,735	(31,917)	25,182	-
Magazine	-	(11,546)	11,546	-
Access to work	-	(1,282)	1,282	-
Rehabilitation services	-	(44,688)	44,688	-
IT4U General	-	(20,573)	21,406	833
Equipment	<u>1,103</u>	<u>13,779</u>	<u>(14,416)</u>	<u>466</u>
	<u>47,864</u>	<u>(178,220)</u>	<u>163,798</u>	<u>33,442</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>3,098,130</u></u>	<u><u>637,649</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>3,735,779</u></u>

Continued ...

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	1,242,467	(546,690)	-	695,777
Clubs and branches and other financial obligations	-	(4,308)	-	(4,308)
Long term investment	<u>117,221</u>	<u>(2,621)</u>	<u>9,800</u>	<u>124,400</u>
	1,359,688	(553,619)	9,800	815,869
Restricted funds				
Home visitor service general	92,214	(130,917)	-	(38,703)
Advice desks	(1)	(34,861)	-	(34,862)
Economic/social empowerment	-	(23,923)	-	(23,923)
Vision support centres	175,615	(160,120)	-	15,495
Clubs	2,231	(34,148)	-	(31,917)
Magazine	651	(12,197)	-	(11,546)
Access to work	2,115	(3,397)	-	(1,282)
Rehabilitation services	307,862	(352,550)	-	(44,688)
IT4U General	3,785	(24,358)	-	(20,573)
Equipment	<u>14,179</u>	<u>(400)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,779</u>
	<u>598,651</u>	<u>(776,871)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(178,220)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>1,958,339</u></u>	<u><u>(1,330,490)</u></u>	<u><u>9,800</u></u>	<u><u>637,649</u></u>

General funds are available for use at the directors/trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity. Designated funds are amounts set aside out of general funds for use on specific projects. Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

20. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme in respect of certain employees. The scheme and its assets are held by independent managers. The pension charge represents contributions due from the charity and amounted to £11,267 (2023 - £9,289). Outstanding contributions to the fund at the yearend totalled £1,847 (2023 - £1,888).

Defined benefit plans

The charity participates in the Warwickshire County Council Pension Fund, a multi-employer defined benefit final salary scheme where the share of the assets and liabilities applicable to each employer is not identifiable. As such the scheme is accounted for as if it was a defined contribution scheme. The amount recognised as an expense in the period was £nil (2023 - £2,225) and there was a defined benefit contribution liability of £nil (2023 - £nil) at the year end.

Continued ...

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

21. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2024.

22. CONTROLLING INTERESTS

The director/trustees are considered to be the ultimate controlling parties by virtue of their ability to act in concert in respect of the financial and operating policies of the charity.

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

England & Wales - Charity number 1123220

Accounts



REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

and

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

**FOR WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(T/A WARWICKSHIRE VISION SUPPORT)**

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

TRUSTEES

Elizabeth Ann Thiebe
David Adams
Susan Mary Ayres
Adola Kamal Dairo
Stacey Louise Fennell
Amer Herian
Janet Elaine Hurrell
Richard Charles Orme
Melanie Pritchard
Rosemary Robinson

COMPANY SECRETARY

Stacey Louise Fennell

REGISTERED OFFICE

14 Market Place
Warwick, Warwickshire
United Kingdom
CV34 4SL

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER

06511954 (England and Wales)

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER

1123220

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Harrison Beale & Owen Limited
Chartered Accountants
Highdown House
11 Highdown Road
Leamington Spa
Warwickshire CV31 1XT

BANKERS

Lloyds Bank
12 Swan Street
Warwick
Warwickshire CV34 4BJ

INVESTMENT MANAGERS

Barclays Wealth & Investment Management
One Snow Hill
Snow Hill Queensway
Birmingham B4 6GN

Quilter Cheviot Investment Management
Two Snow Hill
Snow Hill Queensway
Birmingham B4 6GA

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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).

About Warwickshire Vision Support

Warwickshire Vision Support is the trading name of Warwickshire Association for the Blind, a registered charity incorporated in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee and governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Objectives and Activities

Warwickshire Vision Support was established in 1911 with a mission to support people in the county experiencing and living with sight loss, so they may continue leading full and independent lives. We achieve this by providing:

- support at the point of diagnosis with the first practical steps in acknowledging the condition;
- support in the weeks following diagnosis with training and other aids that enable an adjustment to remain safe, confident and independent
- ongoing support with advice, information and community-based services which enable more choice, greater independence and healthier lifestyles.

Key activities:

- Providing information and guidance to people in hospital eye clinics and other places where a diagnosis of sight loss is made
- Teaching new skills to improve safety in the home and mobility in the community through our Rehabilitation Service provided on behalf of Warwickshire County Council
- Providing access to advice, information and guidance through our Vision Support Centres
- Reducing isolation through Home Visiting and Telephone Befriending services
- Enabling social networks through our social clubs
- Facilitating social inclusion and empowerment through IT Training and Advocacy
- Keeping people informed, with the Magazine and other regular communication updates

Our Values and Guiding Principles:

One Team: we recognise that we are at our best when we share and agree on common objectives, aspirations and values.

Person Centred: we place the interests of our beneficiaries at the heart of everything we do, reviewing our systems and processes based on the needs of the people we support.

Outcome Focussed: we adapt and personalise our rehabilitation and other services to achieve the outcomes our beneficiaries identify as most important for themselves.

Caring and Respectful: we care about people and focus on the person and not the impairment, recognising that it is diversity and difference in ourselves that make us stronger. We design our services with the people we serve.

Reflective, Learning and Developing: we adapt and innovate quickly to ensure we learn from experience and meet the changing expectations of our beneficiaries and other stakeholders.

STRATEGIC REPORT:

Achievement and Performance

"You have helped me so much I would be lost without you...Warwickshire Vision Support rescued me..."

In 2022/2023 our Rehabilitation and Community Services teams provided excellent care, training and support directly to over 2,000 visually impaired people. Our service users are predominantly older people, 72% are aged 65+ and 54% over 80. Over half of our service users have additional health issues or disability, most often hearing impairments and lack of mobility.

We measured and evaluated the reach, impact and quality of our community work through surveys, interviews, case studies, feedback and testimony. The results have evidenced the efficacy of our services in supporting visually impaired people across Warwickshire, and that our Rehabilitation and Community staff have excelled in their work, through imparting new skills, confidences, support and knowledge, and providing training, advice and guidance.

"I feel very well supported, your charity is a great support, always there for me...always answers all of my questions. Knowing I can phone you with any questions and problems I may have is reassuring...you have never failed me. I want to continue to live independently so you have been a great help"

Eye Clinic Liaison Officers (ECLOs)

Often an individual's first point of contact with Warwickshire Vision is when they spend time with one of our ECLOs, who provide immediate practical and emotional support. Our ECLOs, based at eye clinics in hospitals, generate over 50% of our new service users. Throughout the year our ECLOs have provided empathic practical and emotional support, to help people fully understand the social and clinical effects of sight loss, helping individuals access the further

support provided by our charity and other VCSE and statutory providers locally, regionally and nationally.

Our ECLOs have worked closely with medical and nursing staff at eye clinics at George Eliot Hospital, Nuneaton, Camp Hill GP Led Health Centre, Nuneaton, and the two South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust hospitals at Stratford and Warwick. In the year our ECLOs recorded 1,510 patient interactions with 532 being referrals of people newly diagnosed with sight loss.

Rehabilitation Services

"I would have lost my independence several years ago without the help of Warwickshire Vision..."

Our Rehabilitation Service provides crucial, early interventions to help visually impaired individuals stay safe and active in their homes and in the community. Our support is person-centered and designed around the individual needs of the person we are supporting, delivered in a timely manner to help people at the earliest opportunity following their sight loss diagnosis.

Our Rehabilitation Services include risk assessments and safety in the home, mobility training in and around their local community, low vision training and help with communication and IT skills.

Every year we survey all clients of the Rehabilitation Service and invite them to comment on how satisfied they are with the services we provide. The results consistently evidence that we provide timely support services and effective signposting, and that our clients are highly satisfied with the benefits and outcomes of the services we provide for them. As evidence of the quality and efficacy of our service, we were delighted to be awarded a new multi-year contract from Warwickshire County Council for the provision of Rehabilitation Services for Visually Impaired Adults in the autumn of 2022. The new contract was effective from 1 January 2023 and we report on performance to the Commissioner on a quarterly basis.

The Rehabilitation Team received 794 referrals during the year including 293 for people newly registered with a certificate of visual impairment (CVI). This was made up of 126 people registered as sight impaired (partially sighted) and 167 people registered as severely sight impaired (blind). This was a 14% increase on our 2021/2022 registrations.

Vision Support Centres (VSCs)

"I wish the centre ran every day to be honest...such lovely people."

We achieved the aims and desired outcomes from our 4 x weekly and 7 x monthly Vision Support Centres; that our service users feel informed, included and supported by the regular meetings, and we deliver the right mix of a social and recreational event as well as providing professional information, advice and guidance. We know from interviews and other general and anecdotal feedback that there is a very high level of satisfaction with the support provided at our VSCs.

In 2022/23 there were over 30 different speakers, presentations and consultations from other charities, sight loss commercial companies and statutory services, offering important information, advice and guidance for the benefit of visually impaired people. In the year there were 3,438 visits to our weekly and monthly VSCs, up from 1,965 in 2021/22, engaging an average of 287 visually impaired people per month.

"The support centre stops you feeling alone."

IT4U - IT Training

Our peripatetic IT training programme, 'IT4U' worked with 120 individuals over the year (up from 96 in 2021/22), with appointments at VSCs, helping our predominantly older service users address the 'digital divide' by using the latest and best assistive products and accessible technology. This included working with mobiles, tablets, and laptops on accessibility settings, upgrading operating systems and installing apps of benefit to a visually impaired person.

Social Clubs

"They lift you up when you feel down in the dumps. Talking to other people helps me."

Warwickshire Vision supported 8 x Social Clubs for Visually Impaired People during the year, either supporting club volunteers or running the clubs where needed. The clubs offer a variety of social and recreational activities and visits. We were very pleased to establish a new club in Nuneaton in January 2023. There was an average of 13 club sessions each month.

Befriending Services

"My befriender is so interesting. I so look forward to her calling. I know she can give me advice and will get me help and support if I need it. It feels good to think someone cares."

During the year our volunteers and staff made 1,971 befriending calls to 70 individuals we have assessed as isolated, lonely and/or vulnerable. We record the nature of each call and are especially vigilant in terms of safeguarding and welfare issues. Volunteers learn about the individual's situation, wants and needs, so can tailor the conversation to be focused on the individual's wellbeing. We also continued our Home Visits in the year, averaging 30 visits per month to 30+ individuals assessed as priorities for welfare and safeguarding checks.

Warwickshire Vision Magazine

Our print and audio magazine provides news, information and stories especially of interest to visually impaired people. Over 3,000 of our service users now receive this publication as an audio file, digital file or printed version. In the year we decided to increase publication to 4 issues a year, based on the seasons.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial performance

Income in the year was £503,228. The charity used an additional £198,485 from its reserves to cover expenses in the year of £701,713. The year experienced a lower than normal income from legacy gifts, an important source of funding but one we cannot build our financial plans on.

Investment policy and objectives

In order to protect the value of reserves against cost of living increases, the charity invests funds in short term deposit accounts (up to 12-24 months) and in longer term investment (10 years).

In previous years this has proven an effective means of protecting the value of finances as well as providing an invaluable source of income from interest and dividends. In the year however, the capital value of our investments were impacted by global economic events, suffering a loss of £154,622.

Reserves policy

The Balance Sheet shows a total funds and reserves figure of £2,745,023 (2022: £3,098,130). After the restricted reserves £84,706 (2022: £47,864), unrestricted reserves are £2,660,317 (2022: £3,050,266). Of this, we have committed £1,840,935 (2022: £1,998,106) into fixed and long-term investment (10-years) generating approx. 10% of total income. The decision to commit funds in this way was a strategic decision to safeguard the sustainability of the charity in very challenging economic times. A further £531,621 (2022: £535,477) is invested in property to be used as a head office and resource centre. The remaining £287,761 unrestricted reserve provides resilience for a drop in income, representing 6 to 9 months of operating expenses.

Restricted reserves are those surplus funds carried forward from income received with a restricted purpose after deducting expenditure in the delivery of activities in line with the donor's specifications.

FUTURE PLANS

Our strategy outputs from 2020 will continue to provide the guiding reference as we transition and future proof our services to meet the demands from increasing numbers of Warwickshire people experiencing and living with sight loss (forecast to increase 18% by 2030).

An important component of the strategy was the relocation of our head office into a prominent and accessible location in Warwick, completed in 2021. Our plans for the next 12-months include a major renovation project at our head office, to develop the ground floor space into a flexible resource centre with a specialist rehabilitation training kitchen. Our development plans are based on creating a flexible and welcoming environment that will meet a wide range of beneficiary and other stakeholder needs, something that will be made available to other voluntary sector organisations and community groups.

The relocation of the head office into a prominent position in Warwick, was one strand of a

workstream to raise the profile of the charity, increasing awareness of what services are available for people experiencing sight loss, and the impact this has for others, who might be willing to offer support either in volunteering or raising funds.

This work will continue with increased levels of community engagement activities, the launch of a new website and a regular newsletter that will complement the Warwickshire Vision Magazine.

A new committee of Trustees will lead a review of services and in consultation with service users and collaboration with other voluntary sector organisations and other care provider services, will review the portfolio of services provided by the charity and ensure it is fit for the future.

To ensure service delivery is maintained at the high standards we set for ourselves, we will invest further in training and professional development of our team, including establishing a new apprenticeship training scheme for Rehabilitation Officers.

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

Trustees are required to have a professional or commercial background with a knowledge of business management, and one or more specialities such as legal, HR, financial, publicity, fundraising and administration. We also seek people who have experience of living with sight loss or are professionals in eye care.

Applicants are invited to an interview with a Selection Committee, as defined in the Articles of Association. After interview, the Selection Committee report to the Board, which may invite the Applicant to attend Board meetings on an ad-hoc basis with no right to vote. After attending a minimum of two meetings, the Board may co-opt the Applicant as a Trustee. All Trustees are required to attend seminars and training to ensure that they are aware of changes in legislation.

Each year, one third of the Trustees have to retire by rotation and seek re-election.

The Trustees meet at least quarterly to receive and action management accounts. Additional meetings are scheduled throughout the year to address specific issues and training. The work of the Trustees is organised into three sub-committees which are responsible for producing reports and recommendations to the Board.

Under the Articles of Association, the Trustees are permitted to appoint a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) who has day-to-day responsibility for the management of staff and the running of the charity.

Key management remuneration

The salary of the CEO is determined by the Chair of the Board of Trustees in consultation with the Human Resources Committee following an annual performance appraisal and an assessment of appropriate market rates for the position.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

A Risk Register is prepared by the CEO and reviewed by the Board of Trustees on a regular basis. The main risks being monitored by trustees at March 2023 are:

Risk 1: Income from trusts and grants is insufficient to meet charity growth ambitions and costs associated with charitable service delivery.

Risk Response: Identify new areas of potential funding and lessen the reliance on traditional areas of income generation.

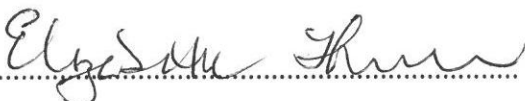
Risk 2: The charity fails to meet its regulatory or quality obligations in respect of services provided as part of the service level agreement with the local county council, or other charitable services, and suffers reputational and potentially long-term damage.

Risk Response: The Board of Trustees review performance updates provided by the CEO to ensure the team remain sufficiently skilled and qualified, with systems and processes reviewed regularly to ensure delivery of services meet expectations.

Risk 3: Loss of key staff jeopardises the delivery of services, especially in areas of Rehabilitation Services where recruitment of appropriately qualified personnel is known to be challenging.

Risk Response: Review and update succession plans on a regular basis, whilst creating a pipeline of personnel undertaking training and formal qualifications. This includes establishing a new Rehabilitation Apprenticeship from 2023.

Report of the trustees, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 21 September 2023 and signed on the board's behalf by:



.....

Elizabeth Ann Thiebe – Chair of Board of Trustees

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND ('The Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's 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 your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the 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:

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.

Gregg Olnier, Harrison Beale & Owen Limited, Chartered Accountants, Highdown House, 11 Highdown Road, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV31 1XT

Signed: 

Date: 21/9/23

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	16,277	4,547	20,824	545,053
Charitable activities					
Statutory and rehabilitation services	5	50,081	338,992	389,073	342,278
Other trading activities	3	-	10,635	10,635	10,200
Investment income	4	78,242	-	78,242	63,814
Other income		<u>3,716</u>	<u>738</u>	<u>4,454</u>	<u>2,497</u>
Total		<u>148,316</u>	<u>354,912</u>	<u>503,228</u>	<u>963,842</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	6	56,595	1,105	57,700	46,507
Charitable activities					
Statutory and rehabilitation services	7	<u>256,888</u>	<u>387,125</u>	<u>644,013</u>	<u>536,601</u>
Total		<u>313,483</u>	<u>388,230</u>	<u>701,713</u>	<u>583,108</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments		<u>(154,622)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(154,622)</u>	<u>105,692</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(319,789)	(33,318)	(353,107)	486,426
Transfers between funds	19	<u>(70,157)</u>	<u>70,157</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		(389,946)	36,839	(353,107)	486,426
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		<u>3,050,266</u>	<u>47,864</u>	<u>3,098,130</u>	2,611,704
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>2,660,320</u>	<u>84,703</u>	<u>2,745,023</u>	<u>3,098,130</u>

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

BALANCE SHEET

31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	13	406,621	-	406,621	410,477
Investments					
Investments	14	1,840,935	-	1,840,935	1,998,106
Investment property	15	125,000	-	125,000	125,000
		<u>2,372,556</u>	-	<u>2,372,556</u>	2,533,583
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	16	2,255	-	2,255	2,320
Debtors	17	64,844	-	64,844	24,691
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>257,824</u>	<u>84,706</u>	<u>342,530</u>	<u>584,187</u>
		<u>324,923</u>	<u>84,706</u>	<u>409,629</u>	611,198
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	18	(37,162)	-	(37,162)	(46,651)
		<u>287,761</u>	<u>84,706</u>	<u>372,467</u>	<u>564,547</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
		<u>287,761</u>	<u>84,706</u>	<u>372,467</u>	<u>564,547</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES					
		<u>2,660,317</u>	<u>84,706</u>	<u>2,745,023</u>	3,098,130
NET ASSETS					
		<u>2,660,317</u>	<u>84,706</u>	<u>2,745,023</u>	<u>3,098,130</u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds	19			2,660,317	3,050,266
Restricted funds				<u>84,706</u>	<u>47,864</u>
TOTAL FUNDS					
				<u>2,745,023</u>	<u>3,098,130</u>

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

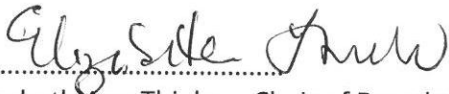
The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for :

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each 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 charitable company.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 21 September 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:



Elizabeth Ann Thiebe – Chair of Board of Trustees

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

	2023	2022
Notes	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities		
Cash generated from operations 1	<u>(302,200)</u>	316,661
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	<u>(302,200)</u>	<u>316,661</u>
 Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(1,668)	(397,440)
Purchase of investment property	-	(125,000)
Sale of fixed asset investments	2,202	2,362
Interest received	1,540	1,335
Dividends received	<u>58,469</u>	<u>52,440</u>
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	<u>60,543</u>	<u>(466,303)</u>
 <hr style="width: 20%; margin-left: 0;"/>		
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	(241,657)	(149,642)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	<u>584,187</u>	<u>733,829</u>
 Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	 <u>342,530</u>	 <u>584,187</u>

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT
for the year ended 31 March 2023

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(353,107)	486,426
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	5,524	4,928
Losses/(gain) on investments	154,622	(105,354)
Interest received	(1,540)	(1,335)
Dividends received	(58,469)	(52,440)
Decrease in stocks	65	27
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(39,806)	3,738
Decrease in creditors	(9,489)	(19,329)
Net cash (used in)/provided by operations	<u>(302,200)</u>	<u>316,661</u>

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.4.22	Cash flow	At 31.3.23
	£	£	£
Net cash			
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>584,187</u>	<u>(241,657)</u>	<u>342,530</u>
	<u>584,187</u>	<u>(241,657)</u>	<u>342,530</u>
Total	<u>584,187</u>	<u>(241,657)</u>	<u>342,530</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 March 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, 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 financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards. The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below and have remained unchanged from the previous year.

Preparation of consolidated financial statements

The financial statements contain information about Warwickshire Association For The Blind as an individual company and do not contain consolidated financial information as the parent of a group. The charity is exempt under Section 399(2A) of the Companies Act 2006 from the requirements to prepare consolidated financial statements.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Voluntary income, including donations and legacies, are recognised where there is entitlement, probable receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

Income from charitable activities includes grant funding subject to specific performance conditions. Grant income included in this category provides funding to support charitable activities and is recognised where there is entitlement, probable receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grant income received from the UK's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has been recognised in the period in which the related staff expense was incurred. This income has been recognised in other income.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

Costs of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income.

Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Overhead costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Improvements to property - Straight line over 4 years

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Tangible fixed assets

Fixtures and fittings	- Straight line over 4 years
Computer equipment	- Straight line over 4 years

No depreciation is provided on the freehold property as the value included within these financial statements is considered to be consistent with the residual value of the asset concerned.

Fixed assets with an individual cost of over £1,000 are capitalised.

Investment property

Investment property is shown at most recent valuation. Any aggregate surplus or deficit arising from changes in fair value is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable

Irrecoverable VAT is included in the expense heading to which the invoice relates.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Debtors and creditors receivable/payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

When employees have rendered service to the charity, short-term employee benefits to which the

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service.

Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Donations	18,824	12,128
Gift aid	-	2,319
Legacies	<u>2,000</u>	<u>530,606</u>
	<u>20,824</u>	<u>545,053</u>

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Fundraising events	<u>10,635</u>	<u>10,200</u>

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2023	2022
	£	£
Rents received	18,233	10,039
Investment portfolio income	58,469	52,440
Deposit account interest	<u>1,540</u>	<u>1,335</u>
	<u>78,242</u>	<u>63,814</u>

5. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Grants	389,073	342,278

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
W.C.C.	210,066	196,164
The National Lottery Community Fund	116,629	37,509
The National Lottery Community Fund (Economic & Social Empowerment)	-	34,111
Other grants below £10,000	<u>62,378</u>	<u>74,494</u>
	<u>389,073</u>	<u>342,278</u>

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

6. RAISING FUNDS

Raising donations and legacies

	2023	2022
	£	£
Staff costs	55,982	44,065
Postage and stationery	-	1,363
Sundries	1,718	828
Travel	-	251
	<u>57,700</u>	<u>46,507</u>

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs £	Support costs (see note 8) £	Totals £
Statutory and rehabilitation services	449,900	194,113	644,013

8. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management Totals £	£	Finance £	Governance Other £	costs £
Statutory and rehabilitation services	168,136	306	2,549	23,122	194,113

9. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2023	2022
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	5,524	4,928
Other operating leases	7,586	11,795

10. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2023

11. STAFF COSTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	437,835	402,352
Social security costs	36,077	30,814
Other pension costs	<u>11,514</u>	<u>11,472</u>
	<u>485,426</u>	<u>444,638</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2023	2022
	<u>22</u>	<u>21</u>
Charitable and administrative staff		

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

12. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	545,051	2	545,053
Charitable activities			
Statutory and rehabilitation services	187,169	155,109	342,278
Other trading activities	10,200	-	10,200
Investment income	63,814	-	63,814
Other income	<u>2,497</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,497</u>
Total	<u>808,731</u>	<u>155,111</u>	<u>963,842</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	46,507	-	46,507
Charitable activities			
Statutory and rehabilitation services	<u>335,936</u>	<u>200,665</u>	<u>536,601</u>
Total	<u>382,443</u>	<u>200,665</u>	<u>583,108</u>
Net gains on investments	<u>105,692</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>105,692</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	531,980	(45,554)	486,426

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS

Total funds brought forward	2,518,285	93,419	2,611,704
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u><u>3,050,265</u></u>	<u><u>47,865</u></u>	<u><u>3,098,130</u></u>

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2023

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Improvements to property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST					
At 1 April 2022	396,192	19,398	44,015	1,248	460,853
Additions	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,668</u>	<u>1,668</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>396,192</u>	<u>19,398</u>	<u>44,015</u>	<u>2,916</u>	<u>462,521</u>
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 April 2022	-	19,398	30,666	312	50,376
Charge for year	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,795</u>	<u>729</u>	<u>5,524</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>19,398</u>	<u>35,461</u>	<u>1,041</u>	<u>55,900</u>
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 March 2023	<u>396,192</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,554</u>	<u>1,875</u>	<u>406,621</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>396,192</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,349</u>	<u>936</u>	<u>410,477</u>

14. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Listed investments £
MARKET VALUE	
At 1 April 2022	1,998,106
Disposals	(2,010)
Revaluations	<u>(155,161)</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>1,840,935</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2023	<u>1,840,935</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>1,998,106</u>

There were no investment assets outside the UK.
Cost or valuation at 31 March 2023 is represented by:

	Listed investments £
Valuation in 2023	46,557
Cost	<u>1,794,378</u>
	<u>1,840,935</u>

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

15. INVESTMENT PROPERTY

FAIR VALUE

At 1 April 2022

and 31 March 2023

£

125,000

NET BOOK VALUE

At 31 March 2023

125,000

At 31 March 2022

125,000

16. STOCKS

Stocks

2023

2022

£

£

2,255

2,320

17. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

Trade debtors

Prepayments and accrued income

2023

2022

£

£

52,879

471

11,965

24,220

64,844

24,691

18. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

Trade creditors

Social security and other taxes

VAT

Other creditors

Accruals and deferred income

2023

2022

£

£

21,587

15,273

-

7,581

755

859

2,983

4,451

11,837

18,487

37,162

46,651

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2023

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.23 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	-	(239,323)	333,638	94,315
Clubs and branches and other financial obligations	55,266	-	(3,795)	51,471
Operations contingency fund	400,000	-	(246,404)	153,596
Innovation fund	400,000	-	(400,000)	-
Premises reserve	395,000	-	-	395,000
Long term investment	<u>1,800,000</u>	<u>(80,469)</u>	<u>246,404</u>	<u>1,965,935</u>
	3,050,266	(319,792)	(70,157)	2,660,317
Restricted funds				
Home visitor service general	3,793	(16,518)	12,725	-
Advice desks	2,932	(34,862)	31,930	-
Economic/social empowerment	12,501	(23,923)	11,422	-
Vision support centres	20,800	47,240	(2,658)	65,382
Clubs	6,735	(15,834)	10,857	1,758
Access to work	-	(1,282)	1,282	-
Rehabilitation services	-	19,491	(2,391)	17,100
IT4U General	-	(21,406)	21,406	-
Equipment	<u>1,103</u>	<u>13,779</u>	<u>(14,416)</u>	<u>466</u>
	<u>47,864</u>	<u>(33,315)</u>	<u>70,157</u>	<u>84,706</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>3,098,130</u></u>	<u><u>(353,107)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>2,745,023</u></u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	71,613	(310,936)	-	(239,323)
Long term investment	<u>76,702</u>	<u>(2,549)</u>	<u>(154,622)</u>	<u>(80,469)</u>
	148,315	(313,485)	(154,622)	(319,792)
Restricted funds				
Home visitor service general	1,499	(18,017)	-	(16,518)
Advice desks	(1)	(34,861)	-	(34,862)
Economic/social empowerment	-	(23,923)	-	(23,923)
Vision support centres	125,786	(78,546)	-	47,240
Clubs	1,239	(17,073)	-	(15,834)
Access to work	2,115	(3,397)	-	(1,282)
Rehabilitation services	210,066	(190,575)	-	19,491

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

IT4U General	30	(21,436)	-	(21,406)
Equipment	<u>14,179</u>	<u>(400)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,779</u>
	<u>354,913</u>	<u>(388,228)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(33,315)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>503,228</u></u>	<u><u>(701,713)</u></u>	<u><u>(154,622)</u></u>	<u><u>(353,107)</u></u>

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2023

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.21 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.22 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	1,793,527	501,919	(2,295,446)	-
Clubs and branches and other financial obligations	53,197	62	2,007	55,266
Operations contingency fund	271,561	-	128,439	400,000
Innovation fund	250,000	-	150,000	400,000
Rehabilitation reserve	100,000	-	(100,000)	-
Premises reserve	45,000	30,000	320,000	395,000
Pension reserve	5,000	-	(5,000)	-
Long term investment	-	-	1,800,000	1,800,000
	<u>2,518,285</u>	<u>531,981</u>	-	<u>3,050,266</u>
Restricted funds				
Home visitor service general	-	3,793	-	3,793
Advice desks	-	2,932	-	2,932
Economic/social empowerment	31,687	(19,186)	-	12,501
Vision support centres	38,029	(17,229)	-	20,800
Clubs	-	6,527	208	6,735
Telephone Befriending	6,740	(6,740)	-	-
Home visitor (Stratford) only	1,319	(1,319)	-	-
Equipment	2,929	(1,826)	-	1,103
Clubs (Stratford only)	208	-	(208)	-
Pop-ups	11,792	(11,792)	-	-
Equipment for service user 1	633	(633)	-	-
Equipment for service user 2	82	(82)	-	-
	<u>93,419</u>	<u>(45,555)</u>	-	<u>47,864</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>2,611,704</u></u>	<u><u>486,426</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>3,098,130</u></u>

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2023

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	808,669	(412,442)	105,692	501,919
Clubs and branches and other financial obligations	62	-	-	62
Premises reserve	-	30,000	-	30,000
	808,731	(382,442)	105,692	531,981
Restricted funds				
Home visitor service general	24,801	(21,008)	-	3,793
Advice desks	19,795	(16,863)	-	2,932
Economic/social empowerment	46,612	(65,798)	-	(19,186)
Vision support centres	43,078	(60,307)	-	(17,229)
Clubs	11,208	(4,681)	-	6,527
Telephone Befriending	3,900	(10,640)	-	(6,740)
Magazine	230	(230)	-	-
Access to work	2,987	(2,987)	-	-
Home visitor (Stratford) only	2,500	(3,819)	-	(1,319)
Equipment	-	(1,826)	-	(1,826)
Pop-ups	-	(11,792)	-	(11,792)
Equipment for service user 1	-	(633)	-	(633)
Equipment for service user 2	-	(82)	-	(82)
	155,111	(200,666)	-	(45,555)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>963,842</u>	<u>(583,108)</u>	<u>105,692</u>	<u>486,426</u>

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2023

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.4.21 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.23 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	1,793,527	262,596	(1,961,808)	94,315
Clubs and branches and other financial obligations	53,197	62	(1,788)	51,471
Operations contingency fund	271,561	-	(117,965)	153,596
Innovation fund	250,000	-	(250,000)	-
Rehabilitation reserve	100,000	-	(100,000)	-
Premises reserve	45,000	30,000	320,000	395,000
Pension reserve	5,000	-	(5,000)	-
Long term investment	-	(80,469)	2,046,404	1,965,935
	<u>2,518,285</u>	<u>212,189</u>	<u>(70,157)</u>	<u>2,660,317</u>
Restricted funds				
Home visitor service general	-	(12,725)	12,725	-
Advice desks	-	(31,930)	31,930	-
Economic/social empowerment	31,687	(43,109)	11,422	-
Vision support centres	38,029	30,011	(2,658)	65,382
Clubs	-	(9,307)	11,065	1,758
Telephone Befriending	6,740	(6,740)	-	-
Access to work	-	(1,282)	1,282	-
Rehabilitation services	-	19,491	(2,391)	17,100
Home visitor (Stratford) only	1,319	(1,319)	-	-
IT4U General	-	(21,406)	21,406	-
Equipment	2,929	11,953	(14,416)	466
Clubs (Stratford only)	208	-	(208)	-
Pop-ups	11,792	(11,792)	-	-
Equipment for service user 1	633	(633)	-	-
Equipment for service user 2	82	(82)	-	-
	<u>93,419</u>	<u>(78,870)</u>	<u>70,157</u>	<u>84,706</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>2,611,704</u>	<u>133,319</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,745,023</u>

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	880,282	(723,378)	105,692	262,596
Clubs and branches and other financial obligations	62	-	-	62
Premises reserve	-	30,000	-	30,000
Long term investment	<u>76,702</u>	<u>(2,549)</u>	<u>(154,622)</u>	<u>(80,469)</u>
	957,046	(695,927)	(48,930)	212,189
Restricted funds				
Home visitor service general	26,300	(39,025)	-	(12,725)
Advice desks	19,794	(51,724)	-	(31,930)
Economic/social empowerment	46,612	(89,721)	-	(43,109)
Vision support centres	168,864	(138,853)	-	30,011
Clubs	12,447	(21,754)	-	(9,307)
Telephone Befriending	3,900	(10,640)	-	(6,740)
Magazine	230	(230)	-	-
Access to work	5,102	(6,384)	-	(1,282)
Rehabilitation services	210,066	(190,575)	-	19,491
Home visitor (Stratford) only	2,500	(3,819)	-	(1,319)
IT4U General	30	(21,436)	-	(21,406)
Equipment	14,179	(2,226)	-	11,953
Pop-ups	-	(11,792)	-	(11,792)
Equipment for service user 1	-	(633)	-	(633)
Equipment for service user 2	<u>-</u>	<u>(82)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(82)</u>
	<u>510,024</u>	<u>(588,894)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(78,870)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,467,070</u>	<u>(1,284,821)</u>	<u>(48,930)</u>	<u>133,319</u>

General funds are available for use at the directors/trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are amounts set aside out of general funds for use on specific projects.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2023

20. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme in respect of certain employees. The scheme and its assets are held by independent managers. The pension charge represents contributions due from the charity and amounted to £12,250 (2022 - £9,213). Outstanding contributions to the fund at the year end totalled £1,888 (2022 - £3,783).

Defined benefit plans

The charity participates in the Warwickshire County Council Pension Fund, a multi-employer defined benefit final salary scheme where the share of the assets and liabilities applicable to each employer is not identifiable. As such the scheme is accounted for as if it was a defined contribution scheme. The amount recognised as an expense in the period was £2,225 (2022 - £1,790) and there was a defined benefit contribution liability of £nil (2022 - £189) at the year end.

21. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2023.

22. CONTROLLING INTERESTS

The director/trustees are considered to be the ultimate controlling parties by virtue of their ability to act in concert in respect of the financial and operating policies of the charity.

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 31 March 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	18,824	12,128
Gift aid	-	2,319
Legacies	<u>2,000</u>	<u>530,606</u>
	20,824	545,053
Other trading activities		
Fundraising events	10,635	10,200
Investment income		
Rents received	18,233	10,039
Investment portfolio income	58,469	52,440
Deposit account interest	<u>1,540</u>	<u>1,335</u>
	78,242	63,814
Charitable activities		
Grants	389,073	342,278
Other income		
Sundry income	4,454	2,435
Income from clubs and branches	<u>-</u>	<u>62</u>
	4,454	2,497
Total incoming resources	503,228	963,842
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Wages	49,920	39,837
Social security	4,702	3,081
Pensions	1,360	1,147
Postage and stationery	-	1,363
Sundries	1,718	828
Travel	<u>-</u>	<u>251</u>
	57,700	46,507

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

Charitable activities

Wages	387,915	362,515
Social security	31,375	27,733
Pensions	10,154	10,325
Postage and stationery	-	241
Travel	<u>20,456</u>	<u>11,056</u>
	449,900	411,870

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 31 March 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Support costs		
Management		
Rent and service charges	7,586	11,795
Business rates	-	3,688
Insurance	10,159	9,351
Light, heat & water	8,974	3,208
Telephone	6,117	7,121
Postage	937	659
Photocopying and printing	28,340	12,407
Stationery	1,169	1,278
Recruitment	-	2,944
Travel	-	790
Training	10,607	4,309
Equipment supplied	-	8,736
Computer system	12,590	12,344
DBS disclosures	20,786	1,920
Repairs and maintenance	20,040	(13,549)
Office equipment maintenance	31,847	7,897
Sundry	3,460	23,370
Depreciation of tangible and heritage assets	5,524	4,928
	168,136	103,196
Finance		
Bank charges	306	604
Other		
Investment manager fees	2,549	2,701
Governance costs		
Legal & professional fees	20,922	11,736
Accountancy fees	2,200	6,494
	23,122	18,230
Total resources expended	701,713	583,108
Net (expenditure)/income before gains and losses	(198,485)	380,734
Realised recognised gains and losses		
Realised gains/(losses) on fixed asset investments	(154,622)	105,692
Net (expenditure)/income	(353,107)	486,426

GRANTS INCOME - THANK YOU

Warwickshire Vision employ a Grants Officer to make formal applications to a variety of funders and grant givers. We are very grateful to all of the grant makers who supported our charity in 2022/2023. All of our community services were supported by mostly revenue and core costs grants, with three small-scale capital grants that have enabled us to purchase the latest assistive equipment and accessible technology. We received £62,378 in new grants, and a £116,629 from The National Lottery Community Fund, so a total of £179,007 in grants for the 2022/23 year.

We would like to thank all of these funders for their generous grants and support.

We received large Grants from:

- The National Lottery Community Fund 'Reaching Communities' grants programme
- The Garfield Weston Foundation
- The ██████ Foundation (*asked to remain anonymous*)
- The L & Q Foundation Placemakers Growth Fund

We received medium sized grants from:

- James Tudor Foundation
- The 29th May 1961 Charity
- Western Power Distribution 'Community Matters' Fund
- The WPH Charitable Trust

We received small grants from:

- The Arnold Clark Community Fund
- The Hospital Saturday Fund
- The C A Rookes Charitable Trust
- Clifford Chambers Charities
- Dumbreck Charity
- Edward and Dorothy Cadbury Trust
- The George Henry Collins Charity
- The George Perkins Charitable Trust
- The Goodenough Charitable Trust
- One Stop
- Royal Leamington Spa Town Council
- Skipton Building Society Charitable Foundation
- Warwick Court Leet
- Warwickshire County Council - Councillors Grants Fund (12 small grants)
- The W O Street Charitable Foundation

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

England & Wales - Charity number 1123220

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 06511954 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1123220

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022
FOR
WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND**

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

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for the year ended 31 March 2022**

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WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

TRUSTEES	Susan Mary Ayres (appointed 29.7.2021) Adola Kamal Dairo (appointed 29.7.2021) Michael Keith Eales Hassan Ejaz (appointed 29.7.2021) Heather May Fairbairn Stacey Louise Fennell Amer Herian Janet Elaine Hurrell Richard Charles Orme Martyn Parker Melanie Pritchard Rosemary Robinson (appointed 27.7.2021) Elizabeth Ann Thiebe (Chair) David Adams
COMPANY SECRETARY	Heather May Fairbairn
REGISTERED OFFICE	14 Market Place Warwick United Kingdom Warwickshire CV34 4SL
REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER	06511954 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER	1123220
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Harrison Beale & Owen Limited Chartered Accountants Highdown House 11 Highdown Road Leamington Spa Warwickshire CV31 1XT
BANKERS	Lloyds Bank 12 Swan Street Warwick Warwickshire CV34 4BJ
INVESTMENT MANAGERS	Barclays Wealth & Investment Management One Snow Hill Snow Hill Queensway Birmingham B4 6GN Quilter Cheviot Investment Management Two Snow Hill Snow Hill Queensway Birmingham B4 6GA

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2022

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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).

Warwickshire Vision Support

Warwickshire Vision Support is the trading name of Warwickshire Association for the Blind, a registered charity incorporated in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee and governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Warwickshire Vision Support was established in 1911 with a mission to give people experiencing and living with sight loss, the best possible care and support. We do this by:

- Helping people come to terms with sight loss
- Offering training on everyday activities to remain safe, confident and independent
- Providing advice, information and community-based services which enable more choice, greater independence and healthier lifestyles.

This is achieved from the following key activities:

- Giving information and support to people at the point of diagnosis through our Eye Clinic Advice Desks
- Teaching new skills to improve safety in the home and mobility in the community through our Rehabilitation Service provided by contract for Warwickshire County Council
- Providing access to advice, information and guidance through our Vision Support Centres
- Reducing isolation through Home Visiting and Telephone Befriending services
- Enabling social networks through our Social Clubs and Walking Groups
- Facilitating social inclusion and empowerment through IT Training and Advocacy
- Keeping people informed, with the Magazine and other regular communication updates

Our Values and Guiding Principles

One Team: we recognise that we are at our best when we share and agree on common objectives, aspirations and values.

Person Centred: we place the interests of our beneficiaries at the heart of everything we do, developing our systems and processes based on meeting the needs of the individual.

Outcome Focussed: we adapt and personalise our rehabilitation and other services to achieve the outcomes our beneficiaries identify as most important for themselves.

Caring and Respectful: we care about people and focus on the person and not the impairment, whilst recognising that it is diversity and difference in ourselves that make us stronger. We design our services with the people we serve.

Reflective, Learning and Accountable: we adapt and innovate quickly to ensure we learn from experience and respond effectively to meet the expectations of our beneficiaries and other stakeholders.

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2022

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievement and performance

The strategy work from 2020 (*Warwickshire Vision Support Strategy Refresh* – download from our website at <https://warwickshire.vision>) provided the agenda for a year that was beset by different challenges:

- There were a number of changes in personnel including the Chief Executive Officer
- There was a major project launched with the purchase and occupation of new office premises in Warwick
- There was a refocusing of resources to meet increasing demands for support, and
- There were ongoing adjustments and impacts associated with the Covid-19 pandemic.

Despite these challenges, we were able to:

- Increase our Eye Clinic Liaison Officer presence at Stratford, Warwick and Nuneaton hospitals
- Support a growing number of people referred for rehabilitation, both with and without certificates of visual impairment
- Restart and increase the number of Vision Support Centres
- Consolidate and build Telephone Befriending into the Home Visiting service
- Transition seamlessly into our new head office without disruption to services

Eye Clinic Services

We were able to resume and increase our presence in eye clinics as restrictions from Covid were lifted and some normality returned. By the end of the year, we had a full-time presence shared between Stratford and Warwick Hospital with an increased presence in Nuneaton (Camp Hill). We will continue to build on this presence in the north of the county in 2022.

Rehabilitation Service

The Rehabilitation Team received 816 referrals including 258 people newly registered as sight impaired (partially sighted) or severely sight impaired (blind). This was 144 more referrals than the previous year.

Consolidating ECLO and Rehabilitation services into one team offers our service beneficiaries seamless support between eye clinics across the county and specialist rehabilitation support. This has been possible by supporting Warwickshire Vision staff to train as ECLO and Rehabilitation officers and we will continue to invest in our people to provide a talent pool for this critical area.

Vision Support Centres

Vision Support Centres reopened in July 2021 with Covid-safe guidance limiting attendees to 6 people per session. This was increased to 10 people per session from August before reopening fully at the end of September 2021.

In total, we delivered 198 sessions across 4 x weekly and 7 x brand new monthly support centres between the reopening in July 2021 and March 2022. We had 1,965 attendances with an average of 10 people per session. In January 2022 we started to rebuild our weekly support centre programmes, inviting speakers, alongside social sessions, activities and equipment demonstrations. Our centres will continue to balance an informative environment with both peer, volunteer and staff support.

Clubs

A total of 7 social clubs reopened during October and November 2021. This engaged 55 volunteers and 2 staff members during an average month from reopening until March 2022. There was an average of 12 club sessions each month, averaging 108 people attending each month.

Telephone Befriending Service

The telephone befriending service was launched during the pandemic, but demand was such that it remained as a regular service. Demand started to reduce once people were able to return to support centres and social clubs and the Home Visiting Service was slowly and cautiously revisited. By the end of the year, 44 volunteers were delivering the service to 75 service beneficiaries with an average of 215 calls per month, each call lasting an average of 25 minutes.

Telephone befriending has enabled us to reach our more isolated service beneficiaries without it being necessary for volunteers to be geographically close to the people they support. A total of 139 safeguarding and welfare issues have been managed during this timeframe.

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2022

Home Visiting Service

The Home Visiting service was severely impacted by the Covid restrictions and the risk of the transmission of the virus into the homes of service beneficiaries. The service had barely resumed by March 2022, with only 12 visits made to 9 service users by 7 volunteers in the year.

IT Training

Face to face IT support was provided to 96 individuals at the Vision Support centres by both IT staff and IT volunteers. This included working with mobiles, tablets, and laptops to change accessibility settings, upgrade operating systems and install apps. Access to RNIB and Warwickshire library services were configured, and general advice and guidance given. The demonstration equipment was also shown to many service users giving them access to some equipment designed for people with a visual impairment that is not available on the high street.

The Magazine

The Warwickshire Vision Magazine circulation increased during the year to more than 3,000 people per edition with 3 editions each year. This includes large print, audio and digital (word or pdf versions). We have worked hard to ensure the magazine reflects the readership with many more people-centred articles making the magazine more receptive to reader demand and hopefully more engaging and interactive.

Financial performance

The charity generated a surplus of £486,426 from a total income of £963,842. The surplus was attributable to a final disbursement from a generous legacy gift, an important source of funding but one we cannot build our financial plans on.

Investment policy and objectives

The Board of Trustees takes the responsibility of managing charity funds very seriously. In order to protect the value of reserves against cost-of-living increases, the Board invests its funds to obtain capital growth and a dividend income.

Reserves

Our mission, to provide the best possible care and support for blind and partially sighted people in Warwickshire, is at the heart of everything we do. The trustees set reserves policies so that we can finance our planned activities and withstand any unforeseen downturn in our fundraising or other income.

In accordance with Charity Commission guidance, the trustees each year consider the level of free reserves to meet our strategic plan, objectives and aspirations and provide cover for unforeseen risks. The trustees have adopted the following reserves policy:

1. Long-term reserves (8-10 years) -- £1,400,000. This provides investment income which supplements our revenue from Warwickshire County Council and fundraising.
2. Short to medium-term reserves (3-8 years) -- £795,000. These funds will be needed for implementing our recently agreed strategy to improve our engagement from the 3,000 people we now support to the 20,000 blind and visually impaired people currently living in Warwickshire, and the RNIB forecast of 27,000 people by 2030. This is committed as follows:
 - a. An innovation fund of £400,00 for new projects. This will provide match funding to larger strategic grants from trust, foundations, local authorities, lottery funders and corporate.
 - b. A building renovation fund of £295,000 to develop our new premises in the centre of Warwick to install specialist rehabilitation training facilities, a resource centre, advice and support facilities and a community and local charity hub.
 - c. A property fund of £100,000 to partition, separate services and redecorate spare space in the new building to generate rental income.
3. Cash designated to Clubs -- £55,266. This is mainly money donated by members and restricted for activities of the blind clubs across the county.

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2022

Free reserves are unrestricted reserves less fixed assets and designated reserves.

	31 March 2022	31 March 2021
Unrestricted Reserves	£3,050,266	£2,518,285
Fixed Assets	£410,477	
Designated Reserves	<u>£2,250,266</u>	
Free Reserves	£389,523	

Our free reserves are therefore in our target range for 2022.

Restricted reserves are those surplus funds carried forward from income received with a restricted purpose after deducting expenditure in the delivery of activities in line with the donor's specifications. At 31 March 2022 total restricted reserves were £47,864 (2021: £93,419).

Other financial obligations, in the event of a forced closure of the charity, would be met by liquidating investments and fixed assets.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Future plans

Our strategy outputs from 2020 will continue to provide the guiding reference as we transition and future proof our services to meet the demands from increasing numbers of Warwickshire people experiencing and living with sight loss. Specifically, service planning will target how the charity will prepare itself to meet increasing levels of demand, with the RNIB projecting the number of people in this region experiencing sight loss rising by more than 30% over the next 6-7 years.

An important component of the strategy was the relocation of our head office into a prominent and accessible location in Warwick, somewhere close to transport links and with better connections to local communities. This was completed in 2021. Our plans for the next year include a major renovation project at our head office, to develop the ground floor space into a resource centre with a teaching kitchen that will be used for rehabilitation training. Our development plans are based on creating a flexible and welcoming environment that will meet a wide range of beneficiary and other stakeholder needs.

The relocation of the head office into a prominent position in Warwick, is one strand of a workstream to raise the profile of the charity, increasing awareness of what services are available for people experiencing sight loss, and the impact this has for others, who might be willing to offer support either in volunteering or raising funds.

A new Chief Executive to be appointed in April 2022, will find raising the profile of the charity and searching out new sources of funding at the top of their in-tray when they take up the position. These and renewed collaboration and networking efforts are likely to be critically important priorities in what will be challenging times as the country recovers from the economic effects of the pandemic.

Also high on the 'things to do list' will be the bid to secure a new contract for the provision of Rehabilitation Services on behalf of Warwickshire County Council, after our existing contract ends in December 2022. We are incredibly proud of our Rehabilitation Service offer and how this seamlessly integrates with our ECLO service, for early intervention support and guidance, and our range of community-based services which provide for ongoing care and support.

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

Trustees are required to have a professional or commercial background with a knowledge of business management, and one or more specialities such as legal, HR, financial, publicity, fundraising and administration. We also seek people who have experience of living with sight loss or are professionals in eye care.

Applicants are invited to an interview with a Selection Committee, as defined in the Articles of Association.

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

After interview, the Selection Committee report to the Board, which may invite the Applicant to attend Board meetings (and other activities eg. Support Centres, Clubs) to gain a better understanding of the charity. After attending a minimum of two meetings, the Board may co-opt the Applicant as a Trustee. All Trustees are required to attend seminars and training to ensure that they are aware of changes in legislation and each year, one third of the Trustees have to retire by rotation and seek re-election (for a maximum of two re-elections).

The Trustees meet at least quarterly to receive and consider management accounts. Additional meetings are scheduled throughout the year to address specific issues and training. The work of the Trustees is organised into four sub-committees which are responsible for producing reports and recommendations to the Board.

Under the Articles of Association, the Trustees are permitted to appoint a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) who has day-to-day responsibility for the management of staff and the running of the charity.

Key management remuneration

The salary of the CEO is determined by the Chair of the Board of Trustees in consultation with the Human Resources Committee following an annual performance appraisal and an assessment of appropriate market rates for the position.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Risk Management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. The main risks being monitored by trustees:

Risk 1: Income from trusts and grants is insufficient to meet charity growth ambitions and costs associated with charitable service delivery. The level of risk increased in 2021/22 with higher levels of reserve, limiting access to traditional sources of income.

Risk Response: Identify new areas of potential funding and lessen the reliance on traditional areas of income generation.

Risk 2: The contract to provide Rehabilitation Services is lost to another provider when retendered by the county council later in 2022, requiring a significant change to the charity business model and undermining the objectives of the charity.

Risk Response: Monitor performance indicators for the rehabilitation team to highlight areas of potential improvement that could be included in proposals; engage additional and professional support in the preparation of the bid. Maintain positive relationships with County Council Commissioners.

Risk 3: The charity fails to meet its regulatory or quality obligations in respect of services provided as part of the service level agreement with the local county council, or other charitable services, and suffers reputational and potentially long-term damage.

Risk Response: The Board of Trustees review performance updates provided by the CEO to ensure the team remain sufficiently skilled and qualified, with systems and processes reviewed regularly to ensure delivery of services meet expectations.

Risk 4: An incident destroys or seriously damages the office and meeting space in Warwick, at potentially significant cost and disruption on day-to-day service delivery.

Risk Response: Establish a disaster recovery plan that provides for a quick recovery from loss, whilst all facility maintenance works are maintained, and insurances are appropriate and up to date.

Report of the trustees, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 17 November 2022 and signed on the board's behalf by:



Elizabeth Ann Thiebe – Trustee and Chair

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Warwickshire Association for The Blind ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's 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 your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of ACA 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.



Gregg Olnor ACA
Harrison Beale & Owen Limited
Chartered Accountants
Highdown House
11 Highdown Road Leamington Spa
Warwickshire CV31 1XT

Date: 23.11.2022

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	545,051	2	545,053	962,404
Charitable activities					
Statutory and rehabilitation services		187,169	155,109	342,278	402,525
Other trading activities	3	10,200	-	10,200	163
Investment income	4	63,814	-	63,814	35,422
Other income		<u>2,497</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,497</u>	<u>10,188</u>
Total		<u>808,731</u>	<u>155,111</u>	<u>963,842</u>	<u>1,410,702</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	6	46,507	-	46,507	19,563
Charitable activities					
Statutory and rehabilitation services	7	335,936	200,665	536,601	436,824
Other		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,265</u>
Total		<u>382,443</u>	<u>200,665</u>	<u>583,108</u>	<u>457,652</u>
Net gains on investments		<u>105,692</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>105,692</u>	<u>246,561</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		531,980	(45,554)	486,426	1,199,611
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		<u>2,518,285</u>	<u>93,419</u>	<u>2,611,704</u>	<u>1,412,093</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>3,050,265</u></u>	<u><u>47,865</u></u>	<u><u>3,098,130</u></u>	<u><u>2,611,704</u></u>

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND**

**BALANCE SHEET
31 March 2022**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	13	410,477	-	410,477	17,965
Investments					
Investments	14	1,998,106	-	1,998,106	1,895,114
Investment property	15	<u>125,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>125,000</u>	<u>-</u>
		2,533,583	-	2,533,583	1,913,079
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	16	2,320	-	2,320	2,347
Debtors	17	24,691	-	24,691	28,429
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>529,476</u>	<u>54,711</u>	<u>584,187</u>	<u>733,829</u>
		556,487	54,711	611,198	764,605
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	18	<u>(39,804)</u>	<u>(6,847)</u>	<u>(46,651)</u>	<u>(65,980)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>516,683</u>	<u>47,864</u>	<u>564,547</u>	<u>698,625</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>3,050,266</u>	<u>47,864</u>	<u>3,098,130</u>	2,611,704
NET ASSETS		<u>3,050,266</u>	<u>47,864</u>	<u>3,098,130</u>	<u>2,611,704</u>
FUNDS	20				
Unrestricted funds				<u>3,050,266</u>	2,518,285
Restricted funds				<u>47,864</u>	<u>93,419</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>3,098,130</u>	<u>2,611,704</u>

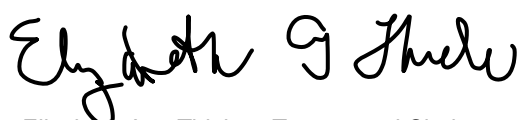
The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each 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 charitable company.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 17 November 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:



Elizabeth Ann Thiebe - Trustee and Chair

The notes form part of these financial statements

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND**

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	<u>316,661</u>	<u>966,081</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities		<u>316,661</u>	<u>966,081</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(397,440)	(16,170)
Purchase of fixed asset investments		-	(498,820)
Purchase of investment property		(125,000)	-
Sale of fixed asset investments		2,362	701
Interest received		1,335	-
Dividends received		<u>52,440</u>	<u>35,422</u>
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(466,303)</u>	<u>(478,867)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(149,642)	487,214
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		<u>733,829</u>	<u>246,615</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u><u>584,187</u></u>	<u><u>733,829</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT
for the year ended 31 March 2022

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2022 £	2021 £
Net income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	486,426	1,199,611
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	4,928	756
Gain on investments	(105,354)	(246,561)
Interest received	(1,335)	-
Dividends received	(52,440)	(35,422)
Decrease in stocks	27	16
Decrease in debtors	3,738	3,396
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	<u>(19,329)</u>	<u>44,285</u>
Net cash provided by operations	<u>316,661</u>	<u>966,081</u>

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.4.21 £	Cash flow £	At 31.3.22 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>733,829</u>	<u>(149,642)</u>	<u>584,187</u>
	<u>733,829</u>	<u>(149,642)</u>	<u>584,187</u>
Total	<u>733,829</u>	<u>(149,642)</u>	<u>584,187</u>

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, 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 financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards. The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below and have remained unchanged from the previous year.

Preparation of consolidated financial statements

The financial statements contain information about Warwickshire Association For The Blind as an individual company and do not contain consolidated financial information as the parent of a group. The charity is exempt under Section 399(2A) of the Companies Act 2006 from the requirements to prepare consolidated financial statements.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Voluntary income, including donations and legacies, are recognised where there is entitlement, probable receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

Income from charitable activities includes grant funding subject to specific performance conditions. Grant income included in this category provides funding to support charitable activities and is recognised where there is entitlement, probable receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grant income received from the UK's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has been recognised in the period in which the related staff expense was incurred. This income has been recognised in other income.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Costs of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income.

Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Overhead costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Improvements to property	- Straight line over 4 years
Fixtures and fittings	- Straight line over 4 years
Computer equipment	- Straight line over 4 years

No depreciation is provided on the freehold property as the value included within these financial statements is considered to be consistent with the residual value of the asset concerned.

Fixed assets with an individual cost of over £1,000 are capitalised.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Investment property

Investment property is shown at most recent valuation. Any aggregate surplus or deficit arising from changes in fair value is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable

Irrecoverable VAT is included in the expense heading to which the invoice relates.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Debtors and creditors receivable/payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

When employees have rendered service to the charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service.

Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2022	2021
	£	£
Donations	12,128	11,225
Gift aid	2,319	-
Legacies	<u>530,606</u>	<u>951,179</u>
	<u>545,053</u>	<u>962,404</u>

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES		2022	2021
		£	£
Fundraising events		<u>10,200</u>	<u>163</u>
4. INVESTMENT INCOME		2022	2021
		£	£
Rents received		10,039	-
Investment portfolio income		52,440	35,422
Deposit account interest		<u>1,335</u>	<u>-</u>
		<u>63,814</u>	<u>35,422</u>
5. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES		2022	2021
	Activity	£	£
Grants	Statutory and rehabilitation services	<u>342,278</u>	<u>402,525</u>
Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:			
		2022	2021
		£	£
W.C.C.		196,164	196,011
Big Lottery		37,509	37,509
Big Lottery (Economic & Social Empowerment)		34,111	60,495
Heart of England (Doing Things Differently)		-	12,000
The Rank Foundation		-	25,000
Other grants below £10,000		<u>74,494</u>	<u>71,510</u>
		<u>342,278</u>	<u>402,525</u>
6. RAISING FUNDS			
Raising donations and legacies		2022	2021
		£	£
Staff costs		44,065	18,927
Postage and stationery		1,363	132
Sundries		828	371
Travel		251	110
Affiliation fees		<u>-</u>	<u>23</u>
		<u>46,507</u>	<u>19,563</u>

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs £	Support costs (see note 8) £	Totals £
Statutory and rehabilitation services	<u>411,870</u>	<u>124,731</u>	<u>536,601</u>

8. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management £	Finance £	Other £	Governance costs £	Totals £
Statutory and rehabilitation services	<u>103,196</u>	<u>604</u>	<u>2,701</u>	<u>18,230</u>	<u>124,731</u>

9. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2022 £	2021 £
Auditors' remuneration	-	6,266
Depreciation - owned assets	4,928	756
Other operating leases	<u>11,795</u>	<u>26,221</u>

10. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2022 nor for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2022 nor for the year ended 31 March 2021.

11. STAFF COSTS

	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	402,352	277,112
Social security costs	30,814	20,025
Other pension costs	<u>11,472</u>	<u>9,926</u>
	<u>444,638</u>	<u>307,063</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2022	2021
Charitable and administrative staff	<u>21</u>	<u>16</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

12. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	962,404	-	962,404
Charitable activities			
Statutory and rehabilitation services	222,732	179,793	402,525
Other trading activities	163	-	163
Investment income	35,422	-	35,422
Other income	10,188	-	10,188
Total	<u>1,230,909</u>	<u>179,793</u>	<u>1,410,702</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	19,563	-	19,563
Charitable activities			
Statutory and rehabilitation services	298,357	138,467	436,824
Other	1,265	-	1,265
Total	<u>319,185</u>	<u>138,467</u>	<u>457,652</u>
Net gains on investments	246,561	-	246,561
NET INCOME	1,158,285	41,326	1,199,611
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	1,360,000	52,093	1,412,093
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>2,518,285</u>	<u>93,419</u>	<u>2,611,704</u>

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Improvements to property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST					
At 1 April 2021	-	19,398	58,677	-	78,075
Additions	396,192	-	-	1,248	397,440
Disposals	-	-	(14,662)	-	(14,662)
At 31 March 2022	<u>396,192</u>	<u>19,398</u>	<u>44,015</u>	<u>1,248</u>	<u>460,853</u>
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 April 2021	-	19,398	40,712	-	60,110
Charge for year	-	-	4,616	312	4,928
Eliminated on disposal	-	-	(14,662)	-	(14,662)
At 31 March 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>19,398</u>	<u>30,666</u>	<u>312</u>	<u>50,376</u>
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 March 2022	<u>396,192</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,349</u>	<u>936</u>	<u>410,477</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,965</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,965</u>

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

14. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Listed investments £
MARKET VALUE	
At 1 April 2021	1,895,114
Disposals	<u>(2,362)</u>
Revaluations	<u>105,354</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>1,998,106</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2022	<u>1,998,106</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>1,895,114</u>

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

Cost or valuation at 31 March 2022 is represented by:

	Listed investments £
Valuation in 2022	201,371
Cost	<u>1,796,735</u>
	<u>1,998,106</u>

15. INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	£
FAIR VALUE	
Additions	<u>125,000</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>125,000</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2022	<u>125,000</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>-</u>

16. STOCKS

	2022 £	2021 £
Stocks	<u>2,320</u>	<u>2,347</u>

17. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	471	15,537
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>24,220</u>	<u>12,892</u>
	<u>24,691</u>	<u>28,429</u>

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

18. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	15,273	18,845
Social security and other taxes	7,581	6,941
VAT	859	-
Other creditors	4,451	-
Accruals and deferred income	<u>18,487</u>	<u>40,194</u>
	<u>46,651</u>	<u>65,980</u>

19. LEASING AGREEMENTS

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Within one year	<u>-</u>	<u>7,539</u>

20. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.21	Net movement	Transfers between	At
	£	in funds	funds	31.3.22
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	1,793,527	501,919	(2,295,446)	-
Clubs and branches and other financial obligations	53,197	62	2,007	55,266
Operations contingency fund	271,561	-	128,439	400,000
Innovation fund	250,000	-	150,000	400,000
Rehabilitation reserve	100,000	-	(100,000)	-
Combined Premises reserve	45,000	30,000	320,000	395,000
Pension reserve	5,000	-	(5,000)	-
Long term investment	-	-	1,800,000	1,800,000
	<u>2,518,285</u>	<u>531,981</u>	-	<u>3,050,266</u>
Restricted funds				
Home visitor service general	-	3,793	-	3,793
Advice desks	-	2,932	-	2,932
Economic/social empowerment	31,687	(19,186)	-	12,501
Vision support centres	38,029	(17,229)	-	20,800
Clubs	-	6,527	208	6,735
Telephone Befriending	6,740	(6,740)	-	-
Home visitor (Stratford) only	1,319	(1,319)	-	-
Equipment	2,929	(1,826)	-	1,103
Clubs (Stratford only)	208	-	(208)	-
Pop-ups	11,792	(11,792)	-	-
Equipment for service user 1	633	(633)	-	-
Equipment for service user 2	82	(82)	-	-
	<u>93,419</u>	<u>(45,555)</u>	-	<u>47,864</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>2,611,704</u>	<u>486,426</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,098,130</u>

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

20. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	808,669	(412,442)	105,692	501,919
Clubs and branches and other financial obligations	62	-	-	62
Premises reserve	-	30,000	-	30,000
	808,731	(382,442)	105,692	531,981
Restricted funds				
Home visitor service general	24,801	(21,008)	-	3,793
Advice desks	19,795	(16,863)	-	2,932
Economic/social empowerment	46,612	(65,798)	-	(19,186)
Vision support centres	43,078	(60,307)	-	(17,229)
Clubs	11,208	(4,681)	-	6,527
Telephone Befriending	3,900	(10,640)	-	(6,740)
Magazine	230	(230)	-	-
Access to work	2,987	(2,987)	-	-
Home visitor (Stratford) only	2,500	(3,819)	-	(1,319)
Equipment	-	(1,826)	-	(1,826)
Pop-ups	-	(11,792)	-	(11,792)
Equipment for service user 1	-	(633)	-	(633)
Equipment for service user 2	-	(82)	-	(82)
	155,111	(200,666)	-	(45,555)
TOTAL FUNDS	963,842	(583,108)	105,692	486,426

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

20. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.20 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.21 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	852,282	941,245	1,793,527
Clubs and branches and other financial obligations	52,718	479	53,197
Operations contingency fund	25,000	246,561	271,561
Innovation fund	250,000	-	250,000
Rehabilitation reserve	100,000	-	100,000
Premises reserve	75,000	(30,000)	45,000
Pension reserve	5,000	-	5,000
	<u>1,360,000</u>	<u>1,158,285</u>	<u>2,518,285</u>
Restricted funds			
Economic/social empowerment	17,470	14,217	31,687
Vision support centres	-	38,029	38,029
Telephone Befriending	-	6,740	6,740
Home visitor (S Warwickshire) only	802	(802)	-
Home visitor (Stratford) only	2,177	(858)	1,319
Advice desks (R & S only)	12,469	(12,469)	-
IT4U (staff costs only)	6,441	(6,441)	-
Equipment	-	2,929	2,929
Clubs (Stratford only)	-	208	208
Pop-ups	12,019	(227)	11,792
Equipment for service user 1	633	-	633
Equipment for service user 2	82	-	82
	<u>52,093</u>	<u>41,326</u>	<u>93,419</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>1,412,093</u></u>	<u><u>1,199,611</u></u>	<u><u>2,611,704</u></u>

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

20. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	1,229,165	(287,920)	-	941,245
Clubs and branches and other financial obligations	1,744	(1,265)	-	479
Operations contingency fund	-	-	246,561	246,561
Premises reserve	-	(30,000)	-	(30,000)
	<u>1,230,909</u>	<u>(319,185)</u>	<u>246,561</u>	<u>1,158,285</u>
Restricted funds				
Economic/social empowerment	60,495	(46,278)	-	14,217
Vision support centres	47,392	(9,363)	-	38,029
Telephone Befriending	28,641	(21,901)	-	6,740
Home visitor (S Warwickshire) only	300	(1,102)	-	(802)
Home visitor (Stratford) only	3,194	(4,052)	-	(858)
Advice desks (R & S only)	-	(12,469)	-	(12,469)
Advice desks (Stratford) only	2,000	(2,000)	-	-
IT4U (staff costs only)	-	(6,441)	-	(6,441)
Equipment	5,048	(2,119)	-	2,929
Clubs (Stratford only)	1,000	(792)	-	208
Pop-ups	-	(227)	-	(227)
Home Visitor (N Warwickshire)	991	(991)	-	-
Advice Desks (all)	1,000	(1,000)	-	-
Advice Desks (Warwick only)	3,154	(3,154)	-	-
Nuneaton & Bedworth only	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Remote IT4U	12,000	(12,000)	-	-
Virtual VSC	9,578	(9,578)	-	-
	<u>179,793</u>	<u>(138,467)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>41,326</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,410,702</u>	<u>(457,652)</u>	<u>246,561</u>	<u>1,199,611</u>

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

20. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.4.20 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.22 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	852,282	1,443,164	(2,295,446)	-
Clubs and branches and other financial obligations	52,718	541	2,007	55,266
Operations contingency fund	25,000	246,561	128,439	400,000
Innovation fund	250,000	-	150,000	400,000
Rehabilitation reserve	100,000	-	(100,000)	-
Premises renovation reserve	75,000	-	320,000	395,000
Pension reserve	5,000	-	(5,000)	-
Long term investment	-	-	1,800,000	1,800,000
	<u>1,360,000</u>	<u>1,690,266</u>	-	<u>3,050,266</u>
Restricted funds				
Home visitor service general	-	3,793	-	3,793
Advice desks	-	2,932	-	2,932
Economic/social empowerment	17,470	(4,969)	-	12,501
Vision support centres	-	20,800	-	20,800
Clubs	-	6,527	208	6,735
Home visitor (S Warwickshire) only	802	(802)	-	-
Home visitor (Stratford) only	2,177	(2,177)	-	-
Advice desks (R & S only)	12,469	(12,469)	-	-
IT4U (staff costs only)	6,441	(6,441)	-	-
Equipment	-	1,103	-	1,103
Clubs (Stratford only)	-	208	(208)	-
Pop-ups	12,019	(12,019)	-	-
Equipment for service user 1	633	(633)	-	-
Equipment for service user 2	82	(82)	-	-
	<u>52,093</u>	<u>(4,229)</u>	-	<u>47,864</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>1,412,093</u></u>	<u><u>1,686,037</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>3,098,130</u></u>

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

20. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	2,037,834	(700,362)	105,692	1,443,164
Clubs and branches and other financial obligations	1,806	(1,265)	-	541
Operations contingency fund	-	-	<u>246,561</u>	<u>246,561</u>
	2,039,640	(701,627)	352,253	1,690,266
Restricted funds				
Home visitor service general	24,801	(21,008)	-	3,793
Advice desks	19,795	(16,863)	-	2,932
Economic/social empowerment	107,107	(112,076)	-	(4,969)
Vision support centres	90,470	(69,670)	-	20,800
Clubs	11,208	(4,681)	-	6,527
Telephone Befriending	32,541	(32,541)	-	-
Magazine	230	(230)	-	-
Access to work	2,987	(2,987)	-	-
Home visitor (S Warwickshire) only	300	(1,102)	-	(802)
Home visitor (Stratford) only	5,694	(7,871)	-	(2,177)
Advice desks (R & S only)	-	(12,469)	-	(12,469)
Advice desks (Stratford) only	2,000	(2,000)	-	-
IT4U (staff costs only)	-	(6,441)	-	(6,441)
Equipment	5,048	(3,945)	-	1,103
Clubs (Stratford only)	1,000	(792)	-	208
Pop-ups	-	(12,019)	-	(12,019)
Equipment for service user 1	-	(633)	-	(633)
Equipment for service user 2	-	(82)	-	(82)
Home Visitor (N Warwickshire)	991	(991)	-	-
Advice Desks (all)	1,000	(1,000)	-	-
Advice Desks (Warwick only)	3,154	(3,154)	-	-
Nuneaton & Bedworth only	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Remote IT4U	12,000	(12,000)	-	-
Virtual VSC	<u>9,578</u>	<u>(9,578)</u>	-	-
	<u>334,904</u>	<u>(339,133)</u>	-	<u>(4,229)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>2,374,544</u>	<u>(1,040,760)</u>	<u>352,253</u>	<u>1,686,037</u>

General funds are available for use at the directors/trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are amounts set aside out of general funds for use on specific projects.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

21. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme in respect of certain employees. The scheme and its assets are held by independent managers. The pension charge represents contributions due from the charity and amounted to £9,213 (2021 - £8,209). Outstanding contributions to the fund at the year end totalled £3,783 (2021 - (1,415)).

Defined benefit plans

The charity participates in the Warwickshire County Council Pension Fund, a multi-employer defined benefit final salary scheme where the share of the assets and liabilities applicable to each employer is not identifiable. As such the scheme is accounted for as if it was a defined contribution scheme. The amount recognised as an expense in the period was £1,790 (2021 - £1,717) and there was a defined benefit contribution liability of £189 (2021 - £231) at the year end.

22. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2022.

23. CONTROLLING INTERESTS

The director/trustees are considered to be the ultimate controlling parties by virtue of their ability to act in concert in respect of the financial and operating policies of the charity.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND**

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

	2022 £	2021 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	12,128	11,225
Gift aid	2,319	-
Legacies	<u>530,606</u>	<u>951,179</u>
	545,053	962,404
Other trading activities		
Fundraising events	10,200	163
Investment income		
Rents received	10,039	-
Investment portfolio income	52,440	35,422
Deposit account interest	<u>1,335</u>	<u>-</u>
	63,814	35,422
Charitable activities		
Grants	342,278	402,525
Other income		
Contributions from clubs	-	94
Sundry income	2,435	8,350
Income from clubs and branches	<u>62</u>	<u>1,744</u>
	2,497	10,188
Total incoming resources	963,842	1,410,702
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Wages	39,837	17,082
Social security	3,081	1,234
Pensions	1,147	611
Postage and stationery	1,363	132
Sundries	828	371
Travel	251	110
Affiliation fees	<u>-</u>	<u>23</u>
	46,507	19,563
Charitable activities		
Wages	362,515	260,030
Social security	27,733	18,791
Pensions	10,325	9,315
Postage and stationery	241	-
Travel	<u>11,056</u>	<u>3,936</u>
	411,870	292,072
Support costs		
Management		
Rent and service charges	11,795	26,221
Carried forward	11,795	26,221

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND**

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

	2022 £	2021 £
Management		
Brought forward	11,795	26,221
Business rates	3,688	2,355
Insurance	9,351	8,012
Light, heat & water	3,208	1,348
Telephone	7,121	6,711
Postage	659	1,539
Photocopying and printing	12,407	1,389
Stationery	1,278	1,081
Recruitment	2,944	4,872
Travel	790	21
Training	4,309	7,876
Equipment supplied	8,736	4,197
Computer system	12,344	6,774
Affiliation fees	-	75
DBS disclosures	1,920	1,011
Transport for home visitors	-	467
Warwickshire Vision magazine	-	4,699
Repairs and maintenance	(13,549)	36,016
Office equipment maintenance	7,897	2,520
Sundry	23,370	6,243
Resources expended by clubs	-	1,265
Depreciation of tangible and heritage assets	4,928	756
	<u>103,196</u>	<u>125,448</u>
Finance		
Bank charges	604	-
Other		
Investment manager fees	2,701	1,880
Governance costs		
Auditors' remuneration	-	6,266
Legal & professional fees	11,736	12,423
Accountancy fees	6,494	-
	<u>18,230</u>	<u>18,689</u>
Total resources expended	<u>583,108</u>	<u>457,652</u>
Net income before gains and losses	380,734	953,050
Realised recognised gains and losses		
Realised gains/(losses) on fixed asset investments	<u>105,692</u>	<u>246,561</u>
Net income	<u>486,426</u>	<u>1,199,611</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

England & Wales - Charity number 1123220

Accounts



Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements

Year-end 31st March 2021

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Vision

A world where sight loss is not a barrier to life.

Mission Statement

To improve the quality of life of visually impaired people in Warwickshire by:

1. Helping people come to terms with visual loss
2. Developing accessible advice, information and support services, which enable visually impaired people to have more choice, greater independence and healthier lifestyles.

What we do

For 110 years, Warwickshire Vision Support has aimed to improve the quality of life of visually impaired people by helping them come to terms with visual loss. As a local charity for local people, we have developed accessible advice, information and support services which promote more choice, greater independence and healthier lifestyles.

This includes:

- Teaching new skills to improve mobility in the community and safety in the home through our Rehabilitation Service
- Providing access to advice, information and guidance through our Vision Support Centres
- Giving information and support to people at the point of diagnosis through our Eye Clinic Advice Desks
- Reducing isolation through Home Visiting and Telephone Befriending services
- Promoting social networks through our 14 social clubs
- Promoting social inclusion and empowerment through IT Training and Advocacy

In June 2020, the volunteers of Warwickshire Vision Support received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service - the Charity equivalent of an MBE.

Legal and Administrative Information

Operating Name	Warwickshire Vision Support
Registered Name	Warwickshire Association for the Blind
Charity Reg No:	1123220
Governing instrument	<p>The Association is a Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England & Wales No. 6511954.</p> <p>The Memorandum of Association and the Articles of Association comply with The Companies Act 2006. The Company was formed on 1 April 2008</p>
Directors/Trustees	The Board of Directors/Trustees is listed on page 7
Registered office	<p>5 Charles Court Budbrooke Road Warwick Warwickshire CV34 5LZ</p>
Bankers	<p>Lloyds Bank Warwick Branch 12 Swan Street Warwick CV34 4BJ</p>
Auditors	<p>Dafferns LLP One Eastwood Harry Weston Road Binley Business Park Coventry CV3 2UB</p>
Investment Managers	<p>Barclays Wealth & Investment Management One Snowhill, Snow Hill Queensway, Birmingham B4 6GN Quilter Cheviot Investment Management Two Snow Hill, Snow Hill Queensway, Birmingham B4 6GA</p>

Officers of the Association

Patron	Dame Judi Dench
Chair	Liz Thiebe
Vice Chairman	Richard Orme
Treasurer	Keith Eales ACMA CGMA
Trustee /Company Secretary	Heather Fairbairn
Trustee	David Adams
Trustee	Stacey Fennell
Trustee	Amer Herian
Trustee	Janet Hurrell
Trustee	Martyn Parker
Trustee	Melanie Pritchard
Trustee (co-opted July 2021)	Susan Ayres
Trustee (co-opted July 2021)	Kamal Dairo
Trustee (co-opted July 2021)	Hassan Ejaz
Trustee (co-opted July 2021)	Rosemary Robinson

Retiring Trustees/Directors/Vice President

Alan Last (Resigned September 2020) Christine Ramble (Retired November 2020)
 Rosemary Went (Retired November 2020) Sheila Venville (January 2021) Mark
 Rogers (Resigned April 2021)

Judy Murdoch, Vice President (Retired January 2021)

Report of the Directors/Trustees

The Directors/Trustees present their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021. The Directors/Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS102) in preparing the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Charity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the charities Act 2011 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 published in October 2019.

The Charity was established in 1911. It is an incorporated association being a Company Limited by Guarantee governed by its Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association. The object of the Association is to promote the welfare of blind and partially sighted people resident in Warwickshire and Coventry by the provision of good quality services, in collaboration with other voluntary and statutory organisations.

On 1 November 2014 the Association changed its operating name to Warwickshire Vision Support. In all instances the name Warwickshire Vision Support refers to the registered name Warwickshire Association for the Blind.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Association is managed by a Board of Directors/Trustees. They are bound by the Memorandum and Articles of Association, which comply with The Companies Act 2006. They are also bound by Charity Commission legislation.

Each year one third of the Directors/Trustees retire by rotation and seek re-election. The Directors/Trustees meet at least quarterly to receive and action management accounts. Additional meetings are scheduled throughout the year to address specific issues and training. The work of the Directors/Trustees is organised into four sub-committees which are responsible for producing reports and recommendations to the Board.

Under the Articles of Association, the Directors/Trustees are permitted to appoint a Chief Executive Officer who has day-to-day responsibility for the management of staff and the running of the Association. The current C.E.O. is Phil Arkell.

Selection of Directors/Trustees, Induction and Training

Directors/Trustees are required to have a professional or commercial background with a knowledge of business management, and one or more specialties such as

legal, HR, financial, publicity, fundraising and administration. We also seek people who have experience of living with sight loss or are professionals in eye care. Applicants are invited to an interview with our Selection Committee, as defined in the Articles of Association. After interview, the Selection Committee report to the Board, which may invite the Applicant to attend Board meetings on an ad-hoc basis with no right to vote. After attending a minimum of two meetings, the Board may co-opt the Applicant as a Director/Trustee. All Directors/Trustees are required to attend seminars and training to ensure that they are aware of changes in legislation.

Key Management Remuneration

The salary of the CEO is determined by the Chair of the Board of Trustees in consultation with the Human Resources Committee following an annual performance appraisal and an assessment of appropriate market rates for the position.

Risk Management

The Directors/Trustees acknowledge the requirement to continually review all areas of risk: financial, operational, regulatory, and strategic. To assist in this process, four subcommittees oversee the areas of Finance, HR, Profile and Fundraising and Business Development.

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 it continues 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.

Principle Risks and Uncertainties

That future income will not match the growth plans of the Charity.

The charity has been working hard to reduce its financial reliance of the income of the contract with WCC for the Rehabilitation Service by developing new income streams and raising the profile of the charity to increase community fundraising and donations from local community groups.

Our contracted and charitable activities are designed to reach as many people as possible with the resources available. However, we know the number of people acquiring sight loss is expected to grow significantly in the coming years. This will increase demand for services. We are exploring ways of improving our efficiencies and maximising the amazing value that our volunteers give to us. One part of our new strategy is to enhance the volunteer support, and we have hired a full time volunteer coordinator.

The Board of Trustees approved the appointment of a full-time Fundraising Officer in March 2021 to supplement the work of the part time fundraiser. This will increase income generating potential to match the proposed increase in expenditure.

Where possible, we will seek NHS funding to support our hospital-based activities thereby reducing the burden on our fundraising target.

The Charity fails to comply with statutory and quality requirements and is unable to continue service provision.

We take the health and safety, privacy and well-being of our service users, volunteers and staff very seriously. This is evident from our policies and procedures.

We did not meet our objective in 2020/21 to reach ISO 9001 accreditation and we have rolled this objective to the next fiscal year. This quality management system is an essential tool in ensuring that processes and procedures are consistent across the organisation and compliant with the regulatory environment.

The Board of Trustees monitors quality indicators each month in the CEOs report. Staff receive regular 1:1 support whilst personal professional development is proactively encouraged.

The charity regularly reviews policies and procedures to ensure they meet the exacting standards our service users and commissioner require.

Other risks.

Key Risks	Mitigation
Recruitment and retention of key employees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff benefits are reviewed annually. • Investment in staff training • Succession Planning
Health and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies are in place in accordance with the legal environment. • Training of staff • Reporting of incidents
Safeguarding – potential harm to service user	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies and procedures in place • Training for staff and volunteers
Governance – failure to ensure effective leadership and oversight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board has undertaken a skills audit from which a plan is developed to recruit trustees with different skills and experience. • Use of Charity Commission guidance and literature in Trustee induction and daily practice to ensure

	<p>each person fully understands their roles and responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate training for Trustees provided
Reputational damage – failing to deliver a contractual obligation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targets are regularly reviewed to ensure the charity is meeting them. • Regular interaction with commissioners and grant managers to ensure free flow of information and a common understanding of what is expected
Expenditure exceeding income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realistic budgets are set based upon previous expenditure and scope of activity. • Management accounts produced monthly for scrutiny by the Finance Committee. • Forecasts reviewed regularly
Cash flow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash flow projections in place based upon expected income and expenditure based on historic data and predicted future requirements
Data breach/loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT support and security is outsourced to an expert provider (C4Secure) • Staff training in GDPR • Migration to Microsoft 365 to reduce reliance upon our own server
Legal compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing training of management team • Legal and professional advice sought as necessary. • HR support provided by external agency

Risks specific to the Covid 19 Pandemic.

The table below highlights risk, and the mitigation measures we have taken:

Risk	Mitigation
The charity will be unable to deliver its traditional services for a prolonged period during lockdown	<p>The team has developed a range of virtual support services, telephone befriending services and welfare checks to ensure that WVS can continue to deliver a service to its beneficiaries.</p> <p>The Rehabilitation Service will work closely with the Commissioner to ensure service delivery meets expectations.</p>

<p>Fundraising income will drop as community fundraising and trusts, and foundations focus on Covid 19 specific issues</p>	<p>Donors will be contacted to seek permission to direct funds towards our Covid 19 effort.</p> <p>Applications for Covid 19 support will be submitted to Trusts for consideration.</p> <p>A budgetary review will be undertaken to reduce expenditure where possible.</p> <p>The receipt of large legacy gifts during the year will help the charity weather any drop in income in the short term.</p>
<p>The need for long term home working will interfere with the smooth running of the charity</p>	<p>The transition to Charitylog and the installation of the new VOIP phone system has made the transition to home working relatively seamless. Home working will be the model for the future reducing office space expenses.</p> <p>Business continuity plan to guide us to ensure the smooth delivery of services</p>
<p>Staff sickness impacts on service delivery</p>	<p>With a small team our activities are susceptible to high levels of sickness. Office closure and appropriate social distancing can help mitigate the likelihood of many team members falling sick at any one time</p>

Fundraising Regulator Statement of Compliance

Warwickshire Vision Support does not contract to a third party to undertake any fundraising on its behalf. The charity does employ a Fundraising Officer who initiates campaigns and supports WVS volunteers in fundraising activities. We have received no fundraising complaints during the year.

The charity only makes fundraising approaches to members and volunteers who have given explicit consent to receive such campaign documentation under GDPR guidelines. The charity limits any fundraising approaches to members to one or two approaches in any twelve months period.

Where an individual is considered vulnerable, extra care is taken to ensure that the person making the donation is fully aware of their decision and, if appropriate, a personal representative (family member) is involved in the process.

Public Benefit

We have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. Warwickshire Vision Support aims to improve the quality of life for visually impaired

people living in the area, by providing services including Advice Desks, Clubs and Vision Support Centres where visually impaired people can meet and get the support that they require and also by working in collaboration with other voluntary and statutory organisations.

Directors/Trustees Responsibilities in Relation to the Financial Statements

The Directors/Trustees are responsible for preparing their report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

Company law requires the Directors/Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the Directors/Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable U.K. Accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Directors/Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

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

Objectives and Activities

Warwickshire Vision Support provides registration and rehabilitation services to people with a visual impairment in Warwickshire. These activities are funded and provided under a service level agreement with Warwickshire County Council. In addition, the Association provides a range of charitable support services aimed at combating isolation and improving the quality of life for visually impaired people living in Warwickshire.

Financial Review

This year, the charity generated a significant surplus of £1,199,611 with further disbursements during the year of £945,179 in the form of legacy gifts that started in 2020 from a grateful service user.

The Board of Trustees decided that these payments should be divided with a proportion invested in our portfolio for the long-term financial health of the charity whilst the balance will be invested in the purchase of a property to house the charity and to develop services in line with the strategy.

The Board is satisfied that the provisions put in place over the last few years are now delivering both a sustainable budget and realistic fundraising targets which are fundamental to the long-term financial health of the charity.

Investment Policy

The Board of Trustees takes the responsibility of managing charity funds very seriously. In order to reduce risk, the Board has invested its funds into two separate investment portfolios specific to the charity sector. The strategy behind the investments is to achieve both capital growth and income from dividends of at least 3%.

The purchase of new premises for its office in the next financial year is also considered a further diversification of investments.

Reserves Policy

Unrestricted reserves which include designated reserves are funds which are set aside to safeguard the financial and operational wellbeing of the charity in the event of an unforeseen and sudden loss of income. The reserve can be spent on anything which advances the objectives of the charity.

Trustees review the reserves each year to ensure they are at a level that is appropriate based on changing economic, environmental and other risk considerations.

Trustees also consider what additional level of reserve is required to provide for exceptional or one-off expense items that might arise. This would include such things as urgent building repairs that are not covered by normal preventative maintenance work.

At 31 March 2021 the total level of unrestricted reserves was £2,518,285 (2020: £1,360,000).

Trustees will continue to review this throughout the year to establish:

- the funding requirements for improvements at new premises
- the effects on liquidity from the loss of donation income and other impacts of

the pandemic.

- funding set aside for projects yet to be identified for implementation during the year.
- the outputs from a more general review of risk in the charity risk register

Restricted reserves are those surplus funds carried forward from income received with a restricted purpose after deducting expenditure in the delivery of activities in line with the donor's specifications. At the 31 March 2021 the total restricted reserve was £93,419 (2020: £52,093)

Statement from the Chair, Board of Trustees

The gift of possibilities: A look ahead

As I sit down to write this introduction for our 2020-21 annual report, my mind returns to what we were planning at the beginning of our fiscal year. We, like many other charities were expecting a shorter pandemic and a faster progression back to a more normal life. Although many of our plans were put on hold, our planning and support for our community did not stop. As you will read in this report, our volunteers and staff have found remarkable ways to connect with our community in service to those with sight loss.

This year, we also focused our time with a strategy refresh. The large legacy gift received in 2020, created the opportunity for us to review what we do, where we are located and roles for volunteers and staff. We have established how we will utilise the funds to benefit more people in new ways by asking those with sight loss what they need. You will read about our implementation workstreams that come from this refreshed strategy. Our volunteer trustees, advisors and staff, including many with visual impairment, developed the workstream plans. We are excited about the outputs of this work, and we are tracking some early signs of successful implementation.

Many thanks to our volunteers, staff, advisors, and fellow volunteer trustees. A special thank you to trustees who have rotated off the board, Rosemary Went, Alan Last and Mark Rogers. And a special recognition to the contribution from Trustee Sheila Venville. And finally a farewell and thanks to Judy Murdock who has served the sight loss community of Warwickshire with energy and expertise in the roles of Vice President and Chair of the Trustee.

A look ahead for me is a bright one. We are looking forward to new volunteers and staff joining the charity and four new trustees joining our board, expanding our diversity and expertise.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liz Thiebe'.

Liz Thiebe, Chair

Chief Executive's Report

I am proud to say that in a year of adversity, Warwickshire Vision Support stepped up to the plate to deliver a range of new innovative services to combat the practical challenges and isolation of the pandemic.

We replaced our face-to-face services with telephone befriending, welfare calls and virtual support groups and IT training delivered both by phone and through Zoom. Meanwhile, our rehabilitation team has continued to deliver advice and support as required and made home visits when guidance permitted.

This success, so aptly represented by the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service was, in large part, due to our exceptional volunteers who continue to make a positive difference to the lives of people living with sight loss in Warwickshire.

Strategy Refresh

Thanks to a substantial legacy gift, both this year and last year, we launched a strategy refresh. This game-changing sum of approximately £2 million means that for the first time in many years, we have the resources to invest in our services.

The overriding outcome of the review is the principle of providing a seamless, holistic service to people living with sight loss from the point of diagnosis, through visual impairment rehabilitation to long term social support.

The outcomes of the review are divided into 8 different workstreams – each contributing to how we can improve our services to people living with sight loss in Warwickshire.

Strategic Services Review Workstream

One of the first workstreams established considered what services we currently delivered, what service gaps could we identify and which of these gaps could/should we fill.

The following service developments were agreed:

- Existing services would continue and would be enhanced to reflect feedback from our service users.
- We will expand the Vision Support Centres to include 7 additional monthly support centres in Alcester, Atherstone, Bedworth, Coleshill, Kenilworth, Shipston-on-Stour and Southam. At the same time, we will improve our offer at the support centres and offer a greater variety of activities and services throughout the year.
- The Telephone Befriending service will be integrated into the Home Visiting service providing a choice of service delivery to both recipients and volunteers.

- To expand the eye clinic advice desks to deliver the equivalent of 2 full days per week at Nuneaton (Camp Hill), Stratford and Warwick Hospitals where there has been only limited ECLO provision. We will continue to partner with the RNIB ECLO service at Rugby.
- To expand the IT service through a more effective use of our amazing volunteers so that we can provide services both from our support centres and at home.
- To provide access to computer terminals via our new premises to facilitate access to employment etc.

Staffing Review Workstream

To achieve the proposed service developments, it was essential to assess the staffing resources necessary for delivery.

A full review of staffing was undertaken resulting in the creation of 7 new positions across the charity ranging from Vision Support Officers for our face-to-face services, through to a Marketing and Communications Officer, an additional Fundraiser and a new Administration and Finance Manager

Relocation Review Workstream

For the last 12 years, the charity has been based in leased premises at Charles Court in Warwick. Although functional for administrative purposes, the premises were difficult for visually impaired people to access, and we struggled to raise our profile with such low footfall. Our objective is to have a hub, and spoke model, with a presence across the county.

The Board of Trustees approved the search for a new hub premises with the following criteria.

- High footfall with a shop front that can promote our services to the general public.
- Within easy access of local buses and car parks
- Sufficient space to be able to deliver services.
- A property that will serve as a long-term investment to sustain the financial health of the charity.

It is anticipated that a property which can fulfil these criteria will be purchased during 2021.

Marketing and Communications Workstream

Developing our public profile is fundamental to the success of WVS. People living with sight loss and their families need to know about our services and we need to secure funding support from the local community.

Our goal is that Warwickshire Vision Support is recognised as **the** primary sight loss charity in Warwickshire.

To achieve this goal, we employed a full time Marketing and Communications Officer – someone with the skills to develop our social media profile, update our branding and to bring cohesion to our internal and external communications.

Valuing Volunteers Review Workstream

Our volunteers represent our single greatest asset. We have invested in volunteering over the last few years with impressive results. However, it is essential that we continue to build and develop our volunteer offer, so volunteers feel valued and wish to remain with the charity.

It has been agreed to make the following changes:

- To upgrade our induction, training and support for volunteers
- To improve our communications and reporting structures with volunteers
- To define more varied and challenging volunteer roles to improve levels of personal satisfaction.
- To agree a branding strategy for our volunteers so that we all have a sense of identity.
- To run recognition events for our volunteers and creating a greater sense of community
- To fund a full time volunteer coordinator

Partnerships/Relationships Review Workstream

Warwickshire Vision Support does not operate in a vacuum. It is essential that, if we are to provide quality seamless services to our service users, we must develop mutually beneficial relationships with other organisations.

The following has been agreed:

- To map all relevant local and national organisations with whom we could partner to achieve our strategic goal of providing seamless services to people living with sight loss in Warwickshire.
- To identify what each party could benefit from any such partnership and establish how such a partnership would benefit our service users.
- To approach these organisations to explore more possibilities for working together.

Reaching New People Review

We are very proud to work with 3,200 people across Warwickshire, but we know there are about 20,000 people living with permanent and uncorrectable sight loss in Warwickshire. It is important that we reach out to these other people.

To this end, we have developed strategies to reach the following groups:

- BAME communities across the county through interaction with faith-based and community-based organisations

- The rurally isolated groups through the expansion of our support centres, home visiting and telephone befriending services
- Developing new services like our walking group newly established in Warwick.
- Exploring how we can improve our offer to working age and younger visually impaired people.

Preparing for Tender Review Workstream

Retaining the contract for the provision of visual impairment rehabilitation and registration services is important to WVS. This service represents a fundamental link between our work in the hospitals and our support in the community. It enables us to provide a seamless service for people living with sight loss in Warwickshire.

This holistic approach also offers great value to the local authority. Rather than purchasing a standalone service, that works in relative isolation, they, and more importantly, our clients benefit from the raft of charitable services that are integrated into individual support packages.

As the contract comes up for renewal in the coming year, it is important to us that our approach, and this amazing added value, is understood and fully appreciated by all our stakeholders.

Efficiencies Review Workstream

Of course, we can always improve our response times and our own internal efficiency. We will be examining all aspects of our operations to see how we can improve performance, reduce waste and ensure that we remain customer focussed.

Fundraising Review Workstream

In order to fund the new strategy, it is important that we boost our income.

Therefore, we are expanding our income streams to maximise income that we can generate from individual giving campaigns, corporate donors, community fundraising and legacy gifts. To achieve this, the Board of Trustees approved the appointment of an additional fundraising officer.

Sight Loss in Warwickshire

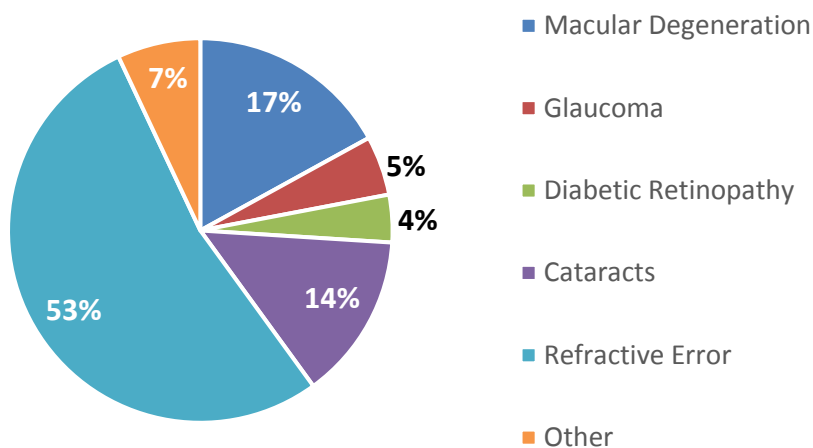
For many people, sight loss is acquired late in life. The number of people registered blind or partially sighted in Warwickshire over 65 years old dropped from 72% to 69% over the last 12 months. This swing in the numbers does not represent a fundamental change in the demographics of sight loss but are more likely a result of the pandemic and our ability to cleanse the register after contacting all 3,200 people on our database.

At Warwickshire Vision Support, we believe that early intervention visual impairment rehabilitation can have a major positive impact on the quality of life of the individual. We endeavour to support the person from the point of diagnosis, through rehabilitation to long term social and emotional support.

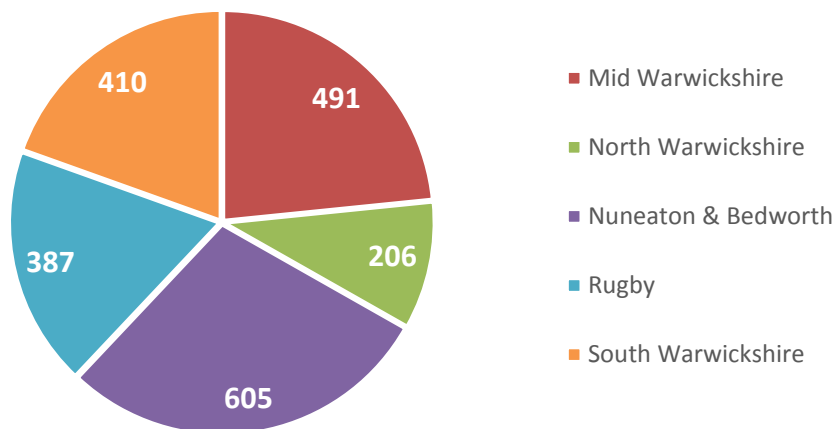
However, it is estimated that there are 20,610 people living with permanent and uncorrectable sight loss in Warwickshire (RNIB Sight Loss Data Tool 2020). This is 17,000 more people that are currently known to us. These are people who do not qualify to be registered as blind or partially sighted but have daily practical difficulties with their vision - perhaps not being able to drive or are struggling to read regular sized print.

With the resources we have available, our aim is to help as many of these people as possible to come to terms with their vision loss.

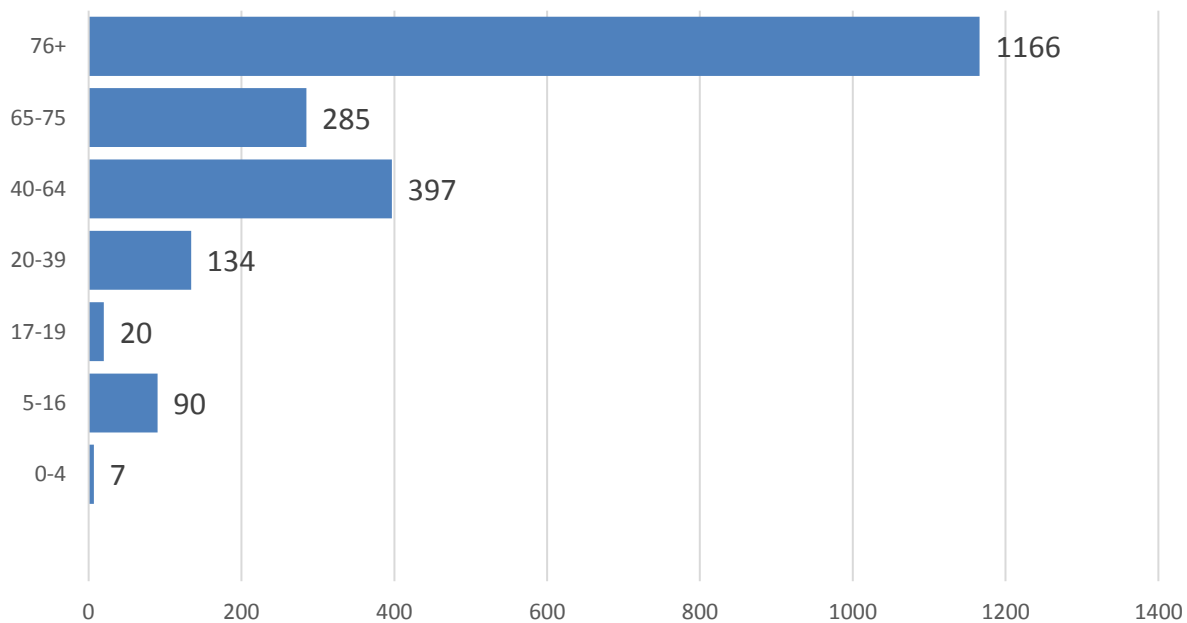
Causes of sight loss in Warwickshire



Number of people living with sight loss by area



Number of people living with sight loss by age



Covid 19 Response

We are very pleased to report that we responded quickly and effectively to the pandemic. Within weeks, we were able to triage the 3,200 people on our database to ensure that each person had access to practical and emotional support.

Although our office has closed intermittently over the last 12 months, we have endeavoured to ensure that the service provided is uninterrupted. To this end, we have now moved across to a long-term community-based and home working model for our team so that we have maximum flexibility for the future.

We particularly want to thank our volunteers who made a supreme effort to support us during the last year.

Rehabilitation Service

This year the Rehabilitation Team received 773 referrals including 223 people newly registered as sight impaired (partially sighted) or severely sight impaired (blind).

This is 122 fewer referrals than the previous year – this is a direct result of the closure of hospital eye clinics. Despite this, 223 people were registered during the period, 18 more than the previous year.

For large parts of the year, we were unable to deliver face-to-face services except in the most urgent of cases. Whilst allocation of a rehabilitation officer and the following telephone contact/assessment were met within 7 working days, home visits were postponed pending public health guidance. We are doing all that we can to offer home visits to those people as soon as possible. To this end, we have increased direct rehabilitation hours by one day per week.

In place of home visits, the team included supporting people over the telephone and by providing printed materials and equipment. This has since been enhanced by our new 'Spotlight' sessions comprising three, one-hour sessions over a fixed period. We seek to bring together a small group of people, each newly diagnosed with sight loss, to provide information, advice and guidance on a range of subjects ranging from the information about sight conditions, local services and support and useful equipment.

The sessions are currently hosted by a teleconferencing service to maximise accessibility. In the future we may look to using Zoom or other video conferencing services, but it is important that the digital divide does not impact on access to our services.

We are also pleased to say that we are sponsoring one team member to attend the 2-year Visual Impairment Rehabilitation course at Birmingham City University. This will help us to improve our capacity and resilience going forwards and is a demonstration of our commitment to staff development.

Vision Support Centres

Although we have been unable to deliver face to face support centre sessions during the year, we quickly developed virtual telephone groups to replace the weekly sessions. We delivered 224 sessions with 59 regular participants. These sessions were designed to share information and to enable individuals to maintain contact with friends from the centres.

To supplement these sessions, we launched the video support group for those people who have access to the Internet. We delivered 22 sessions to 33 regular participants. Speakers were invited to make presentations to the group often followed by a lively Q & A session. We plan to continue these sessions to supplement our range of services.

Looking forward, thanks to a grant from the Big Lottery Community Fund, we have funding to expand our support centre network. In addition to the four weekly sessions at Leamington, Nuneaton, Rugby and Stratford, we are launching monthly sessions in Alcester, Atherstone, Bedworth, Coleshill, Kenilworth, Shipston-on-Stour and Southam. By expanding the support centres, we plan to reach those people living in more rural and isolated communities.

Clubs

The suspension of our clubs was undoubtedly a disappointment to both members and volunteers. Throughout the year, our club volunteers have maintained contact with their members to ensure that each person remains connected and informed about the status of the club and our plans for the future.

Home Visitors/Telephone Befriending

The telephone befriending service has been our flagship service during the pandemic. 124 of our volunteers have delivered 4,250 hours of telephone support comprising 11,000 calls to 331 people. Each call lasts on average 20 minutes.

Telephone befriending has enabled us to maintain contact, provide support and helped ensure that anyone who needs help receives it quickly and efficiently. More than 220 welfare and safeguarding issues have been managed.

We plan to continue the telephone befriending service after the pandemic by joining it with the home visitor service. In this way, recipients can choose how they received their support, and our volunteers can choose how to deliver it. We hope that this will create more volunteer opportunities for our visually impaired volunteers as well as those people who want to help but are unable to leave their home.

IT4U

This year we provided remote support to 117 individuals with IT training, demonstration equipment, advice and guidance and/or troubleshooting. Issues

ranged from problems with broadband providers through laptop configuration and software glitches to accessing podcasts and using Zoom.

WVS also participated in a scheme to distribute and provide learning support for 15 Amazon Fire Tablets and 20 Amazon Echo Dot devices to our clients. Feedback on use of the devices was then fed back to the donors to help improve future product design.

Time has also been used to develop large print, easy to use, guides for a number of devices and we have updated the website to include information about various devices and specialist APPS.

Towards the end of the year, we launched our IT video support forum. These regular sessions invited speakers to present and demonstrate equipment and software, providing an opportunity for experience sharing and an interactive Q&A session.

Eye Clinic Advice Desks

With the hospitals going into lockdown, our advice desk services have been suspended for more than 12 months. We maintain regular contact with the clinics and continue to receive referrals from the eye clinic team to provide information, advice and guidance.

We are now looking to secure access to the eye clinics so that we can re-establish our presence.

Supersaver Service

The Supersaver service has supported 85 people this year. Support ranges from helping with applications for Blue Badges and switching utilities to grants for equipment.

WVS made applications for grants on behalf of 6 individuals for pieces of equipment that would have an impactful benefit on the quality of life. This resulted in the purchase of cooker, two microwave ovens, an iPad, a CCTV reader and some general computer equipment.

The proposed changes to the TV licence also brought a deluge of enquiries as people were concerned as to whether they were still eligible for a discount under the new rules.

Communications

The magazine is now circulated to about 2000 people per edition. This includes large print, audio and digital (word or pdf versions). Over the last year, we have worked hard to ensure the magazine reflects the readership. We have many more people-centred articles making the magazine more receptive to reader demand and hopefully more engaging and interactive.

We have developed our digital presence as this is one of the most effective ways of connecting with members of the public. We have increased the number of people who 'like' us on Facebook by 35%. This is very positive since Facebook is currently where we see the most engagement with stakeholders. One post was viewed 7,000 times – something of a record for WVS.

Our website has also experienced much heavier traffic this year. Visits doubled from 5,826 to 11,112 with a 78% increase in new visitors to the site. A sign that more people are hearing about WVS and engaging with us.

As part of our communications strategy, we have standardised emails going out to our volunteers and service users. The average open rate for our email communications is 63% - this compares very favourably with an industry standard of just 25%.

Our Volunteers

In June 2020 WVS Volunteers received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in recognition of the remarkable contribution to people living with sight loss in Warwickshire. The delayed presentation ceremony will occur in the autumn of 2021.

During the year, we recruited 129 new volunteers with the total number standing at 271 volunteers. Ages range from 21 to 102 years old! 74 volunteers recruited during the pandemic are still volunteering for us – the remainder returning to work as furlough was lifted.

We want to say thank you to every volunteer who has supported our activities this year and in the preceding years. The difference you make is incredible.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Arkell'.

Phil Arkell
CEO

Disclosure of information to the auditors

We, the directors of the company who held office at the date of the approval of these Financial Statements as set out above each confirms, so far as we are aware, that:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- We have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken as directors in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

The report of the directors has been prepared taking advantage of the small companies' exemption of section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

On behalf of the board

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liz Thiebe'.

Liz Thiebe, Chair

Date: 30th July 2021

Independent Auditors' Report to the Directors/Trustees of Warwickshire Association for the Blind

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Warwickshire Association for the Blind (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance sheet, Statement of Cashflows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2021, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception.

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 11, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

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

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims;

- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our

auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of report

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G C'.

Geoffrey Cox BA FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of
Dafferns LLP
One Eastwood, Harry Weston Road
Binley Business Park
Coventry
CV3 2UB

Date: 30 July 2021

Statement of Financial Activities

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
Income:	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fundraising Strategy Activities:					
Legacies	4	951,179	-	951,179	820,500
Donations	4	11,225	-	11,225	17,427
Grants	3	28,546	179,793	208,339	147,116
Community collections	6	163	-	163	4,459
Investment income	5	35,422	-	35,422	17,645
Charitable Activities:					
WCC payment for registration and rehabilitation services	2	194,186	-	194,186	194,185
Other income:					
Contributions from club transport	6	94	-	94	568
Sundry Income	6	8,350	-	8,350	15,357
Income generated by clubs and branches	6,20	1,744	-	1,744	22,403
Total Income		1,230,909	179,793	1,410,702	1,239,660

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Expenditure:					
Raising funds	11	21,549	-	21,549	19,088
Charitable Activities:					
Registration and rehabilitation services	11	206,274	-	206,274	190,452
Social support, volunteer and club activities	11	72,518	138,467	210,985	222,837
Governance Costs	12	17,579	-	17,579	8,819
	10	317,920	138,467	456,387	441,196
Resources expended by clubs & branches:	20	1,265	-	1,265	24,401
Total Expenditure:		319,185	138,467	457,652	465,597

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Net gain/(loss) on investments	14	246,561	-	246,561	(166,828)
Net income/(expenditure)	9	1,158,285	41,326	1,199,611	607,235
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		1,158,285	41,326	1,199,611	607,235
Reconciliation of funds:					
At 1 April 2020		1,360,000	52,093	1,412,093	804,858
At 31 March 2021		2,518,285	93,419	2,611,704	1,412,093

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities

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

Balance Sheet

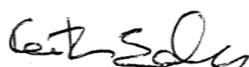
As at 31
March
2021As at 31
March
2020

	Notes	£	£	£	£
Tangible assets	13		17,965		2,551
Investments	14		<u>1,895,114</u>		<u>1,150,434</u>
			1,913,079		1,152,985
Current assets					
Stocks	15	2,347		2,363	
Debtors & Prepayments	16	28,429		31,825	
Cash at bank and in hand	17	<u>733,829</u>		<u>246,615</u>	
		764,605		280,803	
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	<u>(65,980)</u>		<u>(21,695)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>698,625</u>		<u>259,108</u>
Net assets			<u>2,611,704</u>		<u>1,412,093</u>
Funds of the Charity					
General funds	20		1,793,527		852,282
Designated funds	20		<u>724,758</u>		<u>507,718</u>
Total unrestricted funds			2,518,285		1,360,000
Restricted funds	20		93,419		52,093
Total charity funds			<u>2,611,704</u>		<u>1,412,093</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime. These financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors/Trustees and signed on its behalf on 30 July 2021.



Liz Thiebe (Chair)



Keith Eales (Treasurer)

Statement of Cashflows

	Note	2021 £000	2020 £000
Cash flow from operating activities	22	965,524	761,954
Net cash flow from operating activities		<u>965,524</u>	<u>761,954</u>
Cash flow from investing activities			
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets		(16,170)	(3,024)
Payments to acquire investments		(498,820)	(799,038)
Receipts from sales of investments		961	1,248
Net transfer on Barclays deposit account		(260)	(669)
Interest received		557	1,380
Dividends received		35,422	17,645
Net cash flow from investing activities		<u>(478,310)</u>	<u>(782,458)</u>
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		487,214	(20,504)
Cash and cash equivalents at start date 2020		246,615	267,119
Cash and cash equivalents at end date 2021		<u>733,829</u>	<u>246,615</u>
Cash and cash equivalents consists of:			
Cash at bank and in hand		207,430	62,451
Short term deposits		526,399	184,164
Cash and cash equivalents at end date 2021		<u>733,829</u>	<u>246,615</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Accounting policies

General information and basis of preparation

Warwickshire Association for the Blind is an incorporated charity in England and Wales. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 6 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are to promote the welfare of the blind and partially sighted residents in Coventry and Warwickshire by the provision of good quality services in collaboration with other voluntary and statutory organisations.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom & Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are represented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £1.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. The policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

Income

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Voluntary income, including donations and legacies, are recognised where there is entitlement, probable receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

Income from charitable activities includes grant funding subject to specific performance conditions. Grant income included in this category provides funding to support charitable activities and is recognised where there is entitlement, probable receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grant income received from the UK's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has been recognised in the period in which the related staff expense was incurred. This income has been recognised in other income.

Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Costs of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income.

Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Overhead costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Basis of allocation of income and expenditure

Staff salary costs are allocated between Rehabilitation, Support, Administration, Information Service and Fundraising costs on the basis of job description with the CEO split 25% Marketing/Fundraising, 28% Rehabilitation and 47% Administration; one Admin Officer split 50/50 between Administration and Rehabilitation and one part-time Administration Officer being allocated 100% to Rehabilitation. Land telephone costs are split based on phone usage as determined by monitoring checks done on calls. The current split being: - 50% Rehabilitation, 40% Support, 10% Administration.

Support Cost Allocation

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs and administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at Headquarters. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

Volunteers

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustees' Annual Report.

Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is included in the expense heading to which the invoice relates.

Operating leases

Rental payments under operating leases are charged as expenditure as incurred over the term of the lease.

Pension costs

The charity participates in the Warwickshire County Council Pension Fund for 2 employees whose employment pre-dates 2009. The scheme is a multi-employer defined benefit final salary scheme where the share of the assets and liabilities applicable to each employer is not identified. Accordingly, these financial statements include pension costs payable on a

defined contribution basis in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102. The current overall position of the fund and the assumptions made are provided in note 23. Contributions to the scheme are based on applicable pension costs across the participating organisations taken as a whole. The pension charge recorded in these accounts is the amount of contributions payable in the accounting period.

Since the charity's auto-enrolment staging date of October 2016 the rest of the eligible staff have been invited to join a workplace scheme with Royal London and there are currently 12 members of staff on the scheme. The employer's contribution rate for the period April 2020 to March 2021 is 3%.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost. Depreciation is provided to write off the cost of fixed assets over their estimated useful lives, at the following annual rates:-

Fixtures, fittings & equipment: 4 years straight line

Capitalisation policy

Fixed assets with an individual cost of over £1,000 are capitalised.

Investments

Fixed asset investments are stated at their market value at the balance sheet date. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their market value at the start of the period, or their subsequent cost, and are charged or credited to the statement of financial activities in the period of disposal. Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the period and are credited or charged to the statement of financial activities based on the market value at the period end.

The main form of risk faced by the charity's investments is that of volatility in equity markets and investment markets due to the wider economic conditions, the attitude of investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities and in particular sectors or sub sectors.

Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value as determined by the trustees. Net realisable value represents estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost is determined on a first in, first out basis.

Debtors and creditors receivable/payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

When employees have rendered service to the charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service.

Tax

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

2. WCC payment for registration and rehabilitation services

During the twelve months period, a payment of £194,186 (2020: £194,185) was received from Warwickshire County Council to provide for statutory services, registration and rehabilitation support. The grant was wholly attributable to unrestricted funds in both years.

3. Sources of other grants

	2021	2020
	£	£
Dunhill Medical Trust	-	17,050
Big Lottery (Economic & Social Empowerment)	60,495	57,437
W.C.C.	1,825	14,000
Postcode Lottery	-	17,594
Heart of England (Doing Things Differently)	12,000	-
The Rank Foundation	25,000	-
Other grants below £10,000	109,019	41,035
	<u>208,339</u>	<u>147,116</u>

Other grant income was £208,339 (2020: £147,116) of which £179,793 (2020: £139,616) was attributable to restricted funds and £28,546 (2020: £7,500) was attributable to unrestricted funds.

4. Legacies & Donations

During the twelve months period the Association benefited from legacies totalling £951,179 (2020: £820,500) and donations of £11,225 (2020: £17,427).

Income from legacies and donations were wholly attributable to unrestricted funds in both years.

5. Income from investments

Income from investments received during the period of £35,422 (2020: £17,645) related to income from shares, securities and cash held in portfolios managed by Barclays Wealth and Quilter Cheviot, our professional investment managers.

Income from investments were wholly attributable to unrestricted funds in both years.

6. Other Income

	2021	2020
	£	£
Fundraising	163	4,458
Contributions from club transport	94	568
Other income	8,350	15,357
Income from clubs and branches	<u>1,744</u>	<u>22,403</u>

Other income is wholly attributable to unrestricted funds in both years.

Included within the other income is £5,829 of furlough grants from the UK government, having utilised the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, which was made available in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

7. Wages and salaries

	2021	2020
	£	£
Staff costs	277,111	266,532
Social security costs	20,026	18,780
Pension costs	9,926	11,456
	<u>307,063</u>	<u>296,768</u>

	2021	2020
Average number of employees	16	17
Average number of full time equivalent employees	<u>12</u>	<u>11</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

The charity considers its key management personnel as Phil Arkell, the CEO of the charity, who took up the position created in November 2017.

The total amount of employee benefits (including employers NI) received by key management personnel is £54,626 (2020: £53,458)

8. Directors/Trustees expenses reimbursed

Directors/Trustees have received reimbursement for travel expenses totalling £NIL (2020: £610) being wholly in pursuance of carrying out administrative duties. The number of Directors/Trustees who claimed for travel is 0. No Directors/Trustees received any remuneration during the period.

9. Net income/expenditure

This is stated after charging:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Depreciation	756	4,172
Auditors' remuneration - Audit work	5,340	4,380
Auditors' remuneration - Non-audit work	886	608
Operating leases: rent	22,616	22,616

10. Total resources expended	Fund-Raising	Statutory & Rehab Services	Support Vols. & Clubs	Premises	Admin & Gov.	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Staff costs	18,927	116,463	79,995	-	91,678	307,063	296,768
Recruitment	-	-	2,472	-	2,400	4,872	732
Travel	110	3,117	709	-	131	4,067	16,897
Training	-	473	6,503	-	900	7,876	4,558
Equipment supplied	-	3,618	579	-	-	4,197	7,138
Telephone & Broadband	-	3,170	3,541	-	-	6,711	7,506
Depreciation	-	378	378	-	-	756	4,172
Computer system	-	1,635	1,635	-	3,504	6,774	4,026
Affiliation fees and subscriptions	23	-	75	-	-	98	98
Vision Support Centre	-	-	58	-	-	58	5,049
Subtotal carried forward	19,060	128,854	95,945	-	98,613	342,472	346,944

10. Total resources expended	Fund-Raising	Statutory & Rehab Services	Support Vols. & Clubs	Premises	Admin & Gov.	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Subtotal brought forward	19,060	128,854	95,945	-	98,613	342,472	346,944
DBS disclosures	-	-	953	-	-	953	1,825
Transport for home visitor service and clubs	-	-	467	-	-	467	3,922
AGM & Annual Report	-	-	-	-	-	-	757
Warwickshire Vision (magazine)	-	-	4,699	-	-	4,699	5,663
Insurance	-	-	-	309	7,703	8,012	7,777
Rent and service charges	-	-	-	26,221	-	26,221	26,134
Gas, electricity and water	-	-	-	1,348	-	1,348	2,045
Security and fire protection	-	-	-	-	-	-	48
Repairs & maintenance (incl. dilapidations)	-	-	-	36,016	-	36,016	5,571
Business rates	-	-	-	2,355	-	2,355	2,318
Subtotal carried forward	19,060	128,854	102,064	66,249	106,316	422,543	403,004

10. Total resources expended	Fund-Raising	Statutory & Rehab Services	Support Vols. & Clubs	Premises	Admin & Gov.	2021 Total	2020 Total
						£	£
Subtotal brought forward	19,060	128,854	102,064	66,249	106,316	422,543	403,004
Postage	-	-	-	-	1,539	1,539	977
Photocopying and printing	132	-	-	-	1,389	1,521	3,367
Stationery	-	-	-	-	1,081	1,081	1,986
Office equipment & maintenance	-	-	-	-	2,520	2,520	6,982
Other legal & professional fees	-	-	-	-	12,423	12,423	4,702
Investment management fee	-	-	-	-	1,880	1,880	1,608
Auditors remuneration	-	-	-	-	6,266	6,266	4,988
Sundry	371	2,076	1,204	-	2,963	6,614	13,582
Total resources expended	19,563	130,930	103,268	66,249	136,377	456,387	441,196

11. Allocation of overhead costs

The overhead costs of the charity consist of the cost elements, administration and premises costs. These costs have been apportioned across the work of the charity on a basis consistent with the use of resources and have been allocated to each of the charitable activities as set out in the table below.

	Activities undertaken Directly	Admin	Premises	Total
	£	£	£	£
	(note 10)			
Registration and rehabilitation services	130,930	48,844	26,500	206,274
Social support, Volunteer & club activities	103,268	73,266	34,451	210,985
Fundraising	19,563	-	1,986	21,549
Governance	-	14,267	3,312	17,579

£138,467 (2020: £143,856) of the above costs were attributable to restricted funds, the balance being attributable to unrestricted funds.

12. Governance costs

The governance costs of the charity consisted of the following direct and indirect costs.

	2021	2020
	£	£
Auditors' remuneration	6,226	4,988
Trustees' travel expenses	-	610
Trustees' and legal protection insurance	265	302
Legal and professional fees	7,735	179
Other allocated administration costs	41	923
Allocated premises costs	3,312	1,817
	17,579	8,819

13. Tangible fixed assets

The fixed assets consist of furniture, fittings, computers, other office equipment, buildings and premises set up costs. All fixed assets are for charitable purposes.

	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Premises set up & building costs	Total
Cost	£	£	£
At 1 April 2020	42,507	19,398	61,905
Additions	16,170	-	16,170
At 31 March 2021	<u>58,677</u>	<u>19,398</u>	<u>78,075</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2020	39,956	19,398	59,354
Charge for the year	756	-	756
At 31 March 2021	<u>40,712</u>	<u>19,398</u>	<u>60,110</u>
Net book value			
At 31 March 2021	<u>17,965</u>	-	<u>17,965</u>
At 1 April 2020	<u>2,551</u>	-	<u>2,551</u>

14. Investments

	£
Market value at 1 April 2020	1,150,434
Disposal of shares	(961)
Acquisition of shares at cost	498,820
Net transfer to Barclays deposit account	260
Investment profit	246,561
Market value at 31 March 2021	1,895,114

	2021	2020
	£	£
Investments are represented by:		
Multi Asset Class & Other Investments	1,893,029	1,148,611
Cash deposits	2,085	1,823
	<u>1,895,114</u>	<u>1,150,434</u>

Subsidiary

The charity owns 100% of the share capital of Warwickshire Vision Support Limited (Company No: 09058432). This company is dormant and its reserves at 31 March 2021 are £1.

15. Stock

	2021	2020
	£	£
Equipment for issue	2,347	2,363
	<u>2,347</u>	<u>2,363</u>

16. Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade debtors	15,537	15,418
Prepayments	12,892	16,407
Accrued Income		-
	<hr/> 28,429	<hr/> 31,825

17. Cash at bank and in hand

	2021	2020
	£	£
Lloyds current account	171,093	28,365
Aldermore Business Savings	85,176	81,671
Scottish Widows	16,269	17,987
Nationwide Savings	84,954	84,506
Redwood Bank	85,000	-
National Counties Building Society	85,000	-
Saffron Building Society	85,000	-
Hampshire Trust Bank	85,000	-
Cash in hand	66	91
Cash at bank (branches and clubs)	36,271	33,995
	<hr/> 733,829	<hr/> 246,615

18. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade Creditors	18,845	9,857
Accruals and deferred income	40,194	5,330
Taxation, social security and pension	6,941	6,508
	65,980	21,695

19. Leasing commitments

Land and buildings

	2021	2020
	£	£
At 31 March 2021 the charity has total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:		
Annual lease amount	22,616	
Months left	4	
Expiry Date	21/07/21	
Expiring < 1 year	7,539	22,616
Expiring 1 – 5 years	-	7,539
Expiring > 5 years	-	-

20. Reserves

	At 1 st April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Gains/(losses) on investments	Transfers between funds	At 31 st March 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds						
General	852,282	1,229,165	(287,920)	-	-	1,793,527
Designated funds						
Clubs and branches	52,718	1,744	(1,265)	-	-	53,197
Strategic reserve	25,000	-	-	246,561	-	271,561
Operating reserve	250,000	-	-	-	-	250,000
Rehabilitation reserve	100,000	-	-	-	-	100,000
Moving Premises reserve	75,000	-	(30,000)	-	-	45,000
Pension reserve	5,000	-	-	-	-	5,000
	507,718	1,744	(31,265)	246,561	-	724,758
Restricted funds						
Home Visitor (S Warwickshire)	802	300	(1,102)	-	-	-
Home Visitor (N Warwickshire)	-	991	(991)	-	-	-
Home Visitor (Stratford only)	2,177	3,194	(4,052)	-	-	1,319
Advice Desks (W/S/R)	12,469	-	(12,469)	-	-	-
Advice Desks (all)	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-	-
Carried forward	15,448	5,485	(19,614)	-	-	1,319

	At 1st April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Gains/(losses) on investments	Transfers between funds	At 31st March 2021
Brought forward	15,448	5,485	(19,614)	-	-	1,319
Advice Desks (Stratford only)	-	2,000	(2,000)	-	-	-
Advice Desks (Warwick only)	-	3,154	(3,154)	-	-	-
Economic/Social Empowerment	17,470	60,495	(46,278)	-	-	31,687
Nuneaton & Bedworth only	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-	-
Telephone Befriending	-	28,641	(21,901)	-	-	6,740
Volunteer Training	-	-	-	-	-	-
Remote IT4U	-	12,000	(12,000)	-	-	-
IT4U (staff costs only)	6,441	-	(6,441)	-	-	-
Vision Support non-specific	-	47,392	(9,363)	-	-	38,029
Virtual VSC	-	9,578	(9,578)	-	-	-
Equipment	-	5,048	(2,119)	-	-	2,929
Club (Stratford only)	-	1,000	(792)	-	-	208
Pop-ups	12,019	-	(227)	-	-	11,792
Equipment for service user	633	-	-	-	-	633
Equipment for service user	82	-	-	-	-	82
	52,093	179,793	(138,467)			93,419
	1,412,093	1,410,702	(457,652)	246,561		2,611,704

General funds are available for use at the Directors/Trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

The Clubs and Branches Designated Fund has been set aside by the Directors/Trustees for the specific purpose of administering the clubs and branches. This fund is represented by cash in hand and at bank of £36,271 less amounts owed to creditors of £389 plus amount prepaid to debtor of £0. A further £94 was collected by the clubs as a contribution to transport costs borne by the general funds.

The Strategic Reserve is a Designated Fund set aside as described in the Reserves Policy on page 13.

21. Analysis of assets between funds

	Fixed	Net	
	assets	current	Total
	£	£	£
General funds	1,211,517	582,010	1,793,527
Designated funds	701,562	23,196	724,758
Restricted funds	-	93,419	93,419
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,913,079	698,625	2,611,704
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

22. Reconciliation of net income / (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2021 £000	2020 £000
Net income / (expenditure) for year / period	1,199,611	607,235
Dividends received	(35,422)	(17,645)
Interest receivable	(557)	(1,380)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	756	4,172
Unrealised (gains) / losses on investments	(246,561)	166,837
Realised (gains)/losses on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	(9)
(Increase) / decrease in stock	16	(196)
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	3,396	11,627
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	44,285	(8,686)
Net cash flow from operating activities	<u>965,524</u>	<u>761,954</u>

23. Pension scheme

a. Defined contribution plans.

The charity operates a defined contribution plan with Royal London for its employees. The amount recognised as an expense in the period was £8,209 (2020: £6,534). There was a defined contribution liability of £1,415 at the year end. The employer contribution rate for the year to 31 March 2021 was 3%. There was an average of 11 employees in the scheme during the year.

b. Defined benefit plans.

The charity participates in the Warwickshire County Council Pension Fund, a multi-employer defined benefit final salary scheme where the share of the assets and liabilities applicable to each employer is not identifiable. The most recent available valuation was performed as at 31 March 2019 (the next one will be on 31 March 2022). The employer's pension contribution rate will be steadily increased over the next few years to reduce the liability. This Local Government Pension Scheme is only for two long serving employees (one of whom retired on 30 June 2021) and the charity commenced another workplace pension scheme under auto-enrolment on the staging date of 1st October 2016. The scheme which was chosen by the Board is with Royal London. The employer contribution rate for the W.C.C. scheme was 20.6% for the year to 31 March 2021. The amount recognised as an expense in the period was £1,717. There was a defined benefit contribution liability of £231 at the year end.

The results and assumptions of the most recent valuation of the scheme with Warwickshire County Council are as follows:

Valuation date	31 March 2019
Valuation method	Projected unit
Value of assets	£2,166 million
Funding level for accrued benefits	92.00%
Rate of return on investments	3.70%
Salaries and earnings increase	3.30%
Rate of increase in pensions	2.10%

24. Related Party Transactions

There are no related party transactions during the year (2020: nil)

25. Controlling interest

The charity is controlled by the Directors/Trustees who are the members of the Board.