



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

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)

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

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

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

- 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

- 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

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

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

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

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.

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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?

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?

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

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

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

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

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

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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 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

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 W.

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 £
Income and endowments				
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
Total Income		247,460	151,566	399,026
Expenditure				
Charitable Activities	5	(302,392)	(134,644)	(437,036)
Total Expenditure		(302,392)	(134,644)	(437,036)
Net income/expenditure for the year		(54,932)	16,922	(38,010)
Reconciliation of funds				
Funds brought forward		141,872	64,089	205,961
Funds carried forward		86,940	81,011	167,951

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2025

Statement of Financial Activities – prior year

		2024		
	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Income and endowments				
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
Total Income		356,209	131,062	487,271
Expenditure				
Charitable Activities	5	(310,386)	(127,425)	(437,811)
Total Expenditure		(310,386)	(127,425)	(437,811)
Net income/expenditure for the year		45,823	3,637	49,460
Reconciliation of funds				
Funds brought forward		96,049	60,452	156,501
Funds carried forward		141,872	64,089	205,961

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2025

Balance Sheet at 31 March 2025

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

The trustees approved these accounts on 20 August 2025.



Mark Upton – Chairperson

General Information

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

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 Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024/25 Total £	2023/24 Total £
Donations				
Donations	325	-	325	20
Pocklington Trust	28,208	-	28,208	26,605
Grants Receivables				
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	-
Total	143,533	95,624	239,157	355,477

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
Total	54,708	55,942	110,650	88,198

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
Total	49,219	-	49,219	43,596

5. Cost of charitable activities by fund

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

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 £
Year ended 31 March 2025				
Information and co-ordination	330,261	64,509	42,266	437,036
Total	330,261	64,509	42,266	437,036
Year ended 31 March 2024				
Information and co-ordination	321,958	74,302	41,551	437,811
Total	321,958	74,302	41,551	437,811

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
Total	42,266	41,551

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
Total	5,021	4,912

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

9. Staff Costs

	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
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
Total Staff Costs	253,104	258,793

	Headcount	Headcount
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:

Band	2024/25	2023/24
£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

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

11. Creditors

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

12.1a Funds of the Charity - Current year

	At 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds				
Conference Sponsorship				
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)	-
Other Restricted				
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)	-
	64,089	151,566	(134,644)	81,011
Unrestricted Funds	141,872	247,460	(302,392)	86,940
Total	141,872	247,460	(302,392)	86,940
Total Funds	205,961	399,026	(437,036)	167,951

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
Creditors: Amounts due within one year	(879)	(20,572)	(21,451)
Net assets	81,011	86,940	167,951

12.2a Funds of the Charity - Prior year

	At 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds				
Conference Sponsorship				
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)	-
Other Restricted				
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
	60,452	131,062	(127,425)	64,089
Unrestricted Funds	96,049	356,209	(310,386)	141,872
Total	96,049	356,209	(310,386)	141,872
Total Funds	156,501	487,271	(437,811)	205,961

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
Creditors: Amounts due within one year	(1,625)	(13,867)	(15,492)
Net assets	64,089	141,872	205,961

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).

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