

# VISIONARY - LINKING LOCAL SIGHT LOSS CHARITIES

England & Wales · Charity number 1135360

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2010-04-07

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

## Contact

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**Address** Royal Blind  
2A Robertson Avenue  
Edinburgh  
EH11 1PZ

**Phone** 02089950880

**Email** [visionary@visionary.org.uk](mailto:visionary@visionary.org.uk)

**Website** [www.visionary.org.uk](http://www.visionary.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE CHARITY'S OBJECTS ("OBJECTS") ARE SPECIFICALLY RESTRICTED TO THE FOLLOWING: TO PROMOTE THE RELIEF OF PERSONS WHO ARE BLIND OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED

**Activities:** Visionary is a federation of one hundred local societies for blind and partially sighted people in the UK. It aspires to provide support for and raise awareness of the services provided by its members. It has a development fund for small societies and advises national research and campaign groups. A conference for members is held annually and members receive a bi-monthly newsletter.

## Classification

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- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability
- **Who:** People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, NATIONAL
- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£399,026	£437,036	-	-
2024-03-31	£487,271	£437,811	-	-
2023-03-31	£473,387	£422,604	-	-
2022-03-31	£358,665	£381,619	-	-
2021-03-31	£341,068	£377,940	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Mark Peter Upton</b>	Chair	2021-12-17
Craig Spalding		2023-05-17
Lowri Bartrum		2015-11-19
Michael Keith Eales		2023-05-17
PHILIP DAVID MILLS		2021-12-21
Professor Shahina Pardhan		2022-05-10
Sarah French		2023-11-10
Tom Harte		2021-12-17

**VISIONARY - LINKING LOCAL SIGHT LOSS CHARITIES**

England & Wales - Charity number 1135360

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# Accounts

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# **Visionary**

**Visionary**

**Linking Local Sight Loss Charities**

**Trustees' Annual Report and Financial  
Statements**

**For the year ended 31 March 2025**

**Visionary is the working name of Visionary - Linking Local  
Sight Loss Charities, a CIO registered in England and Wales as  
a charity (1135360), registered in Scotland as a charity  
(SC044163)**

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## **Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisors**

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**Registered charity name** Visionary – Linking Local Sight Loss Charities  
**Registered charity no.** 1135360  
**OSCR charity no.** SC044163

**Principal Address** First Floor  
3 Queen Square  
London  
WC1N 3AR

### **Visionary Trustee Board**

Mark Upton (Chair)  
Tom Harte (Vice Chair)  
Philip Mills (Chair of Finance Committee)  
Owen Williams  
Shahina Pardhan  
Craig Spalding  
Keith Eales  
Sarah French  
Lowri Bartrum (co-opted May 2025)

# **Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisors (continued)**

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## **Finance Committee**

Philip Mills (Chair)  
Mark Upton  
Owen Williams  
Tom Harte  
Fiona Sandford

## **Senior Management Team**

Chief Executive Officer	Fiona Sandford
Operations Director	Amy Pearman

## **Bankers**

National Westminster  
Cathedral Square  
Peterborough  
PE1 1XH

## **Independent Examiner**

Paul Windmill  
Myers Clark Chartered Accountants  
Suite 7A, Building 6  
Croxley Park, Hatters Lane  
Watford  
Hertfordshire  
WD18 8YH

# **The Trustees' Annual Report**

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The trustees present their annual report and the financial statements of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation for the year ended 31 March 2025.

## **Objectives and activities**

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Visionary's charitable objects are 'to promote the relief of persons who are blind or visually impaired'. The trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit. The trustees are confident that Visionary's aims and activities are in accordance with the regulations on public benefit.

Visionary's ambition is that by working with key partners, we inspire change and create opportunities to make a better world for everyone affected by sight loss.

Visionary's long-term goals and the change we want to see.

- Blind and partially sighted people have greater choice and the independence to realise their aspirations.
- Visionary members have the knowledge and support to be the best they can be.
- Visionary is the trusted leader and expert connector for local members.
- Visionary harnesses the voice of members to inspire and influence national change.
- Visionary partners, collaborates and seeks sponsors to promote eye health and accessibility for all.

## **Visionary's four strategic priorities**

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- Connect – connecting individuals from organisations together and organisations to each other.
- Develop - developing platforms for collaboration and joint initiatives with local and national partners.
- Share - sharing knowledge and expertise to help members be all they can be.
- Inspire - amplifying member voice to inspire innovation and create change.

## **Visionary principles**

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- We are a trusted organisation known for integrity, bravery, innovation, and creativity.
- We are a proactive team.
- We are clear about our member offer.
- We are led by our members.

## **The Visionary promise**

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The Visionary Promise sets out how we work and how we expect our partners to work with us and each other. Visionary promises our members that we will:

- strive to empower our members to provide the best possible services with and for the visual impairment community,
- provide professional, expert support, guidance and skills,
- be honest and transparent,
- engage with everyone in an efficient, timely and courteous manner,
- communicate with a unified voice ensuring members receive consistent messages in their preferred format.
- ask for and acknowledge feedback.

### **Visionary values:**

- integrity
- trust
- creativity
- bravery

## **How we achieve our objectives**

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### **Visionary's Activities and Purpose**

Visionary achieves its aims by supporting local sight loss charities that provide direct services to people with sight loss. Our role is to help these charities enhance the effectiveness and impact of their work by developing connections, promoting professional development, encouraging the exchange of knowledge and inspiring collaborative approaches.

We also work in close partnership with UK-wide sight loss organisations to strengthen links between local and national bodies. This collaboration creates opportunities to share information, develop joint initiatives and align efforts across the sector.

As part of our commitment to representing a UK-wide movement of local charities, Visionary plays a leading role in national networks such as the Vision Partnership. Through this, we ensure that the voice of local organisations is heard and that their perspectives shape shared sector priorities and initiatives.

Local sight loss charities form the membership of Visionary. Each member organisation nominates representatives who participate in and vote at our Annual General Meetings, helping to shape the direction of our collective work.

## **Achievement and performance**

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We are incredibly proud of what Visionary has achieved over the past year with a core team of just five people combined with the collective energy of our member organisations and national partners.

### **The Trustees' Annual Report**

Everything we deliver is shaped by the experiences, challenges and insights of the organisations we support. By listening carefully, staying responsive, and recognising innovation across the sector, we ensure our work remains relevant, timely and grounded in the realities of frontline service delivery.

Together, we have built a dynamic and evolving approach that reflects the changing external environment and the needs of our network. In 2024/25, this collaborative spirit translated into tangible results.

- We delivered 141 online sessions and forums, including 77 Connect and Share sessions such as peer support forums and 64 Learn and Develop sessions offering practical knowledge, tools and inspiration.
- Our events attracted 653 attendances, with some in-person events to better meet local needs and deepen connections.
- We welcomed 230 attendees to the Visionary Annual Conference, including delegates from members, partners and external organisations - bringing the sector together in a shared space of learning, networking and celebration.
- We provided 240 one-to-one support interactions, offering bespoke advice, introductions and solutions to both local and national organisations.
- We welcomed 26 external experts to share their insight across our network, enriching our training sessions and helping members explore new ideas and approaches.

These achievements reflect our core strategy of connect, develop, share and inspire. By working in partnership with members and listening to what matters most, Visionary has created a collaborative and supportive community that shares a commitment to improving the lives of blind and partially sighted people across the UK.

## **2024/25 Performance**

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### **Introduction**

### **The Trustees' Annual Report**

The 2024/25 financial year has been one of purposeful growth, collaboration and continued impact for Visionary and the wider sight loss sector. Through strategic engagement with our 104 members and 24 national partners, we have supported and strengthened our member organisations which collectively reach nearly 250,000 blind and partially sighted people across the UK. The work we do directly influences the services, leadership and innovation within these organisations, ensuring that our shared efforts create real, lasting change for the communities we serve.

Our activities this year have been shaped by a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by our network. By combining feedback gathered through events, consultation, and qualitative insight with quantitative data from surveys, CRM, and polls, we have ensured our programmes and priorities are led by what matters most to our members.

This report highlights key achievements across 2024/25 - from high-impact events such as our Annual Conference and international delegation visits, to responsive training offers, leadership development and sector-wide consultation. Each initiative reflects our commitment to building a stronger, more connected, and resilient sight loss sector.

Highlights from 2024 – 2025 include:

### **Annual Conference**

The Visionary Annual Conference is a flagship event for the sight loss sector, and the 2024 conference continued to demonstrate its vital role in bringing the sector together. This year's event welcomed over 230 professionals from 113 organisations across the Visionary network and beyond, marking it as one of the most significant learning events in the sector's calendar.

Held over two days, the conference reflected the strength, unity, and collaborative spirit of the Visionary network. Delegates from local member organisations, national partners, sector-leading exhibitors and corporate sponsors contributed to a dynamic and inspiring event.

The programme featured six keynote speakers and panellists, 24 workshops (11 delivered by Visionary members and partners, and 13 by external subject matter experts), and was generously supported by 15 sponsors. The agenda was carefully developed to reflect member feedback, prioritising practical, actionable content that responded to emerging priorities across the sector.

### **The Trustees' Annual Report**

The event provided a vibrant and inclusive platform for sharing knowledge, showcasing innovation and encouraging meaningful connections. True to Visionary's values, the atmosphere was forward-thinking and collaborative, encouraging both professional learning and peer support.

Throughout the event, numerous examples of collaborative practice and innovative service delivery were shared. For instance, Essex Vision and Sight Scotland explored opportunities to strengthen rehabilitation support across all four UK nations.

The energy and engagement of the 2024 conference reaffirmed its value as a key event in the sector — a space where ideas are exchanged, partnerships are formed, and the future of sight loss services is shaped together.

### **Ukraine Delegation Visit**

In 2024, Visionary was proud to support Blind Veterans UK, alongside other sector partners, in hosting a delegation of Ukrainian health and education professionals. The visit was coordinated in response to the significant rise in traumatic eye injuries resulting from the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and was supported by the World Health Organisation Ukraine and the British Government.

With input from Visionary and 17 other organisations, many of them Visionary members, the two-week programme showcased the breadth of sight loss services available in the UK. These included independent living training, rehabilitation, employment support, funding structures and partnership models.

A central focus of the visit was the urgent need to strengthen rehabilitation training for the Ukrainian workforce. The initiative aims to support the development of sustainable vision rehabilitation services in Ukraine, while also providing valuable insights into the evolving nature of battlefield injuries.

Visionary's involvement ensured that the role of local sight loss charities and community-based support was well represented. This collaboration reflects our commitment to sector-wide cooperation and highlights the importance of international knowledge-sharing in improving services both in the UK and abroad.

## **Eye Care Conversations – Solving Together**

When NHS England launched its ‘Eye Care Solving Together’ consultation with limited notice, Visionary responded swiftly to ensure the charitable sight loss sector was represented. Within 10 days, Visionary convened a focus group of 10 CEOs from member organisations across England to provide a collective response to the consultation’s four key challenges: accessibility, community-based services, children and young people’s care, and environmental sustainability.

The group highlighted serious issues affecting blind and partially sighted people, including persistent failures in the accessibility of NHS communication, particularly the inadequacy of large print correspondence and growing rural healthcare inequalities. Concerns were raised about the reduction or loss of community Low Vision services, often linked to underfunded private sector contracts that made local provision unsustainable.

This initiative ensured that real-world insights from the sight loss community directly informed national policy. Visionary’s rapid coordination reinforced its vital role in amplifying the voices of local organisations and ensuring that policy development reflects the lived experiences of those most affected.

## **National Eye Health Week**

Visionary responded to member feedback highlighting challenges in engaging effectively with National Eye Health Week (NEHW), particularly among smaller organisations lacking dedicated communications support. In partnership with RNIB, we developed and distributed a suite of accessible, pre-prepared social media assets, enabling members to plan ahead and focus on community engagement rather than content creation.

This collaborative approach resulted in consistent, high-quality messaging across the network and improved campaign reach. Forty-one Visionary members participated, demonstrating the value of early resource distribution and sector-wide coordination. The success of this initiative has informed our ongoing efforts to strengthen communication, support for members and advocate for shared campaign planning across the sector.

## **Creating Cohesion: Leadership and Project Management Programmes**

## **The Trustees’ Annual Report**

Under the Creating Cohesion project, Visionary delivered two complementary strands of activity to strengthen leadership and operational capacity across the network.

- **Project and Event Management Training**

Initially funded for Visionary staff, this programme was extended to include 12 participants from member organisations across the UK. Training covered core skills such as project planning, managing challenging conversations, communications, and monitoring and evaluation. Participants ranged from beginners to experienced professionals, all reporting increased knowledge and confidence. This initiative enabled organisations with limited resources to access high-quality training and highlighted Visionary's commitment to sector-wide capacity building

- **Leadership Programme**

Launched during the same funding period, the Leadership Programme welcomed 27 participants from member organisations for a three-year development journey. The initial sessions focused on building confidence and peer connection, with 85% of attendees reporting increased leadership confidence. Guest speakers from AGE UK and Northpoint shared cross-sector insights, helping participants apply new strategies in real time. Strong peer networks formed during in-person sessions are already enabling collaboration across geographical boundaries. Plans are underway to secure further funding to sustain these connections between sessions

Together, these programmes demonstrate the value of targeted investment in both operational and strategic leadership, fostering long-term resilience across the Visionary network.

### **Masterclasses**

In response to recurring challenges across the Visionary network, particularly limited time and capacity for independent training, we delivered a tailored series of expert-led online masterclasses in March 2025. Designed to be practical and immediately applicable, the sessions addressed priority areas identified by our members, including inclusion, AI, communications and intersectionality.

Sarah Stephenson-Hunter opened the series with an interactive workshop exploring disability and LGBTQIA+ identities through a Compassionate Curiosity framework, encouraging reflection and inclusive thinking. Flora Raffai followed with a hands-on session on using generative AI in strategic planning, equipping participants with tools to enhance planning, consultation, and analysis.

To boost communications capacity, Mairi Damer delivered a bespoke three-part media training programme, helping smaller organisations build public presence and confidence. Participants praised its practical insights and engaging delivery. Finally, Fern Lulham led a powerful session on personal approaches to inclusion, building on her well-received 2024 conference workshop. Her session encouraged self-reflection and individual accountability for fostering inclusive cultures.

These masterclasses showcased our ability to respond directly to member needs, attract high-calibre facilitators and provide impactful learning that strengthens both organisations and the wider sector.

## **Conclusion**

Throughout 2024/25, Visionary has demonstrated the value of a responsive, collaborative and insight-driven approach. By listening closely to our members and partners, we have delivered programmes and interventions that not only meet immediate needs but also lay the foundations for long-term capacity, confidence and leadership across the sight loss sector.

The breadth and impact of our work - from convening national conversations and influencing policy, to enabling individual professional growth - underscores our role as a trusted facilitator and connector. As we look ahead, we remain committed to amplifying the voices of local organisations, promoting equity and inclusion, and working together to ensure that blind and partially sighted people across the UK can access the services and support they need to succeed.

## **How do we communicate with our members?**

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Effective communication is at the heart of Visionary's impact. One of our key strengths is the timely and relevant information we share across the sector, by supporting our members to stay informed, connected and equipped to deliver vital services.

This year, we shared 733 important and useful articles and resources with members and partners, helping to save them valuable time, money and effort and allowing more of their increasingly limited resources to be focused on frontline service delivery.

Our website continues to be a key resource, attracting 45,000 visits over the year. The Knowledge Hub within the members' area was accessed 1,098 times, highlighting its role as a trusted source of sector-specific content. Our weekly newsletter keeps 797 subscribers up to date with funding opportunities, policy updates and sector insights.

We have also adapted our social media approach to reflect changing user trends. While we ceased using X/Twitter in December 2024, we launched a presence on Bluesky in early 2025 which is gradually building a following.

LinkedIn has grown steadily, with 891 followers, including a high number of blind and partially sighted professionals and we have significantly increased our activity on this platform. Across all social media, our content reached approximately 383,000 people during the reporting period.

Together, this data reflects a strong and evolving communications approach that ensures Visionary remains a relevant, trusted and accessible source of insight and connection across the sight loss sector.

## **How do we know Visionary is worthwhile, useful and relevant?**

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At Visionary, we believe in the power of connection, collaboration and shared learning, and our members tell us that is exactly what they get from being part of the network.

Consultation feedback confirms that Visionary services are not only useful, but also genuinely help organisations grow, adapt and better support blind and partially sighted people across the UK.

When asked which Visionary services they found most useful, 80% of respondents highlighted our information services and online sessions, 70% named the annual conference and 67% appreciated being introduced to others across the network. These same services also ranked highly in terms of helping members do things differently - with 83% saying our information service has influenced their work, alongside 70% citing the conference and 68% pointing to online sessions.

When asked what would change if Visionary did not exist, members spoke powerfully about the value we add. They told us they would lose a trusted space for peer support, a vital platform for collaboration and access to shared learning and resources which help them strengthen their practice. Many highlighted that Visionary has helped them make smoother transitions into new areas of delivery, improve strategic planning, develop services and connect with others doing similar work across the UK.

Members have also credited Visionary with raising their profile through awards and forums, helping them feel more confident, connected, and able to influence the sector as a whole.

In the longer term, members say that we have enabled them to form meaningful partnerships, grow their services, and build a stronger sense of sector identity.

What shines through most in the feedback is a deep appreciation for the role Visionary plays in bringing people and organisations together. We have been described as “an inspiring, well-connected safety net,” and a space where “even small charities have a seat at the table.”

Members see Visionary as a trusted, values-led partner and one that listens, responds, and champions their work.

We are proud to help build a more connected, confident and collaborative sector. With over 40% of members also recognising our role in campaigning, and developing partnerships, it is clear that what we do is not just useful but essential to the strength and impact of the sight loss sector

## **Financial Review**

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Overall, the charity generated a deficit of £38,010 in the financial year ending 31 March 2025 (2024: surplus £49,460) with income of £399,026 and expenditure of £437,036.

### **Reserves policy**

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Our policy is to hold reserves at a level between three to six months committed running costs. For 2024/25, this equates to £75,929. Thomas Pocklington Trust donated £60,000 to supplement our funds in January 2020 and this is held in our restricted funds. Unrestricted funds held in March 2025 were £86,940 equivalent to just over 3 months of running costs.

## **Looking forward**

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As we look to the year ahead, our commitment to supporting and strengthening our members remains at the heart of all we do. Building on the success of this year's activities, we are excited to further evolve our offer and respond proactively to the emerging needs of our members.

We aim to continue developing our popular Masterclass Series, ensuring each session remains relevant, engaging, and practical. Drawing on member feedback and sector trends, we will refine our content to support knowledge exchange and skills development across our audience.

Similarly, we will build on the positive outcomes of the Creating Cohesion leadership programme. These events have proven vital in nurturing peer support, confidence and capacity and we plan to sustain and grow this work to further embed inclusive, skilled leadership across our network.

We are also committed to securing funding to further develop our lived experience work. Amplifying the voices of people with lived experience of sight loss remains a fundamental priority for us, and we recognise the unique value this perspective brings to leadership, service design and strategic development across the sector. Building on the strong foundations already in place, we aim to expand opportunities for lived experience leadership, embed inclusive practices across our programmes and ensure that people with direct experience of sight loss continue to shape the future of our work and the wider sector.

Listening to our members remains a core priority. We recognise that traditional feedback mechanisms can add an additional pressure to our members, so we are committed to finding innovative and user-friendly ways to gather insights that shape our programmes and that we continue to amplify member voices. This will help ensure that everything we deliver continues to be relevant, responsive and impactful.

We are also already planning for another very successful Annual Conference, an event that continues to be a key event in the sector calendar. We will build on the energy, connection and learning of previous years to ensure this remains a valued space for collaboration, inspiration and celebration.

Looking ahead, we are also focused on building a sustainable funding model that enables us to maintain our core services while expanding new areas of work. Diversifying income streams and developing long-term partnerships will be essential to achieving this goal, and we will approach this work with ambition and creativity.

We are deeply aware of the significant challenges facing UK charities, particularly our member organisations. Continued pressure on funding, staff retention and ongoing cuts to social care are placing unprecedented strain on services and the people who rely on them.

Against this backdrop, Visionary remains wholly committed to being a source of stability, connection and support for our members. We will continue to stand alongside our members, amplifying their work, championing their impact and ensuring their voices are heard at every level.

Together, we will keep striving to create a stronger, more connected and more resilient sight loss sector

## **Structure, governance and management**

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The legal and administrative information set out on pages 3 and 4 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the constitution and the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Full membership of Visionary is open to voluntary organisations that operate at a local level and comply with the criteria of membership. In addition, there is a partnership category for UK wide sight loss organisations that form part of the network.

Visionary's trustee board (the board) is responsible for strategic leadership and oversight as outlined in the constitution.

Visionary trustees are recruited from Visionary members and external sources where a distinct skill benefit will be gained by trusteeship. Elections are held annually with full members voting in person at the AGM or by proxy. The board deals with trustee recruitment and interviews for new board members in between AGMs. In this case, trustees must stand down at the next AGM and submit themselves for election by members. Trustees are appointed for periods of three years and rotated in accordance with the terms of the constitution. After a three-year period, trustees may stand for a further two terms. The Chair and Vice-Chair are elected each year by the board.

Visionary is managed by not less than three trustees who form the board. They meet no less than quarterly. As of 31 March 2025, there are 8 trustees, 4 of whom bring their personal experience of sight loss to the board, in addition to their other skills. One additional trustee (Lowri Bartrum) was co-opted in May 2025. Business planning and risk management processes are undertaken at board level.

The Finance Committee reports to the Board. This committee provides independent advice and assurance on risk, control, and finance matters. The Finance Committee is made up of no less than two trustees (including the Chair) and the CEO.

Trustees undergo full induction regarding the Visionary objectives and local charity environment. They are encouraged to take an interest in a particular aspect of the work of the charity. Trustees give of their time freely and do not receive any remuneration in relation to their roles (other than reimbursement of their expenses).

The CEO is responsible for Visionary's day-to-day operations and the leadership of the organisation and is supported by members of the Visionary team. The CEO is further supported by the trustees and the Members Consultative Group which is made up of regional representatives from local sight loss charities who regularly meet with the Visionary team, informing them of the needs, aspirations and views of members in their regions.

The trustees have established systems of internal controls with the CEO which are designed to provide reasonable but not absolute, assurance

against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- a strategic plan and an annual budget set by the trustees,
- regular consideration by the Finance Committee and trustees of financial results, variances from budgets, cashflow forecasts and non-financial performance indicators,
- identification and management of risks.

## **Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

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The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The laws applicable to charities in England and Wales and Scotland require the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the CIO for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently,
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS102),
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- state whether applicable UK 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 trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the CIO and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with Charities Act 2011, The Charities (Accounts and Reporting) Regulations 2008, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the CIO and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other

## **The Trustees' Annual Report**

irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant information of which the charity's independent examiner is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken, in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the independent examiners are aware of that information.

This report was approved by the trustees on 20 August 2025.



**Mark Upton – Chairperson**

Principal Address:  
First Floor  
3 Queen Square  
London  
WC1N 3AR

# **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Visionary – Linking local sight loss charities**

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I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Visionary (Charity Number: 1135360, OSCR Registration Number: SC044163 for the year ended 31 March 2025 which are set out on pages 23-37.

## **Responsibilities and basis of report**

I report in respect of my examination of the charitable incorporated organisation's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

## **Independent examiner's statement**

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

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

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the charitable incorporated organisation as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Visionary-Linking Local Sight Loss Charities**

*Paul Windmill*

**Paul Windmill FCA**

**Date: 27 August 2025**

Myers Clark  
Statutory Auditor and Chartered Accountants  
Suite 7A, Building 6  
Croxley Park, Hatters Lane  
Watford  
Hertfordshire  
WD18 8YH

**Independent Examiner`s Report to the Trustees of Visionary-  
Linking Local Sight Loss Charities**

## Statement of Financial Activities

		2025		
	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
<b>Income and endowments</b>				
Donations and legacies	2	143,533	95,624	239,157
Income from charitable activities	3	54,708	55,942	110,650
Other Trading Activities	4	49,219	-	49,219
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>247,460</b>	<b>151,566</b>	<b>399,026</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Charitable Activities	5	(302,392)	(134,644)	(437,036)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>(302,392)</b>	<b>(134,644)</b>	<b>(437,036)</b>
<b>Net income/expenditure for the year</b>		<b>(54,932)</b>	<b>16,922</b>	<b>(38,010)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
Funds brought forward		141,872	64,089	205,961
<b>Funds carried forward</b>		<b>86,940</b>	<b>81,011</b>	<b>167,951</b>

## Statement of Financial Activities – prior year

		2024		
	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
<b>Income and endowments</b>				
Donations and legacies	2	267,625	87,852	355,477
Income from charitable activities	3	44,988	43,210	88,198
Other Trading Activities	4	43,596	-	43,596
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>356,209</b>	<b>131,062</b>	<b>487,271</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Charitable Activities	5	(310,386)	(127,425)	(437,811)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>(310,386)</b>	<b>(127,425)</b>	<b>(437,811)</b>
<b>Net income/expenditure for the year</b>		<b>45,823</b>	<b>3,637</b>	<b>49,460</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
Funds brought forward		96,049	60,452	156,501
<b>Funds carried forward</b>		<b>141,872</b>	<b>64,089</b>	<b>205,961</b>

## Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2025

## Balance Sheet at 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors	10	13,000	12,506
Cash at bank		176,402	208,947
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>189,402</b>	<b>221,453</b>
<b>Creditors: Amounts due within one year</b>	11	<b>(21,451)</b>	<b>(15,492)</b>
Net Current Assets/ Net Assets		<b>167,951</b>	<b>205,961</b>
<b>Funds of Charity</b>			
Restricted income funds	12	81,011	64,089
Unrestricted funds		86,940	141,872
		<b>167,951</b>	<b>205,961</b>

The trustees approved these accounts on 20 August 2025.



Mark Upton – Chairperson

## **General Information**

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The charity is a public benefit entity and CIO registered in England and Wales (1135360) and in Scotland (OSCR Registration Number: SC044163). The principal address is First Floor, 3 Queen Square, London, WC1N 3AR.

## **Statement of Compliance**

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These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.

### **1. Accounting Policies**

#### **Basis of accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

#### **Going concern**

The accounts have been prepared on the going concern basis as, after making enquiries, the trustees have reasonable assurance that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The charity is heavily reliant on the continued support of Thomas Pocklington Trust. A funding agreement is in place for two years from April 2025.

## **Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty**

The preparation of the financial statements may require management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported.

The estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. No material estimates or judgements were made during the year.

## **Financial instruments**

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

## **Income**

Voluntary income including donations, gifts and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Such income is only deferred when the donor specifies it must be used in future accounting periods or the donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement. This includes capital grants.

Incoming resources from charitable activities includes income received under contract or where entitlement to grant funding is subject to specific performance conditions. This income is recognised as the related services are provided and there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Income is deferred when the amounts

## **Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025**

received are in advance of the performance of the service or event to which they relate.

Donations received in kind and not in cash are brought into the statement of financial activities at a value which the trustees consider would represent the cost to the charity if these items were purchased. The income is accounted for under donations and the appropriate expenditure under resources expended.

### **Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates.

Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

Other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

### **Netting off of income and expenditure**

It is not the policy of the charity to show incoming resources net of expenditure.

## 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 restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for restricted purposes.

Transfers from restricted to unrestricted funds are made when the expending of the funds has fulfilled the terms of the restriction. Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

## 2. Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024/25	2023/24
	Funds	Funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>Donations</b>				
Donations	325	-	325	20
Pocklington Trust	28,208	-	28,208	26,605
<b>Grants Receivables</b>				
Pocklington Trust	115,000	-	115,000	240,000
LWWSL		-	-	-
Vision Foundation	-	4,000	4,000	7,926
Specsavers	-	16,700	16,700	18,002
Motability	-	-	-	38,000
RNIB Pathways	-	24,924	24,924	24,924
FM Muller Trust	-	50,000	50,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>143,533</b>	<b>95,624</b>	<b>239,157</b>	<b>355,477</b>

### 3. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024/25	2023/24
	Funds	Funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Conference income	54,451	55,942	110,393	86,525
Shared Purchasing	257	-	257	1,673
<b>Total</b>	<b>54,708</b>	<b>55,942</b>	<b>110,650</b>	<b>88,198</b>

### 4. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024/25	2023/24
	Funds	Funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
National membership fees	26,141	-	26,141	25,527
Other membership fees	19,290	-	19,290	16,198
Bank Interest	3,788	-	3,788	1,871
<b>Total</b>	<b>49,219</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>49,219</b>	<b>43,596</b>

### 5. Cost of charitable activities by fund

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	Funds	Funds	
	£	£	£
<b>Year ended 31 March 2025</b>			
Information and co-ordination	260,126	134,644	394,770
Support costs	42,266	-	42,266
<b>Total</b>	<b>302,392</b>	<b>134,644</b>	<b>437,036</b>
<b>Year ended 31 March 2024</b>			
Information and co-ordination	268,835	127,425	396,260
Support costs	41,551	-	41,551
<b>Total</b>	<b>310,386</b>	<b>127,425</b>	<b>437,811</b>

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

## 6. Costs of charitable activities by activity type

	Direct Costs £	Projects £	Support Costs £	Total £
<b>Year ended 31 March 2025</b>				
Information and co-ordination	330,261	64,509	42,266	437,036
<b>Total</b>	<b>330,261</b>	<b>64,509</b>	<b>42,266</b>	<b>437,036</b>
<b>Year ended 31 March 2024</b>				
Information and co-ordination	321,958	74,302	41,551	437,811
<b>Total</b>	<b>321,958</b>	<b>74,302</b>	<b>41,551</b>	<b>437,811</b>

## 7. Analysis of Support Costs

	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
General office costs	9,037	10,034
Governance costs	5,021	4,912
Management Charge	28,208	26,605
<b>Total</b>	<b>42,266</b>	<b>41,551</b>

The Donation in Kind from Pocklington Trust includes administrative and overhead services to Visionary, such as finance and office costs. These have been valued and the in-kind expenditure included as support costs.

## 8. Governance costs

	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
Independent Examination	4,020	3,900
Trustees Costs	951	561
Other	50	451
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,021</b>	<b>4,912</b>

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025**

## 9. Staff Costs

	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Gross salaries	221,695	227,981
Employer`s National Insurance	19,318	19,349
Employer's Pension Contribution	11,085	10,531
Health Insurance	1,006	932
<b>Total Staff Costs</b>	<b>253,104</b>	<b>258,793</b>

	<b>Headcount</b>	<b>Headcount</b>
The average number of staff during the year was:	5	5.7

The number of employees whose annual remuneration (excluding pension and NI) was £60,000 or more were:

<b>Band</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
£70,000 to £79,999	0	0
£80,000 to £89,999	1	1
£90,000 to £99,999	0	0

Included within staff cost is remuneration (including NI & pension) to key management personnel amounting to:

Total remuneration	£101,632	£99,580
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### Disclosure on redundancy and termination payments

There were no redundancy and termination payments in the year (2024 £Nil).

## 10. Debtors

	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
	£	£
Debtors	-	6
Prepayments and accrued income	13,000	12,500
<b>Total debtors</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>12,506</b>

## 11. Creditors

	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
	£	£
Trade creditors	7,412	9,359
Accruals and deferred income	5,946	6,133
VAT Liability	8,093	
<b>Total creditors</b>	<b>21,451</b>	<b>15,492</b>

## 12.1a Funds of the Charity - Current year

	At 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
<b>Conference Sponsorship</b>				
Bayer	-	15,000	(15,000)	-
Essilor	-	790	(790)	-
RNIB	-	2,081	(2,081)	-
Guide Dogs	-	1,900	(1,900)	-
Glaucoma	-	868	(868)	-
Russell Cooke	-	350	(350)	-
Thomas Pocklington Trust	-	651	(651)	-
Macular Society	-	1,634	(1,634)	-
Specsavers	-	2,338	(2,338)	-
Sight Scotland	-	1,157	(1,157)	-
Fight for Sight	-	4,034	(4,034)	-
Fight for Sight/VF Powerbanks	-	2,382	(2,382)	-
The Powell Family	-	925	(925)	-
Associated Optical	-	754	(754)	-
Utility Aid	-	1,078	(1,078)	-
Roche Products	-	20,000	(20,000)	-
<b>Other Restricted</b>				
Thomas Pocklington Trust	60,000	-	-	60,000
Specsavers Eye Health	1,500	16,700	(18,200)	-
Fight for Sight	-	4,000	(4,000)	-
FM Muller Trust	-	50,000	(28,989)	21,011
RNIB Pathways	-	24,924	(24,924)	-
Motability	2,589	-	(2,589)	-
	<b>64,089</b>	<b>151,566</b>	<b>(134,644)</b>	<b>81,011</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	141,872	247,460	(302,392)	86,940
<b>Total</b>	<b>141,872</b>	<b>247,460</b>	<b>(302,392)</b>	<b>86,940</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>205,961</b>	<b>399,026</b>	<b>(437,036)</b>	<b>167,951</b>

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025**

## 12.1b Analysis of net Assets by Fund – Current year

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total £
Cash at bank	81,890	94,512	176,402
Debtors	-	13,000	13,000
<b>Creditors:</b> Amounts due within one year	(879)	(20,572)	(21,451)
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>81,011</b>	<b>86,940</b>	<b>167,951</b>

## 12.2a Funds of the Charity - Prior year

	At 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
<b>Conference Sponsorship</b>				
Bayer	-	15,000	(15,000)	-
RNIB	-	1,826	(1,826)	-
Guide Dogs	-	1,442	(1,442)	-
Specsavers	-	3,980	(3,980)	-
Sight Scotland	-	655	(655)	-
Macular Society	-	1,783	(1,783)	-
Fight for Sight	-	2,400	(2,400)	-
The Powell Family	-	2,195	(2,195)	-
Associated Optical	-	550	(550)	-
Together.ly	-	1,500	(1,500)	-
Utility Aid	-	1,200	(1,200)	-
Roche Products	-	10,000	(10,000)	-
Blind Veterans	-	679	(679)	-
<b>Other Restricted</b>				
Thomas Pocklington Trust	60,000	-	-	60,000
Living Well with Sight Loss	2	-	(2)	-
Specsavers Eye Health	450	17,002	(15,952)	1,500
VF Making Lived Exp Matter	-	7,926	(7,926)	-
RNIB Pathways	-	24,924	(24,924)	-
Motability	-	38,000	(35,411)	2,589
	<b>60,452</b>	<b>131,062</b>	<b>(127,425)</b>	<b>64,089</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	96,049	356,209	(310,386)	141,872
<b>Total</b>	<b>96,049</b>	<b>356,209</b>	<b>(310,386)</b>	<b>141,872</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>156,501</b>	<b>487,271</b>	<b>(437,811)</b>	<b>205,961</b>

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025**

## 12.2b Analysis of net Assets by Fund - Prior year

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total £
Cash at bank	64,214	144,733	208,947
Debtors	1,500	11,006	12,506
<b>Creditors:</b> Amounts due within one year	(1,625)	(13,867)	(15,492)
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>64,089</b>	<b>141,872</b>	<b>205,961</b>

## 13. Trustee remuneration and expenses

No trustee received any remuneration from the charity in the year (2024: none).

Two trustees received reimbursement for travel expenses, £722 (2024: £331 (three) to attend Board meetings.

## 14. Related Party Transactions

Sense Ability Matters received reimbursement of £200 for travel expenses incurred by a Visionary trustee (Sarah French) in relation to attendance at a Creating Cohesion meeting.  
2024: Four).

End of document

**VISIONARY - LINKING LOCAL SIGHT LOSS CHARITIES**

England & Wales - Charity number 1135360

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# Accounts

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# **Visionary**

**Visionary**

**Linking local sight loss charities**

**Trustees' Annual Report and Financial  
Statements**

**For the year ended 31 March 2024**

**Visionary is the working name of Visionary - Linking Local  
Sight Loss Charities, a CIO registered in England and Wales as  
a charity (1135360), registered in Scotland as a charity  
(SC044163)**

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- Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Visionary – Linking local sight loss charities, page 22
- Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2024, page 24

## **Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisors**

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**Registered charity name** Visionary – linking local sight loss charities

**Registered charity no.** 1135360

**OSCR charity no.** SC044163

**Principal Address** First Floor  
3 Queen Square  
London  
WC1N 3AR

**President** Lord Low of Dalston, CBE (retired 6 August 2023)

### **Visionary Trustee Board**

Mark Upton (Chair – appointed February 2024)

Tom Harte (Vice Chair)

Philip Mills (Chair of Finance Committee)

Owen Williams (Chair until February 2024)

Shahina Pardhan

Craig Spalding (appointed May 2023)

Keith Eales (appointed May 2023)

Sarah French (appointed November 2023)

Arash Andalibi-Abadan (retired May 2023)

Michael Conroy (retired November 2023)

Susan Hoath (retired February 2024)

**Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors' Report)  
For the year ended 31 March 2024**

## **Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisors (continued)**

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### **Finance Committee**

Philip Mills (Chair)  
Mark Upton  
Owen Williams  
Tom Harte  
Fiona Sandford

### **Senior Management Team**

Chief Executive Officer Fiona Sandford  
Business and Events Lead Amy Pearman

### **Bankers**

National Westminster  
Cathedral Square  
Peterborough  
PE1 1XH

### **Independent Examiner**

Paul Windmill  
Myers Clark Chartered Accountants, Egale 1, 80 St Albans Road, Watford  
WD17 1DL

# **The Trustees' Annual Report**

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The trustees present their annual report and the financial statements of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation for the year ended 31 March 2024.

## **Objectives and activities**

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Visionary's charitable objects are "to promote the relief of persons who are blind or visually impaired". The trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit. The trustees are confident that Visionary's aims and activities are in accordance with the regulations on public benefit.

Visionary's ambition is that by working with key partners, we inspire change and create opportunities to make a better world for everyone affected by sight loss.

Visionary's long-term goals and the change we want to see are:

- blind and partially sighted people have greater choice and the independence to realise their aspirations.
- Visionary members have the knowledge and support to be the best they can be.
- Visionary is the trusted leader and expert connector for local members.
- Visionary harnesses the voice of members to inspire and influence national change.
- Visionary partners, collaborates and seeks sponsors to promote eye health and accessibility for all.

**Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors' Report)  
For the year ended 31 March 2024**

## **Visionary's four strategic priorities**

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- Connect - connecting individuals from organisations together and organisations to each other.
- Share - sharing knowledge and expertise to help members be all they can be.
- Develop - developing platforms for collaboration and joint initiatives with local and national partners.
- Inspire - amplifying member voice to inspire innovation and create change.

## **Visionary principles**

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- We are a trusted organisation known for integrity, bravery, innovation, and creativity.
- We are a proactive team.
- We are clear about our member offer.
- We are led by our members.

## **The Visionary promise**

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The Visionary Promise sets out how we work and how we expect our partners to work with us and each other. Visionary promises our members that we will:

- strive to empower our members to provide the best possible services with and for the visual impairment community.
- provide professional, expert support, guidance and skills.
- be honest and transparent.
- engage with you in an efficient, timely and courteous manner.
- communicate with a unified voice ensuring members receive consistent messages in their preferred format.

**Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors' Report)  
For the year ended 31 March 2024**

- ask for and acknowledge feedback.

**Visionary values:**

- integrity
- trust
- creativity
- bravery

## **How we achieve our objectives**

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Visionary achieves its objectives by supporting local sight loss charities that deliver direct support to people with sight loss and enabling those charities to deliver their services more effectively by connecting, developing, sharing, and inspiring.

Visionary also works closely with our partners (sight loss organisations with a UK wide remit) to connect local and national organisations, develop opportunities, collaborate, and share information.

Part of the commitment to being the voice of a UK wide movement of local charities is to play a lead role in national networks such as the Visual Impairment Charity Sector Partnership. Visionary is the voice of local organisations and is a key influencer in delivering the shared sector workstreams.

Local sight loss charities are members of Visionary, and their nominated representatives attend and vote at Annual General Meetings.

## **Achievement and performance**

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**Achievements**

Visionary are so proud of what we have achieved over the last 12 months with our core team of 5 people.

**Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors' Report)  
For the year ended 31 March 2024**

Our success is due to listening and responding to our member organisations and understanding what they are experiencing, look for innovations that are happening and sharing changes that are emerging.

Together with our members and national partners, we have developed an informed approach to our work that constantly evolves as the external environment changes.

During 2023/24 Visionary:

- delivered 145 online sessions and forums.
- attracted 1069 attendances at Visionary online sessions and forums – some of which have become in person events.
- attracted 242 annual conference attendees.
- carried out 640 one to one support interactions with local and national organisations.
- welcomed 44 external experts to share their expertise with our members and partners.

## **2023/24 Performance**

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Visionary captures information about the difference we make to the sector through engaging with our members and partners, gaining qualitative feedback and gathering deeper insights. We use our CRM system to gather data which reinforces the feedback and observations we gather. This is analysed alongside statistical data generated from surveys and session polls to shape what we do.

The work that we do directly impacts on our 111 members and 30 national partners and therefore, positively impacts on the approximately 244,923 blind and partially sighted people these organisations support across the UK.

### **Annual Conference**

Visionary's flagship event is our annual conference which is developed throughout the year to respond to emerging themes and trends. Colleagues

## **Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors' Report) For the year ended 31 March 2024**

from across the Visionary network joined us at the Visionary Annual Conference on 27 and 28 September 2023. Once again, the atmosphere throughout the event was supportive, welcoming, and engaging. We were joined by over 242 delegates and exhibitors from 137 organisations, representing local members, national partners, exhibitors, and corporate sponsors.

The conference opened with an outstanding panel session featuring Marsha de Cordova MP, Sam Latif, Procter & Gamble's first company accessibility leader and England's National Clinical Director for Eye Care, Louisa Wickham.

The remainder of the programme was designed to connect, develop, and inspire delegates through workshops, panel sessions and networking opportunities, with the Annual Awards Dinner recognising the brilliant work taking place in local communities.

We refined the award process for this year's annual awards, making it easier for organisations to submit nominations. This resulted in the highest number of submissions ever received. The awards celebrate the essential role which Visionary members and partners have in supporting blind and partially sighted people.

We were delighted that the success of the conference was shared in several trade media outlets:

- [Fife sight loss charity scoops national award for innovative support for community – Charity Today, – 26 October 3 November 2023](#)
- [Visionary Conference connects sight loss organisations – Optician, 3 November 2023 Online](#)
- [Vision loss organisations come together at flagship conference - Primary Health Net, 6 November 2023](#)

**Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors' Report)  
For the year ended 31 March 2024**

## **Joint Campaigning and Awareness Raising**

Visionary remains an active member of the Joint Campaigning and Awareness Raising workstream of the Visual Impairment Charity Sector Partnership. This work has been further enhanced, after the reporting period, due to the recruitment of a Projects and Campaigns Co-ordinator, appointed April 2024. A key highlight of this period was the collaborative panel discussion held at the Visionary Conference. Visionary led the development of this interactive discussion aimed at enhancing collaborative campaigning and influencing across the sector.

The panel, comprising workstream partners and Visionary members, hosted discussions on how the sector can benefit from working together to campaign and influence, support each other, identify shared goals and engage with local communities to make a difference to the lives of blind and partially sighted people.

This led to the establishment of Visionary's Campaigns Task and Finish Group, which aims to further build collaboration across the sector. This was launched in January 2024. Through this group, an effective communication line between local and national campaigns and priorities has been established. Additionally, national partner organisations have committed to including frequent updates on existing and planned campaigns in our monthly newsletter and we are exploring the feasibility of a joint online calendar of upcoming campaigns, allowing local organisations to actively participate in campaigns that are a priority in their respective communities. This is a considerable step forward in achieving the aspiration that local and national organisations collaborate, support each other's work and increase the two-way flow of campaign information to ensure a unified voice.

We have continued to participate in the cost-of-living crisis campaign **#SupportCantWait**. During this accounting period, we joined with other sight loss organisations on the successful campaign which resulted in the planned rail station ticket office closures not going ahead.

## Low Vision Framework

Visionary has been proud to inform and influence the newly developed Low Vision Framework. The framework was initially developed in collaboration with over 20 key stakeholders from across the sector. In 2023, RNIB approached Visionary for support in engaging with local sight loss charities to provide input into the new Low Vision Framework. It was an exciting opportunity for Visionary members to influence a framework to ensure that it reflects the needs of local people.

Utilising the information and data we gathered during membership renewal, we identified member organisations which deliver Low Vision Services across the UK. With this information, we invited all organisations delivering low vision services to provide feedback on the proposed framework. We were delighted that four Visionary members actively contributed to the development of the framework, with several significantly contributing through process testing.

We are delighted that the framework has now been successfully launched and is endorsed by key sector organisations such as the College of Optometrists, Association of Optometrists (AOP), Local Optical Committee Support Unit (LOCSU), British and Irish Orthoptic Society (BIOS), Association of British Dispensing Opticians (ABDO), and The Association of Eye Care Providers (FODO). It will be showcased at the Visionary Annual Conference 2024.

Our **online offering** of peer support forums continues to respond to the needs of our member organisations.

This year saw the development of our new Visionary **LGBTQI+ Meet Up**, jointly chaired by Guide Dogs UK and Sight Scotland. One attendee said: “It’s really nice to have a space to connect with other LGBTQ+ folk in similar organisations. Just making that connection and holding a space, without specific agenda to objectives has been beneficial. Conversations have ranged from what’s going on in your organisation to really what’s happening in the world around us and how it impacts our community. Overall, it’s been a really positive space and had resulted in a number of new connections.”

Our **Blind and Partially Sighted (BPS) Leaders and BPS Peer Support Forums** are continuing to grow and flourish, with a growing attendance for both.

In January, we reconvened our **Children and Young People's** discussion panel from the annual conference to continue the discussion about developing sustainable children and young people's services. The Powell Family Foundation chaired the session which discussed resilience, support for parent and carers, income generation and delivering activities with national partners.

Our **Volunteers Forum** has moved to bi-monthly and now has expert guest speakers in the first part of the forum, with guest speakers sharing their experience on awards, corporate volunteering and new safeguarding regulations.

**Menopause** proved to be an area of interest with members. As a result, Visionary will facilitate regular support sessions, sharing best practice for employers and providing support for employees.

We are well underway with planning for our new **racially diverse group** with two chairs being appointed from member organisations. There are some great plans in place to support the network of employees from racially and culturally diverse backgrounds.

The **Fundraising Forum** began the year with a great session on AI and how this can support with grant and funding applications. We have had speakers on grant and legacy fundraising in addition to supporting members to develop corporate relationships.

Our **Physical Activity Forum** supports and encourages members to develop and deliver sporting and physical activities. The forum is chaired by Thomas Pocklington Trust with support from Blind Veterans UK, British Blind Sport, RNIB - See Sport Differently and Sight Support West of England.

## How do we communicate with our members?

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One of the key achievements of Visionary is the information we share between members and partners. In this financial year, we shared 733 useful articles and resources with our members and partners. Doing this saves

**Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors' Report)  
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charities time, money and effort, meaning that increasingly scarce resources are deployed to the front-line service delivery.

Our website received 45,000 visits during the year and the Knowledge Hub located within the members area of the website had 1098 visits. Our newsletter has 797 subscribers and we have further increased our X (Twitter) presence with a total of 4,101 followers, including a high number of blind and partially sighted followers. During this reporting period, we have also increased our presence and activity on LinkedIn. The activity across our social media platforms had a reach of approximately 383,000. All of this data clearly demonstrating the relevance of Visionary news and updates.

### **Visionary Member and Partner Forums**

During this accounting period we introduced a new format for the Members Representatives Forum as well as the Members and Partners Representative Forum (MRF and MPRF). Both forums now take place on the same day, which has proven to be a highly effective approach to enhancing communication and collaboration among our members and partners.

Firstly, it facilitates more direct and open communication between members and partners, enabling them to share insights, concerns, and ideas more efficiently. This open dialogue fosters a deeper understanding of each other's perspectives and allows for timely responses to common themes or issues that arise during the discussions.

Secondly, the new format enables regions and countries to align their meetings with the MRF/MPRF meetings. This strategic alignment promotes the two-way flow of information, ensuring that the discussions and decisions made at the local level are effectively communicated to the regional and country wide levels, and vice versa. This bi-directional flow of information ensures that the concerns and priorities of all stakeholders are well-represented and addressed in a coordinated manner.

Overall, the new format for the MRF and MPRF meetings has proven to be a catalyst for enhanced collaboration, communication, and alignment within our organisation. It has fostered a more inclusive and responsive decision-making

## **Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors' Report) For the year ended 31 March 2024**

process, enabling us to better serve the needs of Visionary members, partners and the communities we support.

## **How do we know what we do is worthwhile?**

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Visionary undertakes a poll survey at the end of our 'learn and develop' online sessions. This promotes a high response rate and gives a good indication of how valuable our members find the sessions. Over the course of the last 12 months the results showed that 90% of respondents learned something new from our sessions and 97% of respondents found the sessions were either very good or good.

100% of annual conference evaluation respondents shared that they would transfer their learning from the Visionary Annual Conference into their organisations.

## **Visionary's Strategic Influence**

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As a key member of the Visual Impairment Charity Sector Partnership, Visionary continues to extend its reach across the UK. The partnership enables Visionary and our member organisations to influence and shape workstreams that will make a difference to local sight loss organisations and blind and partially sighted people in local communities. Visionary and our members, actively participate in the following UK wide workstreams:

- Mental Health and Well-Being
- Post Clinical Support
- Sector Wide Insight Hub
- Access to Technology
- Talent Development and Lived Experience Leadership
- Employment
- Sight Loss Pathway
- Joint awareness raising and campaigning

**The Pathways Project** is a collaborative venture between Visionary and RNIB. The project, started in July 2023 with six member organisations from across England taking part. The project is gathering valuable and insightful information which will be used to influence Integrated Care Boards in their development of sight loss pathways in England to ensure that patients receive an effective and person-centred service.

Visionary continues to have an important and influential role in ensuring that the voice of lived experience is valued and respected as an asset. It is widely accepted that representation of people with lived experience of sight loss at leadership level in the sight loss sector is inadequate. Our **Making Lived Experience Matter** (MLEM) project initiated an important conversation, but tangible change requires time, patience, determination, and courageous leadership from individuals who can effect changes within their organisations. The project recorded and produced five podcasts designed to explore what MLEM means in practice. The podcast guests were chosen to reflect a variety of backgrounds and experiences to provide as much breadth as possible to the series. The completed podcast series is now available on several platforms, including [Spotify Podcasts](#).

Our **Travel Matters project** launched in April 2023. The project looked at how Visionary members can improve the experience of public transport for people with a visual impairment. With funding from the Motability Foundation, Visionary and member organisations (Beacon Centre for the Blind, North East Sensory Services, Sight Concern Bedfordshire and Vision Support) worked with researchers from Revealing Reality to develop a toolkit. The toolkit can be utilised by all Visionary members to influence change to improve access to transport. The toolkit can also be used to provide effective training and support to organisations, blind and partially people and stakeholders.

A link to the videos and resources can be found in the article ["Visionary and Revealing Reality launch travel matters research finding" – Visionary](#).

## Financial Review

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Overall, the charity generated a surplus of £49,460 in the financial year ending 31 March 2024 with income of £487,271 and expenditure of

## Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors' Report) For the year ended 31 March 2024

(£437,811).

## Reserves policy

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Our policy is to hold reserves at a level between three to six months committed running costs. For the coming year, this equates to £75,929. Thomas Pocklington Trust donated £60,000 to supplement our funds in January 2020 and this is held in our restricted funds. Unrestricted funds held in March 2024 were £141,872 equivalent to just under 6 months of running costs.

## Plans for the future and achieving our priorities

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Looking to 2024/25 we are developing a number of activity strands which complement our existing offering.

As a membership organisation, securing funding for Visionary's work is an ongoing challenge. However, our trusted partnership with the Thomas Pocklington Trust serves as a meaningful validation of our efforts, demonstrating our credibility and effectiveness to external funders and partners. This is a valuable endorsement to our mission, opening doors to new funding opportunities, which has been evident during this accounting period as demonstrated in this report.

Further to this, we have also developed our **Creating Cohesion Project**, which is a three-year project (starting August 2024), fully funded from a private legacy. This project aims to increase opportunities for Visionary members to actively participate in national workstreams, influence change and develop a series of leadership events to complement our existing events programme. A proportion of this funding will also be allocated to enabling member organisations to participate.

The core elements of this funding are:

**Representation:** We aim to enhance the opportunity for Visionary members to engage in national workstreams and gather local data relevant to the active workstreams of the Visual Impairment Charity Sector Partnership. This

ensures we accurately represent the needs of blind and partially sighted people from communities across the UK.

**Strengthening Relationships:** This element aims to strengthen relationships and increase understanding between local and national organisations. The facilitated hybrid events will identify common themes that can be collectively addressed. This information will:

- form the basis for sector-wide campaigns, benefiting blind and partially sighted people,
- identify opportunities to generate collective income, and increase funding into the sector,
- increase opportunities for local and national organisations to collaborate and improve support and services.

**Leadership Events:** Building on our successful monthly online CEO and trustee sessions, we will develop in-person leadership events. Here, CEOs, emerging leaders, and trustees of local sight loss organisations can come together to develop their leadership skills. Leadership development, particularly for those with lived experience, is a frequent topic and high priority across the sector. We aim to encourage emerging leaders with lived experience and allies to inspire each other, develop confidence and build knowledge to create future leaders. We will work alongside the Visual Impairment Charity Sector Partnership workstream to develop this work.

In January 2024, Visionary launched a project in collaboration with **Specsavers** to promote **Eye Health and Prevention** initiatives. Visionary members were invited to share their work in this area by delivering a workshop at the Visionary Annual Conference 2024. To support the development and delivery of the workshop, members had the opportunity to apply for funding for pilot projects aimed at increasing awareness and promoting eye health within their local communities.

Three Visionary members were selected, each receiving £1,500 to support their eye health and prevention projects. The quality and diversity of the projects were excellent, allowing for a combined showcase of how

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organisations can educate and support people in their local communities. The projects included prevention lessons in schools, awareness-raising in local communities and living well with sight loss and visual impairment. The selected members will deliver a workshop titled "Awareness, Prevention and Improving Lives" at the Visionary Annual Conference 2024.

## **Structure, governance and management**

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The legal and administrative information set out on pages 3 and 4 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the constitution and the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Full membership of Visionary is open to voluntary organisations that operate at a local level and comply with the criteria of membership. In addition, there is a partnership category for UK wide sight loss organisations that form part of the network.

Visionary's trustee board (the board) is responsible for strategic leadership and oversight as outlined in the constitution.

Visionary trustees are recruited from Visionary members and external sources where a distinct skill benefit will be gained by trusteeship. Elections are held annually with full members voting in person at the AGM or by proxy. The board deals with trustee recruitment and interviews for new board members in between AGMs. In this case, trustees must stand down at the next AGM and submit themselves for election by members. Trustees are appointed for periods of three years and rotated in accordance with the terms of the constitution. After a three-year period, trustees may stand for a further term. The Chair and Vice-Chair are elected each year by the board.

Visionary is managed by not less than three trustees who form the board. They meet no less than quarterly. As of 31 March 2024, there are 8 trustees, 4 of whom bring their personal experience of sight loss to the board, in addition to their other skills. Business planning and risk management processes are undertaken at board level.

The Finance Committee reports to the Board. This committee provides

## **Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors' Report) For the year ended 31 March 2024**

independent advice and assurance on risk, control, and finance matters. The Finance Committee is made up of no less than two trustees (including the Chair) and the CEO.

Trustees undergo full induction regarding the Visionary objectives and local charity environment. They are encouraged to take an interest in a particular aspect of the work of the charity. Trustees give of their time freely and do not receive any remuneration in relation to their roles (other than reimbursement of their expenses).

The CEO is responsible for Visionary's day-to-day operations and the leadership of the organisation and is supported by members of the Visionary team. The CEO is further supported by the trustees and the Members Consultative Group which is made up of regional representatives from local sight loss charities who regularly meet with the Visionary team, informing them of the needs, aspirations, and views of members in their regions.

The trustees have established systems of internal controls with the CEO which are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- a strategic plan and an annual budget set by the trustees.
- regular consideration by the Finance Committee and trustees of financial results, variances from budgets, cashflow forecasts and non-financial performance indicators.
- identification and management of risks.

## **Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

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The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The laws applicable to charities in England and Wales and Scotland require the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the charity and of the incoming resources and

## **Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors' Report) For the year ended 31 March 2024**

application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the CIO for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS102).
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable UK 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 trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the CIO and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with Charities Act 2011, The Charities (Accounts and Reporting) Regulations 2008,, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the CIO and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant information of which the charity's independent examiner is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken, in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the independent examiners are aware of that information.

This report was approved by the trustees on 21 August 2024.



Mark Upton – Chairperson

**Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors' Report)  
For the year ended 31 March 2024**

Principal Address:  
First Floor  
3 Queen Square  
London  
WC1N 3AR

# **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Visionary – Linking local sight loss charities**

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I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Visionary (Charity Number: 1135360, OSCR Registration Number: SC044163 for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on pages 22-39.

## **Responsibilities and basis of report**

I report in respect of my examination of the charitable incorporated organisation's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

## **Independent examiner's statement**

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

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

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the charitable incorporated organisation as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Visionary-linking local sight loss charities**

*Paul W.*

**Paul Windmill FCA**

**Date: 17 September 2024**

Myers Clark  
Statutory Auditor and Chartered Accountants  
Egale 1, 80 St Albans Road  
Watford  
Hertfordshire  
WD17 1DL

**Independent Examiner`s Report to the Trustees of Visionary-  
linking local sight loss charities**

## Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account)

		2024		
	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
<b>Income and endowments</b>				
Donations and legacies	2	267,625	87,852	355,477
Income from charitable activities	3	44,988	43,210	88,198
Other Trading Activities	4	43,596	-	43,596
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>356,209</b>	<b>131,062</b>	<b>487,271</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Charitable Activities	5	(310,386)	(127,425)	(437,811)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>(310,386)</b>	<b>(127,425)</b>	<b>(437,811)</b>
<b>Net income/expenditure for the year</b>		<b>45,823</b>	<b>3,637</b>	<b>49,460</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
Funds brought forward		96,049	60,452	156,501
<b>Funds carried forward</b>		<b>141,872</b>	<b>64,089</b>	<b>205,961</b>

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2024

## Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account) – prior year

		2023		
	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
		£	£	£
<b>Income and endowments</b>				
Donations and legacies	2	318,305	32,752	351,057
Income from charitable activities	3	51,588	31,003	82,591
Other Trading Activities	4	39,739	-	39,739
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>409,632</b>	<b>63,755</b>	<b>473,387</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Charitable Activities	5	(357,319)	(65,285)	(422,604)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>(357,319)</b>	<b>(65,285)</b>	<b>(422,604)</b>
<b>Net income/expenditure for the year</b>		<b>52,313</b>	<b>(1,530)</b>	<b>50,783</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
Funds brought forward		43,736	61,982	105,718
<b>Funds carried forward</b>		<b>96,049</b>	<b>60,452</b>	<b>156,501</b>

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2024

## Balance Sheet

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors	10	12,506	14,135
Cash at bank		208,947	155,957
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>221,453</b>	<b>170,092</b>
<b>Creditors: Amounts due within one year</b>	11	<b>(15,492)</b>	<b>(13,591)</b>
		<b>(15,492)</b>	<b>(13,591)</b>
Net Current Assets/ Net Assets		<b>205,961</b>	<b>156,501</b>
<b>Funds of Charity</b>			
	12		
Restricted income funds		64,089	60,452
Unrestricted funds		141,872	96,049
		<b>205,961</b>	<b>156,501</b>

The trustees approved these accounts on 21 August 2024.



Mark Upton – Chairperson

## **General Information**

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The charity is a public benefit entity and CIO registered in England and Wales (1135360) and in Scotland (OSCR Registration Number: SC044163). The principal address is First Floor, 3 Queen Square, London, WC1N 3AR.

## **Statement of Compliance**

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These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, as well as applicable charity law.

### **1. Accounting Policies**

#### **Basis of accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

#### **Going concern**

The accounts have been prepared on the going concern basis as, after making enquiries, the trustees have reasonable assurance that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. As explained in note 14 the charity is heavily reliant on the continued support of Thomas Pocklington Trust. A funding agreement is in place for two years from April 2023.

## **Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty**

The preparation of the financial statements may require management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported.

The estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. No material estimates or judgements were made during the year.

## **Financial instruments**

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

## **Income**

Voluntary income including donations, gifts and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Such income is only deferred when the donor specifies it must be used in future accounting periods or the donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement. This includes capital grants.

Incoming resources from charitable activities includes income received under contract or where entitlement to grant funding is subject to specific performance conditions. This income is recognised as the related services are provided and there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Income is deferred when the amounts

## **Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024**

received are in advance of the performance of the service or event to which they relate.

Donations received in kind and not in cash are brought into the statement of financial activities at a value which the trustees consider would represent the cost to the charity if these items were purchased. The income is accounted for under donations and the appropriate expenditure under resources expended.

### **Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates.

Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

Other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

### **Netting off of income and expenditure**

It is not the policy of the charity to show incoming resources net of expenditure.

## 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 restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for restricted purposes.

Transfers from restricted to unrestricted funds are made when the expending of the funds has fulfilled the terms of the restriction. Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

## 2. Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023/24	2022/23
	Funds	Funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>Donations</b>				
Donations	20	-	20	459
Pocklington Trust	26,605	-	26,605	25,346
<b>Grants Receivables</b>				
Pocklington Trust	240,000	-	240,000	292,500
LWWSL		-	-	-
Vision Foundation	-	7,926	7,926	11,889
Specsavers	1,000	17,002	18,002	20,863
Motability		38,000	38,000	-
RNIB Pathways		24,924	24,924	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>267,625</b>	<b>87,852</b>	<b>355,477</b>	<b>351,057</b>

### 3. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023/24	2022/23
	Funds	Funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Conference income	43,315	43,210	86,525	80,928
Shared Purchasing	1,673	-	1,673	1,664
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,988</b>	<b>43,210</b>	<b>88,198</b>	<b>82,592</b>

### 4. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023/24	2022/23
	Funds	Funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
National membership fees	25,527	-	25,527	23,725
Other membership fees	16,198	-	16,198	16,014
Bank Interest	1,871	-	1,871	
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,596</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>43,596</b>	<b>39,739</b>

### 5. Cost of charitable activities by fund

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	Funds	Funds	
	£	£	£
<b>Year ended 31 March 2024</b>			
Information and co-ordination	268,835	127,425	396,260
Support costs	41,551		41,551
<b>Total</b>	<b>310,386</b>	<b>127,425</b>	<b>437,811</b>
<b>Year ended 31 March 2023</b>			
Information and co-ordination	315,763	65,285	381,048
Support costs	41,556	-	41,556
<b>Total</b>	<b>357,319</b>	<b>65,285</b>	<b>422,604</b>

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

## 6. Costs of charitable activities by activity type

	Direct Costs £	Projects £	Support Costs £	Total £
<b>Year ended 31 March 2024</b>				
Information and co-ordination	321,958	74,302	41,551	437,811
<b>Total</b>	<b>321,958</b>	<b>74,302</b>	<b>41,551</b>	<b>437,811</b>
<b>Year ended 31 March 2023</b>				
Information and co-ordination	346,662	34,386	41,556	422,604
<b>Total</b>	<b>346,662</b>	<b>34,386</b>	<b>41,556</b>	<b>422,604</b>

## 7. Analysis of Support Costs

	2023/24 £	2022/23 £
General office costs	10,034	10,922
Governance costs	4,912	5,288
Management Charge	26,605	25,346
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,551</b>	<b>41,556</b>

The Donation in Kind from Pocklington Trust includes administrative and overhead services to Visionary, such as finance and office costs. These have been valued and the in-kind expenditure included as support costs.

## 8. Governance costs

	2023/24 £	2022/23 £
Independent Examination	3,900	3,720
Trustees` expenses	561	1,119
Other	451	450
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,912</b>	<b>5,289</b>

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024**

## 9. Staff Costs

	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
	£	£
Gross salaries	227,981	226,507
Employer`s National Insurance	19,349	20,951
Employer's Pension Contribution	10,531	10,946
Health Insurance	932	977
<b>Total Staff Costs</b>	<b>258,793</b>	<b>259,381</b>

	<b>Headcount</b>	<b>Headcount</b>
The average number of staff during the year was:	5.7	5.3

The number of employees whose annual remuneration (excluding pension and NI) was £60,000 or more were:

<b>Band</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
£70,000 to £79,999	0	0
£80,000 to £89,999	1	1
£90,000 to £99,999	0	0

Included within staff cost is remuneration (including NI & pension) to key management personnel amounting to:

Total remuneration	£99,580	£95,334
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### Disclosure on redundancy and termination payments

There were no redundancy and termination payments in the year (2023 £Nil).

## 10. Debtors

	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
	£	£
Debtors	6	800
Prepayments and accrued income	12,500	13,335
<b>Total debtors</b>	<b>12,506</b>	<b>14,135</b>

## 11. Creditors

	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
	£	£
Creditors	9,359	7,183
Accruals and deferred income	6,133	6,408
<b>Total creditors</b>	<b>15,492</b>	<b>13,591</b>

## 12.1a Funds of the Charity - Current year

	At 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
<b>Conference Sponsorship</b>				
Bayer	-	15,000	(15,000)	-
RNIB	-	1,826	(1,826)	-
Guide Dogs	-	1,442	(1,442)	-
Specsavers	-	3,980	(3,980)	-
Sight Scotland	-	655	(655)	-
Macular Society	-	1,783	(1,783)	-
Fight for Sight	-	2,400	(2,400)	-
The Powell Family	-	2,195	(2,195)	-
Associated Optical	-	550	(550)	-
Together.ly	-	1,500	(1,500)	-
Utility Aid	-	1,200	(1,200)	-
Roche Products	-	10,000	(10,000)	-
Blind Veterans	-	679	(679)	-
<b>Other Restricted</b>				
Thomas Pocklington Trust	60,000	-	-	60,000
Living Well with Sight Loss	2	-	(2)	-
Specsavers Eye Health	450	17,002	(15,952)	1,500
VF Making Lived Exp Matter	-	7,926	(7,926)	-
RNIB Pathways	-	24,924	(24,924)	-
Motability	-	38,000	(35,411)	2,589
	<b>60,452</b>	<b>131,062</b>	<b>(127,425)</b>	<b>64,089</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	96,049	356,209	(310,386)	141,872
<b>Total</b>	<b>96,049</b>	<b>356,209</b>	<b>(310,386)</b>	<b>141,872</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>156,501</b>	<b>487,271</b>	<b>(437,811)</b>	<b>205,961</b>

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024**

## 12.1b Analysis of net Assets by Fund – Current year

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total £
Cash at bank	64,214	144,733	208,947
Debtors	1,500	11,006	12,506
<b>Creditors:</b> Amounts due within one year	(1,625)	(13,867)	(15,492)
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>64,089</b>	<b>141,872</b>	<b>205,961</b>

## 12.2a Funds of the Charity - Prior year

	At 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Bayer Conference Sponsorship	-	15,000	(15,000)	-
RNIB Conference Sponsorship	-	1,384	(1,384)	-
Guide Dogs Conference Sponsorship	-	1,300	(1,300)	-
Wilberforce	-	250	(250)	-
Thomas Pocklington Trust Conference Sponsorship	-	500	(500)	-
Pocklington Trust	60,000	-	-	60,000
Living Well with Sight Loss	1,982	-	(1,980)	2
Macular Society	-	800	(800)	-
Specsavers Conference		3,000	(3,000)	-
Vision Foundation Conference		800	(800)	-
Sight Scotland Conference		969	(969)	-
VISTA Conference		1,200	(1,200)	-
MeetUp Call Conference		800	(800)	-
Novartis Conference		5,000	(5,000)	-
Specsavers Eye Health		20,863	(20,413)	450
VF Making Lived Exp Matter		11,889	(11,889)	-
	<b>61,982</b>	<b>63,755</b>	<b>(65,285)</b>	<b>60,452</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	43,736	409,632	(357,319)	96,049
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,736</b>	<b>409,632</b>	<b>(357,319)</b>	<b>96,049</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>105,718</b>	<b>473,387</b>	<b>(422,604)</b>	<b>156,501</b>

## 12.2b Analysis of net Assets by Fund - Prior year

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total £
Cash at bank	60,452	95,505	155,957
Debtors	-	14,135	14,135
<b>Creditors:</b> Amounts due within one year	-	(13,591)	(13,591)
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,452</b>	<b>96,049</b>	<b>156,501</b>

## 13. Trustee remuneration and expenses

No trustee received any remuneration from the charity in the year (2023: none).

Three trustees received reimbursement for travel expenses, £331 (2023: £955 (six) to attend Board meetings).

## 14. Related Party Transactions

The following related party transactions took place in the year (2023: none).

Mark Upton is the CEO of MyVision Oxfordshire and also the Chair of Visionary. MyVision Oxfordshire received project participation payments of £2,000 from Visionary's Making Lived Experience Matter Project.

Philip Mills is Corporate Services Director for Beacon Centre for the Blind and is also a trustee of Visionary. Beacon Centre for the Blind received project participation incentive payments of £3,000 from Visionary's Motability Travel Matters Project.

Tom Harte is a director for Henshaws and also a trustee of Visionary. Henshaws received project participation incentive payments of £1,500 from Visionary's Pathways Project.

Sarah French is the CEO of Vision & Hearing Support Gateshead & South Tyneside and is also a trustee of Visionary. Vision & Hearing Support

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

Gateshead & South Tyneside received project participation and incentive payments of £1,000 from Visionary's Pathways Project.

End of document

**VISIONARY - LINKING LOCAL SIGHT LOSS CHARITIES**

England & Wales - Charity number 1135360

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# Accounts

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# **Visionary**

## **Linking local sight loss charities**

### **Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements**

**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

Charity Number: 1135360  
OSCR Registration Number: SC044163  
CIO Number: CE031107

## **Contents**

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- The Trustees Annual Report, page 5
- Independent Examiner’s Report to the Trustees of Visionary – Linking local sight loss charities, page 20

## **Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisors**

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<b>Registered charity name</b>	Visionary – linking local sight loss charities
<b>Registered charity no.</b>	1135360
<b>OSCR charity no.</b>	SC044163
<b>Company registration no.</b>	07185372 (until 16 January 2023)

**Principal Address** First Floor  
3 Queen Square  
London  
WC1N 3AR

**President** Lord Low of Dalston, CBE

### **Visionary Trustee Board**

Owen Williams	(Chair)
Michael Conroy	(Vice Chair)
Arash Andalibi-Abadan	(retired May 2023)
Craig Spalding	(appointed August 2023)
Graham Findlay	(retired November 2022)
Keith Eales	(appointed August 2023)
Mark Upton	
Philip Mills	
Philippa Crowther	(retired August 2022)
Sarah French	(appointed August 2023)
Susan Hoath	
Tom Harte	
Shahina Pardhan	(appointed May 2022)

**Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors' Report) For the year ended 31 March 2023**

## Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, Its Trustees and Advisors (continued)

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### Finance Committee

Owen Williams

Fiona Sandford

Michael Conroy (stood down April 2022)

Philip Mills (Chair)

Philippa Crowther (retired August 2022)

Mark Upton

### Senior Management Team

Chief Executive Officer

Fiona Sandford

Partnership and Innovation Lead

Sarah Halliwell (resigned February 2023)

Business and Events Lead

Amy Pearman

### Bankers

National Westminster

Cathedral Square

Peterborough

PE1 1XH

### Independent Examiner

Paul Windmill

Myers Clark Chartered Accountants, Egale 1, 80 St Albans Road,  
Watford WD17 1DL

# **The Trustees Annual Report**

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The trustees, present their annual report and the financial statements of the charity/charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2023.

## **Objectives and activities**

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Visionary's charitable objects are "to promote the relief of persons who are blind or visually impaired". The trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit. The trustees are confident that Visionary's aims and activities are in accordance with the regulations on public benefit.

Visionary's ambition is that by working with key partners, we inspire change and create opportunities to make a better world for everyone affected by sight loss.

Visionary's long-term goals and the change we want to see are:

- blind and partially sighted people have greater choice and the independence to realise their aspirations.
- Visionary members have the knowledge and support to be the best they can be.
- Visionary is the trusted leader and expert connector for local members.
- Visionary harnesses the voice of members to inspire and influence national change.
- Visionary partners, collaborates and seeks sponsors to promote eye health and accessibility for all.

## **Visionary's four strategic priorities:**

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- Connect - connecting individuals from organisations together and organisations to each other.

**Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors' Report) For the year ended 31 March 2023**

- Share - sharing knowledge and expertise to help members be all they can be.
- Develop - developing platforms for collaboration and joint initiatives with local and national partners.
- Inspire - amplifying member voice to inspire innovation and create change.

## **Visionary principles:**

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- We are a trusted organisation known for integrity, bravery, innovation, and creativity.
- We are a proactive team.
- We are clear about our member offer.
- We are led by our members.

## **The Visionary promise**

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The Visionary Promise sets out how we work and how we expect our partners to work with us and each other. Visionary promises our members that we will:

- strive to empower our members to provide the best possible services with and for the visual impairment community.
- provide professional, expert support, guidance and skills.
- be honest and transparent.
- engage with you in an efficient, timely and courteous manner.
- communicate with a unified voice ensuring members receive consistent messages in their preferred format.
- ask for and acknowledge feedback.

### **Visionary values:**

- integrity
- trust

- creativity
- bravery

## **How we achieve our objectives**

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Visionary achieves its objectives by supporting local sight loss charities that deliver direct support to people with sight loss and enabling those charities to deliver their services more effectively by connecting, developing, sharing and inspiring.

Visionary also works closely with our partners (sight loss organisations with a UK wide remit) to connect local and national organisations, develop opportunities, collaborate and share information.

Part of the commitment to being the voice of a UK wide movement of local charities is to play a lead role in national networks such as the Visual Impairment Charity Sector Partnership. Visionary is the voice of local organisations and is a key influencer in delivering the shared sector workstreams.

Local sight loss charities are members of Visionary, and their nominated representatives attend and vote at Annual General Meetings.

## **Achievement and performance**

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### **Achievements**

Visionary are so proud of what we have achieved over the last 12 months with a team of only 5 people.

Our success is due to listening and responding to our member organisations and understanding what they are experiencing, look for innovations that are happening and sharing changes that are emerging.

Together with our members and national partners, we have developed an informed approach to our work that constantly evolves as the external environment changes.

During 2022/23 Visionary:

- delivered 132 online sessions.
- attracted 1450 attendances at Visionary online sessions.
- attracted 222 conference attendees.
- carried out 498 one to one support interactions with local and national organisations.
- welcomed 42 external experts to share their expertise with our members and partners.
- increased our newsletter subscription by 12%, bringing the total audience to 871 people working in sight loss charities.

The following key events in our year give a snapshot view of our achievements:

### **Visionary Annual Conference**

The **Visionary Conference** is the flagship event for the sight loss sector and is a wonderful achievement for our tiny team. Visionary returned to Birmingham in September 2022 to host the first in person 2-day annual conference since 2019. Delegates greeted each other in person after 3 years and welcomed new colleagues. The event explored the immediate and long-term future of the sight loss sector as the country faces the challenge of rapid changes in an ever unsettled and challenging environment.

We had 222 delegates from 114 different sight loss organisations. We heard from 11 speakers from outside of the sight loss sector, delivered 16 workshops and had 30 organisations nominated for our prestigious Visionary Awards. To help us do all of this, we secured 13 event sponsors.

### **Tactile paving on train station platforms**

In May 2021, Visionary, along with Thomas Pocklington Trust and other national disability charities shared a joint statement. The letter called on Network Rail and the Department for Transport to urgently install

**Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors' Report) For the year ended 31 March 2023**

missing warning tactile surface from railway platforms in Britain before more lives are needlessly lost. In February 2023, the Department for Transport has confirmed that they have now provided Network Rail with £75m to complete this vital work by 2025. This success highlights the strength in voice when organisations collaborate to influence change.

### **Take on 250 fundraising**

Take on 250 was a joint initiative developed by the Fundraisers Forum with support from RNIB. The initiative provided Visionary members and partners with resources and a fundraising pack developed in partnership with RNIB. Over 50 Visionary members and partners registered to participate in Take on 250 in 2023 who collectively generated £31,239.50 of unrestricted income. The Fundraisers Forum, including RNIB and Visionary have evaluated the initiative and have agreed to continue to develop Take on 250 for 2023/2024.

### **2022/23 Performance**

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Visionary captures information about the difference we make to the sector through engaging with our members and partners, gaining qualitative feedback and gathering deeper insights. We use our CRM system to gather data which reinforces the feedback and observations we gather. This is analysed alongside statistical data generated from surveys and session polls.

As a result, we can track changes and development by recording inputs, outputs, and outcomes. Through our case studies, we explore the rationale for the intervention, how we supported or influenced the change, and understand the actual or anticipated outcome.

The work that we do directly impacts on our members and therefore, positively impacts on the approximately 225,000 blind and partially sighted people these organisations support across the UK.

Each quarter this year, we have shared impact stories that have demonstrated the long-term impact our work has on blind and partially sighted people.

The following **brief story of change** is a snapshot of the difference that Visionary makes:

Visionary's online peer support forums provide regular, safe spaces for colleagues across the sector in similar roles. The forums provide a unique opportunity to connect with others with shared experiences. The Children and Young People's Forum, operating since June 2020, currently has 56 registered attendees. The forum regularly invites guest speakers or members to present their work and recent success, with the aim of inspiring others or inviting them to engage with their offer.

In February 2023, long standing attendees VICTA, presented their Young Achievers Award and invited sight loss organisations to support children in local communities to participate in the award. At a similar time, VICTA were looking to expand their activities in the Northwest of England.

Following the introduction by Visionary, Sight Advice South Lakes have actively engaged with VICTA and supported local families to attend events. This has included support for young people to participate in the Young Achievers Award. The team at Sight Advice South Lakes have shared the experiences of James, age 9.

James was diagnosed with bilateral cataracts at birth and has a range of complex health needs including chronic lung disease. Although James thoroughly enjoys school, his mum feels that he lacked confidence when taking part in some activities. Mum welcomed the opportunity for James to try something new and learn in a fun way.

Following encouragement from the Sight Advice South Lakes team, James' parents got in touch and stated "I've just had a quick look at this [VICTA's Young Achievers Award], and it looks like a lot of fun. I will encourage James to get on board with it. He loves science and hopefully this will ignite his confidence. Thanks!"

James is now participating in the Young Achievers Award and his mum shared the following feedback: "James received his first VICTA Award today for science! We visited the science museum in Manchester which he absolutely loved especially the hands on experiments. He then created some experiments at home ... and shared them at school! We

attended the science museum just for the award. I thought that James would get a wide range of experiments at his level, and I was right, loads of hands-on experience which was safe and easy for him to understand and take part in!! It was a day out which we wouldn't normally have the confidence to do, he loved going on the tram too!!"

James is going to work through the remainder of the awards this year and Sight Advice South Lakes are planning a range of outdoor activities, for local children and young people, with VICTA in the Lake District.

Alicia, Children and Young People's Project Lead at Sight Advice South Lakes said, "As you can see, so many positives have come from Visionary introducing us to VICTA. Lots of support from us, VICTA and, of course, his parents have enabled James to learn, achieve and most importantly be proud of himself!"

## **How do we communicate with our members?**

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One of the key achievements of Visionary is the information we share between members and partners. In this financial year, we shared 81 new resources, 299 articles, 280 job adverts and 5 insight documents. Our ability to do this saves sight loss charities time, money and effort, meaning that increasingly scarce resources are deployed to the front line of service delivery.

Our website received 52,043 visits during the year and the Knowledge Hub located within the members area of the website had 1289 visits. 871 people are subscribed to our monthly newsletter and we increased our fortnightly newsletter distribution by 12%. This year, again we increased our Twitter presence with an additional 496 followers giving us a total of 3,844 followers, with a high number of blind and partially sighted followers. We had a total of 137,885 engagements – demonstrating the wide appeal of Visionary news and updates.

Regional and Country meetings are held with each of the Visionary regions and countries (Scotland, Wales, North East, North West, Yorkshire, Midlands, East, South East, South West) with a minimum of 2 and maximum of 4 meetings per year. All members in the region /country are invited to attend to: share information, ideas, priorities and

**Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors' Report) For the year ended 31 March 2023**

strategic intelligence and provide feedback to our Members Consultative Group.

We have continued to develop the role of our regional and country representatives from the above groups who meet quarterly to share themes and trends. In turn this is shared with our Members and Partners Consultative Group which brings together regional and country representatives with leads from UK wide sight loss organisations including Blind Veterans UK, Glaucoma UK, Guide Dogs, Macular Society, Retina UK, RNIB and Thomas Pocklington Trust. This group meets quarterly providing an opportunity for relevant and meaningful collaboration.

## **How do we know what we do is worthwhile?**

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Visionary undertakes a poll survey at the end of our 'learn and develop' online sessions. This promotes a high response rate and gives a good indication of how valuable our members find the sessions. Over the course of the last 12 months the results showed:

- 93% of respondents learned something new from our sessions.
- 99% of respondents found the sessions were either good or very good.

## **Visionary's strategic influence – Visual Impairment Charity Sector Partnership**

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As a key member of the VI Charity Sector Partnership, Visionary continues to extend its reach across the UK. The partnership enables Visionary and its members to influence and shape workstreams that will make a difference to local sight loss organisations and blind and partially sighted people in local communities. Visionary and its members, actively participate in the following UK wide workstreams:

- Mental Health and Well-Being
- Post Clinical Support
- Sector Wide Insight Hub

- Access to Technology
- Talent Development and Lived Experience Leadership
- Employment
- Sight Loss Pathway
- Joint awareness raising and campaigning

Visionary is a lead organisation, alongside Blind Veterans UK, in the post clinical support workstream. Visionary has been involved in sector wide conversations looking at how we can make a positive difference to post clinical support now and into the future.

The Pathways Project is a collaborative venture between Visionary and RNIB. The project has been under development since early 2022 and aims to enable local organisations and RNIB to influence Integrated Care Systems (ICS) sight loss pathways in England and ensure that the user voice is represented.

Visionary is playing a pivotal role in bringing the sector together and ensuring all the various strands of activity taking place under the umbrella of ‘Lived Experience Work’ are aware of each other and not duplicating efforts. Our Making Lived Experience Matter project (funded by Vision Foundation) is influencing sector wide thinking and activity as our findings are shared with various organisations. We have connected lived experience leaders from a variety of sector organisations with the project lead in order to discuss how all the activity strands within this area can be linked and gain knowledge of what we are learning from this interesting project. Fiona Sandford, CEO of Visionary is the CEO sponsor of Talent Development and Lived Experience Leadership.

## **Finally, in the words of our Visionary members:**

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- “I would not have been able to do the role to the level I was able to without the support of Visionary. The Visionary Team were patient with my questions and their ability to provide answers or find a “someone who could” saved me hours of time.”

- “Visionary’s network of support and expertise is a gem in the sight loss sector.”
- “What is not to love about Visionary – we meet the most wonderful people, and it makes life easier as there is always someone who knows someone who knows the answer or what you need.”

## **Financial Review**

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Overall, the charity generated a surplus of £50,783 in the financial year ending 31 March 2023 with income of £473,387 and expenditure of (£422,604).

Visionary's purpose, as agreed with its members, is to support them in their development and service delivery, connect them with each other and with national partners, and promote a strong collective influence on their behalf. Visionary has benefitted local organisations during the year by applying charitable funds to the following activities:

- Sharing good practice which directly benefits blind and partially sighted adults and children.
- Encouraging organisations to have people with lived experience of visual impairment at the heart of what they do.
- Provision of an information, advice and support service for visual impairment organisations and professionals.
- Sharing information, policy updates and good practice through online events, regular newsletters, website, knowledge hub and social media.
- Creating opportunities for visual impairment organisations and professionals to connect via online events, regional and country meetings, members consultative meetings and partner meetings.
- Provision of training and networking via online sessions and events.
- Organising the flagship annual conference for the visual impairment sector.

- Liaising with relevant charities and other bodies at a national level on behalf of the Visionary membership and the people they work with.

## **Reserves policy**

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Our policy is to hold reserves of a minimum of three months committed running costs. Thomas Pocklington Trust donated £60,000 to supplement our reserves in January 2020 and this is held in our restricted funds. Reserves held in March 2023 were equivalent to just over four months of running costs.

## **Plans for the future and achieving our priorities**

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Looking to 2023/24 we plan to recruit two new colleagues to develop our lived experience work and measure the impact of what we do.

Looking across the sight loss sector, we want to champion the following changes:

- Lived experience of visual impairment is championed and valued within the visual impairment sector.
- Local and national organisations communicate and collaborate to develop and deliver effective and innovative services where and when people need them.
- Local and national organisations jointly campaign to improve and change issues important to visually impaired people.

Looking inside of Visionary, we want to ensure we are:

- a trusted source of information.
- a good employer.
- diversifying our income streams.

## **Structure, governance and management**

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The legal and administrative information set out on pages 3 and 4 forms

**Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors' Report) For the year ended 31 March 2023**

part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the constitution and the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

During 2022, The Visionary board of trustees created a Task and Finish Group (TFG) this year to look at the legal structure of Visionary, to see if there were any opportunities to simplify and modernise its governance. The conclusion of this exercise was members voting and approving the special resolution at the 2022 AGM for Visionary to become a CIO. The process was concluded on 16 January 2023 when Visionary became a CIO.

Visionary - linking local sight loss charities (Visionary) was a charitable company limited by guarantee until 16 January 2023, governed by its Articles of Association dated 10 March 2010. It was converted to a CIO on 16 January 2023 and has been governed by its constitution dated 16 January 2023 since conversion.

Full membership of Visionary is open to voluntary organisations that operate at a local level and comply with the criteria of membership. In addition, there is a partnership category for UK wide sight loss organisations that form part of the network.

Visionary's trustee board (the board) is responsible for strategic leadership and oversight as outlined in the articles of association.

Visionary trustees are recruited from Visionary members and external sources where a distinct skill benefit will be gained by trusteeship. Elections are held annually with full members voting in person at the AGM or by proxy. The board deals with trustee recruitment and interviews for new board members in between AGMs. In this case, trustees must stand down at the next AGM and submit themselves for election by members. Trustees are appointed for periods of three years and rotated in accordance with the terms of the memorandum and articles of association. After a three-year period, trustees may stand for a further term. The Chair and Vice-Chair are elected each year by the board.

Visionary is managed by not less than three trustees who form the board. They meet no less than quarterly. As of 31 March 2023, there

were 8 trustees, 3 of whom bring their personal experience of sight loss to the board, in addition to their other skills. Business planning and risk management processes are undertaken at board level.

The Finance Committee reports to the Board. This committee provides independent advice and assurance on risk, control and finance matters. The Finance Committee is made up of no less than two trustees (including the Chair) and the CEO.

Trustees undergo full induction regarding the Visionary objectives and local charity environment. They are encouraged to take an interest in a particular aspect of the work of the charity. Trustees give of their time freely and do not receive any remuneration in relation to their roles (other than reimbursement of their expenses).

The CEO is responsible for Visionary's day-to-day operations and the leadership of the organisation and is supported by members of the Visionary team. The CEO is further supported by the trustees and the Members Consultative Group which is made up of regional representatives from local sight loss charities who regularly meet with the Visionary team, informing them of the needs, aspirations and views of members in their regions.

The trustees have established systems of internal controls with the CEO which are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- a strategic plan and an annual budget set by the trustees.
- regular consideration by the Finance Committee and trustees of financial results, variances from budgets, cashflow forecasts and non-financial performance indicators.
- identification and management of risks.

## **Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

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The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

**Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors' Report) For the year ended 31 March 2023**

The laws applicable to charities in England and Wales and Scotland require the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS102).
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable UK 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 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 Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). 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.*

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's independent examiners are unaware; and
- the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken, in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the independent examiners are aware of that information.

This report was approved by the trustees on 16 August 2023.



Owen Williams – Chairperson

Principal Address:

First Floor  
3 Queen Square  
London  
WC1N 3AR

Company Registration Number until 16 January 2023: 07185372

# **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Visionary – Linking local sight loss charities**

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I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Visionary (charity no. 1135360; company no. CE031137) for the year ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on pages 22-35.

## **Responsibilities and basis of report**

The charitable incorporated organisation's trustees, who are also directors of Visionary, for the purposes of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for the year under part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 'Act') and that an independent examination is needed.

I report in respect of my examination of the charitable incorporated organisation's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

## **Independent examiner's statement**

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

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

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the charitable incorporated organisation as required by section 130 of the Act; or

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Visionary-linking local sight loss charities**

2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

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.



**Paul Windmill FCA**

**Date: 10 October 2023**

Myers Clark  
Statutory Auditor and Chartered Accountants  
Egale 1, 80 St Albans Road  
Watford  
Hertfordshire  
WD17 1DL

## Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account)

		2023		
	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
		£	£	£
<b>Income and endowments</b>				
Donations and legacies	2	318,305	32,752	351,057
Income from charitable activities	3	51,588	31,003	82,591
Other Trading Activities	4	39,739	-	39,739
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>409,632</b>	<b>63,755</b>	<b>473,387</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Charitable Activities	5	(357,319)	(65,285)	(422,604)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>(357,319)</b>	<b>(65,285)</b>	<b>(422,604)</b>
<b>Net income/expenditure for the year</b>		<b>52,313</b>	<b>(1,530)</b>	<b>50,783</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
Funds brought forward		43,736	61,982	105,718
<b>Funds carried forward</b>		<b>96,049</b>	<b>60,452</b>	<b>156,501</b>

## Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account) – prior year

		2022		
	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
		£	£	£
<b>Income and endowments</b>				
Donations and legacies	2	308,949	10,000	318,949
Income from charitable activities	3	7,222	4,420	11,642
Other Trading Activities	4	28,074	-	28,074
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>344,245</b>	<b>14,420</b>	<b>358,665</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Charitable Activities	5	(369,181)	(12,438)	(381,619)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>(369,181)</b>	<b>(12,438)</b>	<b>(381,619)</b>
<b>Net income/expenditure for the year</b>		<b>(24,936)</b>	<b>1,982</b>	<b>(22,954)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
Funds brought forward		68,672	60,000	128,672
<b>Funds carried forward</b>		<b>43,736</b>	<b>61,982</b>	<b>105,718</b>

## Balance Sheet

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors	10	14,135	7,335
Cash at bank		155,957	114,973
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>170,092</b>	<b>122,308</b>
<b>Creditors: Amounts due within one year</b>	11	(13,591)	(16,590)
		<b>(13,591)</b>	<b>(16,590)</b>
Net Current Assets/ Net Assets		<b>156,501</b>	<b>105,718</b>
<b>Funds of Charity</b>			
Restricted income funds	12	60,452	61,982
Unrestricted funds		96,049	43,736
		<b>156,501</b>	<b>105,718</b>

The trustees approved these accounts on 16 August 2023.



Owen Williams – Chairperson

## **General Information**

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The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales as a charity (1135360) and company (07185372). The address of the registered office is First Floor, 3 Queen Square, London, WC1N 3AR. The charity also has a charity registration in Scotland (SC044163).

## **Statement of Compliance**

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These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, as well as applicable charity and company law.

### **1. Accounting Policies**

#### **Basis of accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

#### **Going concern**

The accounts have been prepared on the going concern basis as, after making enquiries, the Trustees have reasonable assurance that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. As explained in note 14 the charity is heavily reliant on the continued support of Thomas Pocklington Trust. A funding agreement is in place for two years from April 2023.

## **Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty**

The preparation of the financial statements may require management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported.

The estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. No material estimates or judgements were made during the year.

## **Financial instruments**

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

## **Income**

Voluntary income including donations, gifts and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Such income is only deferred when the donor specifies it must be used in future accounting periods or the donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement. This includes capital grants.

Incoming resources from charitable activities includes income received under contract or where entitlement to grant funding is subject to specific performance conditions. This income is recognised as the related services are provided and there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and

the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Income is deferred when the amounts received are in advance of the performance of the service or event to which they relate.

Donations received in kind and not in cash are brought into the statement of financial activities at a value which the trustees consider would represent the cost to the charity if these items were purchased. The income is accounted for under donations and the appropriate expenditure under resources expended.

### **Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates.

Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

Other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

### **Netting off of income and expenditure**

It is not the policy of the charity to show incoming resources net of expenditure

## 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 restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for restricted purposes.

Transfers from restricted to unrestricted funds are made when the expending of the funds has fulfilled the terms of the restriction. Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

## 2. Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022/23	2021/22
	Funds	Funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>Donations</b>				
Donations	459	-	459	238
Pocklington Trust	25,346	-	25,346	24,120
<b>Grants Receivables</b>				
Pocklington Trust	292,500	-	292,500	284,591
LWWSL	-	-	-	10,000
Vision Foundation	-	11,889	11,889	-
Specsavers	-	20,863	20,863	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>318,305</b>	<b>32,752</b>	<b>351,057</b>	<b>318,949</b>

## 3. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022/23	2021/22
	Funds	Funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Conference income	49,925	31,003	80,928	10,215
Shared Purchasing	1,664	-	1,664	1,427
<b>Total</b>	<b>51,589</b>	<b>31,003</b>	<b>82,592</b>	<b>11,642</b>

#### 4. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
National membership fees	23,725	-	23,725	13,700
Other membership fees	16,014	-	16,014	14,374
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,739</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>39,739</b>	<b>28,074</b>

#### 5. Cost of charitable activities by fund

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
<b>Year ended 31 March 2023</b>			
Information and co-ordination	315,763	65,285	381,048
Support costs	41,556	-	41,556
<b>Total</b>	<b>357,319</b>	<b>65,285</b>	<b>422,604</b>
<b>Year ended 31 March 2022</b>			
Information and co-ordination	313,703	12,438	326,141
Support costs	55,478	-	55,478
<b>Total</b>	<b>369,181</b>	<b>12,438</b>	<b>381,619</b>

## 6. Costs of charitable activities by activity type

	Direct Costs £	Grants £	Support Costs £	Total £
<b>Year ended 31 March 2023</b>				
Information and co-ordination	346,662	34,386	41,556	422,604
<b>Total</b>	<b>346,662</b>	<b>34,386</b>	<b>41,556</b>	<b>422,604</b>
<b>Year ended 31 March 2022</b>				
Information and co-ordination	318,123	8,018	55,478	381,619
<b>Total</b>	<b>318,123</b>	<b>8,018</b>	<b>55,478</b>	<b>381,619</b>

## 7. Analysis of Support Costs

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
General office costs	10,922	18,667
Governance costs	5,288	12,691
Management Charge	25,346	24,120
	<b>41,556</b>	<b>55,478</b>

The Donation in Kind from Pocklington Trust includes administrative and overhead services to Visionary, such as human resources, finance and office costs. These have been valued and the in-kind expenditure included as support costs.

## 8. Governance costs

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Trustees` expenses	1,119	2,601
Other	450	6,370
	<b>5,289</b>	<b>12,691</b>

## 9. Staff Costs

	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Gross salaries	226,507	240,034
Employer`s National Insurance	20,951	21,501
Employer's Pension Contribution	10,946	11,310
Health Insurance	977	1,008
<b>Total Staff Costs</b>	<b>259,381</b>	<b>273,853</b>

	<b>Headcount</b>	<b>Headcount</b>
The average number of staff during the year was:	5.3	5.3

The number of employees whose annual remuneration (excluding pension and NI) was £60,000 or more were:

<b>Band</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
£70,000 to £79,999	0	0
£80,000 to £89,999	1	1
£90,000 to £99,999	0	0

Included within staff cost is remuneration (including NI & pension) to key management personnel amounting to:

Total remuneration	£95,334	£92,809
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### Disclosure on redundancy and termination payments

Total redundancy and termination payments in the year amounted to £Nil (2022 £8,077) and related to termination payments.

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

## 10. Debtors

	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
	£	£
Debtors	800	95
Prepayments and accrued income	13,335	7,240
<b>Total debtors</b>	<b>14,135</b>	<b>7,335</b>

## 11. Creditors

	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
	£	£
Creditors	7,183	11,711
Accruals and deferred income	6,408	4,879
<b>Total creditors</b>	<b>13,591</b>	<b>16,590</b>

## 12.1a Funds of the Charity - Current year

	At 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Bayer Conference Sponsorship	-	15,000	(15,000)	-
RNIB Conference Sponsorship	-	1,384	(1,384)	-
Guide Dogs Conference Sponsorship	-	1,300	(1,300)	-
Wilberforce	-	250	(250)	-
Thomas Pocklington Trust Conference Sponsorship	-	500	(500)	-
Pocklington Trust	60,000	-	-	60,000
Living Well with Sight Loss Macular Society	1,982	-	(1,980)	2
	-	800	(800)	-
Specsavers Conference		3,000	(3,000)	-
Vision Foundation Conference		800	(800)	-
Sight Scotland Conference		969	(969)	-
VISTA Conference		1,200	(1,200)	-
MeetUp Call Conference		800	(800)	-
Novartis Conference		5,000	(5,000)	-
Specsavers Eye Health		20,863	(20,413)	450
VF Making Lived Exp Matter		11,889	(11,889)	-
	<b>61,982</b>	<b>63,755</b>	<b>(65,285)</b>	<b>60,452</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	43,736	409,632	(357,319)	96,049
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,736</b>	<b>409,632</b>	<b>(357,319)</b>	<b>96,049</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>105,718</b>	<b>473,387</b>	<b>(422,604)</b>	<b>156,501</b>

### 12.1b Analysis of net Assets by Fund – Current year

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total £
Cash at bank	60,452	95,505	155,957
Debtors	-	14,135	14,135
<b>Creditors:</b> Amounts due within one year	-	(13,591)	(13,591)
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>60,452</b>	<b>96,049</b>	<b>156,501</b>

### 12.2a Funds of the Charity - Prior year

	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 March 2022 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Bayer Conference Sponsorship	-	1,250	(1,250)	-
Optelec Sponsorship	-	250	(250)	-
RNIB Conference Sponsorship	-	550	(550)	-
Guide Dogs Conference Sponsorship	-	550	(550)	-
Wilberforce	-	200	(200)	-
Blind Veterans (conference award)	-	570	(570)	-
Thomas Pocklington Trust Conference Sponsorship	-	250	(250)	-
Pocklington Trust	60,000	-	-	60,000
Living Well with Sight Loss	-	10,000	(8018)	1,982
Macular Society	-	800	(800)	-
	<b>60,000</b>	<b>14,420</b>	<b>(12,438)</b>	<b>61,982</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>68,672</b>	<b>344,245</b>	<b>(369,181)</b>	<b>43,736</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>68,672</b>	<b>344,245</b>	<b>(369,181)</b>	<b>43,736</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>128,672</b>	<b>358,665</b>	<b>(381,619)</b>	<b>105,718</b>

## 12.2b Analysis of net Assets by Fund - Prior year

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total £
Cash at bank	61,982	52,991	114,973
Debtors	-	7,335	7,335
<b>Creditors:</b> Amounts due within one year	-	(16,590)	(16,590)
	<b>61,982</b>	<b>43,736</b>	<b>105,718</b>

## 13. Trustee remuneration and expenses

No trustee received any remuneration from the charity in the year (2022: none).

Six trustees received reimbursement for travel expenses, £955.27 (2022: £501) to attend Board meetings.

£Nil consultancy was provided to work with the Visionary trustees to refresh the Visionary strategy, (2022: £2,100 was received by an independent consultant to work alongside trustees in a strategy refresh.)

## 14. Related Party Transactions

Graham Findlay was a trustee of Visionary and also of Thomas Pocklington Trust, which made grants to Visionary of £318,346 (2022: £313,961).

End of document

**VISIONARY - LINKING LOCAL SIGHT LOSS CHARITIES**

England & Wales - Charity number 1135360

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# Accounts

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# **Visionary**

**Linking local sight loss charities**

**Trustees Annual Report and Financial  
Statements**

**For the year ended 31 March 2022**

Charity Number: 1135360  
Company Registration Number: 07185372  
OSCR Registration Number: SC044163

## Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, Its Trustees and Advisors

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The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their annual report and the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2022.

**Registered charity name** Visionary – linking local sight loss charities

**Registered charity no.** 1135360

**OSCR charity no.** SC044163

**Company registration no.** 07185372

**Registered office** First Floor,  
3 Queen Square,  
London, WC1N 3AR

**President** Lord Low of Dalston, CBE

### Visionary Trustee Board

Owen Williams	(Chair)
Michael Conroy	(Vice Chair)
Stuart Clayton	(retired March 2022)
Arash Andalibi-Abadan	(appointed December 2021)
Arwyn Jones	(retired February 2022)
Graham Findlay	
Mark Upton	(appointed December 2021)
Philip Mills	(appointed December 2021)
Philippa Crowther	
Susan Hoath	(appointed December 2021)
Tom Harte	(appointed December 2021)
Shahina Pardhan	(appointed May 2022)

## **Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, Its Trustees and Advisors (continued)**

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### **Finance Committee**

Owen Williams

Fiona Sandford

Stuart Clayton (retired March 2022)

Michael Conroy (appointed July 2021, stood down April 2022)

Philip Mills (appointed January 2022)

Philippa Crowther

### **Company Secretary**

Fiona Sandford

### **Senior Management Team**

#### **Chief Executive Officer**

Fiona Sandford

#### **Partnership and Innovation Lead**

Sarah Halliwell

#### **Communications and Events Lead**

Amy Pearman

#### **Bankers**

National Westminster

Cathedral Square

Peterborough

PE1 1XH

#### **Independent Examiner**

Paul Windmill

Myers Clark Chartered Accountants, Egale 1, 80 St Albans Road,

Watford WD17 1DL

## **Objectives and Activities**

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Visionary's charitable objects are "to promote the relief of persons who are blind or visually impaired". The trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit. The trustees are confident that Visionary's aims and activities are in accordance with the regulations on public benefit.

Visionary's ambition is that by working with key partners, we inspire change and create opportunities to make a better world for everyone affected by sight loss.

Visionary's long-term goals and the change we want to see are:

- blind and partially sighted people have greater choice and the independence to realise their aspirations
- Visionary members have the knowledge and support to be the best they can be
- Visionary is the trusted leader and expert connector for local members
- Visionary harnesses the voice of members to inspire and influence national change
- Visionary partners, collaborates and seeks sponsors to promote eye health and accessibility for all.

### **We work to three strategic priorities.**

**Connect** - connecting individuals from organisations together and organisations to each other.

**Share** - sharing knowledge and expertise to help members be all they can be.

**Develop** - developing platforms for collaboration and joint initiatives with local and national partners.

### **Five principles underpin how we work.**

- We are a trusted organisation known for integrity, bravery, innovation, and creativity.
- We are a proactive team.
- We are clear about our member offer.
- We are led by our members.

Visionary is the voice of local sight loss sector – shouting about the amazing work and difference it makes.

### **The Visionary Promise.**

The Visionary Promise sets out how we work and how we expect our partners to work with us and each other. We hope that by sharing our promise with members, we will:

- be clear on our expectations from each other
- understand how we work
- know what to do if there is any uncertainty or disharmony.

### **Visionary promises our members that we will...**

- strive to empower our members to provide the best possible services with and for the visual impairment community
- provide professional, expert support, guidance and skills
- be honest and transparent
- engage with you in an efficient, timely and courteous manner
- communicate with a unified voice ensuring members receive consistent messages in their preferred format
- ask for and acknowledge feedback.

We make a promise to members that our behaviour will reflect our **values** of:

- integrity
- trust
- creativity
- bravery

### **How we achieve our objectives.**

Visionary achieves its objectives by supporting local sight loss charities that deliver direct support to people with sight loss and enabling those charities to deliver their services more effectively by connecting, developing and sharing.

Visionary also works closely with our partners (sight loss organisations with a UK wide remit) to connect local and national organisations, develop opportunities and share information.

Local sight loss charities are members of Visionary and their nominated representatives attend Annual General Meetings.

Part of the commitment to being the voice of a UK wide movement of local charities is to play a lead role in national networks such as the Visual Impairment Charity Sector Partnership. Visionary is the voice of local organisations and is a key influencer in delivering the shared sector workstreams.

### **Achievement and Performance**

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Team Visionary are so proud of what we have achieved over the last 12 months with a team of only 5 people.

Our success is due to listening and responding to our member organisations, in order to understand the challenges, they are experiencing, innovations that are happening and changes that are emerging.

Together with our members and national partners, we have developed an informed approach to our work that constantly evolves as the external environment changes.

#### **2021/2022 Achievements.**

##### **Visionary Conference 2021**

Visionary held its biggest ever annual conference in November 2021 – Rainbows, Disruptions and Transformations.

The online event was a huge success with 440 confirmed attendees from 122 different organisations. Delegate feedback showed that 97.5% felt that the conference was excellent/good value and 95% indicated that they had learnt something valuable. We received resoundingly positive feedback about the breadth and scope of our workshops, the keynote speakers and the wellbeing programme. The planning for next years 'Future-proof' conference is already underway.

Furthermore, throughout the year we:

- delivered 211 online sessions
- attracted 2,602 attendances at Visionary online sessions, networking events and conference
- carried out 748 member/partner one to one support interactions
- welcomed 27 external experts to share their expertise with our members and partners
- developed a collaborative relationship with Specsavers to provide data for their State of the UK's Eye Health report.
- increased our profile on the national stage through the VI Charity Sector Partnership, national workstreams and building improved relationships between local and national organisations
- launched our Make it Matter programme to promote inclusion, challenge, and change within local sight loss organisations
- developed themed months (lived experience, tech, employment, and mental health) addressing skills and knowledge gaps identified by Visionary members
- established a lived experience movement across the Visionary membership
- identified and addressed rehabilitation skills gaps through innovative collaborations, which resulted in the Tech for Rehabilitation and Fit for Rehabilitation work programmes

- led the delivery of the first ever sector wide national fundraising initiative ‘Take on 250’
- grew our twitter following by 12%
- developed and launched our informative new website and Knowledge Hub.

### **2021/22 Performance**

The work that we do directly impacts on our members and therefore, positively impacts on the approximately 225,000 blind and partially sighted people these organisations support across the UK.

Our impact is evidenced through feedback, surveys, and stories of change. Each quarter this year we have shared impact stories that have demonstrated the long term impact our work has on blind and partially sighted people.

The following brief story of change is a snapshot of the difference that Visionary makes.

#### **The problem**

Visionary members who manage care homes told us they felt isolated and wanted to connect with other members facing similar challenges.

#### **The solution**

The establishment of a member Care Home and Care at Home peer support forum.

#### **The outcome**

- Members with care homes gained invaluable peer support.
- Members explored issues and came up with practical solutions.
- Members shared success and good practice that could be implement by others.
- “This was the best and most supportive hour I’ve experienced all year” Ruth Lambert, N Vision.

#### **The difference for blind and partially sighted people**

- Blind and partially sighted people in care homes have an improved experience and quality of life.

## **2021 – 2022 Performance and Achievement Highlights**

- Following Employment month, in December 2021, we supported a group of Visionary members and partners to collaborate on a pre-employment course for their service users who are actively seeking employment.
- The third session in our Make it Matter series around diversity and inclusion went ahead in October. This session focused on creating inclusive services for LGBTQ+ people and was facilitated by the LGBTQ+ charity The Kite Trust and Focus Birmingham. 100% of those who attended rated the session as very good or good.
- Visionary supported two member organisations to deliver training sessions to Visionary members to implement, utilise and evaluate the Children and Young People Sight Loss MOT. This was attended by 20 colleagues from across the Visionary network, improving services available for children, young people and their families.
- Our lived experience work continues to develop through our Blind and Partially Sighted (BPS) group, our newly launched BPS leader forum and our leadership of the national workstream. We are now planning for Lived Experience and Inclusion month in April 2022 as well as sharing the public commitment to lived experience employment.
- In response to a gap identified by members and partners we delivered a themed month of online session, which focused on specific eye conditions, research, treatment, and support. The aim of this month was creating a toolkit of information to be used for induction of staff and volunteers across the Visionary network. We worked with members, national partners, and external experts to create a toolkit of videos and resources which included covering Nystagmus, Macular Degeneration, Keratoconus, hereditary retina conditions, Glaucoma, and a session introducing the eye and common eye conditions. This toolkit is now available through our online Knowledge Hub.

## **Visionary Relationships**

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We have further developed relationships within the visual impairment sector with Visionary being described as the ‘glue which holds us together’. Examples of this work are:

- RNIB and Visionary have worked in partnership with Sign Health, Sense, RAD, Healthwatch, RNID and Learning Disability England to conduct a survey relating to the Accessible Information Standard. The first draft of the findings was shared with NHS England, with Visionary and RNIB working together to gain further responses from blind and partially sighted people who are active online.
- Visionary participated in the VI Charity Sector Partnership Strategic Planning Session with RNIB, Guide Dogs and TPT, contributing to a proposed future strategy for the partnership.
- Visionary is a key member of the BAME Vision committee, driving forward this work in partnership with our members ensuring an integrated national and local approach.

## **Beyond Visual Impairment**

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Visionary is developing productive relationships beyond visual impairment to ensure that our members can offer a holistic approach to the people they work with. Some examples follow.

- We have created links with external partners with plans to broaden the learning for the sight loss sector including Alzheimer’s Society and SeeAbility.
- We welcomed Hospice UK in March 2021, who created an opportunity for members to share thoughts, strategies, and experiences of coping with disenfranchised grief.

- Visionary is an active member of the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) for the accessibility of COVID-19 testing for people who are blind/partially sighted.

## **How do we know what we do is worthwhile?**

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Visionary undertakes a poll survey at the end of our ‘learn and develop’ sessions. This promotes a high response rate and gives a good indication of how valuable our members find the sessions. Over the course of the last 12 months the results were:

- 96% of respondents reported learning something new from our sessions
- 99.6% of respondents reported that the sessions were either good or very good.

## **How do we communicate with our members?**

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One of the key achievements of Visionary is the information we share between members and partners – saving them valuable time and money that can then be directed towards the provision of front-line services. In this financial year, we shared a total of 623 resources, articles, job adverts and insights.

The new Visionary website was launched in August 2021, and we immediately experienced increased activity, increasing website hits by just over 10,000 throughout the year. The Knowledge Hub was launched in March 2022. This redesigned hub is a point of reference for members and partners, containing recordings of sessions, templates, and links to useful external resources. Within 24 hours of launching, 46 colleagues from member and partner organisations had registered to access the Knowledge Hub.

This year, again we increased our Twitter presence with an additional 450 followers giving us a total of 3,348 followers, with a high number of blind and partially sighted followers. We had a total of 9,203 engagements – demonstrating the wide appeal of Visionary news and updates.

We have continued to develop the role of the Members and Partners Consultative Group (MPCG) made up of our Member Consultative Group (MCG) representatives as well as leads from UK wide sight loss organisations including RNIB, Guide Dogs, TPT, Blind Veterans UK, Retina UK, Glaucoma UK and Macular Society. This group meets quarterly providing an opportunity for relevant and meaningful collaboration.

Regional and Country meetings are held with each of the Visionary regions and countries (Scotland, Wales, Northeast, Northwest, Yorkshire, Midlands, East, Southeast, Southwest) with a minimum of 2 and maximum of 4 meetings per year. All members in the region /country are invited to attend to: share information, ideas, priorities and strategic intelligence and provide feedback to MCG.

## **Visionary's Strategic Influence – Visual Impairment Charity Sector Partnership**

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Covid resulted in the Visual Impairment Charity Sector Partnership coming together and collaborating to address the challenges faced by blind and partially sighted people. As reported last year, at the outset of the crisis a Sector Coronavirus Response Group was formed, comprised of Visionary and seven other key sight loss charities. The group has collaborated on issues such as access to food, mental health and wellbeing, accessible information, and social distancing. As the pandemic progressed the group tackled challenges due to ongoing lockdowns including pressures on sight loss organisations service delivery staff, the roll-out of the vaccination programme and home schooling of children and young people with visual impairment.

Being part of this group demonstrated to Visionary and our members that there are clear benefits to service users from collaborating and working with other partner organisations.

As a direct outcome of this group, the VI Charity Sector Partnership was formed in October 2020, and one of the first initiatives involved partners supporting the Sight Loss Charter developed by Visionary, which aims to

help everyone understand the ethos we agree to adopt in working together; creating a foundation stone to build sector relationships.

The VI Charity Sector Partnership has seven workstreams and Visionary plays an active role in every group. Each workstream has an identified CEO sponsor and comprises a subject matter expert lead and sector working group. Interested parties from within the sight loss sector and beyond also contribute to the workstreams.

- Crisis Response Plan
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Talent Development and Lived Experience Leadership
- Establishment of a Sector-wide Insight Base
- Sector Information Sharing Kickstarter
- Access to Technology
- Joint Awareness Raising and Campaigning

Fiona Sandford, CEO of Visionary is the CEO sponsor of Talent Development and Lived Experience Leadership.

### **Finally, in the words of our Visionary members:**

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‘I cannot believe how much and how far things have progressed between Visionary and RNIB in the last 12 months; and I know there is so much more to do so the developments and progress can only continue in 2022/2023. thank you .... we have greatly benefitted and enjoyed the close working with the Visionary team, so the gains have all been mutual!’

‘It was an honour to collaborate on social media activity for World Braille Day. We certainly welcome the opportunity to work together again in 2022.’

‘I can’t thank everyone at Visionary for what you do to support local charities, CEOs and the sector as a whole! I think Visionary has transformed and moved the whole sector forward 10 years (in no time at all)!’

## **Financial Review**

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Overall, the Charity generated a deficit of (£22,954) in the financial year ending 31 March 2022 with income of £358,665 and expenditure of (£381,619).

Visionary's purpose, as agreed with its members, is to support them in their development and service delivery, connect them with each other and with national partners, and promote a strong collective influence on their behalf. Visionary has benefitted local organisations during the year by applying charitable funds to the following activities.

- Sharing good practice which directly benefits blind and partially sighted adults and children.
- Encouraging organisations to have people with lived experience of visual impairment at the heart of what they do.
- Provision of an information, advice and support service for visual impairment organisations and professionals.
- Sharing information, policy updates and good practice through online events, regular briefings, website, knowledge hub and social media.
- Creating opportunities for visual impairment organisations and professionals to connect via online events, regional and country meetings, members consultative meetings and partner meetings.
- Provision of training and networking via online sessions and events.
- Organising the flagship annual conference for the visual impairment sector.
- Liaising with relevant charities and other bodies at a national level on behalf of the Visionary membership and the people they work with.

### **Reserves Policy**

Our policy is to hold reserves of a minimum of three months committed running costs. The Thomas Pocklington Trust donated £60,000 to supplement our reserves in January 2020 and this is held in our restricted funds. Reserves held in March 2022 were equivalent to just over three months of running costs.

## **Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors' Report) For the year ended 31 March 2022**

## **Plans for the Future and Achieving our Priorities**

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Looking forward to 2022/23, we have added 'Inspire' as a strategic priority to the existing priorities of Connect, Develop and Share. This new priority will amplify the voices of member organisations to inspire innovation and create positive change within the visual impairment sector.

In September 2022, we will return to a face-to-face conference, and we have gradually returned to some elements of face-to-face work. However, for Visionary, online delivery is the most effective, cost efficient and convenient way for member organisations to access networking opportunities across the UK and also to tap into our expertise and knowledge. Therefore, we intend to continue with our online offering to our members.

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

The legal and administrative information set out on pages 2 and 3 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the memorandum and articles of association and the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Visionary - linking local sight loss charities (Visionary) is a charitable company limited by guarantee. It was formed from the National Association of Local Societies for Visually Impaired people (NALSVI) when the membership voted, in December 2009, to change the name to Visionary and for this new entity to become incorporated. Visionary was formally registered as a charity on 10 March 2010.

Full membership of Visionary is open to voluntary organisations that operate at a local level and comply with the criteria of membership. In addition, there is a partnership category for UK wide sight loss organisations that form part of the network.

Visionary's trustee board (the board) is responsible for strategic leadership and oversight as outlined in the articles of association.

Visionary trustees are recruited from Visionary members and external sources where a distinct skill benefit will be gained by directorship. Elections are held annually with full members voting in person at the

AGM or by proxy. The board deals with trustee recruitment and interviews for new board members in between AGMs. In this case, trustees must stand down at the next AGM and submit themselves for election by members. Trustees are appointed for periods of three years and rotated in accordance with the terms of the memorandum and articles of association. After a three-year period, trustees may stand for a further term. The Chair and Vice-Chair are elected each year by the board.

Visionary is managed by not less than three trustees who form the board and who are directors of the company; they meet no less than quarterly. As of 31 March 2022, there were 9 trustees, 4 of whom bring their personal experience of sight loss to the board, in addition to their other skills. Business planning and risk management processes are undertaken at board level.

The Finance Committee reports to the Board. This committee provides independent advice and assurance on risk, control and finance matters. The Finance Committee is made up of no less than two trustees (including the Chair) and the CEO.

Trustees undergo full induction regarding the Visionary objectives and local charity environment. They are encouraged to take an interest in a particular aspect of the work of the charity. Trustees give of their time freely and do not receive any remuneration in relation to their roles (other than reimbursement of their expenses).

The CEO is responsible for Visionary's day to day operations and the leadership of the organisation and is supported by the other members of the Visionary team. The CEO is further supported by the trustees and the Members Consultative Group which is made up of regional representatives from local sight loss charities who regularly meet with the Visionary team, informing them of the needs, aspirations and views of members in their regions.

The trustees have established systems of internal controls with the CEO which are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- a strategic plan and an annual budget set by the trustees
- regular consideration by the Finance Committee and trustees of

- financial results, variances from budgets, cashflow forecasts and non-financial performance indicators
- identification and management of risks.

### **Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

The trustees (who are also directors of Visionary - linking local sight loss charities for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The laws applicable to charities in England and Wales and Scotland require the 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 the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS102).
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable UK 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 charitable company will continue in operation.

The 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, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). 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

### **Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors' Report) For the year ended 31 March 2022**

other irregularities.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's independent examiners are unaware; and
- the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken, in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the independent examiners are aware of that information.

Signed by order of the trustees on



Owen Williams – Chairperson

Registered office:  
First Floor,  
3 Queen Square,  
London,  
WC1N 3AR

Company Registration Number: 07185372

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Visionary – Linking local sight loss charities**

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I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Visionary (charity no. 1135360; company no. 07185372) for the year ended 31 March 2022 which are set out on pages 21-38.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

The charitable company's trustees, who are also directors of Visionary, for the purposes of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for the year under part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 'Act') and that an independent examination is needed.

I report in respect of my examination of the charitable company's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

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

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

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the charitable company as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Visionary-linking local sight loss charities**



**Paul Windmill FCA**

**14 October 2022**

Myers Clark  
Statutory Auditor and Chartered Accountants  
Egale 1, 80 St Albans Road  
Watford  
Hertfordshire  
WD17 1DL

## Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account)

		2022		
	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
<b>Income and endowments</b>				
Donations and legacies	2	308,949	10,000	318,949
Income from charitable activities	3	7,222	4,420	11,642
Other Trading Activities	4	28,074	-	28,074
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>344,245</b>	<b>14,420</b>	<b>358,665</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Charitable Activities	5	(369,181)	(12,438)	(381,619)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>(369,181)</b>	<b>(12,438)</b>	<b>(381,619)</b>
<b>Net income/expenditure for the year</b>		<b>(24,936)</b>	<b>1,982</b>	<b>(22,954)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
Funds brought forward		68,672	60,000	128,672
<b>Funds carried forward</b>		<b>43,736</b>	<b>61,982</b>	<b>105,718</b>

## Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account) – prior year

		2021		
	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
<b>Income and endowments</b>				
Donations and legacies	2	293,338	20,000	313,338
Income from charitable activities	3	1,210	1,400	2,610
Other Trading Activities	4	25,120	-	25,120
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>319,668</b>	<b>21,400</b>	<b>341,068</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Charitable Activities	5	(356,540)	(21,400)	(377,940)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>(356,540)</b>	<b>(21,400)</b>	<b>(377,940)</b>
<b>Net income/expenditure for the year</b>		<b>(36,872)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(36,872)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
Funds brought forward		105,544	60,000	165,544
<b>Funds carried forward</b>		<b>68,672</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>128,672</b>

## Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2022

## Balance Sheet

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors	10	7,335	10,331
Cash at bank		114,973	143,436
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>122,308</b>	<b>153,767</b>
<b>Creditors:</b> Amounts due within one year	11	(16,590)	(25,095)
		<b>(16,590)</b>	<b>(25,095)</b>
 Net Current Assets/ Net Assets		 <b>105,718</b>	 <b>128,672</b>
<b>Funds of Charity</b>			
	12		
Restricted income funds		61,982	60,000
Unrestricted funds		43,736	68,672
		<b>105,718</b>	<b>128,672</b>

### Trustees' responsibilities:

- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.
- These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.
- The 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 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on the 26 September 2022 and are signed on their behalf

by:



Owen Williams

Company Registration Number: 07185372

## **General Information**

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The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales as a charity (1135360) and company (07185372). The address of the registered office is First Floor, 3 Queen Square, London, WC1N 3AR. The charity also has a charity registration in Scotland (SC044163)

## **Statement of Compliance**

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These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, as well as applicable charity and company law.

### **1. Accounting Policies**

#### **Basis of accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

#### **Going concern**

The accounts have been prepared on the going concern basis as, after making enquiries, the Trustees have reasonable assurance that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. As explained in note 14 the charity is heavily reliant on the continued support of the Thomas Pocklington Trust. A funding agreement is in place for three years from January 2020.

### **Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty**

The preparation of the financial statements may require management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported.

The estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. No material estimates or judgements were made during the year.

### **Financial instruments**

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

### **Income**

Voluntary income including donations, gifts and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Such income is only deferred when the donor specifies it must be used in future accounting periods or the donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement. This includes capital grants.

Incoming resources from charitable activities includes income received under contract or where entitlement to grant funding is subject to specific performance conditions. This income is recognised as the related services are provided and there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Income is

deferred when the amounts received are in advance of the performance of the service or event to which they relate.

Donations received in kind and not in cash are brought into the statement of financial activities at a value which the trustees consider would represent the cost to the charity if these items were purchased. The income is accounted for under donations and the appropriate expenditure under resources expended.

### **Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates.

Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

Other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

### **Netting off of income and expenditure**

It is not the policy of the charity to show incoming resources net of expenditure

## 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 restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for restricted purposes.

Transfers from restricted to unrestricted funds are made when the expending of the funds has fulfilled the terms of the restriction. Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

## 2. Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021/22	2020/21
	Funds	Funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>Donations</b>				
Donations	238	-	238	362
Pocklington Trust	24,120	-	24,120	29,969
<b>Grants Receivables</b>				
Pocklington Trust	284,591	-	284,591	283,007
LWWSL		10,000	10,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>308,949</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>318,949</b>	<b>313,338</b>

### 3. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021/22	2020/21
	Funds	Funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Conference income	5,795	4,420	10,215	1,238
Shared Purchasing	1,427	-	1,427	1,372
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,222</b>	<b>4,420</b>	<b>11,642</b>	<b>2,610</b>

£4,420 (Bayer £1,250, Optelec £250, RNIB £550, Guide Dogs £550, Wilberforce £200, Blind Veterans £570, Thomas Pocklington Trust £250 & Macular Society £800).

### 4. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021/22	2020/21
	Funds	Funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
National membership fees	13,700	-	13,700	13,750
Other membership fees	14,374	-	14,374	11,370
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,074</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>28,074</b>	<b>25,120</b>

## 5. Cost of charitable activities by fund

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
<b>Year ended 31 March 2022</b>			
Information and co-ordination	313,703	12,438	326,141
Support costs	55,478	-	55,478
<b>Total</b>	<b>369,181</b>	<b>12,438</b>	<b>381,619</b>
<b>Year ended 31 March 2021</b>			
Information and co-ordination	309,705	21,400	331,105
Support costs	46,835	-	46,835
<b>Total</b>	<b>356,540</b>	<b>21,400</b>	<b>377,940</b>

## 6. Costs of charitable activities by activity type

	Direct Costs £	Grants £	Support Costs £	Total £
<b>Year ended 31 March 2022</b>				
Information and co-ordination	318,123	8,018	55,478	381,619
<b>Total</b>	<b>318,123</b>	<b>8,018</b>	<b>55,478</b>	<b>381,619</b>
<b>Year ended 31 March 2021</b>				
Information and co-ordination	311,105	20,000	46,835	377,940
<b>Total</b>	<b>311,105</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>46,835</b>	<b>377,940</b>

## 7. Analysis of Support Costs

	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
General office costs	18,667	9,523
Governance costs	12,691	7,343
Management Charge	24,120	29,969
	<b>55,478</b>	<b>46,835</b>

The Donation in Kind from Pocklington Trust includes administrative and overhead services to Visionary, such as human resources, finance and office costs. These have been valued and the in-kind expenditure included as support costs.

## 8. Governance costs

	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
External auditor`s fees	-	5,400
Independent Examination	3,720	-
Trustees` expenses	2,601	99
Other	6,370	1,844
	<b>12,691</b>	<b>7,343</b>

## 9. Staff Costs

	2021/22	2020/21
	£	£
Gross salaries	240,034	227,076
Employer`s National Insurance	21,501	21,174
Employer's Pension Contribution	11,310	10,441
Health Insurance	1,008	932
<b>Total Staff Costs</b>	<b>273,853</b>	<b>259,623</b>

	Headcount	Headcount
The average number of staff during the year was:	5.3	5.1

The number of employees whose annual remuneration (excluding pension) was £60,000 or more were:

Band	2021/22	2020/21
£70,000 to £79,999	-	1
£80,000 to £89,999	-	-
£90,000 to £99,999	1	-

Included within staff cost is remuneration to key management personnel amounting to

Total remuneration	£92,809	£83,550
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### Disclosure on redundancy and termination payments

Total redundancy and termination payments in the year amounted to £8,077 (2021: £Nil) and related to termination payments.

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

At the balance sheet date (31 March 2022) all amounts due had been paid.

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022

## 10. Debtors

	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
	£	£
Debtors	95	211
Prepayments and accrued income	7,240	10,120
<b>Total debtors</b>	<b>7,335</b>	<b>10,331</b>

## 11. Creditors

	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
	£	£
Creditors	11,711	9,740
Accruals and deferred income	4,879	15,355
<b>Total creditors</b>	<b>16,590</b>	<b>25,095</b>

## 12.1a Funds of the Charity - Current year

	At 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	At 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Bayer Conference Sponsorship	-	1,250	(1,250)	-
Optelec Sponsorship	-	250	(250)	-
RNIB Conference Sponsorship	-	550	(550)	-
Guide Dogs Conference Sponsorship	-	550	(550)	-
Wilberforce	-	200	(200)	-
Blind Veterans (conference award)	-	570	(570)	-
Thomas Pocklington Trust Conference Sponsorship	-	250	(250)	-
Pocklington Trust	60,000	-	-	60,000
Living Well with Sight Loss	-	10,000	(8018)	1,982
Macular Society	-	800	(800)	-
	<b>60,000</b>	<b>14,420</b>	<b>(12,438)</b>	<b>61,982</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	68,672	344,245	(369,181)	43,736
<b>Total</b>	<b>68,672</b>	<b>344,245</b>	<b>(369,181)</b>	<b>43,736</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>128,672</b>	<b>358,665</b>	<b>(381,619)</b>	<b>105,718</b>

## 12.1b Analysis of net Assets by Fund – Current year

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total £
Cash at bank	61,982	52,991	114,973
Debtors	-	7,335	7,335
<b>Creditors:</b> Amounts due within one year	-	(16,590)	(16,590)
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>61,982</b>	<b>43,736</b>	<b>105,718</b>

## 12.2a Funds of the Charity - Prior year

	At 1 April 2020	Income	Expenditure	At 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Bayer Conference Sponsorship	-	-	-	-
Novartis Conference Sponsorship	-	-	-	-
RNIB Conference Sponsorship	-	-	-	-
Guide Dogs Conference Sponsorship	-	1,000	(1,000)	-
Wilberforce	-	400	(400)	-
Russell Cook (conference award)	-	-	-	-
Vision Support Conference Sponsorship	-	-	-	-
Blind Veterans (conference award)	-	-	-	-
Thomas Pocklington Trust Conference Sponsorship	-	-	-	-
Pocklington Trust EVS Project	60,000	-	-	60,000
		20,000	(20,000)	-
	<b>60,000</b>	<b>21,400</b>	<b>(21,400)</b>	<b>60,000</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	105,544	319,668	(356,540)	68,672
<b>Total</b>	<b>105,544</b>	<b>319,668</b>	<b>(356,540)</b>	<b>68,672</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>165,544</b>	<b>341,068</b>	<b>(377,940)</b>	<b>128,672</b>

## 12.2b Analysis of net Assets by Fund - Prior year

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total £
Cash at bank	60,000	83,436	143,436
Debtors	-	10,331	10,331
<b>Creditors:</b> Amounts due within one year	-	(25,095)	(25,095)
	<b>60,000</b>	<b>68,672</b>	<b>128,672</b>

### **13. Trustee remuneration and expenses**

No trustee received any remuneration from the charity in the year (2021: none)

Two trustees received reimbursement for travel expenses, £501 (2021:nil) to attend Board meetings.

Consultancy was provided to work with the Visionary Board to refresh Visionary Strategy, £2,100, (2021: nil).

### **14. Related Party Transactions**

Graham Findlay is a trustee of Visionary and also of Thomas Pocklington Trust, which made grants to Visionary of £313,961 (2021: £307,976).

**End of Document**

**VISIONARY - LINKING LOCAL SIGHT LOSS CHARITIES**

England & Wales - Charity number 1135360

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# Accounts

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# **Visionary**

**Linking local sight loss charities**

**Financial Statements**

**For the year ended 31 March 2021**

Charity Number: 1135360

Company Registration Number: 07185372

OSCR Registration Number: SC044163

## **Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, Its Trustees and Advisors**

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their annual report and the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2021.

**Registered charity name** Visionary – linking local sight loss charities

**Registered charity no.** 1135360

**OSCR charity no.** SC044163

**Company registration no.** 07185372

**Registered office** First Floor,  
3 Queen Square,  
London,  
WC1N 3AR

**President** Lord Low of Dalston, CBE

### **Visionary Trustee Board**

Owen Williams (Chair)

Michael Conroy (Vice Chair)

Stuart Clayton

Arwyn Jones

Graham Findlay

Phillippa Crowther

Martin Sandeman (retired November 2020)

Miriam Wright (retired November 2020)

Neville Broadbent (retired November 2020)

**Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors'  
Report) For the year ended 31 March 2021**

**Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity,  
Trustees and Advisors (*continued*)**

**Finance Committee**

Owen Williams

Fiona Sandford

Stuart Clayton

(appointed December 2020)

Philippa Crowther

(appointed December 2020)

Neville Broadbent

(retired November 2020)

Miriam Wright

(retired November 2020)

**Company Secretary**

Fiona Sandford

(appointed September 2020)

Martin Sandeman

(resigned September 2020)

**Senior Management Team**

**Chief Executive Officer**

Fiona Sandford

**Knowledge, Research & Compliance Lead**

Andrew Haynes

**Partnership and Innovation Lead**

Sarah Halliwell

**Communications and Events Lead**

Amy Pearman

(appointed January 2021)

**Strategic Projects Lead**

Sarah Cosby

(appointed February 2020 –  
resigned December 2020)

**Bankers**

National Westminster

Cathedral Square

Peterborough

PE1 1XH

**Auditors**

Myers Clark Chartered Accountants, Egale 1, 80 St Albans Road,  
Watford WD17 1DL

**Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors'  
Report) For the year ended 31 March 2021**

## Objectives and Activities

Visionary's charitable objects are "to promote the relief of persons who are blind or visually impaired". The trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit. The trustees are confident that Visionary's aims and activities are in accordance with the regulations on public benefit.

**Our Vision** is for a world in which people living with sight loss can access the services they need at a local level where and when they need them.

**Our Mission** is to empower local sight loss organisations to be the best that they can be.

**Our Business Plan** is based on our three strategic priorities:

- **Connect**

Visionary is a connector to facilitate and encourage positive change and sharing of good practice across the sight loss sector.

- **Develop**

Visionary develops knowledge and creates opportunities in order that member organisations can enhance their organisational health.

- **Share**

Visionary shares information, ideas and opportunities between members and partners.

### Five principles underpin how we work:

- We are a trusted organisation known for integrity, bravery, innovation and creativity
- We are a proactive team
- We are clear about our member offer
- We are led by our members
- Visionary is the voice of local sight loss sector – shouting about the amazing work and difference it makes.

### **The Visionary Promise:**

The Visionary Promise sets out how we work and how we expect our partners to work with us and each other. We hope that by sharing our promise with members, we will:

- be clear on our expectations from each other
- understand how we work
- know what to do if there is any uncertainty or disharmony

### **Visionary promises our members that we will...**

- strive to empower our members to provide the best possible services with and for the visual impairment community
- provide professional, expert support, guidance and skills
- be honest and transparent
- engage with you in an efficient, timely and courteous manner
- communicate with a unified voice ensuring members receive consistent messages in their preferred format
- ask for and acknowledge feedback

We make a promise to members that our behaviour will reflect our **values:**

- integrity
- trust
- creativity
- bravery

### **How we achieve our objectives:**

Visionary achieves its objectives by supporting local sight loss charities that deliver direct support to people with sight loss and enabling those charities to deliver their services more effectively by connecting, developing and sharing. Visionary also works closely with our partners (sight loss organisations with a UK wide remit) to connect local and national organisations, develop opportunities and share information. Local sight loss charities are members of Visionary and their nominated representatives attend Annual General Meetings.

Part of the commitment to being the voice of a UK wide movement of local charities is to play a lead role in national networks such as the Visual Impairment Charity Sector Partnership. Visionary is the voice of local organisations and is a key influencer in delivering the shared sector workstreams.

## **Achievement and Performance**

Visionary are incredibly proud of everything we have achieved during the financial year ending March 2021.

This has been an extremely challenging year for everyone due to COVID-19. Within weeks of the pandemic, we moved our offering to an online platform and as a result we have reached further and wider than ever before.

*“This has been one of the most challenging years we have all faced and as a sight loss charity, which provides social care, those challenges have been significant. We couldn’t have done it without Visionary; they have provided practical, legal and emotional support. Staff and volunteers from across the charity have attended their sessions and sought direct support and guidance. Visionary is not just the team of staff, but the network they bring together, without them there is no doubt the sector and the people we support wouldn’t be as strong as we are today.”*

Lisa Cowley, Beacon Vision

Feedback from our members has been overwhelmingly positive, has consistently reinforced the value of our offer and has highlighted the difference we are making. Fundamental to our success has been our Connect, Develop and Share strategy, which has enabled us to proactively respond to the needs of members.

Delivery via our online platform enabled us to increase our reach and connect with members in a way that was not previously possible. We have significantly increased engagement with leaders, employees, trustees and volunteers from member and partner organisations.

As a result of our work, members and partners have shared information, connected with each other and developed their services. Relationships have flourished both across the membership and with our national partners and as a result, we are now starting to see real change. Our members and partners are at the heart of everything we do – and together we work to improve the lives of blind and partially sighted people.

We have had phenomenal success in delivering our services online. The sessions have been varied, engaging and predominantly member led. Since April 2020, we have delivered 54 learn and develop sessions and covered the following themes:

- **Business Development and HR:** finance; cashflow solvency; furlough; strategic planning; returning to work post covid/reopening services; care homes; health and Safety; cyber security.
- **Fundraising:** fundraising master class; bid writing; legacy fundraising; storytelling.
- **Service Development:** befriending; wellbeing & mental health; sport and physical activity, BAME engagement; low vision services; technology support; digital communities; Charles Bonnet Syndrome.
- **Legal Rights:** Coronavirus Act; social care easements; welfare rights; social care challenges; welfare benefits.

We have also established 9 regular and active peer support groups. All groups have been well attended with a core of regular attendees. Four of the groups are now member led.

- Fundraisers (member led)
- Rehabilitation workers (member led)
- Small organisations (member led)
- Tech forum (member led)
- Children, young people and family forum
- Finance
- Trustees
- CEO

Country and Regional meetings have been taking place regularly throughout the year. The meetings provide an opportunity to share information and network. Members value the opportunity to share information with each other and with Visionary. Regional leads attend our member consultative group which meets quarterly. Information is shared through these networks and helps to shape our priorities.

We have formally established the Members and Partners Consultative Group (MPCG) made up of our MCG reps as well as leads from UK wide sight loss organisations including RNIB, Guide Dogs, TPT, Blind Veterans UK, Retina UK, Glaucoma UK and Macular Society. This group

meets quarterly providing an opportunity for relevant and meaningful collaboration.

### **Visionary Conference 2020: Connect, Develop, Share**

Our first online conference was a great success, with excellent feedback which is now informing our 2021 conference 'Rainbows, Disruptions and Transformations'.

We delivered a varied and exciting online conference programme which included:

- 12 online workshop sessions
- 2 keynote speakers
- national panel
- awards event
- entertainment

Our conference achieved the following:

- 341 individual registrations and 293 individual attendances
- increased reach - attracting smaller member organisations and frontline staff from across all organisations
- 98% of delegates said that the overall value of the conference was good or excellent
- 96% of delegates said they had learnt something new
- 96% of delegates reported that they would like to attend next year. We are now planning our 2021 conference and are keen to capitalise on learning from 2020 to create an even better online conference.

### **Communicating with members**

We increased the frequency of our email briefing early in April 2020 to ensure that members, partners and other interested parties received relevant and up to date support, knowledge and advice promptly in their inboxes.

As a result:

- The distribution of our briefing has doubled during this period, increasing from 272 to 547.
- We have been able to share information with members about national priorities, events and campaigns.
- In the last 12 months we have shared 116 different priorities and campaigns, some multiple times.

We are in the early stages of redesigning the Visionary Website. We aim to create a “go to” resource for our members which provides a reliable, up to date and relevant source of information, advice, support, good practice service toolkit, and templates. In the meantime, we continue to use the briefing to direct readers to the resources available on the current site.

We have created a Visionary profile on LinkedIn. As we now start to embed this platform, we aim to create opportunities and links to benefit our members.

We increased our Twitter presence for Visionary with over 2,100 tweets this year, 5,564 engagements and 514 retweets.

We worked with Glaucoma UK to offer our first Twitter Takeover on 8 March 2021, which was at the start of their World Glaucoma week. Glaucoma UK reported:

*“I’ve just been going through reporting for the week, and thanks in no small part to you, it looks like our best week on Twitter ever.”*

#### **Collaborating with national partners**

Over the last year, Visionary have been instrumental in developing a more cohesive and collaborative approach to the delivery of sight loss services. In response to the pandemic, national partners have worked together to ensure blind and partially sighted people have access to the information, advice and resources they need.

The outcomes of this approach have been far reaching with the development of national workstreams where Visionary has active involvement:

- Crisis Response Plan (Blue Book)
- Mental health and wellbeing.
- Talent development and lived experience leadership – Fiona Sandford CEO sponsor.
- Establishment of a sector-wide Insight base.
- Sector Information Sharing Kickstarter.
- Access to technology.
- Joint awareness raising and campaigning.

### **Strategic input**

Visionary has actively contributed to the following strategic work:

- England Vision Strategy: Contributed to EVS the way forward, EVS the state of the nation.
- Scottish Vision Strategy Conference: contributed to the planning, presentation on the work of Visionary members across the UK and closing remarks.
- BAME Vision: Visionary a key member of the committee, driving forward this work in partnership with our members ensuring an integrated national/local approach.
- Children and Young People: We have reignited our support and work relating to children, young people and families. We have relaunched our monthly peer support group for Visionary members, along with delivering and planning several Connect, Develop and Share online sessions. This has included a one-off session which shared information about using research, data and specialist teams to reach beneficiaries. This is developing organically with future sessions planned for staff and their members.
- Accessibility of COVID-19 testing and Vaccinations: Visionary is an active member of the DHSC steering group for the accessibility of COVID-19 testing for people who are blind/partially sighted.

### **Finally ...**

Visionary led on the development of a community sight loss charter. The charter was developed in consultation with members and has gained widespread support from local and national organisations. This overarching document details a positive ethos and spirit of collaboration that will make a difference to how organisations work together and demonstrate a cohesive approach to stakeholders and service users.

*“I just wanted to say thank you for all the support Visionary has given to members this year. The workshops, webinars and meetings have been amazing and I've learned such a lot and met some really amazing people.”* Emma Lucas – Service Manager at My Sights Notts

## **Financial Review**

Overall, the Charity generated a deficit of (£36,872) in the financial year ended 31 March 2021 with income of £341,068 and expenditure of £377,940

Visionary's purpose, as agreed with its members, is to support them in their development and service delivery, connect them with each other and with national partners, and promote a strong collective influence on their behalf.

Visionary has benefitted local organisations during the year by applying charitable funds to the following activities:

- Provision of an information and support service for the membership
- Sharing information, policy updates and good practice through the regular briefing, website and social media
- Creating opportunities to connect via regional and country meetings, members consultative meetings and partner meetings
- Provision of training and networking via online sessions and events
- Organising an annual conference
- Liaising with relevant charities and other bodies at a national level on behalf of the Visionary membership.

## **Reserves Policy**

*Our policy is to hold reserves of a minimum of three months committed running costs. The Thomas Pocklington Trust donated £60k to supplement our reserves in January 2020 and this is held in our restricted funds. Reserves held at March 2021 were just under five months.*

## **Plans for the Future and Achieving our Priorities**

The world has changed due to COVID-19. Visionary has created opportunity from this global catastrophe and we are now reaching more people than we ever did.

Looking forward to 2021/22, we will continue to focus our activities in line with our three key strategic priorities: Connect, Develop and Share.

We hope to be able to return to some elements of face-to-face delivery, however we have realised that for our members, virtual platforms are more cost effective and easier to access. Therefore, we intend to continue this method of delivery to our members.

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

The legal and administrative information set out on pages 2 and 3 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the memorandum and articles of association and the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Visionary - linking local sight loss charities (Visionary) is a charitable company limited by guarantee. It was formed from the National Association of Local Societies for Visually Impaired people (NALSVI) when the membership voted, in December 2009, to change the name to Visionary and for this new entity to become incorporated. Visionary was formally registered as a charity on 10 March 2010.

Full membership of Visionary is open to voluntary organisations that operate at a local level and comply with the criteria of membership. In addition, there is a partnership category for UK wide sight loss organisations that form part of the network.

Visionary's trustee board (the board) is responsible for managing the business of Visionary as outlined in the articles of association.

Visionary trustees are recruited from Visionary members and external sources where a distinct skill benefit will be gained by directorship. Elections are held annually with full members voting in person at the AGM or by proxy. The board deals with trustee recruitment and interviews for new board members in between AGMs. In this case, trustees must stand down at the next AGM and submit themselves for

election by members. Trustees are appointed for periods of three years and rotated in accordance with the terms of the memorandum and articles of association. After a three-year period, trustees may stand for a further term. The Chair and Vice-Chair are elected each year by the board.

Visionary is managed by not less than three trustees who form the board and who are directors of the company; they meet no less than quarterly. As at 31 March 2021, there were 6 trustees, 2 of whom bring their personal experience of sight loss to the board, in addition to their other skills. Business planning and risk management processes are undertaken at board level.

The Finance Committee reports to the Board. This committee provides independent advice and assurance on risk, control and finance matters. The Finance Committee is made up of no less than two trustees (including the Chair) and the CEO.

Trustees undergo full induction regarding the Visionary objectives and local charity environment. They are encouraged to take an interest in a particular aspect of the work of the charity. Trustees give of their time freely and do not receive any remuneration in relation to their roles (other than reimbursement of their expenses).

The CEO is responsible for Visionary's day to day operations and the leadership of the organisation and is supported by the other members of the Visionary team. The CEO is further supported by the trustees and the Members Consultative Group which is made up of regional representatives from local sight loss charities who regularly meet with the Visionary team, informing them of the needs, aspirations and views of members in their regions.

The trustees have established systems of internal controls with the CEO which are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- A strategic plan and an annual budget set by the trustees;
- Regular consideration by the Finance Committee and trustees of financial results, variances from budgets, cashflow forecasts and non-financial performance indicators;
- Identification and management of risks

## **Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

The trustees (who are also directors of Visionary - linking local sight loss charities for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The laws applicable to charities in England and Wales and Scotland requires the 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 the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK 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 charitable company will continue in operation.

The 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, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). 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.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware; and
- the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken, in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Signed by order of the trustees on 11 October 2021



Michael Conroy – Interim Chairperson

Registered office:  
First Floor,  
3 Queen Square,  
London,  
WC1N 3AR

Company Registration Number: 07185372

## **Independent Auditor`s Report to the Trustees of Visionary-linking local sight loss charities**

### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Visionary (the ‘charitable company’) for the period ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, 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, 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, for the year then ended
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the Charities Act 2011.

### **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 charity 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.

## **Independent Auditor`s Report to the Trustees of Visionary-linking local sight loss charities**

## **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 12 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 other information comprises the information included in the report of the trustees, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. 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.

## **Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of Visionary-linking local sight loss charities**

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

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

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

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and proper 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 trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit

## **Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of Visionary-linking local sight loss charities**

## **Responsibilities of the trustees**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities of the Trustees set out on pages 14-15, 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 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 charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

We have been appointed as auditor under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with the Acts 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 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,

## **Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of Visionary-linking local sight loss charities**

outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

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

***The extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities including fraud***

In identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following;

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance including the design of the remuneration policies, key drivers for trustee remuneration, bonus levels and performance targets;
- results of our enquiries of Management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and review the charitable company's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to;
- identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulation and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

**Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of Visionary-linking local sight loss charities**

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charitable company operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Companies Act.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included Employment law.

### ***Audit response to risks identified***

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:


- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

## **Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of Visionary-linking local sight loss charities**

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

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](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.



Paul Windmill FCA  
Senior Statutory Auditor

Date: 27 October 2021

Myers Clark  
Egale 1, 80 St Albans Road  
Watford  
Hertfordshire  
WD17 1DL

**Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of Visionary-linking local sight loss charities**

## Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account)

		2021		
	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
<b>Income and endowments</b>				
Donations and legacies	2	293,338	20,000	313,338
Income from charitable activities	3	1,210	1,400	2,610
Other Trading Activities	4	25,120	-	25,120
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>319,668</b>	<b>21,400</b>	<b>341,068</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Charitable Activities	5	(356,540)	(21,400)	(377,940)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>(356,540)</b>	<b>(21,400)</b>	<b>(377,940)</b>
<b>Net income/expenditure for the year</b>		<b>(36,872)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(36,872)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
Funds brought forward		105,544	60,000	165,544
<b>Funds carried forward</b>		<b>68,672</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>128,672</b>

**Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account) – Prior Year**

		<b>2020</b>		
	<b>Note</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total Funds £</b>
<b>Income and endowments</b>				
Donations and legacies	2	388,906	60,000	448,906
Income from charitable activities	3	52,053	34,182	86,235
Other Trading Activities	4	28,089	-	28,089
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>469,048</b>	<b>94,182</b>	<b>563,230</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Charitable Activities	5	(402,700)	(34,642)	(437,342)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>(402,700)</b>	<b>(34,642)</b>	<b>(437,342)</b>
<b>Net income/expenditure for the year</b>		<b>66,348</b>	<b>59,540</b>	<b>125,888</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
Funds brought forward		39,196	460	39,656
<b>Funds carried forward</b>		<b>105,544</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>165,544</b>

**Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2021**

## Balance Sheet

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors	10	10,331	17,464
Cash at bank		143,436	162,947
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>153,767</b>	<b>180,411</b>
<b>Creditors:</b> Amounts due within one year	11	(25,095)	(14,867)
		<b>(25,095)</b>	<b>(14,867)</b>
Net Current Assets/ Net Assets		<b>128,672</b>	<b>165,544</b>
<b>Funds of Charity</b>			
Restricted income funds	12	60,000	60,000
Unrestricted funds		68,672	105,544
		<b>128,672</b>	<b>165,544</b>

### Trustees' responsibilities:

- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.
- These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on the 11 October 2021 and are signed on their behalf

by:



Michael Conroy

Registered office:

First Floor,

3 Queen Square,

London,

WC1N 3AR

Company Registration Number: 07185372

## Cash Flow Statement

	2021	2020
	£	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Net income / (expenditure)	(36,872)	125,888
Adjustments for:		
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets		
Movement in debtors	7,133	43,722
Movement in creditors due within less than one year	10,228	(52,030)
<b>Net cash provided / (used) in operating activities</b>	<b>(19,511)</b>	<b>117,580</b>
 <b>Cash and cash equivalents</b>		
At 1 April 2020	162,947	45,367
At 31 March 2021	<b>143,436</b>	<b>162,947</b>
 <b>Cash and cash equivalents</b>		
Cash at bank	<b>143,436</b>	<b>162,947</b>

## **General information**

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales as a charity (1135360) and company (07185372). The address of the registered office is First Floor, 3 Queen Square, London, WC1N 3AR. The charity also has a charity registration in Scotland (SC044163)

## **Statement of compliance**

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, as well as applicable charity and company law.

### **1. Accounting Policies**

#### **Basis of accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

#### **Going concern**

The accounts have been prepared on the going concern basis as, after making enquiries, the Trustees have reasonable assurance that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. As explained in note 14 the charity is heavily reliant on the continued support of the Thomas Pocklington Trust. A funding agreement is in place for three years from January 2020.

### **Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty**

The preparation of the financial statements may require management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported.

The estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. No material estimates or judgements were made during the year.

### **Financial instruments**

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

### **Income**

Voluntary income including donations, gifts and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Such income is only deferred when the donor specifies it must be used in future accounting periods or the donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement. This includes capital grants.

Incoming resources from charitable activities includes income received under contract or where entitlement to grant funding is subject to specific performance conditions. This income is recognised as the related services are provided and there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Income is

deferred when the amounts received are in advance of the performance of the service or event to which they relate.

Donations received in kind and not in cash are brought into the statement of financial activities at a value which the trustees consider would represent the cost to the charity if these items were purchased. The income is accounted for under donations and the appropriate expenditure under resources expended.

### **Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates.

Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

Other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

### **Netting off of income and expenditure**

It is not the policy of the charity to show incoming resources net of expenditure

## 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 restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for restricted purposes.

Transfers from restricted to unrestricted funds are made when the expending of the funds has fulfilled the terms of the restriction. Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

## 2. Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2020/21	2019/20
	Funds	Funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>Donations</b>				
Donations	362	-	362	1,031
Pocklington Trust	29,969	-	29,969	279,125
Inspiring Impact Grant				
<b>Grants Receivables</b>				
Pocklington Trust	263,007	20,000	283,007	168,750
Grant				
<b>Total</b>	<b>293,338</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>313,338</b>	<b>448,906</b>

Staff members, including the CEO, were seconded from Pocklington Trust until December 2019. The value of this donation in kind was established and included as income, with the corresponding cost included in expenditure.

### 3. Income from charitable activities

	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Conference income	(162)	1,400	1,238	84,401
Shared Purchasing	1,372	-	1,372	1,834
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,210</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>2,610</b>	<b>86,235</b>

£1,400 (Guide Dogs £1,000 & Wilberforce £400).

### 4. Other trading activities

	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
National membership fees	13,750	-	13,750	18,062
Other membership fees	11,370	-	11,370	10,027
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,120</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>25,120</b>	<b>28,089</b>

## 5. Cost of charitable activities by fund

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
<b>Year ended 31 March 2021</b>			
Information and co-ordination	309,705	21,400	331,105
Support costs	46,835	-	46,835
<b>Total</b>	<b>356,540</b>	<b>21,400</b>	<b>377,940</b>
<b>Year ended 31 March 2020</b>			
Information and co-ordination	335,143	34,642	369,785
Support costs	67,557	-	67,557
<b>Total</b>	<b>402,700</b>	<b>34,642</b>	<b>437,342</b>

## 6. Costs of charitable activities by activity type

	Direct Costs £	Grants £	Support Costs £	Total £
<b>Year ended 31 March 2021</b>				
Information and co-ordination	311,105	20,000	46,835	377,940
<b>Total</b>	<b>311,105</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>46,835</b>	<b>377,940</b>
<b>Year ended 31 March 2020</b>				
Information and co-ordination	369,785	-	67,557	437,342
<b>Total</b>	<b>369,769</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>67,557</b>	<b>437,342</b>

## 7. Analysis of Support Costs

	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
General office costs	9,523	10,897
Governance costs	7,343	8,993
Management Charge	29,969	47,667
	<b>46,835</b>	<b>67,557</b>

The Donation in Kind from Pocklington Trust includes administrative and overhead services to Visionary, such as recruitment training and office costs. These have been valued and the in-kind expenditure included as support costs.

## 8. Governance costs

	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
External auditor`s fees	5,400	6,540
Trustees` expenses	99	2,033
Other	1,844	2,453
	<b>7,343</b>	<b>11,026</b>

## 9. Staff Costs

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Gross salaries	227,076	216,261
Employer`s National Insurance	21,174	21,599
Employer's Pension Contribution	10,441	10,423
Health Insurance	932	629
<b>Total Staff Costs</b>	<b>259,623</b>	<b>248,912</b>
Seconded from Thomas Pocklington Trust	-	<b>201,245</b>

	Headcount	Headcount
The average number of staff during the year was:	5.1	6

The number of employees whose annual remuneration (excluding pension) was £60,000 or more were:

Band	2020/21	2019/20
£70,000 to £79,999	1	-
£80,000 to £89,999	-	-

Included within staff cost is remuneration to key management personnel amounting to

Total remuneration	£83,550	£78,742
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Fiona Sandford replaced Alison Oliver as CEO in July 2019. The remuneration for key management personnel shows the total CEO cost for the year.

Until December 2019 staff were seconded from Pocklington Trust and provided to Visionary as a gift in kind. Staff were transferred from Pocklington Trust to Visionary in January 2020. The above costs include the gift in kind and the costs incurred directly by Visionary.

## 10. Debtors

	2020/21	2019/120
	£	£
Debtors	211	10,224
Prepayments and accrued income	10,120	7,240
<b>Total debtors</b>	<b>10,331</b>	<b>17,464</b>

## 11. Creditors

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Creditors	9,740	9,303
Accruals and deferred income	15,355	5,564
<b>Total creditors</b>	<b>25,095</b>	<b>14,867</b>

## 12.1a Funds of the Charity - Current year

	At 1 April 2020	Income	Expenditure	At 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Bayer Conference Sponsorship	-	-	-	-
Novartis Conference Sponsorship	-	-	-	-
RNIB Conference Sponsorship	-	-	-	-
Guide Dogs Conference Sponsorship	-	1,000	(1,000)	-
Wilberforce	-	400	(400)	-
Russell Cook (conference award)	-	-	-	-
Vision Support Conference Sponsorship	-	-	-	-
Blind Veterans (conference award)	-	-	-	-
Thomas Pocklington Trust Conference Sponsorship	-	-	-	-
Pocklington Trust Eyeware project	60,000	-	-	60,000
EVS Project	-	20,000	(20,000)	-
	<b>60,000</b>	<b>21,400</b>	<b>(21,400)</b>	<b>60,000</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	105,544	319,668	(356,540)	68,672
<b>Total</b>	<b>105,544</b>	<b>319,668</b>	<b>(356,540)</b>	<b>68,672</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>165,544</b>	<b>341,068</b>	<b>(377,940)</b>	<b>128,672</b>

### 12.1b Analysis of net Assets by Fund – Current year

	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Cash at bank	60,000	83,436	143,436
Debtors	-	10,331	10,331
<b>Creditors:</b> Amounts due within one year	-	(25,095)	(25,095)
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>68,672</b>	<b>128,672</b>

## 12.2a Funds of the Charity - Prior year

	At 1 April 2019	Income	Expenditure	At 31 March 2020
	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Bayer Conference Sponsorship	-	12,000	(12,000)	-
Novartis Conference Sponsorship	-	10,182	(10,182)	-
RNIB Conference Sponsorship	-	5,000	(5,000)	-
Guide Dogs Conference Sponsorship	-	5,000	(5,000)	-
Russell Cook (conference award)	-	500	(500)	-
Vision Support Conference Sponsorship	-	500	(500)	-
Blind Veterans (conference award)	-	500	(500)	-
Thomas Pocklington Trust Conference Sponsorship	-	500	(500)	-
Pocklington Trust	-	60,000	-	60,000
Eyeware project	460	-	(460)	-
	<b>460</b>	<b>94,182</b>	<b>(34,642)</b>	<b>60,000</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	39,196	469,048	(402,700)	105,544
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,196</b>	<b>469,048</b>	<b>(402,700)</b>	<b>105,544</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>39,656</b>	<b>563,230</b>	<b>(437,342)</b>	<b>165,544</b>

### 12.2b Analysis of net Assets by Fund - Prior year

	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Cash at bank	60,000	102,947	162,947
Debtors	-	17,464	17,464
<b>Creditors:</b> Amounts due within one year	-	(14,867)	(14,867)
	<b>60,000</b>	<b>105,544</b>	<b>165,544</b>

### 13. Trustee remuneration and expenses

No (2020:21) trustees received reimbursement for travel expenses (2019:20 £2,033) to attend Board meetings. However 1 trustee attended a legal governance and risk management course (£99).

### 14. Related Party Transactions

Pocklington Trust is a related party as it has significant influence over the charity. Graham Findlay, a trustee of the Visionary Board of Trustees is also a trustee of Pocklington Trust. Miriam Wright, a trustee of the Visionary Board is also the CEO of Vision Support. Phillipa Crowther, a trustee of the Visionary Board is also the CEO of Wilberforce. Stuart Clayton, a trustee of the Visionary Board is also the CEO of Galloways. Pocklington Trust provides 87% (2019:80%) of Visionary's income. Until December 2019 most of this was provided by way of donated services which are also included as income and cost in kind in Visionary's accounts this amounted to £29,969 in the year to March 2021 (2019: £279,125). In January 2020 this was replaced by a three year funding agreement. The funding for April to March 2021 is £263,007 to be used to pay for staff, related costs and overheads . The amounts donated by Pocklington Trust comprise:

	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
Pocklington Grants	263,007	168,750
Development and Innovation fund		
Gross salaries, NIC & Pensions	0	201,245
Management charge	29,969	47,667
Other staff costs	0	30,212
Conference award		500
EVS (Pocklington/RNIB)	15,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>307,976</b>	<b>448,375</b>

## **15.Contractual Commitments**

At the year end Visionary was in the process of updating its website and had entered into a contract with a website developer. Completion of the website is anticipated to be completed in 2021/22 upon which a final fee of £3,745 would be contractually payable.

**End of Document**