

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

England & Wales · Charity number 1136716

Details

Other names	SIGHT CONCERN WORCESTERSHIRE
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	07258623
Registered	2010-07-05
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Worcestershire Association For The Blind The Bradbury Centre 2 Sansome Walk Worcester WR1 1LH
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Phone	01905723245
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Email	info@sightconcern.co.uk
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Website	www.sightconcern.co.uk
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Activities

Objects: 4. Charitable objects4.1 The charity's objects are specifically restricted to the following:a) To support visually impaired people, primarily those living in Worcestershire.b) The provision of services to increase the independence and reduce the social isolation of vision impaired people of all ages, and at all stages of their vision impairment journey. c) The promotion and support of the emotional and physical wellbeing of blind and partially sighted people, and their families. d) The provision of information, resources and advocacy to support and empower people living with impaired vision to make informed choices. e) Working collaboratively with other service providers and agencies, ensuring people affected by sight loss receive the best services. f) The provision of similar services to people with other sensory impairment or needs.

Activities: We provide access to information, advice and guidance - Supporting people to make informed choices. We provide access to expert support - Supporting people to lead independent lives. We provide

access to social and leisure activities - Supporting people to lead full and active lives.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Disability
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** WORCESTERSHIRE
- Worcestershire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£461,361	£388,380	-	-
2024-03-31	£349,701	£584,131	-	-
2023-03-31	£199,940	£501,416	-	-
2022-03-31	£435,531	£391,664	-	-
2021-03-31	£603,072	£311,342	£1,433,463	14

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew William Hall		2022-01-18
Dr Robert Howard Lee Milford		2021-03-02
ELIZABETH BAIO		
Hazel Margaret Shaw		2021-03-02
Phillip Viridi-Smith		2022-05-01

Accounts

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

(a registered charity and private company limited by guarantee)

**Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements
for the year ended
31st March 2025**

Company registered number: 07258623

Charity registered number: 1136716



Worcestershire Association for the Blind
(a registered charity and private company limited by guarantee)

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Worcestershire Association for the Blind

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Reference and administrative details

Trustees

Rob Milford Chairperson and
Hazel Shaw Vice Chair
Elizabeth Baio
Andrew Hall
John Hill resigned 19/12/2024
Jim McBride
Shirley Sheridan resigned 19/12/2024
Philip Viridi-Smith

Chief Executive Officer

Anne Eyre

Company registered number 07258623

Charity registered number 1136716

Registered Office
The Bradbury Centre
2 Sansome Walk
Worcestershire
WR1 1LH

Bankers

CAF Bank
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Solicitors

Thursfields Solicitors
9-10 The Tything
Worcester
WR1 1HD

Independent Examiner

Forest Phoenix Accountancy Ltd
Units 21-23 Foxes Bridge Road
Forest Vale Industrial
Estate
Cinderford
Gloucestershire
GL14 2PQ



Worcestershire Association for the Blind

(a registered charity and private company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements for the year to 31st March 2025

BOARD OF TRUSTEES INTRODUCTION

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their annual report, together with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The financial statements have been prepared to meet the requirements for a Directors' report and accounts for Companies House purposes. The financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charity's Constitution, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable in the UK and RoI (FRS 102).

Worcestershire Association for the Blind is a charity registered with the Charity Commission under registration number 1139716. It is also registered at Companies House as a private charitable company limited by guarantee under company number 07258623. Worcestershire Association for the Blind, under its working name of Sight Concern Worcestershire, provides sensory impaired people in Worcestershire the information and support they need to make choices, overcome barriers and lead fulfilling lives. We do this through information and advice and peer support, primarily.

CHAIR'S STATEMENT

I am pleased and proud to present this year's annual report. Throughout 2024/2025, our charity has continued to adapt and expand. We have provided more services to more people, without ever losing focus on impact and meaningful engagement. Our operational team and amazing volunteers have been steadfast in their resolve to offer the best service they can. To do so while responding to change, rising demand, and one of the most challenging economic periods for charities in recent years is testament to their determination and commitment to the people we are privileged to support.

We are grateful to every volunteer and colleague for their dedication and hard work. We are proud that our clients continue to put their trust in us.

The Trustees agreed a new strategic plan in 2024 that will guide us until 2027. The plan reflects both the progress we have made and our ambitions for the future as we adapt to a broader remit. The Charity Commission approved changes to our charitable objectives and governing document. This led to a key decision made during this financial year: to affirm our support for people who are Deaf, hard of hearing, or have dual sensory impairment. We are committed to supporting these communities. Our last AGM we endorsed the motion to change our name to Sensory Matters Worcestershire, a further evolution of the support we have been offering in the county since the 1880s.

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

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Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements for the year to 31st March 2025

CHAIR'S STATEMENT (continued)

Our efforts in recent years have delivered robust results and reasonably healthy reserves. However, we are not complacent. We acknowledge that the coming year is likely to be very difficult for charities because of the “perfect storm” of falling funding, rising costs, and increasing demand. As noted by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, “with the public under significant financial pressures of their own, charities are feeling the strain and face increased competition for every pound. The coming financial year will be a squeeze for many, and the risks this poses could be high.”¹

We continue to receive a grant from the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Commissioning Board to deliver vital low vision assessments. We have maintained a close working relationship with Worcestershire Acute Hospital Trust to provide a high-quality, efficient, and holistic low vision service. We are excited to be working in partnership to deliver

Worcestershire's first Eye Clinic Liaison Officer (ECLO) in the next financial year. We are also mindful of the pressures facing NHS commissioning, particularly with the planned abolition of ICBs, and are preparing to respond to potential changes.

Our successful delivery of our contract with Worcestershire County Council continues and has led to several collaborative projects with the local authority. We have contributed to the delivery of the Household Support Fund and received funding from Public Health for specific initiatives. We have also built positive relationships with district councils. With Worcestershire's county and district councils set to be abolished within the next three years, and at least one unitary authority to be established, we will be proactive in identifying and responding to the implications of this change.

We are, as always, enormously grateful to all those who contribute to our income. We offer sincere thanks to our regular and one-off donors, and to those who have participated in or attended events over the year, including the World Sight Day Quiz, the Worcester City 10k Run, and the firewalk. Our CEO was delighted to attend and speak at Fernhill Heath Baptist Church's carol service and to receive their generous festive collections. We are always touched when people remember us in their wills or with in memoriam donations. Our volunteers donate countless hours of their time and energy every year.

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

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Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements for the year to 31st March 2025

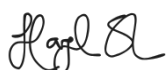
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CHAIR'S STATEMENT (continued)

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Our work is also supported by grants from a variety of trusts and funds. We are in the second year of a three-year award from the National Lottery and repeat our thanks to the fund. We also received a significant grant from the Eveson Trust, alongside support from the Postcode Lottery, Worcestershire Community Foundation and the Turner Trust. We are grateful to the Thomas Pocklington Trust for funding our participation in their Get Set Progress internship scheme for vision impaired people.

The Trustees extend their heartfelt thanks to every volunteer and colleague who has contributed to our mission and to the people we support for trusting us.



Hazel Shaw
Acting Chairperson
Date November 2025

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

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Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements for the year to 31st March 2025

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (including Director's Report)

for the year to 31st March 2025

Structure, governance and management

The charity is governed by our Articles of Association. The association was established by a charitable trust deed in 1930. The Trustees transferred all assets to the charitable company limited by guarantee which was incorporated. The charity is governed by a Board of Trustees, who also act as directors, under its memorandum and articles.

The trustees/directors have overall responsibility for ensuring that:

- The charity is operating efficiently and effectively;
- Its assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition;
- Proper records are maintained, and that the financial information used within the charity or for publication is reliable;
- The charity complies with relevant laws and regulations.

The Articles stipulate that we must have three directors/trustees and does not set a maximum number. At the end of this financial year, we had 6 trustees;

Rob Milford (Treasurer, and Chair)

Hazel Shaw (Vice Chair)

Elizabeth Baio

Andrew Hall

Jim McBride

Philip Viridi-Smith

The Board recognises the vital contribution made by people with a sensory impairment and actively seeks to recruit sensory impaired trustees. At least four trustees serving on the Board in this financial year were sensory impaired. Trustees are selected for the skills they can offer; a skills audit is used to identify the range of skills required and any gaps in their expertise. We The Board delegates day to day management, the development of strategy and overall leadership of the organisation to the Chief Executive Officer.

Policies and Procedures

We have policies and procedures in place to govern our activities; these include Health and Safety, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Volunteering, Disciplinary, Grievance, Capability, Safeguarding Children and Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults. Policies are reviewed by Trustees on a regular cycle.

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (including Director's Report)

for the year to 31st March 2025

Objectives and activities

Our stated objects within the Articles for which the charity is established are for the public benefit:

a) To support visually impaired people, primarily those living in Worcestershire. b) The provision of services to increase the independence and reduce the social isolation of vision impaired people of all ages, and at all stages of their vision impairment journey. c) The promotion and support of the emotional and physical wellbeing of blind and partially sighted people, and their families. d) The provision of information, resources and advocacy to support and empower people living with impaired vision to make informed choices. e) Working collaboratively with other service providers and agencies, ensuring people affected by sight loss receive the best services. f) The provision of similar services to people with other sensory impairment or needs.

These objectives are monitored on a regular basis by the officers of the association and the Board.

Public benefit statement

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Board has given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance Public benefit: running a charity (PB2).

There are approximately 24000 people living vision impairment in Worcestershire, 8570 of whom are registered blind or partially sighted.^[1] An estimated 125000 people are living with hearing loss or Deafness.^[2] As the only charity dedicated to supporting sensory impaired people in Worcestershire, we aim to reach as many of these people as we can, within our available resources, to support them to come to terms with their sensory impairment, develop new skills and ways of doing things, overcome barriers and feel empowered to make decisions about their lives.

The Board considers that Worcestershire Association for the Blind provides a public benefit by actively promoting, supporting and empowering people affected by vision impairment and other sensory impairment.

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (including Director's Report)

for the year to 31st March 2025

Achievements and performance

To achieve our objectives, we provide a range of services providing information, advice and guidance to sensory impaired people and their support networks.

This year our services have included:

- o Information and advice helpline;
- o One-to-one support from our Sensory Impairment Advisors;
- o Monthly Connections groups across the county;
- o Low vision clinics delivered in partnership with the NHS;
- o Advice about aids, equipment and technology, including demonstrations, workshops and one-to-one support;
- o Befriending volunteers who can support people with the things they need to do, such as reading post, and the things they want to do, such as hobbies and
- o Sight loss awareness advice and training to those who want to know how they can support vision impaired people.
- o A weekly toddler group for families affected by vision impairment and activities in school holidays for older children;
- o Employment workshops delivered in partnership with Unity and Worcester Community Trust.

We appreciate how challenging it can be to travel across the county, so we deliver our services across the six districts of Worcestershire, in local community settings or in people's homes when necessary.

We are fortunate to benefit from the support of over 170 volunteers who support us across all areas of the charity including administration tasks in our offices, helping at Connections groups, befriending, reading and recording the talking news and more.

We were in contact with 3138 sensory impaired people during the year, a 40% increase from the previous year. This is a significant achievement during a year which saw staff adapting to new ways of working.

The support we offer is wide-ranging and person-centred. This means that we try to find ways of supporting our clients, directly or indirectly, with any barriers created by a society and environment which is inaccessible to them.

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for the year to 31st March 2025

Service highlights

Information and advice: People with sensory impairment need access to information and advice relating to their unique circumstances. Our core service works with clients to identify their own needs, empowering people to make choices and decisions. Some people need more than basic information and advice or signposting. They may be newly diagnosed or just coming to terms with their vision impairment and beginning to accept support. In many cases, people are not aware of the support that is available to them including benefits, equipment, help with the emotional impact, to adapt and develop confidence. They also need to trust that the source of information is credible. Our Sensory Impairment Advisors work with sensory impaired people to identify their individual strengths, needs and challenges. We use a holistic assessment tool and work together to meet agreed objectives.

Our core information, advice and guidance service supported 1224 people during the year, a 33% increase from the previous year.

"[The team] are excellent at their jobs, they give clear and relevant information and nothing is too much bother. They always go above and beyond. I feel happier and more confident because of the support received"

"I would like say thank you for help to our Deaf people and me as well I hope you keep well and I will hearing from you any update or letter for our Deaf people in the future I'm sure Deaf people would happy with you because you help us so big thank again"

Low vision partnership: a key part of our work is maximising people's independence. Many people who are sight impaired or severely sight impaired have some residual vision. By using magnification aids, people may be able to continue completing daily activities, particularly those involving reading. We have continued our partnership with our NHS colleagues to deliver all low vision assessments at the Bradbury Centre, pooling our resources to ensure a more person-centred and efficient service. Improved take-up of and attendance at appointments continues, meaning that more people are in receipt of vital equipment and our support at a critical time.

In total, 421 people with a vision impairment were assessed in a low vision clinic this year. This is a small decrease from last year which reflects the considerable efforts made in previous years to reduce the waiting list.

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for the year to 31st March 2025

"I am very happy! I can finally read my motorcycle magazines, thank you for all the help"

"My magnifier is wonderful and has changed my life" "Brilliant, I can now thread a needle!"

Connections groups: The people we support tell us consistently how much they value spending time with people who share similar challenges and experiences, particularly the opportunities for informal advice and peer support. Our Connections groups enable and empower people to develop knowledge, skills and confidence with peers who have had similar experiences. This year has seen attendance at our groups continue to increase. We have also established groups for people with hearing loss and Deaf people. We know that we have more to learn from the new communities we are supporting and are working with them to identify where the gaps in their support are and to fill them, where resources permit.

"Going to the Redditch Connections group has changed my life. I'm meeting people and going out again after years of isolation"

"I went to my first Sight Concern meeting at Kidderminster yesterday and I was made so welcome and I just wanted to express my thanks to all involved"

"The Wyre Forest Connections group was the first time I'd left the house on my own since before the pandemic"

"Going to the connection groups, seeing different people from different walks of life and how well they coped with their sight loss was really inspiring. The staff were very down to earth, and they talk to you in a way that you understand"

"I went to the Bromsgrove Christmas party yesterday - my first visit with the group - what a lovely welcome!"

Access to technology: Technology is a crucial ally for many of the people we support, playing a central role in developing independence and overcoming barriers. Progressively more common accessibility tools, such as voice command software, magnification and screen readers enable people to access digital content with minimum effort once they know how to.

Technology is constantly evolving and creating further opportunities for a more accessible world. Our technology service offers support to any blind or

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for the year to 31st March 2025

partially sighted person who wants to learn more about how technology could be useful to them.

Following the departure of our technology advisor, we have remodelled the service and are working in close partnership with suppliers, the RNIB and other specialist partners to continue meeting the needs our beneficiaries. We are pleased to be able to deliver information and advice about technology to people with hearing loss as part of our expanded sensory impairment offer.

322 people were supported by this service during the year, 205 of whom had not received technology support from us before.

"This has been the most positive, uplifting and helpful conversation I have had since being diagnosed with my sight loss. Thank you so, so much"

Volunteering: It is hard to articulate how important and valued our volunteers. Simply put, we would not be able to do as much as we do, as well as we do it, without their support, commitment and generosity. Volunteers are involved in every aspect of our charity, including befriending, administration, supporting our low vision service, running our art group and providing a warm welcome and a brew to people attending our groups. We were delighted to welcome volunteers to an annual thank you event and record our formal thanks in this report.

"My befriending relationship is good. Volunteer... encouraged me to go on a [holiday], which I did and had a fantastic time. [He] is such a good match for me"

"I love coming to volunteer here – its one of my happy places!" "I very much enjoy what I do when volunteering with SCW and really appreciate how hard you work to coordinate all that SCW offers, both to and from its volunteers"

"There's no need to thank me, I appreciate you giving me the chance to make a difference"

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (including Director's Report)

for the year to 31st March 2025

Financial review

Going concern

The Charitable Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

Reserves policy

The Trustees have given careful consideration to the requirement to maintain an appropriate level of unrestricted general reserves, being those unrestricted funds not invested in fixed assets or otherwise designated or committed.

The Charity needs reserves to enable it to develop its long term aims as well as to ensure the continuation of its current activities. In order to meet their responsibilities and to ensure that the Charity continues to operate on a going concern basis, the Trustees have reviewed the requirements and risks faced by the charity in both the short and medium term.

Our reserves policy takes into consideration that, as we are a charity that relies heavily on fundraising, we are subject to the effects of short-term volatility in income. We therefore hold funds in reserve to ensure that we can continue to provide continuity in our core services in the face of fluctuations.

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

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for the year to 31st March 2025

Financial review (continued)

The Trustees have designate unrestricted fund reserves as contingency funds for the following purposes:

Staffing contingency and redundancy costs: There are some key activities that must be carried out in order to fulfil contractual or legal requirements, there may be a requirement to employ temporary staff to cover long-term sickness absence or to fund agency recruitment costs for senior staff. In the event of the closure of the charity redundancy payments would need to be made. The Trustees have set aside £70k (2024: £34K) to cover these contingencies.

Overhead contingency if unable to raise income: Inability to raise sufficient income to pay fixed overhead costs has many root causes, including recession and pandemic. The Trustees have set aside £58k (2024: £65k) to cover these contingencies being the cost of 6 months of current overheads.

Professional costs of closure of the Charity: Should the Charity need to wind up we may need to pay professional fees to assist us to close down the Charity. The Trustees have set aside £22k (2024: £44k) to cover these possible costs.

Costs of repairs to the building: The building that the Charity occupies is an old property and repairs can be costly. We have included a sum of £10k for unplanned essential repairs. Our flat roof is over 20 years old and may require replacement in the very near future, quotes have been obtained for this. The Trustees have set aside £103k (2024: £94k) in total, to cover these contingencies.

The total value for all contingencies is £253k (2024: £237k).

Designated funds

These funds are unrestricted funds, but set aside from general unrestricted funds for specific purposes. As shown below these are funds include the

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for the year to 31st March 2025

Malvern account and funds set aside for contingencies that include estimates for building repairs and in case the charity faced closure.

The Trustees estimate that the total level of free reserves to be designated contingency funds to mitigate against identifiable possible future expenditure is approximately £253k (2024: £237).

	2025	2024
	£	£
Designated contingency funds		
Staff contingency and redundancy costs	69,570	34,320
Overhead contingency if unable to raise income	57,659	64,812
Professional costs of closure of the charity	22,097	44,193
Costs of repairs to the building	103,189	93,808
	252,514	237,133
Designated Malvern funds	4,035	2,851
Total designated funds	256,549	477,117

The level of our reserves (see Note 12 "Funds of the Charity") held at the year-end, which excludes fixed assets in restricted funds and including payment of our creditors, is £363k (2024: £330k). This includes investment funds of £272k (2024: £285k) that are convertible at short notice if required, less current liabilities of £96k (2024: £54k), plus unrestricted current assets of £188k (2024: £108k).

Our unrestricted general and designated funds of £363k (2024: £330k) exceed the amount required to mitigate our estimated costs for the building and in the event of closure of £257k. This shows the resilience of the organisation to designate these funds and still have £106k of general funds (2024: £89k) to be able to operate smoothly and meet its day-to-day obligations.

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TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Worcestershire Association for the Blind for the purpose of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for that period.

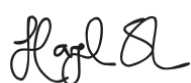
In preparing these financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- 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
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and 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.

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.

Approved by the trustees of the charitable company and signed on its behalf



Hazel Shaw

Acting Chairperson

Date: November 2025

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

Independent examiner's report on the accounts for the year ended 31st March

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and consider that an audit is not required under the Charities Act 2011 as the charity's gross income did not exceed £1m. However, income exceeds £25k so an independent examination is required. I/we are qualified to undertake the examination by being ACCA qualified (Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) and the Institute of Financial Accountants (IFA).

It is our responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention

Basis of independent examiner's statement

Our examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention, which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not considered in an independent examination.

I have come across no matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper

Signed:



30 July 2025

Jonathan Mills for and on behalf of Forest Phoenix Accountancy Ltd



Worcestershire Association for the Blind

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Statement of financial activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31st March

(Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

		Unrestric- ted funds	Restricted funds	Total 31st March 2025	Total 31st March 2024
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income from:					
Donations, legacies and grants	3	346,802	36,376	383,178	272,392
Charitable activities		24,842	-	24,842	26,172
Other trading activities		42,179	-	42,179	42,508
Investments		7,757	-	7,757	6,684
Other income		3,402	-	3,402	1,945
Total income		424,982	36,376	461,358	349,701
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	4	(3,225)	-	(3,225)	(3,425)
Charitable activities	4	(374,589)	(10,566)	(385,155)	(580,706)
Total expenditure		(377,814)	(10,566)	(388,380)	(584,131)
Net income/ (expenditure) before net gains on investments		47,168	25,810	72,978	(234,430)
Net (losses)/gains on investments		(13,289)	-	(13,289)	24,583
Net movement in funds including all recognised gains		33,879	25,810	59,689	(209,847)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds b/fwd	19	329,503	1,102,781	1,432,284	1,642,131
Total Funds c/fwd	19	363,382	1,128,591	1,491,973	1,432,284

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. No amount is in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS102).

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

The notes on the following pages form part of these financial statements.

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

Statement of Financial Position (SOFP) as at 31st March 2025

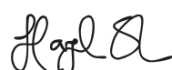
	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed Assets			
Investment property	6	446,103	446,103
Tangible Assets	7	635,191	647,586
		1,081,294	1,093,689
Current Assets			
Debtors and prepayments	8	22,524	10,051
Investments	9	271,931	285,220
Cash at bank and in hand	10	212,663	97,622
		507,118	392,893
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11	(96,439)	(54,298)
Net Current Assets		410,679	338,595
Total Net Assets		1,491,973	1,432,284
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted funds	12	1,128,591	1,102,781
Restricted designated funds	12	4,035	2,851
Unrestricted designated funds	12	252,514	237,133
Total designated funds		256,549	239,984
Unrestricted general funds	12	106,833	89,519
Total funds	13	1,491,973	1,432,284

The charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- 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 financial statements were approved by the trustees on November 2025, authorised for issue and signed on their behalf by:



Worcestershire Association for the Blind

Hazel Shaw, Acting Chairperson

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Worcestershire Association for the Blind

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2025

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of The address of its registered office is:

The Bradbury Centre
2 Sansome Walk
Worcester
Worcestershire
WR1 1LH

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). They also comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

Worcestershire Association for the Blind meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2025

2 Accounting policies (continued)

Going concern

After making appropriate inquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charitable company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity opted to not include a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Income and endowments

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

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2025

2 Accounting policies (continued)

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Government grants

Government grants are recognised based on the accrual model and are measured at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or to assets. Grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life. For property that is 50 years or 2% straight line (SL), for fixtures and fittings is 10 years (10% SL), and 3 years for office equipment (33% SL).

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2025

2 Accounting policies (continued)

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business. They are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

Recognition and measurement

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2025

2 Accounting policies (continued)

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the charity intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the charity transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the charity, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Fair value measurement

The best evidence of fair value is a quoted price for an identical asset in an active market. When quoted prices are unavailable, the price of a recent transaction for an identical asset provides evidence of fair value as long as there has not been a significant change in economic circumstances or a significant lapse of time since the transaction took place. If the market is not active and recent transactions of an identical asset on their own are not a good estimate of fair value, the fair value is estimated by using a valuation technique.

3 Staff costs	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	254,677	295,580
Social	11,946	20,381
Pensions	7,138	8,528
	<u>273,761</u>	<u>324,489</u>

4 Taxation

As a registered charity it has an exemption from corporation tax.

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2025

5 Pension and other schemes

	2025	2024
	£	£
Defined contribution pension scheme	<u>7,138</u>	<u>8,528</u>

6 Tangible fixed assets

		Long-term leasehold property	Fixtures and fittings	Total
		£	£	£
Cost		668,897	250,884	919,781
Additions		-	-	-
Disposals		-	-	-
Total cost	at 31 March 2025	668,897	250,884	919,781
Depreciation		23,944	248,251	272,195
Depreciation on disposals		-	-	-
Charge for the year		10,566	1,829	12,395
Total depreciation	at 31 March 2025	34,510	250,080	284,590
Net book value	at 31 March 2025	634,387	804	635,191
Net book value	at 31 March 2024	644,953	2,633	647,586

The valuation of the property held at the beginning of the reporting period was carried out by an independent valuer called Fisher German LLP, a member of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. The valuation was made on an open market, value-in-use basis by reference to market evidence of transaction prices for similar properties and the percentage growth rate of the property market over the year, having due regard to any impairment provision necessary.

The building situated at Sansome Walk, Worcester, was valued at £1,115,000 dated 17 December 2021. The charity occupies the ground floor that is 60% of the value (£669k) and is depreciated at 2% straight line and revalued at least every 5 years.

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2025

7 Investment property		2025		2024
		£		£
Valuation	at 1 Apr 2024	446,103	at 1 Apr 2023	446,103
Revaluation		-		-
Valuation	at 31 Mar 2025	446,103	at 31 Mar 2024	446,103

The building situated at Sansome Walk, Worcester, was valued on 17 December 2021 at £1,115,000. The first floor is 40% of the total value (£446k), it is rented out and is classed as an investment property.

8 Debtors	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	8,845	7,669
Prepayments and accrued income	13,679	2,382
	22,524	10,051

9 Current asset investments	2025	2024
	£	£
Charities unit trust equity fund	271,931	285,220

10 Analysis of cash at bank between funds	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Total
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand as at 31 March 2024	-	97,622	97,622
Net cash flow	-	115,041	115,041
Cash at bank and in hand as at 31 March 2025	-	212,663	212,663

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	12,952	10,887
Other taxation and social security	1,075	4,946
Pension control account	2,259	2,393
Other creditors	7,052	7,052
Accruals and deferred income	73,101	29,020
	96,439	54,298

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2025

12 Funds of the Charity	Balance at 1 Apr 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 31 Mar 2025
	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds				
Sansome Walk Property - ground floor	644,953	-	(10,566)	634,387
Sansome Walk Property - first floor	446,103	-	-	446,103
Restricted grant deferred income	11,725	36,376	-	48,101
Total restricted funds	1,102,781	36,376	(10,566)	1,128,591
Unrestricted				
Malvern branch	2,851	1,184	-	4,035
Contingency funds	237,133	15,381	-	252,514
Total unrestricted designated funds	239,984	16,565	-	256,549
Unrestricted general funds	89,519	395,128	(377,814)	106,833
Total unrestricted funds	329,503	411,693	(377,814)	363,382
Total funds	1,432,284	448,069	(388,380)	1,491,973

13 Analysis of net assets between funds	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Balance at 31 Mar 2025
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	634,387	-	634,387
Investment property	446,103	-	446,103
Current assets	48,101	187,086	235,187
Current asset investments	-	271,931	271,931
Current liabilities	-	(96,439)	(96,439)
Total net assets	1,128,591	362,578	1,491,973

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

Detailed Profit & Loss for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Total 31 March 2025	Total 31 March 2024
Income	£	£
Donations Received	25,026	12,222
Grants	350,604	229,082
Legacies	1,000	26,549
In Memorium	1,576	1,343
Payroll Giving	510	675
Regular Giving	4,462	2,521
Events - Corporate Sponsorship	10,182	5,354
Corporate giving	0	1,908
Unity Lottery	673	749
Community Fundraising	250	2,103
Static Boxes	0	14
Gift Aid	2,125	1,240
Attendance fees/Contributions	789	126
Sale of Aids and Equipment - Non Vatable	9,531	13,208
Sale of Second Hand Aids and Equipment	57	294
Income from Suppliers	1,206	897
Income from Training	29	279
0	40,086	39,654
Other Income	770	163
Access To Work	1,323	2,691
Rent/ Lease Income	7,757	6,684
Income From Room Hire	3,402	1,945
Total income	461,358	349,701
Expenditure		
Raising funds		
Fundraising Event Costs	(2,655)	(1,734)
PR (Literature & Brochures)	0	(698)
PR social media	0	(900)
Aids and Access to Work (ATW) Equipment	7,997	(11,469)
Client Expenses	0	(32)
	5,342	(14,833)

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

Detailed Profit & Loss for the year ended 31 March 2025

Expenditure (continued)	Total 31 March 2025	Total 31 March 2024
	£	£
Charitable activities		
Room Hire	(1,055)	(2,753)
Staff Travel	(908)	(2,844)
Volunteer Travel	(33)	(468)
Vehicle/Transport Hire	0	(607)
Speaker/Tutor/Entertainment Charges	(3,963)	(2,035)
Trip / Outing Costs	0	(2,532)
DBS Checks	(562)	(663)
Low Vision Assessment Fees	0	(3,520)
Low Vision Aids	(2,437)	(4,548)
Refreshments	(798)	(838)
Advertising of services	(393)	(25)
Materials	(206)	(825)
Equipment purchases for resale	(6,609)	(13,198)
Sub-contractors service delivery costs	(3,382)	(10,615)
Water Rates	(1,990)	(1,636)
Electricity	(18,075)	(18,728)
Gas	(6,214)	(2,691)
Printing	(1,417)	(3,104)
Postage and Carriage	(195)	(1,018)
Office Stationery	(1,003)	(1,601)
Office Equipment and Furniture	(2,161)	(8,059)
Telephone and Internet	(2,768)	(3,273)
Computer and Software	(13,197)	(10,215)
Mobile Phone Costs	(1,351)	(1,309)
Repairs and Renewals	(3,399)	(5,350)
Cleaning	(4,132)	(6,610)
Waste Collection	(845)	(799)
Premises Expenses	(60)	(21)
Maintenance Contracts	0	(756)
Health and Safety Costs	(2,137)	(3,646)
Insurance	(5,006)	(4,920)
Sundry Expenses	(902)	(888)
	(85,198)	(120,095)

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

Detailed Profit & Loss for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

Expenditure (continued)	Total 31 March 2025	Total 31 March 2024
	£	£
b/fwd	(85,198)	(120,095)
Bank Charges	(159)	(127)
Gross Wages	(254,677)	(295,580)
Employers NI	(11,946)	(20,381)
Employers Pensions	(7,138)	(8,528)
Agency/Freelance	(8,477)	(30,019)
Training	(4,578)	(5,393)
Legal Fees	0	(2,344)
Accountancy and Independent Examiners Fees	(4,320)	(4,320)
Other Professional Fees	(3,553)	(67,622)
Pension Costs	(518)	(518)
Membership Fees	(763)	(408)
Property Depreciation	(10,566)	(10,566)
Office Equipment Depreciation	(1,829)	(3,397)
Total expenditure	(393,722)	(569,298)
Other recognised gains/(losses)		
Investment Gains/Losses	(13,289)	24,583
Gain on Property Revaluation - restricted	0	0
Gain on Property Revaluation - unrestricted	0	0
Total other recognised gains/(losses)	(13,289)	24,583
Net movement in funds	59,689	(209,847)
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	1,432,284	1,642,131
Total Funds Carried Forward	1,491,973	1,432,284

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

England & Wales - Charity number 1136716

Accounts

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

(a registered charity and private company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements

for the year ended

31st March 2024

Company registered number: 07258623

Charity registered number: 1136716



Worcestershire Association for the Blind

(a registered charity and private company limited by guarantee)

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Worcestershire Association for the Blind

(a registered charity and private company limited by guarantee)

Reference and administrative details

Trustees	C Wigley	Chairperson (resigned 31 March 2024)
	R Milford	Chairperson and Treasurer (from 31 March 2024)
	H Shaw	Vice Chair
	E S Baio	
	A W Hall	
	J Hill	
	J McBride	
	S Sheridan	
	P A Viridi-Smith	
Chief Executive Officer	A Eyre	
Company registered number	07258623	
Charity registered number	1136716	
Registered Office	The Bradbury Centre 2 Sansome Walk Worcestershire WR1 1LH	
Bankers	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ	
Solicitors	Thursfields Solicitors 9-10 The Tything Worcester WR1 1HD	
Independent Examiner	Forest Phoenix Accountancy Ltd Units 21-23 Foxes Bridge Road Forest Vale Industrial Estate Cinderford Gloucestershire GL14 2PQ	



Worcestershire Association for the Blind

(a registered charity and private company limited by guarantee)

CHAIR'S STATEMENT

for the year to: 31st March 2024

Introduction

Welcome to Sight Concern Worcestershire's Annual Report for a year which saw us continue to change, develop and adapt. Following her appointment as Chief Executive Officer at the end of 2022, Anne Eyre has led the reshaping of our services and embedding of a new structure, work which will continue in the year 2024/2025.

The reshaping of our services was informed by a consultation exercise with our beneficiaries which was led by a visually impaired development consultant. This knowledge built on our previous Discovery project in giving us detailed information about the services which are most valued and needed by our beneficiaries.

Our organisational development was supported by our management team receiving bespoke training in Collaborative Business Management and Leadership, accredited by the Institute of Leadership. Our whole staff team also attended a team development day to embed our organisational values.

The Board continues to seek excellence in governance and agreed to review our governing document to ensure it reflects our current strategic intent. We are awaiting Charity Commission approval of the changes proposed. The Board also continued its review of policies and procedures, including an improved finance and risk management process. Our Chair of the last four years, Caroline Wigley, stepped down at our AGM in February 2024 and was replaced by our previous treasurer, Rob Milford, enabling a smooth transition.

We continue to receive a grant from Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Commissioning Board to deliver vital low vision assessments. We have maintained our close working relationship with our colleagues at Worcestershire Acute Hospital Trust to provide a high quality, efficient and holistic low vision service. In October 2023, we were awarded a contract from Worcestershire County Council to provide our Sensory Matters information, advice and guidance service to vision and/or hearing-impaired people. We are delighted to be able to offer an integrated service through this funding.

Apart from these commissioned services, we are entirely reliant on charitable donations to provide our work. We are very grateful to the generous trusts and individual donors who support our work; without them we would not be able to provide the vital services to support the people with sensory impairment in Worcestershire. We were delighted to be awarded a three-year grant by the National Lottery Community Fund in August 2023 which will enable us to continue delivering our core services as we progress on our journey of becoming more sustainable.

We received sizeable grants from the Postcode Lottery, the Tandy Trust, and the National Lottery. We were grateful for the support of New Medica, Quality Solicitors Parkinson Wright, those who took part in the World Sight Day Quiz or supported us financially in any other way. We are particularly touched by legacies and in memorium collections. We are enormously grateful to all of our volunteers who donate their time, enthusiasm and skills; we could not do what we do without them.

The wider economic climate is, and will continue to be, challenging. As a result, finances are a key focus for us, in common with the whole charity sector. Although we have had to make some changes, we are proud that we have not had to reduce or cut any services. However, the Board does need to take time to consider our plans for updating the Bradbury Centre to ensure that whatever we do, it remains affordable.

Despite the challenges we face, we have entered a new financial year with cautious optimism, a strategic vision which supports our sustainability and a continued commitment to meeting the needs and improving the experiences of people with a sensory impairment.

Rob Milford

Chairperson

Date: 10 July 2024

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

(a registered charity and private company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

(including Director's Report)

for the year to: 31st March 2024

Structure, governance and management

The charity is governed by our Articles of Association. The association was established by a charitable trust deed in 1930. The Trustees transferred all assets to the charitable company limited by guarantee which was incorporated on 19th May 2010.

The charity is governed by a Board of Trustees, who also act as directors, under its memorandum and articles.

The trustees/directors have overall responsibility for ensuring that:

- The charity is operating efficiently and effectively;
- Its assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition;
- Proper records are maintained, and that the financial information used within the charity or for publication is reliable;
- The charity complies with relevant laws and regulations.

The Articles stipulate that we must have three directors/trustees and does not set a maximum number. During this financial year, we had 9 trustees;

C Wigley (Chair until March 2024)

R Milford (Treasurer, and Chair from March 2024)

H Shaw (Vice Chair)

E Baio

S Sheridan

J McBride

P Viridi-Smith

J Hill

A Hall

The Board recognises the vital contribution made by people with a sensory impairment and actively seeks to recruit sensory impaired trustees. At least four trustees serving on the Board in this financial year were sensory-impaired. Trustees are selected for the skills they can offer; a skills audit is used to identify the range of skills required and any gaps in their expertise.

The Board delegates day to day management, the development of strategy and overall leadership of the organisation to the Chief Executive Officer.

Policies and Procedures

We have policies and procedures in place to govern our activities; these include Health and Safety, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Volunteering, Disciplinary, Grievance, Capability, Safeguarding Children and Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults. Policies are reviewed by Trustees on a regular cycle.

Objectives and activities

Our stated objects within the Articles for which the charity is established are for the public benefit:

- To promote the prevention of avoidable sight loss.
- To support and promote the welfare of blind and partially sighted persons and their families or carers, in particular those resident in the County of Worcestershire.
- The provision of assistance and good quality services for blind and partially sighted persons, alone or in collaboration with other voluntary and statutory organisations.
- To provide the resources and information necessary to empower visually impaired people to make appropriate and informed choices.

These objectives are monitored on a regular basis by the officers of the association and the Board.

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

(a registered charity and private company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

(including Director's Report)

for the year to: 31st March 2024

Public benefit statement

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Board has given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance Public benefit: running a charity (PB2). There are approximately 24000 people living vision impairment in Worcestershire, 8570 of whom are registered blind or partially sighted.^[1] An estimated 125000 people are living with hearing loss or Deafness.^[2] As the only charity dedicated to supporting sensory impaired people in Worcestershire, we aim to reach as many of these people as we can, within our available resources, to support them to come to terms with their sensory impairment, develop new skills and ways of doing things, overcome barriers and feel empowered to make decisions about their lives. The Board considers that Worcestershire Association for the Blind provides a public benefit by actively promoting, supporting and empowering people affected by vision impairment and other sensory impairment.

Achievements and performance

To achieve our objectives, we provide a range of services providing information, advice and guidance to sensory impaired people and their support networks.

This year, our services have included:

- o Information and advice helpline;
- o One-to-one support from our Sight Loss Advisors;
- o Monthly Connections groups across the county;
- o Low vision clinics delivered in partnership with the NHS;
- o Advice about aids, equipment and technology, including demonstrations, workshops and one-to-one support ;
- o Befriending volunteers who can support people with the things they need to do, such as reading post, and the things they want to do, such as hobbies and socialising;
- o Sight loss awareness advice and training to those who want to know how they can support vision impaired people.
- o A weekly toddler group for families affected by vision impairment and activities in school holidays for older children;
- o Employment workshops delivered in partnership with Unity and Worcester Community Trust.

We appreciate how challenging it can be to travel across the county, so we deliver our services across the six districts of Worcestershire, in local community settings or in people's homes when necessary.

We are fortunate to benefit from the support of over 170 volunteers who support us across all areas of the charity including administration tasks in our offices, helping at Connections groups, befriending, reading and recording the talking news and more.

[1] [RNIB Sight Loss Data Toolkit v5](#)

[2] [RNID Prevalence of Hearing Loss 2019](#)

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

(a registered charity and private company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

(including Director's Report)

for the year to: 31st March 2024

Achievements and performance

Over the course of the year, we provided services to or were in touch with 2237 clients, over 900 of whom were new to us.

"There's certainly a lot for Sight Concern to celebrate. You really are all making a big difference to the lives of people living with sight loss. I am very new to sight loss... I noticed Sight Concern's phone number at end of an ophthalmology letter after months of appointments. I sadly wasn't sign posted to it by the hospital. I plucked up the courage to ring and I'm so glad I did. Every single member of staff or volunteer have been so wonderful helpful and reassuring. This means so much; thank you all".

Service highlights

Information, advice and guidance; in order to feel empowered to make decisions, people affected by sensory impairment need to have access to information and advice relating to their unique circumstances. Some people need more than basic information and advice or signposting. They may be newly diagnosed or just coming to terms with their vision impairment and beginning to accept support. In many cases, people are not aware of the support that is available to them including benefits, equipment, help with the emotional impact, to adapt and develop confidence. They also need to trust that the source of information is credible. Our Sensory Impairment Advisors work with sensory impaired people to identify their individual strengths, needs and challenges. We use a holistic assessment tool and work together to meet agreed objectives.

Information, advice and guidance was given to 917 people during the year, a 26% increase from last year.

"Sight Concern have been amazing, absolutely amazing".

"Thank you very much for your help, you have been brilliant."

"Amazing. I could talk to you all day. I have learnt so much from you today. I'll be calling you again. Thank you for your help, you understand things".

"Thank you for all your help, it has helped a lot. I am not so worried about the future now. Before, I thought this would be the end."

"Thank you truly for the help and care you have given me. I did not think I could get this kind of support, and it has definitely made me happier".

Low vision clinics; a key part of our work is maximising people's independence. Many people who are sight impaired or severely sight impaired have some residual vision. By using magnification aids, people may be able to continue completing daily activities, particularly those involving reading.

We have continued our partnership with our NHS colleagues to deliver all low vision assessments at the Bradbury Centre, pooling our resources to ensure a more person-centred and efficient service. Improved take-up of and attendance at appointments continues, meaning that more people are in receipt of vital equipment and our support at a critical time.

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

(a registered charity and private company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

(including Director's Report)

for the year to: 31st March 2024

In total, 496 people with a vision impairment were assessed in a low vision clinic this year, an increase of 22%.

"We were really impressed with the help we received when we came to your centre. Everyone was so helpful and kind."

"I was so thrilled, I nearly skipped out of there. I never knew there was any help available, thank you so much."

Connections groups; the people we support have told us how much they value spending time with people who share similar challenges and experiences, particularly the opportunities for informal advice and peer support.

Our Connections groups enable and empower people to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence from peers who have similar experiences. This year has seen attendance at our groups increase. We expect to establish groups for people with hearing loss in the next year.

607 different people attended at least one of our groups or activities during the year.

"These events, in partnership with other charities, are incredible and something we are so grateful for. Such a wonderful charity, doing amazing things for families like ours."

"I feel very isolated at times and am so thankful for a group where I feel safe and can be myself."

Access to technology; technology is a crucial ally for many of the people we support, playing a central role in developing independence and overcoming barriers. Progressively more common accessibility tools, such as voice command software, magnification and screen readers enable people to access digital content with minimum effort once they know how to. Technology is constantly evolving and creating further opportunities for a more accessible world. Our technology service offers support to any blind or partially sighted person who wants to learn more about how technology could be useful to them.

Following the departure of our technology advisor, we have remodelled the service and are working in close partnership with suppliers, the RNIB and other specialist partners to continue meeting the needs our beneficiaries. We are pleased to be able to deliver information and advice about technology to people with hearing loss as part of our expanded sensory impairment offer.

322 people were supported by this service during the year, 205 of whom had not received technology support from us before.

"This has been the most positive, uplifting and helpful conversation I have had since being diagnosed with my sight loss. Thank you so, so much"

Volunteering; volunteers are at the centre of our services. They enable us to support more people and provide more services. Volunteers are involved in every aspect of our charity, including befriending, administration, producing the Malvern Talking News, supporting our low vision service, running our art group and providing a warm welcome and a brew to people attending our groups. We were delighted to welcome volunteers to our annual thank you event.

"Thank you for the volunteer thank you event. The setting was lovely, the entertainment was brilliant! I couldn't fault it!"

"I can only reiterate how glad I am to have found such a lovely 'family' and some truly wonderful clients. I thoroughly enjoy walking through the door! (Some more windows would be nice!) I really value the fact that there is a mix of generations".

"My volunteer is wonderful, I don't know how I'd manage without him."

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

(a registered charity and private company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

(including Director's Report)

for the year to: 31st March 2024

Financial review

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charitable Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

Reserves policy

The Trustees have given careful consideration to the requirement to maintain an appropriate level of free reserves, being those unrestricted funds not invested in fixed assets or otherwise committed.

The Charity needs reserves to enable it to develop its long term aims as well as to ensure the continuation of its current activities. In order to meet their responsibilities and to ensure that the Charity continues to operate on a going concern basis, the Finance Committee has reviewed the requirements and risks faced by the charity in both the short and medium term.

Our reserves policy takes into consideration that, as we are a charity that relies heavily on fundraising, we are subject to the effects of short-term volatility in income. We therefore hold funds in reserve to ensure that we can continue to provide continuity in our core services in the face of fluctuations.

We hold reserves to meet the following purposes:

Inability to raise income: Inability to raise income has many root causes, including recession. The Trustees have set aside £65k (2023: £62k) to cover these contingencies.

The costs of closure of the Charity: Should the Charity need to wind up the staff team will need to be paid redundancy costs and we may need to pay professional fees to assist us to close down the Charity. The Trustees have set aside £44k (2023: £42k) to cover these possible events.

Costs of repairs to the building: The building that the Charity occupies is an old property and repairs can be costly. We have included a sum of £10k for unplanned essential repairs. Our flat roof is over 20 years old and may require replacement in the very near future, quotes have been obtained for this. The Trustees have set aside £94k (2023: £90k) in total, to cover these contingencies.

Staffing contingency costs: There are some key activities that must be carried out in order to fulfil contractual or legal requirements, there may be a requirement to employ temporary staff to cover long-term sickness absence or to fund agency recruitment costs for senior staff. The Trustees have set aside £34k (2023: £33K) to cover these contingencies.

The total value for all contingencies is £237k (2023: £227k).

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

(a registered charity and private company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

(including Director's Report)

for the year to: 31st March 2024

Designated funds

We received an unusually high amount of legacy income in prior years and have continued to spend a significant amount of these funds on the cost of providing our ongoing activities until the end of the financial year. We have already made grant applications to cover costs for the following financial year (2024-25), so have not made any new designations from funds. There are unrestricted designated funds of £3k (2023:105K), (see the Funds note 12 of the accounts) that do not include the reserves required for our contingency funding which is included in our unrestricted general funds.

Based on the above assessment the Trustees estimate that the total level of free reserves required to mitigate against identifiable risks is approximately £240k (2023: £333k; 2022: £481k).

	2024	2023
	£	£
Inability to raise income	64,812	62,319
The costs of closure of the charity	44,193	42,493
Costs of repairs to the building	93,808	90,200
Staffing Contingency Costs	34,320	33,000
Designated Funds	2,851	104,815
Total	239,984	332,827

The level of our reserves (see Note 12 "Unrestricted designated funds") held at the year-end, which excludes fixed assets in restricted funds and including payment of our creditors, is £330k (2023: £541k; 2022: £673k; 2021: £567k). This includes investment funds of £285k (2023: £371k; 2022: £386k; 2021: £355k) that are convertible at short notice if required, less current liabilities of £54k (2023: £30k; 2022: £49k; 2021: 232k), plus unrestricted current assets of £108k (2023: £193k; 2022: £336k; 2021: 244k).

Our reserves of £330k exceed the amount required to mitigate our risks of £240k. Therefore, we are able to draw down some of these savings to use for frontline services if necessary. Sight Concern intends to use grants awarded and other income generated to fund the forthcoming year. However if some expected applications do not come to fruition, or are delayed, the organisation will still be able to operate smoothly and meet its obligations.

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

(a registered charity and private company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Worcestershire Association for the Blind for the purpose of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for that period.

In preparing these financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and 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.

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.

Approved by the trustees of the charitable company and signed on its behalf by:

R. Milford
Chairperson

Date: 10 July 2024

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

Independent Examiner's Report

Independent examiner's report to the trustees on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that neither an audit nor an independent examination is required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act"). The charity's gross income did not exceed £250,000, but the trustees have requested the independent examination to satisfy funding body requirements and I/we are qualified to undertake the examination by being qualified members of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and the Institute of Financial Accountants (IFA).

It is our responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention

Basis of independent examiner's statement

Our examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention, which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have come across no 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.

Signed:



30 June 2024

Jonathan Mills for and on behalf of Forest Phoenix Accountancy Ltd



Worcestershire Association for the Blind

Statement of financial activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31st March 2024

(Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 31st March 2024	Total 31st March 2023
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income from:					
Donations, legacies and grants	3	260,667	11,725	272,392	131,703
Charitable activities		26,172	-	26,172	12,325
Other trading activities		42,508	-	42,508	43,265
Investments		6,684	-	6,684	11,111
Other income		1,945	-	1,945	1,536
Total income		337,976	11,725	349,701	199,940
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	4	(3,425)	-	(3,425)	(6,613)
Charitable activities	4	(570,140)	(10,566)	(580,706)	(494,803)
Total expenditure		(573,565)	(10,566)	(584,131)	(501,416)
Net income/(expenditure) before net gains on investments		(235,589)	1,159	(234,430)	(301,476)
Net (losses)/gains on investments		24,583	-	24,583	(14,591)
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains		(211,006)	1,159	(209,847)	(316,067)
Other recognised gains:					
Gains on revaluation of fixed assets and investments		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(211,006)	1,159	(209,847)	(316,067)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	19	540,509	1,101,622	1,642,131	1,958,198
Total Funds Carried Forward	19	329,503	1,102,781	1,432,284	1,642,131

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

No amount is in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS102).

The notes on the following pages form part of these financial statements.

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

Statement of Financial Position (SOFP) as at 31st March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets	6	647,586	661,549
Investment property	7	446,103	446,103
		<u>1,093,689</u>	<u>1,107,652</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors and prepayments	8	10,051	21,307
Investments	9	285,220	370,992
Cash at bank and in hand	10	97,622	172,090
		<u>392,893</u>	<u>564,389</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11	(54,298)	(29,910)
Net Current Assets		<u>338,595</u>	<u>534,479</u>
Total Net Assets		<u><u>1,432,284</u></u>	<u><u>1,642,131</u></u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted funds	12	1,102,781	1,101,622
Unrestricted designated funds	12	2,851	104,815
Unrestricted general funds	12	326,652	435,694
Total unrestricted funds		<u>329,503</u>	<u>540,509</u>
Total funds	13	<u><u>1,432,284</u></u>	<u><u>1,642,131</u></u>

The charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- 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 financial statements were approved by the trustees, authorised for issue and signed on their behalf by:

R. Milford
Chairperson

Date: 10 July 2024

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2024

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:

The Bradbury Centre
2 Sansome Walk
Worcester
Worcestershire
WR1 1LH

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). They also comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

Worcestershire Association for the Blind meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

After making appropriate inquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charitable company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity opted to not include a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Income and endowments

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

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2024

2 Accounting policies (continued)

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Government grants

Government grants are recognised based on the accrual model and are measured at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or to assets. Grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life. For property that is 50 years or 2% straight line (SL), for fixtures and fittings is 10 years (10% SL), and 3 years for office equipment (33% SL).

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2024

2 Accounting policies (continued)

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees's discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

Recognition and measurement

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the charity intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the charity transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the charity, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2024

2 Accounting policies (continued)

Fair value measurement

The best evidence of fair value is a quoted price for an identical asset in an active market. When quoted prices are unavailable, the price of a recent transaction for an identical asset provides evidence of fair value as long as there has not been a significant change in economic circumstances or a significant lapse of time since the transaction took place. If the market is not active and recent transactions of an identical asset on their own are not a good estimate of fair value, the fair value is estimated by using a valuation technique.

3 Staff costs	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	295,580	290,654
Social Security costs	20,381	22,109
Pensions Costs	8,528	8,361
	324,489	321,124

4 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

5 Pension and other schemes	2024	2023
	£	£
Defined contribution pension scheme	8,528	8,361

6 Tangible fixed assets		Long-term leasehold property	Fixtures and fittings	Total
		£	£	£
Cost		668,897	250,884	919,781
Additions		-	-	-
Disposals		-	-	-
Total cost	at 31 March 2024	668,897	250,884	919,781
Depreciation		13,378	244,854	258,232
Depreciation on disposals		-	-	-
Charge for the year		10,566	3,397	13,963
Total depreciation	at 31 March 2024	23,944	248,251	272,195
Net book value	at 31 March 2024	644,953	2,633	647,586
Net book value	at 31 March 2023	655,519	6,030	661,549

The valuation of the property held at the beginning of the reporting period was carried out by an independent valuer called Fisher German LLP, a member of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. The valuation was made on an open market, value-in-use basis by reference to market evidence of transaction prices for similar properties and the percentage growth rate of the property market over the year, having due regard to any impairment provision necessary.

The building situated at Sansome Walk, Worcester, was valued at £1,115,000 dated 17 December 2021. The charity occupies the ground floor that is 60% of the value (£669k) and is depreciated at 2% straight line and revalued at least every 5 years.

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2024

7 Investment property		2024		2023
		£		£
Valuation	at 1 April 2023	446,103	at 1 April 2022	446,103
Revaluation		-		-
Valuation	at 31 March 2024	<u>446,103</u>	at 31 March 2023	<u>446,103</u>

The building situated at Sansome Walk, Worcester, was valued at £1,115,000 dated 17 December 2021. The first floor that is 40% of the total value (£446k) and is rented out and is classed as an investment property.

8 Debtors	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	7,669	3,504
Prepayments and accrued income	2,382	4,764
HMRC Employers Allowance unclaimed	-	13,039
	<u>10,051</u>	<u>21,307</u>

9 Current asset investments	2024	2023
	£	£
Charities unit trust equity fund	<u>285,220</u>	<u>370,992</u>

10 Analysis of cash at bank between funds	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Total
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand as at 31 March 2023	-	172,090	172,090
Net cash flow	-	(74,468)	(74,468)
Cash at bank and in hand as at 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>97,622</u>	<u>97,622</u>

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	10,887	6,582
Other taxation and social security	4,946	4,191
Pension control account	2,393	2,054
Other creditors	7,052	7,052
Accruals and deferred income	29,020	10,031
	<u>54,298</u>	<u>29,910</u>

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2024

12 Funds	Balance at 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds				
Sansome Walk Property - ground floor	655,519	-	(10,566)	644,953
Sansome Walk Property - first floor	446,103	-	0	446,103
The National Lottery	-	11,725	0	11,725
Total restricted funds	1,101,622	11,725	(10,566)	1,102,781
Unrestricted designated funds				
Malvern branch	4,815	-	(1,964)	2,851
Leasehold property improvements	100,000	-	(100,000)	-
Total unrestricted designated funds	104,815	-	(101,964)	2,851
Unrestricted general funds	435,694	362,559	(471,601)	326,652
Total unrestricted funds	540,509	362,559	(573,565)	329,503
Total funds	1,642,131	374,284	(584,131)	1,432,284

13 Analysis of net assets between funds	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Balance at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	644,953	2,633	647,586
Investment property	446,103	-	446,103
Current assets	11,725	95,948	107,673
Current asset investments	-	285,220	285,220
Current liabilities	-	(54,298)	(54,298)
Total net assets	1,102,781	329,503	1,432,284

	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	655,519	6,030	661,549
Investment property	446,103	-	446,103
Current assets	-	193,397	193,397
Current asset investments	-	370,992	370,992
Current liabilities	-	(29,910)	(29,910)
Total net assets	1,101,622	540,509	1,642,131

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

Detailed Profit & Loss for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Total 31 March 2024	Total 31 March 2023	Variance	Variance
Income	£	£	£	%
Donations Received	12,222	8,741	3,481	40%
Grants	229,082	61,325	167,757	274%
Legacies	26,549	57,979	(31,430)	-54%
In Memorium	1,343	1,591	(248)	-
Payroll Giving	675	168	507	302%
Regular Giving	2,521	1,899	622	33%
Events - Corporate Sponsorship	5,354	120	5,234	4362%
Corporate giving	1,908	98	1,810	-
Unity Lottery	749	786	(37)	-
Community Fundraising	2,103	1,256	847	-
Static Boxes	14	942	(928)	-99%
Gift Aid	1,240	1,248	(8)	-1%
Raffles	0	9	(9)	-
Attendance fees/Contributions	126	0	126	-
Sale of Aids and Equipment - Non Vatable	13,208	5,005	8,203	164%
Sale of Second Hand Aids and Equipment	294	728	(434)	-
Income from Suppliers	897	2,133	(1,236)	-58%
Income from Training	279	0	279	-
Rent/ Lease Income	39,654	43,077	(3,423)	-8%
Income From Room Hire	163	188	(25)	-13%
Other income incl. Access to Work	2,691	0	2,691	-
Investment Income	6,684	11,111	(4,427)	-40%
Bank Interest Received	1,945	1,536	409	27%
Total income	349,701	199,940	149,761	75%
Expenditure				
Raising funds				
Merchandise (Fundraising)	0	(476)	476	-
Fundraising Event Costs	(1,734)	(342)	(1,392)	-
PR (Literature & Brochures)	(698)	(236)	(462)	196%
PR social media	(900)	0	(900)	-
Aids and Access to Work Equipment	(11,469)	(5,481)	(5,988)	109%
Miscellaneous Purchases	0	(16)	16	-100%
Client Expenses	(32)	(11)	(21)	-
	(14,833)	(6,613)	(8,271)	125%
Charitable activities				
Room Hire	(2,753)	(2,194)	(559)	25%
Staff Travel	(2,844)	(3,336)	492	-15%
Volunteer Travel	(468)	(442)	(26)	6%
Vehicle/Transport Hire	(607)	(76)	(531)	699%
Speaker/Tutor/Entertainment Charges	(2,035)	(319)	(1,716)	538%
Trip / Outing Costs	(2,532)	(721)	(1,811)	251%
DBS Checks	(663)	(568)	(95)	17%
Low Vision Assessment Fees	(3,520)	(5,580)	2,060	-37%
Low Vision Aids	(4,548)	(7,343)	2,795	-38%
Refreshments	(838)	(961)	123	-13%
Advertising of services	(25)	(960)	935	-97%
Materials	(825)	(959)	134	-14%
	(21,658)	(23,459)	1,801	-8%

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

Detailed Profit & Loss for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

	Total 31 March 2024 £	Total 31 March 2023 £	Variance £	Variance %
Expenditure (continued)				
b/fwd	(21,658)	(23,459)	1,801	-8%
Equipment purchases for resale	(13,198)	(615)	(12,583)	2046%
Sub-contractors service delivery costs	(10,615)	(81)	(10,534)	13005%
Water Rates	(1,636)	(1,700)	64	-4%
Electricity	(18,728)	(15,479)	(3,249)	21%
Gas	(2,691)	(2,856)	165	-6%
Printing	(3,104)	(3,216)	112	-3%
Postage and Carriage	(1,018)	(251)	(767)	306%
Office Stationery	(1,601)	(917)	(684)	75%
Office Equipment and Furniture	(8,059)	(239)	(7,820)	n/a
Telephone and Internet	(3,273)	(2,672)	(601)	22%
Computer and Software	(7,149)	(13,580)	6,431	-47%
Mobile Phone Costs	(1,309)	(1,571)	262	-17%
Repairs and Renewals	(5,350)	(7,340)	1,990	-27%
Cleaning	(6,610)	(3,338)	(3,272)	98%
Waste Collection	(799)	(745)	(54)	7%
Premises Expenses	(21)	(26)	5	n/a
Maintenance Contracts	(756)	(985)	229	-23%
Health and Safety Costs	(3,646)	(2,293)	(1,353)	59%
Insurance	(4,920)	(3,675)	(1,245)	34%
Sundry Expenses	(888)	(1,572)	684	-44%
Bank Charges	(127)	(138)	11	-8%
Gross Wages	(295,580)	(290,654)	(4,926)	2%
Employers NI	(20,381)	(22,109)	1,728	-8%
Employers Pensions	(8,528)	(8,361)	(167)	2%
Recruitment Expenses	0	(3,809)	3,809	-100%
Agency/Freelance	(30,019)	(16,293)	(13,726)	84%
Training	(5,393)	(1,781)	(3,612)	203%
Legal Fees	(2,344)	(6,039)	3,695	-61%
Accountancy and Independent Examiners Fees	(4,320)	(2,522)	(1,798)	71%
Other Professional Fees	(67,622)	(32,365)	(35,257)	109%
SAGE Costs	(3,066)	(2,834)	(232)	8%
Pension Costs	(518)	(518)	0	0%
Membership Fees	(408)	(539)	131	-24%
Property Depreciation	(10,566)	(13,378)	2,812	-21%
Office Equipment Depreciation	(3,397)	(5,428)	2,031	-37%
Total expenditure	(569,298)	(494,803)	(103,978)	27%
Other recognised gains/(losses)				
Investment Gains/Losses	24,583	(14,591)	39,174	-
Total other recognised gains/(losses)	24,583	(14,591)	39,174	-
Net movement in funds	(209,847)	(316,067)	106,220	-
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	1,642,131	1,958,198	(316,067)	-16%
Total Funds Carried Forward	1,432,284	1,642,131	(209,847)	-13%

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

England & Wales - Charity number 1136716

Accounts

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

(a registered charity and private company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements

for the year ended

31st March 2023

Company registered number: 07258623

Charity registered number: 1136716



Worcestershire Association for the Blind

(a registered charity and private company limited by guarantee)

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Worcestershire Association for the Blind

(a registered charity and private company limited by guarantee)

Reference and administrative details

Trustees

C Wigley	Chairperson
H Shaw	Vice Chair
R Milford	Treasurer
E S Baio	
A W Hall	
J Hill	
J McBride	
S Sheridan	
P A Viridi-Smith	(appointed 1 May 2022)
N Button	(resigned 24 January 2023)
E Mackenzie	(resigned 16 June 2022)
P Mackenzie	(resigned 28 March 2023)

Chief Executive Officer

A Eyre

Company registered number

07258623

Charity registered number

1136716

Registered Office

The Bradbury Centre
2 Sansome Walk
Worcestershire
WR1 1LH

Bankers

CAF Bank
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Solicitors

Thursfields Solicitors
9-10 The Tything
Worcester
WR1 1HD

Independent Examiner

Forest Phoenix Accountancy Ltd
Units 21-23 Foxes Bridge Road
Forest Vale Industrial Estate
Cinderford
Gloucestershire
GL14 2PQ



Worcestershire Association for the Blind

(a registered charity and private company limited by guarantee)

CHAIR'S STATEMENT

for the year to: 31st March 2023

2022/23 has been both a challenging and exciting year for the charity. There is a significant agenda to be undertaken in the context of the residual impact of Covid and the cost of living crisis.

A number of management changes have been made, including the appointment of a new Chief Executive, and we have increased the number of visually impaired staff. We are starting to feel like a charity full of lived experience and support, prepared to welcome people of all ages, including young people, children, and carers.

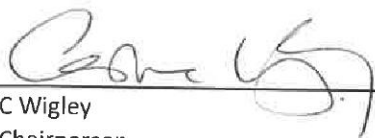
Anne Eyre was acting CEO for a significant part of 2022 and we were delighted to confirm her in post from December 2022. She brings enthusiasm, experience and a strong vision for our services.

We have continued to consolidate and strengthen our service and I would highlight the following achievements:

- * we finalised our strategy for the future
- * we continued to work in partnership with the NHS on bedding down the low vision clinics
- * we expanded the reach and variety of support groups and activities
- * we developed our digital technology offer
- * we appointed a firm of bid writers to work with us on securing more income
- * we continued to develop our volunteering offer, including appointing a new Volunteer Coordinator
- * we worked with architects on our vision for plans for a new redeveloped Bradbury Centre

It has been a very busy year with the emphasis on listening to what our users want.

We are starting to do more to influence other organisations on the barriers to the visually impaired on access. There is definitely a new sense of energy and excitement about what the future has to offer for the visually impaired community in Worcestershire and our role in providing places and people that understand what life is like for people living with sight loss.



C Wigley
Chairperson

Date: 01 December 2023

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

(a registered charity and private company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

(including Director's Report)

for the year ended 31st March 2023

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the Worcestershire Association for the Blind for the year to 31 March 2023. The Annual Report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report under company law. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Since the Charitable Company qualifies as small under section 382 of the Companies Act 2006, the Strategic Report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

Objectives and activities

a) Policies and objectives

The stated objects within the Articles for which Worcestershire Association for the Blind is established are for the public benefit:

- To promote the prevention of avoidable sight loss.
- To support and promote the welfare of blind and partially sighted persons and their families or carers, in particular those resident in the County of Worcestershire.
- The provision of assistance and good quality services for blind and partially sighted persons, alone or in collaboration with other voluntary and statutory organisations.
- To provide the resources and information necessary to empower visually impaired people to make appropriate and informed choices.

These objectives will be monitored on a regular basis by the officers of the association and our Board of Trustees.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the association should undertake and consider that Worcestershire Association for The Blind provides a public benefit by actively promoting, supporting and empowering people affected by sight loss.

Our vision is a world where blind and partially sighted people have the confidence to reach their full potential and the opportunity to play an active role in society.

Our mission is to support blind and partially sighted people to lead independent and fulfilling lives.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance public benefit: running a charity (PB2).

Having reviewed the objectives this year, it is likely that the Board will present some refreshed objectives and Articles of Association to the next Annual General Meeting.

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

(a registered charity and private company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

(including Director's Report)

for the year ended 31st March 2023

Objectives and activities (CONTINUED)

a) Strategies for achieving objectives

Supporting people to make informed choices – we will provide information, advice and guidance about the impact of vision impairment and the options available for support.

Supporting people to lead independent lives – we will support people to adapt to sight loss, develop new skills and ways of doing things, use equipment and make the most of technology to overcome barriers. We will offer the same support to people who have always lived with a vision impairment.

Supporting people to lead fulfilling lives – we will assist people to engage in social and leisure activities which contribute to their wellbeing, with an emphasis on the value of peer support and accessible activities.

There are approximately 24,000 people living with vision impairment in Worcestershire, 8,570 of whom are registered blind or partially sighted.^[1] We aim to reach as many of these people as we can, within our available resources, to support them to come to terms with their vision impairment, develop new skills and ways of doing things and lead the lives they wish to lead.

b) Activities undertaken to achieve objectives

In order to achieve our objectives, we provide a range of services providing information, advice and support to blind and partially sighted people and their support networks.

This year, our services have included:

- Information and advice helpline;
- One-to-one support from our Sight Loss Advisors;
- Monthly Connections groups across the county;
- Low vision clinics delivered in partnership with the NHS;
- Advice about aids, equipment and technology, including demonstrations, workshops and one-to-one support;
- Befriending volunteers who can support people with the things they need to do, such as reading post, and the things they want to do, such as hobbies and socialising;
- Sight loss awareness advice and training to those who want to know how they can support vision impaired people.

We appreciate how challenging it can be to travel across the county, so we deliver our services across the six districts of Worcestershire, in local community settings or in people's homes.

We are fortunate to benefit from the support of over 170 volunteers who support us across all areas of the charity including administration tasks in our offices, helping at Connections groups, befriending. Reading and recording the talking news and more.

[\[1\] RNIB Sight Loss Data Toolkit v5](#)

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

(a registered charity and private company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

(including Director's Report)

for the year ended 31st March 2023

Achievements and performance

a. Main achievements of the Charitable Company

Organisational – Our last report described the beginnings of our recovery from the Covid19 pandemic and the strategic review which we undertook as a result of this. We have continued to implement the changes identified from that review. We held a further strategic Away Day with staff and trustees in November 2022 to review our progress and agree priorities for our continued development.

Following the resignation of our longstanding Chief Executive Officer, we appointed a new Chief Executive Officer in December 2022. A difficult economic landscape has inevitably resulted in a continued need to adapt, ensuring that we are able to continue to meet our objectives, respond to the varied and individual needs of blind and partially-sighted people and do so within our financial means; our staff have risen to this challenge under a refreshed leadership team.

Information, advice and support – In order to feel empowered to make decisions, people affected by vision impairment need to have access to information and advice relating to their unique circumstances. They also need to trust that the source of information is credible. We provided information and advice on 1099 occasions this year. Information and advice were given to 727 people. We had not previously worked with 287 of those people.

Some people need more than just basic information and advice or signposting. They may be newly diagnosed or just coming to terms with their vision impairment and beginning to accept support. In many cases, people are not aware of the support that is available to them including benefits, equipment, help with the emotional impact, to adapt and develop confidence. Our Sight Loss Advisers work with blind and partially sighted people to identify their individual strengths, needs and challenges. We use a holistic assessment tool to inform a bespoke support plan and then work together to meet agreed objectives to manage the impact of vision impairment. This service supported 451 people this year, 247 of whom had not received support from this project before.

"I am managing much better now, and my depression has lifted. I can now do my crosswords. I can't thank you enough for the help you have given me it's been wonderful".

"Thank you so much for your time and patience. You are a life saver, lovely lady".

"Where would I be without SCW and the help that you have given me?"

Low vision clinics – a key part of our work is maximising people's independence. Many people who registered as sight impaired or severely sight impaired have some residual vision. By using magnification aids, people may be able to continue completing daily activities, particularly those involving reading. We have been in receipt of a grant from the NHS to perform low vision assessments and provide magnification aids for some years. A further 400+ appointments are provided by the local hospital trust. This year, we have launched a pilot with our NHS colleagues to host all appointments at our base, The Bradbury Centre. Initial results show improved take-up of and attendance at appointments, meaning that more people are in receipt of vital equipment and our support at a critical time.

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

(a registered charity and private company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

(including Director's Report)

for the year ended 31st March 2023

In total, 407 people with a vision impairment were assessed in a low vision clinic this year.

"I am very impressed with the help and advice that I have received from you. I shall be making a donation".

"We were really, really pleased with the service that we had. They were lovely people and very helpful".

Connections groups – the people we support have told us how much they value spending time with other vision impaired people, particularly the opportunities for informal advice and peer support. Our Connections groups enable and empower people to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence from peers who have similar experiences. Our report last year detailed our renewed focus on groups following the pandemic and our strategic review. This year, we have built on the success of our groups and wellbeing activities by recruiting a further Wellbeing Activities Coordinator to expand our provision. We are now providing regular school holiday activities for families affected by vision impairment via our Eye Explore project. We have also launched Eye Play, a toddler group for families affected by vision impairment.

"I just wanted to thank you and all the staff + musicians for the really lovely Christmas Party last Thursday. It was a super occasion and so nice to see some old friends and to meet new ones. Thank you".

Access to technology – technology is an increasingly crucial ally for the people we support, playing a central role in developing independence and overcoming barriers. Progressively more common accessibility tools, such as voice command software, magnification and screen readers enable people to access digital content with minimum effort once they know how to. Technology is constantly evolving and creating further opportunities for a more accessible world. Our technology service offers one-to-one support to any blind or partially sighted person who wants to learn more about how technology could be useful to them.

215 people were supported by this service during the year, 164 of whom had not received technology support from us before.

"Losing my sight and having to learn new ways of using tech was incredibly frustrating. It was such a relief to find someone who not only understood Voiceover as a user but was also able to offer suggestions based on my needs".

Volunteering- volunteers are at the centre of our services. They enable us to support more people and provide more services. Volunteers are involved in every aspect of our charity, including befriending, administration, producing the Malvern Talking News, office administration, supporting our low vision service and providing a warm welcome and a brew to people attending our groups. Following the departure of our previous volunteer coordinator in September, we were very pleased when our new coordinator joined us in February. We are enormously grateful to our volunteers who kept on going during the period in which we did not have a coordinator. 162 people volunteered for us during the year, many carrying out more than one role.

"Thank you so much for finding me a volunteer. I can't wait to start exercising again".

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

(a registered charity and private company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

(including Director's Report)

for the year ended 31st March 2023

b. Fundraising activities and income generation

The Bradbury Centre is our main asset, it is an old building of substantial size. We have not needed to use the whole building ourselves some time and continue to receive income from renting the first-floor tenants. Their lease is due to end in the next financial year. We have previously rented ground floor space but, after previous tenants moved out, we opted to retain our large hall for own use. This was a result of strong feedback from our clients that they wanted us to provide more activities at and access to the centre.

This has been another year of consolidation and development. We have continued to use our legacy funds to contribute to the provision of services. We have increased our bids for grants and trusts and are hopeful that we will receive further funding from the National Lottery.

We are looking forward to resuming larger fundraising events in the next financial year. We express our grateful thanks to those who have supported us this year by undertaking fundraising activities on our behalf, making donations and purchasing equipment from us. We also thank local primary schools who have taken part in our Flourishing a Fiver programme which enables pupils to learn more about living with vision impairment and show their entrepreneurial skills.

We gratefully thank all those whose grant funds are helping us to continue our work: The National Lottery Reaching Communities, Garfield Weston, Six Master Charities, Hawthorn Charitable Trust, Women's Guild of Friendship (Malvern) and KW Tandy Will Trust.

Financial review

a. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charitable Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

b. Reserves policy

The Trustees have given careful consideration to the requirement to maintain an appropriate level of free reserves, being those unrestricted funds not invested in fixed assets or otherwise committed.

The Charity needs reserves to enable it to develop its long term aims as well as to ensure the continuation of its current activities. In order to meet their responsibilities and to ensure that the Charity continues to operate on a going concern basis, the Finance Committee has reviewed the requirements and risks faced by the charity in both the short and medium term.

Our reserves policy takes into consideration that, as we are a charity that relies heavily on fundraising, we are subject to the effects of short-term volatility in income. We therefore hold funds in reserve to ensure that we can continue to provide continuity in our core services in the face of fluctuations.

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

(a registered charity and private company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

(including Director's Report)

for the year ended 31st March 2023

We hold reserves to meet the following purposes:

Inability to raise income: Inability to raise income has many root causes, including recession and slower than expected bounceback following the pandemic that continues to impact fundraising and other income. The Trustees have set aside £62k (2022: £57k) to cover these contingencies.

The costs of closure of the Charity: Should the Charity need to wind up, the staff team will need to be paid redundancy costs and we may need to pay professional fees to assist us to close down the Charity. The Trustees have set aside £42k (2022: £39k) to cover these contingencies.

Costs of repairs to the building: The building that the Charity occupies is an old property and repairs can be costly. We have included a sum of £10k for unplanned essential repairs. Our flat roof is over 20 years old and may require replacement in the very near future, quotes have been obtained for this. The Trustees have set aside £90k (2022: £82k) in total, to cover these contingencies.

Staffing contingency costs: There are some key activities that must be carried out in order to fulfil contractual or legal requirements, there may be a requirement to employ temporary staff to cover long-term sickness absence or to fund agency recruitment costs for senior staff.

The Trustees have set aside £33k (2022: £30k) in total, to cover these contingencies.

Designated funds - We received an unusually high amount of legacy income in prior years and have committed to spend a significant amount of these funds on the cost of providing our ongoing activities, on a full cost recovery basis, until the end of the financial year. We will be making grant applications towards these costs. However, it can take up to a year to identify funders, make applications and finally obtain funds. Therefore, we have designated sufficient funds for the Charity to continue to operate for the year, without raising any grant income. There are unrestricted designated funds of £105k primarily for Bradbury Centre building improvements (see the Funds note 12 of the accounts).

Based on the above assessment the Trustees estimate that the total level of free reserves required to mitigate against identifiable risks is approximately £333k (2022: £481k).

	2023	2022
	£	£
Inability to raise income	62,319	56,654
The costs of closure of the charity	42,493	38,630
Costs of repairs to the building	90,200	82,000
Staffing Contingency Costs	33,000	30,000
Designated Funds	104,815	273,664
Total	332,827	480,948

The level of our free reserves (see Note 13 "Unrestricted designated funds") held at the year-end, which excludes fixed assets in restricted funds and including payment of our creditors, is £541k (2022: £673k; 2021: £567k). This includes investment funds of £371k (2022: £386k; 2021: £355k) that are convertible at short notice if required, less current liabilities of £30k (2022: £49k; 2021: 232k), plus unrestricted current assets of £193k (2022: £336k; 2021: 244k).

Our free reserves of £541k exceed the amount required to mitigate our risks of £333k by £208k. Therefore, we have decided to draw down some of these savings to use for frontline services, and invest in sourcing new grants and other business development to diversify how we generate income with an aim to be more sustainable in the future.

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

(a registered charity and private company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

(including Director's Report)

for the year ended 31st March 2023

Structure, governance and management

a. Structure

Worcestershire Association for the Blind (operating as Sight Concern Worcestershire) is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital and governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The association was established by a charitable trust deed in 1930. The Trustees transferred all assets to the charitable company limited by guarantee which was incorporated on 19th May 2010.

b. Governance

The charity is governed by a board of trustees, who also act as directors, under its memorandum and articles.

The trustees/directors have overall responsibility for ensuring that:

- The charity is operating efficiently and effectively;
- Its assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition;
- Proper records are maintained, and that the financial information used within the charity or for publication is reliable;
- The charity complies with relevant laws and regulations.

Trustees are selected for the skills they can offer; a skills audit is used to identify the range of skills required and any gaps the current board needs to fill.

All new trustees undertake the charity's Sight Loss Awareness training, receive an induction from the Chief Executive Officer and spend time with key members of staff. They also receive a trustee handbook containing relevant information about their role and responsibility as a trustee, the charity's services and its policies.

c. Management

The trustees delegate the day-to-day management, the development of strategy, and overall leadership of the charity to the Chief Executive Officer.

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

(a registered charity and private company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Worcestershire Association for the Blind for the purpose of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

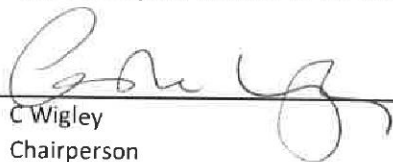
Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for that period.

In preparing these financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and 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. 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.

Approved by the trustees of the charitable company and signed on its behalf by:



C Wigley
Chairperson

Date: 01 December 2023

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

Independent Examiner's Report

Independent examiner's report to the trustees on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that neither an audit nor an independent examination is required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act"). The charity's gross income did not exceed £250,000, but the trustees have requested the independent examination to satisfy funding body requirements and I/we are qualified to undertake the examination by being qualified members of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and the Institute of Financial Accountants (IFA).

It is our responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention

Basis of independent examiner's statement

Our examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention, which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have come across no 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.

Signed:



20 July 2023

Jonathan Mills for and on behalf of Forest Phoenix Accountancy Ltd



Worcestershire Association for the Blind

Statement of financial activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31st March 2023

(Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 31st March 2023	Total 31st March 2022
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income from:					
Donations, legacies and grants	3	131,703	-	131,703	210,417
Charitable activities		12,325	-	12,325	159,343
Other trading activities		43,265	-	43,265	2,320
Investments		11,111	-	11,111	63,451
Other income		1,536	-	1,536	-
Total income		199,940	-	199,940	435,531
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	4	(6,613)	-	(6,613)	(60,096)
Charitable activities	4	(330,072)	(164,731)	(494,803)	(331,568)
Total expenditure		(336,685)	(164,731)	(501,416)	(391,664)
Net income/(expenditure) before net gains on investments		(136,745)	(164,731)	(301,476)	43,867
Investment property transfer		(446,103)	446,103	-	-
Net (losses)/gains on investments		(14,591)	-	(14,591)	122,781
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains		(597,439)	281,372	(316,067)	166,648
Other recognised gains:					
Gains on revaluation of fixed assets and investments		-	-	-	358,087
Net movement in funds		(597,439)	281,372	(316,067)	524,735
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	19	1,137,948	820,250	1,958,198	1,433,463
Total Funds Carried Forward	19	540,509	1,101,622	1,642,131	1,958,198

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

No amount is in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS102).

The notes on the following pages form part of these financial statements.

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

Statement of Financial Position (SOF) as at 31st March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets	6	661,549	680,355
Investment property	7	446,103	446,103
		<u>1,107,652</u>	<u>1,126,458</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors and prepayments	8	21,307	9,646
Investments	9	370,992	385,583
Cash at bank and in hand	10	172,090	485,258
		<u>564,389</u>	<u>880,487</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11	(29,910)	(48,747)
Net Current Assets		<u>534,479</u>	<u>831,740</u>
Total Net Assets		<u><u>1,642,131</u></u>	<u><u>1,958,198</u></u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted funds	12	1,101,622	820,250
Unrestricted designated funds	12	104,815	273,664
Unrestricted general funds	12	435,694	864,284
Total unrestricted funds		<u>540,509</u>	<u>1,137,948</u>
Total funds	13	<u><u>1,642,131</u></u>	<u><u>1,958,198</u></u>

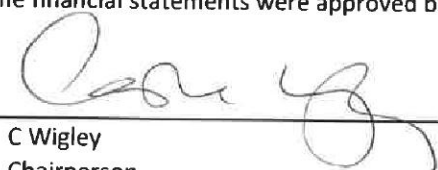
The charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- 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 financial statements were approved by the trustees, authorised for issue and signed on their behalf by:



C Wigley
Chairperson

Date: 01 December 2023

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2023

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:

The Bradbury Centre
2 Sansome Walk
Worcester
Worcestershire
WR1 1LH

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). They also comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

Worcestershire Association for the Blind meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

After making appropriate inquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charitable company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity opted to not include a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Income and endowments

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

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2023

2 Accounting policies (continued)

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Government grants

Government grants are recognised based on the accrual model and are measured at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or to assets. Grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life. For property that is 50 years or 2% straight line (SL), for fixtures and fittings is 10 years (10% SL), and 3 years for office equipment (33% SL).

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2023

2 Accounting policies (continued)

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees's discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

Recognition and measurement

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the charity intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the charity transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the charity, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2023

2 Accounting policies (continued)

Fair value measurement

The best evidence of fair value is a quoted price for an identical asset in an active market. When quoted prices are unavailable, the price of a recent transaction for an identical asset provides evidence of fair value as long as there has not been a significant change in economic circumstances or a significant lapse of time since the transaction took place. If the market is not active and recent transactions of an identical asset on their own are not a good estimate of fair value, the fair value is estimated by using a valuation technique.

3 Staff costs	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	290,654	229,191
Social Security costs	22,109	12,886
Pensions Costs	8,361	6,259
	321,124	248,336

4 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

5 Pension and other schemes	2023	2022
	£	£
Defined contribution pension scheme	8,361	6,259

6 Tangible fixed assets	Long-term leasehold property	Fixtures and fittings	Total
	£	£	£
Cost	668,897	250,884	919,781
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
Total cost	at 31 March 2023	668,897	250,884
Depreciation	-	239,426	239,426
Depreciation on disposals	-	-	-
Charge for the year	13,378	5,428	18,806
Total depreciation	at 31 March 2023	13,378	244,854
Net book value	at 31 March 2023	655,519	6,030
Net book value	at 31 March 2022	668,897	11,458
			680,355

The valuation of the property held at the beginning of the reporting period was carried out by an independent valuer called Fisher German LLP, a member of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. The valuation was made on an open market, value-in-use basis by reference to market evidence of transaction prices for similar properties and the percentage growth rate of the property market over the year, having due regard to any impairment provision necessary.

The building situated at Sansome Walk, Worcester, was valued at £1,115,000 dated 17 December 2021. The charity occupies the ground floor that is 60% of the value (£669k) and is depreciated at 2% straight line and revalued at least every 5 years.

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2023

7 Investment property		2023		2022
		£		£
Valuation	at 1 April 2022	446,103	at 1 April 2021	353,955
Revaluation		-		92,148
Valuation	at 31 March 2023	<u>446,103</u>	at 31 March 2022	<u>446,103</u>

The building situated at Sansome Walk, Worcester, was valued at £1,115,000 dated 17 December 2021. The first floor that is 40% of the total value (£446k) and is rented out and is classed as an investment property.

8 Debtors	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	3,504	5,687
Prepayments and accrued income	4,764	3,959
HMRC Employers Allowance unclaimed	13,039	-
	<u>21,307</u>	<u>9,646</u>

9 Current asset investments	2023	2022
	£	£
Charities unit trust equity fund	<u>370,992</u>	<u>385,583</u>

10 Analysis of cash at bank between funds	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Total
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand as at 31 March 2022	-	485,258	485,258
Net cash flow	-	(313,168)	(313,168)
Cash at bank and in hand as at 31 March 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>172,090</u>	<u>172,090</u>

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	6,582	6,259
Other taxation and social security	4,191	-
Pension control account	2,054	-
Other creditors	7,052	8,552
Accruals and deferred income	10,031	33,936
	<u>29,910</u>	<u>48,747</u>

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2023

12 Funds	Balance at 1 April 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds				
Sansome Walk Property - ground floor	668,467	-	(12,948)	655,519
Sansome Walk Property - first floor	-	446,103	0	446,103
Big Lottery - Reaching Communities	105,476	-	(105,476)	-
Volunteering	5,119	-	(5,119)	-
Digital Technology	20,908	-	(20,908)	-
Well Being (formerly known as Group Support)	20,280	-	(20,280)	-
Total restricted funds	820,250	446,103	(164,731)	1,101,622
Unrestricted designated funds				
Sight Loss Support Services	136,381	-	(136,381)	-
Low Vision	16,559	-	(16,559)	-
Digital Technology	60,132	-	(60,132)	-
Group Support/Wellbeing	14,695	-	(14,695)	-
Volunteering	40,903	-	(40,903)	-
Malvern	4,994	-	(179)	4,815
Leasehold property improvements	-	100,000	-	100,000
Total unrestricted designated funds	273,664	100,000	(268,849)	104,815
Unrestricted general funds	864,284	199,940	(628,530)	435,694
Total unrestricted funds	1,137,948	299,940	(897,379)	540,509
Total funds	1,958,198	746,043	(1,062,110)	1,642,131

13 Analysis of net assets between funds	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	655,519	6,030	661,549
Investment property	446,103	-	446,103
Current assets	-	193,397	193,397
Current asset investments	-	370,992	370,992
Current liabilities	-	(29,910)	(29,910)
Total net assets	1,101,622	540,509	1,642,131
	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Balance at 31 March 2022
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	661,245	19,110	680,355
Investment property	-	446,103	446,103
Current assets	159,005	335,899	494,904
Current asset investments	-	385,583	385,583
Current liabilities	-	(48,747)	(48,747)
Total net assets	820,250	1,137,948	1,958,198

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

Detailed Profit & Loss for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Total 31 March 2023	Total 31 March 2022	Variance	Variance
	£	£	£	%
Income				
Donations Received	8,741	19,558	(10,817)	-55%
Grants	61,325	158,372	(97,047)	-61%
Legacies	57,979	187,421	(129,442)	-69%
In Memorium	1,591	0	1,591	-
Payroll Giving	168	77	91	118%
Regular Giving	1,899	1,974	(75)	-4%
Events - Corporate Sponsorship	120	1,645	(1,525)	-93%
Events - Sale of Merchandise	98	0	98	-
Unity Lottery	786	0	786	-
Community Fundraising	1,256	0	1,256	-
Static Boxes	942	942	0	0%
Gift Aid	1,248	445	803	180%
Raffles	9	0	9	-
Attendance fees/Contributions	0	10	(10)	-
Sale of Aids and Equipment - Non Vatable	5,005	971	4,034	415%
Sale of Second Hand Aids and Equipment	728	0	728	-
Income from Suppliers	2,133	665	1,468	221%
Rent/ Lease Income	43,077	52,790	(9,713)	-18%
Income From Room Hire	188	60	128	213%
Investment Income	11,111	10,575	536	5%
Bank Interest Received	1,536	26	1,510	5808%
Total income	199,940	435,531	(235,591)	-54%
Expenditure				
Raising funds				
Merchandise (Fundraising)	(476)	0	(476)	-
Fundraising Event Costs	(273)	0	(273)	-
Equipment (Fundraising)	(23)	0	(23)	-
Prizes for Events	(26)	0	(26)	-
Fundraising Expenses	(20)	(20)	0	0%
PR (Literature & Brochures)	(236)	(42)	(194)	462%
PR social media	0	(367)	367	-100%
Aids and Equipment	(5,481)	(206)	(5,275)	2561%
Miscellaneous Purchases	(16)	(192)	176	-92%
Client Expenses	(11)	0	(11)	-
	(6,613)	(839)	(5,774)	688%
Charitable activities				
Room Hire	(2,194)	(592)	(1,602)	271%
Staff Travel	(3,336)	(1,108)	(2,228)	201%
Volunteer Travel	(442)	(228)	(214)	94%
Vehicle/Transport Hire	(76)	(370)	294	-79%
Speaker/Tutor/Entertainment Charges	(319)	(1,283)	964	-75%
Trip / Outing Costs	(721)	(1,153)	432	-37%
DBS Checks	(568)	(452)	(116)	26%
Low Vision Assessment Fees	(5,580)	(8,302)	2,722	-33%
Low Vision Aids	(7,343)	(6,991)	(352)	5%
Refreshments	(961)	(492)	(469)	95%
Materials	(1,174)	(103)	(1,071)	1040%

Worcestershire Association for the Blind

Detailed Profit & Loss for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

	Total 31 March 2023	Total 31 March 2022	Variance	Variance
	£	£	£	%
Expenditure (continued)				
Equipment purchases for resale	(615)	0	(615)	-
Delivery cost	(81)	(120)	39	-33%
Water Rates	(1,700)	(1,157)	(543)	47%
Electricity	(15,479)	(8,049)	(7,430)	92%
Gas	(2,856)	(2,594)	(262)	10%
Printing	(3,216)	(1,456)	(1,760)	121%
Postage and Carriage	(251)	(916)	665	-73%
Office Stationery	(917)	(618)	(299)	48%
Office Equipment and Furniture	(239)	0	(239)	n/a
Telephone and Fax	(2,672)	(6,168)	3,496	-57%
Computer and Software	(13,580)	(8,489)	(5,091)	60%
Mobile Phone Costs	(1,571)	(1,189)	(382)	32%
Repairs and Renewals	(7,340)	(10,109)	2,769	-27%
Cleaning	(3,338)	(3,852)	514	-13%
Waste Collection	(745)	(834)	89	-11%
Premises Expenses	(26)	0	(26)	n/a
Maintenance Contracts	(985)	(503)	(482)	96%
Health and Safety Costs	(2,293)	(9,329)	7,036	-75%
Insurance	(3,675)	(3,716)	41	-1%
Sundry Expenses	(1,572)	(1,102)	(470)	43%
Irrecoverable VAT	0	(7,421)	7,421	-100%
Bank Charges	(138)	(112)	(26)	23%
Gross Wages	(290,654)	(229,192)	(61,462)	27%
Employers NI	(22,109)	(12,886)	(9,223)	72%
Employers Pensions	(8,361)	(6,259)	(2,102)	34%
Recruitment Expenses	(3,809)	(645)	(3,164)	491%
Agency/Freelance	(16,293)	(8,276)	(8,017)	97%
Training	(1,781)	(1,588)	(193)	12%
Legal Fees	(6,039)	(1,550)	(4,489)	290%
Accountancy and Independent Examiners Fees	(2,522)	(7,020)	4,498	-64%
Other Professional Fees	(32,365)	(15,063)	(17,302)	115%
SAGE Costs	(2,834)	(2,300)	(534)	23%
Pension Costs	(518)	(475)	(43)	9%
Membership Fees	(539)	(479)	(60)	13%
Property Depreciation	(13,378)	(9,355)	(4,023)	43%
Office Equipment Depreciation	(5,428)	(5,522)	94	-2%
Bad Debt write-off	0	(37)	37	-100%
Total expenditure	(494,803)	(390,825)	(103,978)	27%
Other recognised gains/(losses)				
Investment Gains/Losses	(14,591)	122,781	(137,372)	-
Gain on Property Revaluation - restricted	0	204,109	(204,109)	-
Gain on Property Revaluation - unrestricted	0	153,978	(153,978)	-
Total other recognised gains/(losses)	(14,591)	480,868	(495,459)	-
Net movement in funds	(316,067)	524,735	(840,802)	-
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	1,958,198	1,433,463	20,534	17,062
Total Funds Carried Forward	1,642,131	1,958,198	24,962	32,350

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

England & Wales - Charity number 1136716

Accounts

Registered number: 07258623
Charity number: 1136716

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

UNAUDITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITABLE COMPANY, ITS TRUSTEES AND
ADVISERS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Trustees	C Wigley, Chair H Shaw, Vice Chair R Milford, Treasurer E S Baio S Sheridan V Merrett (resigned 18 January 2022) E Mackenzie P Mackenzie J McBride J Hill N Button (appointed 1 May 2022) P A Virdi-Smith (appointed 1 May 2022) A W Hall (appointed 18 January 2022)
Company registered number	07258623
Charity registered number	1136716
Registered office	The Bradbury Centre 2 Sansome Walk Worcester WR1 1LH
Chief Executive Officer	Ms J Gage
Independent Examiner	Bishop Fleming LLP Chartered Accountants 1-3 College Yard Worcester WR1 2LB
Bankers	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
Solicitors	Thursfields Solicitors 9-10 The Tything Worcester WR1 1HD

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

The Chairman presents her statement for the year.

This has been a challenging year with the continuing pressures and isolation as a result of the pandemic. Periods of return to normal living post lockdown were soon followed by more uncertainty with new variants. It has been difficult to provide the same level of face-to-face activity to our clients and new demands have arisen as a result of isolation and loneliness. In particular there has been a demand for counselling and we have agreed to establish a new counselling service.

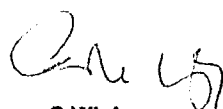
However, we are delighted that we have recruited new people to our team of staff and added to our Board. In particular we have engaged some additional property development expertise to help us think through our option appraisal exercise for the Bradbury centre.

We have now developed our digital technology support service, which has been enthusiastically received and our administrative team and reception have injected new energy into our customer care. Our volunteering service has gone from strength to strength. In addition, our sight loss team has been strengthened by appointing a well-being member of staff. This was in response to our Discovery project where clients emphasised the importance of activities that connected people with visual impairment. There are now a range of interesting activities taking place ranging from clay pottery to pub nights.

We spent a lot of time debating how to use our legacy income to good effect and decided to set a budget for investment for the future and to recruit more staff, including a senior sight loss adviser.

Much collaborative work has taken place with our NHS colleagues on the proposal to establish an integrated low vision service at the Bradbury centre and lay the foundations for it to start up in 2022.

In summary, although a difficult year still in terms of face-to-face delivery, Sight Concern has continued to consolidate and strengthen its service within Worcestershire.



**C Wigley
Chair**

Date:

8.12.22.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the Worcestershire Association For The Blind for the 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022. The Annual Report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report under company law. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Since the Charitable Company qualifies as small under section 382 of the Companies Act 2006, the Strategic Report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

Objectives and activities

a. Policies and objectives

The stated objects within the Articles for which Worcestershire Association for the Blind is established are for the public benefit:

- To promote the prevention of avoidable sight loss.
- To support and promote the welfare of blind and partially sighted persons and their families or carers, in particular those resident in the County of Worcestershire.
- The provision of assistance and good quality services for blind and partially sighted persons, alone or in collaboration with other voluntary and statutory organisations.
- To provide the resources and information necessary to empower visually impaired people to make appropriate and informed choices.

These objectives will be monitored on a regular basis by the officers of the association and our Board of Trustees.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the association should undertake and consider that Worcestershire Association for The Blind provides a public benefit by actively promoting, supporting and empowering people affected by sight loss.

Our vision is a world where blind and partially sighted people have the confidence to reach their full potential and the opportunity to play an active role in society.

Our mission is to support blind and partially sighted people to lead independent and fulfilling lives.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Objectives and activities (CONTINUED)

b. Strategies for achieving objectives

Supporting People to Make Informed Choices

We will provide information, advice and guidance regarding the impact of sight loss and the support available to help people affected by sight loss.

Supporting People to Lead Independent Lives

We will help people to adapt to sight loss, learn new skills, access equipment and make the most of technology.

Supporting People to Lead Fulfilling Lives

We will assist people to engage in social and leisure activities of their choice that enhance the quality of their lives.

There are approximately 8,280* blind or partially sighted people living in Worcestershire. We aim to reach as many of these people as we can, within our available resources, to support them to lead the lives they wish to lead. (*RNIB Sight Loss Data Tool)

c. Activities undertaken to achieve objectives

In order to achieve our objectives, we provide a range of services that either directly support people with sight loss or provide information, advice and guidance to those people who are supporting people with sight loss.

Our Services include:

- Information and advice helpline;
- One-to-one support from our Sight Loss Advisors;
- Monthly Sight Loss Support Groups;
- Living with Sight Loss group support sessions;
- Low Vision Clinics prescribing magnifiers, to make the best use of any remaining sight;
- Aids and Equipment demonstrations, advice & exhibitions;
- Digital Technology training through workshops and one-to-one support;
- Befriending Volunteers who can support people with the things they need to do (e.g. read their post) as well as the things they love (e.g. hobbies, getting out in the community);
- Sight Loss Awareness which provides practical training on how to assist visually impaired people.

We appreciate how challenging it can be to travel across the county, so we deliver our services across the six districts of Worcestershire, in local community settings or in people's homes.

We are fortunate to benefit from the support of over 150 volunteers, they support us across all areas of the charity including administration tasks in our offices, marshalling at events, running social groups, befriending, reading and recording the talking news and more.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Achievements and performance

a. Main achievements of the Charitable Company

The ongoing impact of the pandemic spanned many areas of our work from the direct effect on people who are blind or partially sighted to our ability to raise funds. People who are blind or partially sighted have faced greater challenges than many, for example, social distancing when you are not able to see where other people are or markers on floors. This has meant that many people faced a loss of confidence in getting around in their community, have lost mobility skills and faced greater loneliness and isolation. The demand for our services has grown as a direct result. Our team continued to adapt and provide support over the phone or via video calls, until they were able to meet people again and they have worked tirelessly throughout the year to provide the best service possible given the limitations, however we still had longer waiting times for support than we would have liked as a result.

During the year we used the challenges that the pandemic brought as an opportunity to carry out a strategic review, through the delivery of our most significant consultation project to date, the Discovery Project. We commissioned an independent consultant to gather evidence to support strategic decisions as we emerge from the pandemic. Desk research and interviews with 118 people, including 50 blind and partially sighted people plus volunteers, staff, trustees and external stakeholders were carried out. In September 2021, we held an away day for staff and trustees to discuss the findings of the Discovery Project and agree strategic priorities based on this feedback. Throughout the report references will be made to some of the changes that we have implemented as a result.

Information and Advice - In order to feel empowered to make decisions people affected by sight loss need to have access to information and advice relating to their unique circumstances. They also need to trust that the source of information is credible. This year we have invested additional funds into this area and employed a Services Support Assistant; she talks to people to find out what is important to them and how we can support them, she responds to queries and signposts or makes referrals into other services, both internal and external. Our new member of staff is registered blind and has a wealth of personal experience, often when she is speaking to people and explaining some of the things that she achieves they are inspired to try new things themselves.

During the year we received 378 new referrals for information and advice, resulting in people being able to make informed decisions.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Achievements and performance (CONTINUED)

Sight Loss Support Service – Some people need more than just basic information and advice or signposting, they may be newly diagnosed or just coming to terms with their sight loss and beginning to accept support. In many cases people are not aware of the support that is available to them including benefits, equipment, help with the emotional impact, to adapt and develop confidence, etc.

Our Sight Loss Advisers are specially trained to carry out a bespoke assessment called the Sight Loss MOT, with these people. They work through the following areas and together they develop an action plan that helps to address any issues identified:

1. Understanding your eye condition.
2. Making the best use of your sight.
3. Health and wellbeing.
4. Managing at home.
5. Getting out and about.
6. Your finances and planning for the future.
7. Work, learning and having your say.
8. Having someone to talk to.

Once the plan is agreed they work with the individual, on a short-term basis, to help them to achieve the actions and ensure that they are able to access any other services that have been recommended. The end goal is the person feeling more able to manage their condition independently of Sight Concern.

There were 407 new referrals into the sight loss support service during the year, resulting in people being able to adapt to sight loss and feel more in control of their lives.

Low Vision Clinics – It is important to us that we enable people to do as much for themselves as they want to. Obtaining the right magnifier to help people make the most of their remaining sight can make a real difference in aiding independence. This may help people to read their own mail, tell the time, read labels on boxes, etc. At our low vision clinics our optician carries out an assessment of a person's remaining sight and prescribes magnifiers.

We have an NHS contract to provide 200 Low Vision appointments per year. We started the year with a significant waiting list owing to the pressures caused by the pandemic in the previous year. We were also aware that the hospital low vision clinics were facing similar pressures with waiting lists, therefore some patients were waiting a long time for their appointments. Additional resources were allocated to enable us to reduce waiting times for patients, with the team working hard to manage the backlog.

In some cases, during periods where pandemic restrictions meant we were unable to meet clients face to face, we were able to adapt the service, with our optician carrying out telephone-based assessments, where appropriate. Magnifiers were sent in the post. These were subsequently followed up with a face-to-face appointment, when possible and necessary.

During the year 204 patients received an in-person assessment, 46 clients received a telephone assessment during periods of reduced contact. 227 magnification devices were issued, resulting in people being able to manage tasks more independently.

Sight Loss Support Groups – Much of the most useful advice and support on living well with sight loss comes through peer support. Knowing that someone else who is blind or partially sighted is achieving something that you are struggling with and learning how they have adapted gives people more confidence to try things out. Having someone to talk to who has experienced setbacks due to their sight loss that you can relate to makes it easier to deal with; they can empathise and share stories and will often have a laugh and a joke about it.

Sadly, our group activities were significantly hampered by the pandemic, even as restrictions eased, some people were too afraid to meet initially. We continued to provide online and telephone support groups, but these were not as effective as face-to-face meetings, so we were keen to get these back up and running.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Achievements and performance (CONTINUED)

Our Discovery Project consultation also told us that 'we need to offer a wider range of activities in local communities across Worcestershire and provide services that are relevant to younger people'. By the summer it appeared that restrictions would ease enough for us to bring groups together again, so in September 2021 we took on a Wellbeing Activity Coordinator to develop our group sessions. Unfortunately, once again we were affected by the pandemic, so just as our new colleague was ready to relaunch groups, we faced restrictions again.

Our Wellbeing Activities Coordinator utilised the time that we were unable to meet run groups, carrying out consultation and making some great connections in the local community that will help with our future plans. She also completed Living Well with Sight Loss training, in conjunction with RNIB, so she is now ready to deliver these sessions.

In February we started the delivery of a new service aimed at helping families affected by visual impairment to meet and gain peer support. Clay Days were set up in school holidays. 5 new families with young people with visual impairment engaged. The project was fully funded by Worcester Art Gallery and Museum, an on-going relationship has been established with them as a result. An exhibition of work produced will be opened on 25 October 2022, with a celebration for families.

Our Connections peer support groups re-started in March 2022. Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest areas had a session in March. Worcester and Malvern have been delivered since May 2022.

Access to Technology – We are living in a world that is more dependent on technology every day; the pandemic has accelerated this even further, yet many blind and partially sighted people still face barriers to using everyday technology. In addition to this there is an array of aids, equipment and technology, both specialist and mainstream, that can make a huge difference to how visually impaired people manage their lives and carry out day to day tasks. We want to ensure that everyone who wants to make the most of technology is given the information, training and support to be able to identify and use suitable products.

Participants in the Discovery projects told us they would like a product demonstration service and more help to make the most of mainstream technology. So, during the year we recruited a full time Technology Coordinator who is registered blind and a proficient user of all things tech. He works with people on a case-by-case basis, identifying what tasks they want to carry out and helping them to assess which pieces of equipment are most suitable for them; this could be based on affordability, digital skills, level of sight loss or personal preference. He supports them to set up and feel confident using technology.

Many of the queries are based on not being able to read print anymore and unable to use a mobile device. The three examples below show how our Technology Coordinator used his skills and knowledge and found solutions based on the individuals' personal circumstances.

One lady could not use her old Nokia mobile, and she wasn't able to use a touch screen even with voice or magnification options, it was just too much for her to take in and learn. She was shown how to use a 'blind shell' phone which acts/behaves nearly identical to her old Nokia style phone. She instantly loved it and purchased one in a matter of days, she can now independently text her friends/family again and make calls.

A lady who was employed as a librarian when she lost her sight and was struggling to write emails on her computer; she was shown how to magnify both her iPhone and computer. Because she was young and familiar with technology, she instantly picked it up and said it had made a massive difference and gave her renewed confidence that she'd be able to continue in her role.

One young man who had recently lost his sight in a car accident met with the Technology Coordinator, and by the end of the session he was able to grasp the concept of voice over on his iPhone. He and his parents were really excited that he could use this again. In addition to this, just by talking to someone who is blind he realised that he'd still be able to look forward to things he used to do. He used to go to watch football but had stopped after he had lost his sight. Our Technology Coordinator is a Liverpool football fan, after learning that he goes to watch the matches and listens to audio description of the match, he was very keen to start getting back in to going himself.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Achievements and performance (CONTINUED)

There were 167 referral into this service during the year, resulting in people being more digitally able, giving them more of a sense of control over their lives.

Volunteering - Volunteers are the life blood of the Charity and we could not operate without them, they enable us to reach more people and run the charity more effectively due to the range of activities they carry out from befriending and recording the talking news to administrative support, such as reminder calls from low vision clients.

Unfortunately, all aspects of volunteering activity have been affected by the pandemic and it continues to create some challenges. Ongoing Covid restrictions during the first half of this period meant that we were unable to place visiting befrienders with clients who were experiencing high levels of isolation and loneliness. There were still 39 clients on the waiting list for befrienders as at March 2022.

Recruitment of new visiting volunteers was challenging as many people were returning to the workplace and there was a huge demand for volunteers across the sector. In the first 3 months of 2022 we had a number of enquiries and applications from potential volunteers who withdrew before the induction session due to a range of factors. Some of our new volunteers recruited during the pandemic withdrew due to a return to work and 'normal' life as they no longer had the time to commit to volunteering.

However, despite the challenges we have continued to recruit volunteers and have developed the support we provide them. In May 2021, 11 telephone befrienders attended one of two online sight loss awareness sessions to prepare for visiting befriending. Volunteers resumed face to face visiting befriending in July 2021 which was much appreciated by volunteers and clients after such a long suspension of visits, and we started organising new matches.

During the year there were 39 active telephone befrienders, 10 of whom became visiting befrienders as restrictions were lifted making a total of 26 active visiting befrienders. Most of the telephone befrienders called 2 clients on a weekly basis.

We held a Dementia Friends session for volunteers in April 2021 to broaden their knowledge. This was attended by 9 of our befrienders. During Volunteers' Week June 2021 face to face meetings took place for across the county for new volunteers recruited during lockdown who we had not previously met in person.

An outside gathering was held for all the Malvern Talking News volunteers in August 2021. They had resumed recording the news remotely from home but had not met each other in person. The meeting was much appreciated by all.

In September 2021 we held a thank you event at the Diglis House Hotel for all our volunteers. This was attended by 48 volunteers who enjoyed drinks by the river before a cream tea. A volunteer photographer captured pictures on the day, and we decorated the tables with gift wrapped herb plants which the volunteers then took home.

Following a consultation where volunteers identified their preferred type/time/day for a meeting we agreed to hold one social event annually with a second meeting offering training and development. As a result, we held a meeting at Bennetts Farm in March 2022 attended by 45 volunteers. Our technology coordinator led the session with a talk and demo of assistive technology, and we had excellent feedback. Thank you to Waitrose who donated cakes for the refreshments!

Representation

We were able to secure funds from Worcestershire County Council that enabled us to run focus groups for visually impaired people to ensure their voices were represented in the public consultation exercises that they were carrying out; often the information is not accessible, so the needs of visually impaired people are overlooked. We held both a Covid Impact Study focus group and a Pharmaceutical Needs focus group; information will be used to inform planning of future Council services.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Achievements and performance (CONTINUED)

b. Fundraising activities and income generation

The Bradbury Centre is our main asset, it is an old building of substantial size. We do not utilise the whole building, therefore we rent out as much as possible to provide a sustainable income source. After a period of being unable to find tenants, partly related to the pandemic, in January 2021 we welcomed new tenants who now rent our entire first floor. They have a three-year lease. We also continued our rental of the main hall to a mobility company until March 2022, when they moved out to rent a self-contained building that was more appropriate for them. Unfortunately, we have not been able to find alternative tenants for this area as yet.

As the pandemic continued, we were unable to put on any of our usual style of fundraising events, community fundraising income also continued to suffer. However, during the year we received significant legacy income that has given us the financial security to not only provide our ongoing services, but also to carry out some development work.

We give grateful thanks to all those whose grant funds including help us to continue our work: The National Lottery Reaching Communities, Garfield Weston, The Masonic Lodge, Eveson Charitable Trust, Schroder Charity Trust, Six Masters' Charity, and Frogmal Trust.

Financial review

a. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charitable Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

b. Reserves policy

The Trustees have given careful consideration to the requirement to maintain an appropriate level of free reserves, being those unrestricted funds not invested in fixed assets or otherwise committed.

The Charity needs reserves to enable it to develop its long term aims as well as to ensure the continuation of its current activities. In order to meet their responsibilities and to ensure that the Charity continues to operate on a going concern basis, the Finance Committee has reviewed the requirements and risks faced by the charity in both the short and medium term.

Our reserves policy takes into consideration that, as we are a charity that relies heavily on fundraising, we are subject to the effects of short-term volatility in income. We therefore hold funds in reserve to ensure that we can continue to provide continuity in our core services in the face of fluctuations.

We hold reserves to meet the following purposes:

Inability to raise income: Inability to raise income could have many root causes, including recession or further restrictions relating to the pandemic impacting on fundraising, loss of tenant's rental income, reduction in investment income. Our budget includes £75K of income that could be affected in this way. We are holding a reserve that would allow us to face a 75% reduction in income against budget. The Trustees have set aside £57k to cover these contingencies.

The costs of closure of the Charity: Should the Charity need to wind up the staff team will need to be paid redundancy costs and we may need to pay professional fees to assist us to close down the Charity. The Trustees have set aside £39k to cover these contingencies.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Costs of repairs to the building: The building that the Charity occupies is an old property and repairs can be costly. We have included a sum of £10k for unplanned essential repairs. Our flat roof is over 20 years old and may require replacement in the very near future, quotes have been obtained for this. The Trustees have set aside £82k, in total, to cover these contingencies.

Staffing contingency costs: There are some key activities that must be carried out in order to fulfil contractual or legal requirements, there may be a requirement to employ temporary staff to cover long-term sickness absence or to fund agency recruitment costs for senior staff. The Trustees have set aside £30k, in total, to cover these contingencies.

Designated funds - We received an unusually high amount of legacy income over the last two years and have committed to spend a significant amount of these funds on the cost of providing our ongoing activities, on a full cost recovery basis, until the end of the financial year. We will be making grant applications towards these costs, however, it can take up to a year to identify funders, make applications and finally obtain funds and therefore we have designated sufficient funds for the Charity to continue to operate for the year, without raising any grant income. The designated funds of £274k, (detailed on page 30 of the accounts) therefore make up part of the free reserves required for our contingency funding that ensures that our services can continue to the end of the financial year in the event of a failure to raise any further income. The Trustees have designated £274k of funds in total.

Based on the above assessment the Trustees estimate that the total level of free reserves required to mitigate against identifiable risks is approximately £481k.

Inability to raise income: £57k

The costs of closure of the charity: £39k

Costs of repairs to the building: £82k

Staffing Contingency Costs £30k

Designated Funds: £274k

Total: £481k

The level of our free reserves held at the year-end - excluding fixed assets, restricted funds and including payment of our creditors – stands at £673k. (2021: £567k). This includes £386k investment funds which are convertible at short notice if required (2021: £355k), less current liabilities of £49k (2021: £32k), plus unrestricted current assets of £336k (2021: £244k).

Our reserves currently exceed the amount required to mitigate our risks, therefore we have decided to draw down some of these savings to use for frontline services, and to invest in business development to diversify how we generate income with an aim to be more sustainable in the future.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Structure, governance and management

a. Structure

Worcestershire Association for the Blind (operating as Sight Concern Worcestershire) is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital and governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The association was established by a charitable trust deed in 1930. The Trustees transferred all assets to the charitable company limited by guarantee which was incorporated on 19th May 2010.

b. Governance

The charity is governed by a board of trustees, who also act as directors, under its memorandum and articles.

The trustees/directors have overall responsibility for ensuring that:

- The charity is operating efficiently and effectively;
- Its assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition;
- Proper records are maintained, and that the financial information used within the charity or for publication is reliable;
- The charity complies with relevant laws and regulations.

Trustees are selected for the skills they can offer; a skills audit is used to identify the range of skills required and any gaps the current board needs to fill.

All new trustees undertake the charity's Sight Loss Awareness training, receive an induction from the Chief Executive Officer and spend time with key members of staff. They also receive a trustee handbook containing relevant information about their role and responsibility as a trustee, the charity's services and its policies.

c. Management

The trustees delegate the day-to-day management, the development of strategy, and overall leadership of the charity to the Chief Executive Officer.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Plans for future periods

We continue to work towards delivering the priorities highlighted as part of the Discovery Project, and the ongoing impact of the pandemic causing higher demand for our services. This is balanced against careful management of our finances and the success of fundraising, in particular grant applications.

We are employing a Senior Sight Loss Adviser, so that we have more capacity to respond to people who are in need of one-to-one support, can respond faster and to further reduce the waiting times.

We have made great progress working with our colleagues in the NHS on a proposal to integrate the hospital based low vision service with our service.

We begin a pilot project in the summer of 2022, whereby the hospital orthoptists will deliver their low vision assessments from our building, instead of the hospital eye clinics. This joint project will reduce the number of people being discharged from the hospital eye clinics without any information or a referral for support. It will also free up space in the hospital for sight saving treatment.

Our Wellbeing Activities Coordinator has responded to requests for more activities, including those that will appeal to younger people. For example, a trial Yoga session was delivered in May, funding has been secured to roll out a subsidized 6-week course alongside other wellbeing taster sessions in Worcester. Our first 'Pub Club' session started in April 2022, an informal peer support group, during the evening, for people who just want to get together informally over a drink or two.

We are recruiting technology volunteers who will be trained to support people with common technology challenges. This will enable us to expand the number of people that we support in this area. We intend to host local tech support sessions, across Worcestershire, where people can share tips and tricks with peers as well as gaining support with tech devices.

We have employed a part time Business Development Officer to lead on a review of the use of our building, our largest asset, to ensure that we are making the most of this. We are carrying out a comprehensive review of the building, included what we facilities we need on an ongoing basis and the potential for income generation through this. We are in discussion with another local Worcestershire charity who are considering sharing the building with us. Their service compliments what we do and could provide some exciting opportunities for joint projects.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

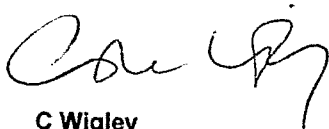
The Trustees (who are also the directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial . Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charitable Company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, 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 of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) 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 business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charitable Company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charitable Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charitable Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



C Wigley

Chair

Date:

5.12.22.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WORCESTERSHIRE
ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND ('the Charitable Company')**

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

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

As the Trustees of the Charitable Company (and its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

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

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

Since the 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 Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

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

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

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE OF WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

This report is made solely to the Charitable Company's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charitable Company's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charitable Company and the Charitable Company's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Signed:



Dated:

21st December 2022

Andrew Wood
FCCA DChA

BISHOP FLEMING LLP
Chartered Accountants
1-3 College Yard
Worcester
WR1 2LB

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
INCOME FROM:					
Donations and legacies	3	210,417	-	210,417	236,453
Charitable activities	4	971	158,372	159,343	324,241
Other trading activities	5	2,320	-	2,320	1,805
Investments	6	63,451	-	63,451	40,563
Other income	7	-	-	-	10
TOTAL INCOME		277,159	158,372	435,531	603,072
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds	8	30,260	29,836	60,096	49,188
Charitable activities		169,056	162,512	331,568	262,154
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		199,316	192,348	391,664	311,342
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE NET GAINS ON INVESTMENTS					
		77,843	(33,976)	43,867	291,730
Net gains on investments		70,257	52,524	122,781	60,787
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS		148,100	18,548	166,648	352,517
OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS:					
Gains on revaluation of fixed assets and investments		153,978	204,109	358,087	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		302,078	222,657	524,735	352,517
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total funds brought forward		835,870	597,593	1,433,463	1,080,946
Net movement in funds		302,078	222,657	524,735	352,517
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		1,137,948	820,250	1,958,198	1,433,463

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 19 to 37 form part of these financial statements.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
REGISTERED NUMBER:07258623**

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2022**

	Note	2022 £	As restated 2021 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	13	680,355	334,492
Investment property	14	446,103	353,955
		<u>1,126,458</u>	<u>688,447</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	15	9,646	11,396
Investments	16	385,583	354,950
Cash at bank and in hand		485,258	447,649
		<u>880,487</u>	<u>813,995</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(48,747)	(68,979)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>831,740</u>	<u>745,016</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>1,958,198</u>	<u>1,433,463</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>1,958,198</u>	<u>1,433,463</u>
CHARITY FUNDS			
Restricted funds	19	820,250	597,593
Unrestricted funds			
Designated funds	19	273,664	68,307
General funds	19	864,284	767,563
Total unrestricted funds	19	<u>1,137,948</u>	<u>835,870</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>1,958,198</u>	<u>1,433,463</u>

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
REGISTERED NUMBER:07258623

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

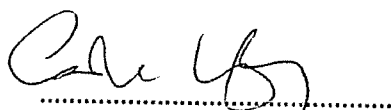
The Charitable Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

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

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

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

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



C Wigley

Chair

Date: 5.12.22

The notes on pages 19 to 37 form part of these financial statements.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Worcestershire Association for the Blind is a private limited Charitable Company incorporated in the UK and registered in England and Wales.

The Charitable Company is a private company limited by guarantee. The members of the Charitable Company are the Trustees named on page 1. In the event of the Charitable Company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the Charitable Company.

The principal activity of the Charitable Company is that set out in the Trustees' Report.

The accounts are presented in GBP and are rounded to the nearest GBP.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

2.1 BASIS OF PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Worcestershire Association For The Blind meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

2.2 GOING CONCERN

At the time of approving the accounts the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparation of the accounts.

The pandemic has had an impact on the Charity's ability to fundraise using its traditional methods, however the legacy income that was received in the last financial year has given us sufficient funds to see us through this downturn.

2.3 INCOME

All income is recognised once the Charitable Company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the Charitable Company has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the Charitable Company, can be reliably measured.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

2.4 EXPENDITURE

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Charitable Company to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Charitable Company's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.5 INTEREST RECEIVABLE

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charitable Company; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

2.6 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

At each reporting date the Charitable Company assesses whether there is any indication of impairment. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined to be the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. An impairment loss is recognised where the carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Long-term leasehold property	- 2% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	- 10-20% on cost

2.7 DEBTORS

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

2.8 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2.9 LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Charitable Company anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as a finance cost.

2.10 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Charitable Company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.11 PENSIONS

The Charitable Company operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Charitable Company to the fund in respect of the year.

2.12 FUND ACCOUNTING

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charitable Company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charitable Company for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

3. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Donations	22,996	-	22,996	30,091
Legacies/In Memorial	187,421	-	187,421	206,362
	<u>210,417</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>210,417</u>	<u>236,453</u>
TOTAL 2021	<u>213,728</u>	<u>22,725</u>	<u>236,453</u>	

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Grants	-	158,372	158,372	324,171
Sale of aids and equipment	971	-	971	70
	<u>971</u>	<u>158,372</u>	<u>159,343</u>	<u>324,241</u>
TOTAL 2021	<u>70,455</u>	<u>253,786</u>	<u>324,241</u>	

5. INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

Income from fundraising events

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Events	<u>2,320</u>	<u>2,320</u>	<u>1,805</u>
TOTAL 2021	<u>1,805</u>	<u>1,805</u>	

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

6. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Investment income - investment properties	52,850	52,850	29,960
Investment income - listed investments	10,575	10,575	10,544
Investment income - interest	26	26	59
	<u>63,451</u>	<u>63,451</u>	<u>40,563</u>
TOTAL 2021	<u>40,563</u>	<u>40,563</u>	

7. OTHER INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Other incoming resources	-	-	10
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10</u>
TOTAL 2021	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

8. EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS

COSTS OF RAISING VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Premises costs	30,260	11,765	42,025	23,913
Staff costs	-	8,716	8,716	15,972
Depreciation	-	9,355	9,355	9,303
	<u>30,260</u>	<u>29,836</u>	<u>60,096</u>	<u>49,188</u>
TOTAL 2021	<u>15,899</u>	<u>33,289</u>	<u>49,188</u>	

9. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES

	Activities undertaken directly 2022 £	Support costs 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Expenditure on charitable activities	<u>275,677</u>	<u>55,891</u>	<u>331,568</u>	<u>262,154</u>
TOTAL 2021	<u>219,100</u>	<u>43,054</u>	<u>262,154</u>	

ANALYSIS OF DIRECT COSTS

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

9. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

ANALYSIS OF DIRECT COSTS (continued)

	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Staff costs	247,896	200,026
Depreciation	5,522	4,704
Consumables and equipment	17,183	12,226
Staff and volunteer travel	2,896	945
Staff training and recruitment	1,588	989
Direct premises expenses	592	210
	<u>275,677</u>	<u>219,100</u>

ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Printing, postage and stationery	2,990	2,170
Recruitment and support	645	310
Telephone	7,357	3,885
Computer costs	10,789	12,811
Sundry expenses	1,773	1,070
Irrecoverable VAT	7,421	12,277
PR costs	1,550	-
Entertainment charges	1,283	120
Professional fees	18,183	6,911
Independent Examiner's fees	3,900	3,500
	<u>55,891</u>	<u>43,054</u>

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

10. INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REMUNERATION

The independent examiner's remuneration amounts to an independent examiner fee of £3,900 (2021: £3,500).

11. STAFF COSTS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	237,467	199,649
Social security costs	12,886	10,808
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	6,259	5,541
	256,612	215,998

The average number of persons employed by the Charitable Company during the year was as follows:

	2022	2021
	No.	No.
Charitable	10	8
Fundraising	1	1
Admin	1	1
Management	4	4
	16	14

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

12. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2021: £NIL).

During the year ended 31 March 2022, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2021: £NIL).

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Long-term leasehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Total £
COST OR VALUATION			
At 1 April 2021	605,765	248,231	853,996
Additions	-	2,653	2,653
Revaluations	63,132	-	63,132
At 31 March 2022	668,897	250,884	919,781
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 April 2021	285,600	233,904	519,504
Charge for the year	9,355	5,522	14,877
On revalued assets	(294,955)	-	(294,955)
At 31 March 2022	-	239,426	239,426
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2022	668,897	11,458	680,355
At 31 March 2021	320,165	14,327	334,492

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

14. INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	Investment property £
VALUATION	
At 1 April 2021	353,955
Revaluation	92,148
At 31 March 2022	<u>446,103</u>

The valuation of the property held at the beginning of the reporting period was carried out by Fisher German LLP, a member of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and is an independent valuer to the company. The building was valued at £1,115,000 as at 17 December 2021. The valuation was made on an open market, value in use basis by reference to market evidence of transaction prices for similar properties and the percentage growth rate of the property market over the year, having due regard to any impairment provision necessary.

The investment property represents leasehold land and buildings situated in Sansome Walk, Worcester.

15. DEBTORS

	2022 £	2021 £
DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		
Trade debtors	5,687	7,286
Prepayments and accrued income	3,959	4,110
	<u>9,646</u>	<u>11,396</u>

16. CURRENT ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2022 £	As restated 2021 £
Listed and unlisted investments	<u>385,583</u>	<u>354,950</u>

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

17. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	6,259	3,515
Other taxation and social security	-	1,928
Other creditors	8,552	9,700
Accruals and deferred income	33,936	53,836
	48,747	68,979

18. PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENTS

A prior year adjustment has been made in respect of investments held in a fund managed by a third party. Previously these investments were held as fixed asset investments, however the investments meet the definition of current as opposed to fixed due to their liquid nature.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

19. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Unrestricted Funds						
Designated Funds						
Volunteering	15,440	-	(13,053)	38,516	-	40,903
Wyre Forest Branch	6,598	-	(6,598)	-	-	-
Low Vision	-	-	-	16,559	-	16,559
Sight Loss Support Service (previously known as Localeyes)	37,000	-	-	84,455	-	121,455
Malvern Branch	3,269	1,599	(1,130)	1,256	-	4,994
Building Maintenance	6,000	-	-	(6,000)	-	-
Digital Technology	-	-	-	60,132	-	60,132
Well Being Activities	-	-	-	14,695	-	14,695
Counselling	-	-	-	14,926	-	14,926
	<u>68,307</u>	<u>1,599</u>	<u>(20,781)</u>	<u>224,539</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>273,664</u>
General Funds						
General Funds	747,175	275,560	(178,535)	(204,151)	224,235	864,284
Volunteering	15,656	-	-	(15,656)	-	-
Influence, Engagement & Development	4,732	-	-	(4,732)	-	-
	<u>767,563</u>	<u>275,560</u>	<u>(178,535)</u>	<u>(224,539)</u>	<u>224,235</u>	<u>864,284</u>
Total Unrestricted Funds	<u>835,870</u>	<u>277,159</u>	<u>(199,316)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>224,235</u>	<u>1,137,948</u>

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

19. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Restricted Funds						
Sansome Walk Property	421,189	-	(9,355)	-	256,633	668,467
Big Lottery Reaching Communities	104,502	84,067	(83,093)	-	-	105,476
Information, Advice & Support	23,450	-	(23,450)	-	-	-
Low Vision	-	26,092	(26,092)	-	-	-
Volunteering	7,235	8,413	(10,529)	-	-	5,119
Digital Technology	34,967	5,000	(19,059)	-	-	20,908
Admin	-	8,000	(8,000)	-	-	-
Well Being (formerly known as Group Support)	6,250	25,000	(10,970)	-	-	20,280
Bradbury Centre	-	1,800	(1,800)	-	-	-
	<u>597,593</u>	<u>158,372</u>	<u>(192,348)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>256,633</u>	<u>820,250</u>
Total of Funds	<u><u>1,433,463</u></u>	<u><u>435,531</u></u>	<u><u>(391,664)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>480,868</u></u>	<u><u>1,958,198</u></u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

19. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

FUND DESCRIPTIONS

Designated Funds

Sight Loss Support Service (previously known as Localeyes)

This project was part funded by the National Lottery these restricted funds are allocated to this project, however there is a shortfall in the funding therefore we have designated the balance to ensure we can continue the project to the end of the financial year.

Low Vision

This project is part funded by the NHS, however there is a shortfall in the funding, therefore we have designated the balance to ensure we can continue the project until the end of the year.

Digital Technology

This is a project that we have chosen to fund, based on consultation from stakeholders; there is a need to bridge the digital divide and ensure that people with vision impairment can make the most of the technology available to support their independence.

Well-Being Activities (Formerly known as Group Support)

This is a project that we have chosen to fund, based on consultation with stakeholders; there is a need and demand for group activities that enable people with vision impairment to learn from their peers and gain confidence and skills.

Volunteering

This project includes all of our volunteer recruitment, training and support costs, including a significant befriending project. We only have minimal grant funding for this project for the year, therefore we are designating unrestricted funds to cover these costs.

Counselling

This is a pilot project aimed at assessing the impact of counselling on people diagnosed with sight loss. This is based on client need and long waiting list for national counselling services for people with sight loss.

Wyre Forest Branch

Wyre Forest branch closed during the year; the balance of the local bank account was transferred to the Charity's main CAF Cash bank account.

Malvern Branch

Attendance fees are charged, and specific fundraising activities take place to raise the funds for this volunteer-led branch, therefore the funds raised are designated for expenditure within the branches.

Building Maintenance

Cost associated with maintaining the Bradbury Centre. This has now been included within the accommodation overhead costs and is apportioned on a full cost recovery basis.

19. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Restricted Funds

Sansome Walk Property

This fund relates to the establishment of the Bradbury Centre in Worcester. The fund balance at the year-end represents the net book value of the part of the property that was funded from restricted income.

Big Lottery Reaching Communities – Information, advice and support

This fund represents a grant made by the Big Lottery towards the cost of our information, advice and support project that enables people with sight loss to make informed choices, improve their mental wellbeing, become more independent, feel less socially isolated and lead more active lives

Sight Loss Support Service

This fund is made up of a range of grants that have been provided to meet the funding gap in our information advice and support project, as described above.

Low Vision

This fund is made up of grants provided towards the cost of running a community based low vision assessment service, including the provision of free prescribed magnifiers.

Volunteering

This fund represents grants provided towards the cost of Volunteer Management, including, recruitment, training and ongoing support.

Digital Technology

This fund represents grants provided towards the cost of advice, training and support for people to make the most of digital technology.

Admin

This fund represents grants that have been provided towards our core operating costs.

Well-Being (formerly known as Group Support)

This fund represents a grant towards the cost of peer group activities, that enable people affected by sight loss to provide mutual support and opportunities to learn from each other.

Transfers between funds

The transfers between funds are in relation to ensuring the designated funds are at the level thought to be required by the Board of Trustees, for the funds set out.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

19. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
Unrestricted Funds						
Designated Funds						
Volunteering	-	-	-	15,440	-	15,440
Wyre Forest Branch	6,197	700	(299)	-	-	6,598
Sight Loss Support Service (previously known as Localeyes)	100,000	-	-	(63,000)	-	37,000
Malvern Branch	1,715	1,835	(281)	-	-	3,269
I.T.	10,000	-	-	(10,000)	-	-
Building Maintenance	3,528	-	(7,098)	9,570	-	6,000
Bid Writer	14,200	-	(14,200)	-	-	-
	<u>135,640</u>	<u>2,535</u>	<u>(21,878)</u>	<u>(47,990)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>68,307</u>
General Funds						
General Funds	363,628	324,026	(49,256)	47,990	60,787	747,175
Volunteering	15,656	-	-	-	-	15,656
Influence, Engagement & Development	4,732	-	-	-	-	4,732
	<u>384,016</u>	<u>324,026</u>	<u>(49,256)</u>	<u>47,990</u>	<u>60,787</u>	<u>767,563</u>
Total Unrestricted Funds	<u>519,656</u>	<u>326,561</u>	<u>(71,134)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>60,787</u>	<u>835,870</u>

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

19. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
Restricted Funds						
Sansome Walk Property	430,492	-	(9,303)	-	-	421,189
Big Lottery Reaching Communities	64,456	112,200	(72,154)	-	-	104,502
Information, Advice & Support	3,867	51,994	(32,411)	-	-	23,450
Low Vision	1,583	-	(1,583)	-	-	-
Volunteering	10,169	37,678	(40,612)	-	-	7,235
Digital Technology	35,162	1,000	(1,195)	-	-	34,967
Influence, Engagement & Development	5,817	-	(5,817)	-	-	-
Increasing Our Reach	4,244	-	(4,244)	-	-	-
Admin	4,500	67,389	(71,889)	-	-	-
Fundraising	1,000	-	(1,000)	-	-	-
Well Being (formerly known as Group Support)	-	6,250	-	-	-	6,250
	<u>561,290</u>	<u>276,511</u>	<u>(240,208)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>597,593</u>
Total of Funds	<u>1,080,946</u>	<u>603,072</u>	<u>(311,342)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>60,787</u>	<u>1,433,463</u>

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

20. SUMMARY OF FUNDS

SUMMARY OF FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Designated funds	68,307	1,599	(20,781)	224,539	-	273,664
General funds	767,563	275,560	(178,535)	(224,539)	224,235	864,284
Restricted funds	597,593	158,372	(192,348)	-	256,633	820,250
	<u>1,433,463</u>	<u>435,531</u>	<u>(391,664)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>480,868</u>	<u>1,958,198</u>

SUMMARY OF FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
Designated funds	135,640	2,535	(21,878)	(47,990)	-	68,307
General funds	384,016	324,026	(49,256)	47,990	60,787	767,563
Restricted funds	561,290	276,511	(240,208)	-	-	597,593
	<u>1,080,946</u>	<u>603,072</u>	<u>(311,342)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>60,787</u>	<u>1,433,463</u>

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

21. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	126,831	553,524	680,355
Fixed asset investments	385,583	-	385,583
Investment property	338,382	107,721	446,103
Current assets	335,899	159,005	494,904
Creditors due within one year	(48,747)	-	(48,747)
TOTAL	1,137,948	820,250	1,958,198

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	334,492	334,492
Investment property	268,485	85,470	353,955
Current assets	598,964	215,031	813,995
Creditors due within one year	(31,579)	(37,400)	(68,979)
TOTAL	835,870	597,593	1,433,463

22. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The Charitable Company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charitable Company in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Charitable Company to the fund and amounted to £6,259 (2021: £5,541). Contributions totalling £1,500 (2021: £1,238) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

Accounts

Registered number: 07258623
Charity number: 1136716

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

UNAUDITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITABLE COMPANY, ITS TRUSTEES AND
ADVISERS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

Trustees	C Wigley, Chair (appointed 2 March 2021) H Shaw, Vice Chair (appointed 2 March 2021) R Milford, Treasurer (appointed 2 March 2021) E S Baio S Sheridan V Merrett E Mackenzie P Mackenzie J McBride J Hill J Parsons (resigned 2 March 2021) C J Tallents (resigned 2 March 2021) I Bowers (resigned 2 March 2021) C Orr (resigned 15 February 2021)
Company registered number	07258623
Charity registered number	1136716
Registered office	The Bradbury Centre 2 Sansome Walk Worcester WR1 1LH
Chief Executive Officer	Ms J Gage
Independent Examiner	Bishop Fleming LLP Chartered Accountants 1-3 College Yard Worcester WR1 2LB
Bankers	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
Solicitors	Thursfields Solicitors 9-10 The Tything Worcester WR1 1HD

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

The chairman presents her statement for the year.

I am delighted to have taken up this new role as Chair and to lead the Board driving forward our work for the blind and visually impaired in Worcestershire. I have learned so much in a short period of time and appreciate some of the significant challenges faced by our clients.

We continue to strengthen our Board. Hazel Shaw joins us as Vice Chair and Rob Milford as Treasurer. They have skills in finance, marketing and strategy and Hazel has considerable knowledge of our sector.

As I only took up post in April 2021 I must first of all thank Jon Parsons, my predecessor, for the significant contribution he has made to Sight Concern Worcestershire during his ten-year tenure. This was recognised recently when we invited him and his wife Grace to join trustees and staff for a lunch. Jon also did an excellent induction and handover programme for me.

Unfortunately, this has been another difficult year for everyone due to the fallout of the pandemic but the need for our services has been even more apparent. It is also evident that social isolation remains an issue for many.

I am very pleased to have joined a charity with a sound financial position and which has such enthusiastic and committed trustees, staff and volunteers. Our volunteer workforce has gone from strength to strength in the last year and we have made some impressive staffing appointments.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jenny Gage, CEO and all her staff who have not only made me very welcome but done an amazing job for our clients in difficult circumstances. We are keen to do much more work on getting feedback from our clients on the service we provide so please take every opportunity to make contact.



C Wigley
Chair

Date: 21.12.21

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the Worcestershire Association For The Blind for the 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. The Annual Report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report under company law. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Since the Charitable Company qualifies as small under section 382 of the Companies Act 2006, the Strategic Report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

Objectives and activities

a. Policies and objectives

The stated objects within the Articles for which Worcestershire Association for the Blind is established are, for the public benefit:

- To promote the prevention of avoidable sight loss.
- To support and promote the welfare of blind and partially sighted persons and their families or carers, in particular those resident in the County of Worcestershire.
- The provision of assistance and good quality services for blind and partially sighted persons, alone or in collaboration with other voluntary and statutory organisations.
- To provide the resources and information necessary to empower visually impaired people to make appropriate and informed choices.

These objectives will be monitored on a regular basis by the officers of the association and our board of trustees.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the association should undertake and consider that Worcestershire Association for The Blind provides a public benefit by actively promoting, supporting and empowering people affected by sight loss.

Our vision is a world where blind and partially sighted people have the confidence to reach their full potential and the opportunity to play an active role in society.

Our mission is to support blind and partially sighted people to lead independent and fulfilling lives.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

Objectives and activities (CONTINUED)

b. Strategies for achieving objectives

Supporting People to Make Informed Choices

We will provide information, advice and guidance regarding the impact of sight loss and the support available to help people affected by sight loss

Supporting People to Lead Independent Lives

We will help people to adapt to sight loss, learn new skills, access equipment and make the most of technology

Supporting People to Lead Fulfilling Lives

We will assist people to engage in social and leisure activities of their choice that enhance the quality of their lives

There are approximately 8,280* blind or partially sighted people living in Worcestershire. We aim to reach as many of these people as we can, within our available resources, to support them to lead the lives they wish to lead. (*RNIB Sight Loss Data Tool)

c. Activities undertaken to achieve objectives

In order to achieve our objectives, we provide a range of services that either directly support people with sight loss or provide information, advice and guidance to those people who are supporting people with sight loss.

Our Services include:

- Information and advice helpline
- One-to-one support from our Sight Loss Advisors
- Monthly Sight Loss Support Groups
- Living with Sight Loss group support sessions
- Low Vision Clinics prescribing magnifiers, to make the best use of any remaining sight
- Aids and Equipment demonstrations, advice & exhibitions
- Digital Technology training through workshops and one-to-one support
- Befriending Volunteers who can support people with the things they need to do (e.g. read their post) as well as the things they love (e.g. hobbies, getting out in the community)
- Sight Loss Awareness which provides practical training on how to assist visually impaired people, for staff, volunteers, businesses and the community

We appreciate how challenging it can be to travel across the county, so we deliver our services across the six districts of Worcestershire, in local community settings or in people's homes.

We are fortunate to benefit from the support of over 150 volunteers, they support us across all areas of the charity including administration tasks in our offices, marshalling at events, running social groups, befriending, reading and recording the talking news and more.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

Achievements and performance

a. Main achievements of the Charitable Company

As we entered April 2020, we were at the beginning of a journey that no-one could have expected and one that we had optimistically thought would be over well before the end of the financial year. We were already seeing the significant impact that this was having on blind and partially sighted people, we had made immediate adjustments to our services, with the staff team instructed to work from home and ceasing all face-to-face activity.

We recognised that some of our clients, particularly those living alone would be struggling to access information and may be a greater risk of isolation, with family and friends unable to visit. We took on the significant task of contacting every person on our database to ensure that they had the information they required and could access essential items such as food and medication. We signposted people to local organisations that were set up to safely deliver items on people's behalf. We managed to contact a total of 2,340 people during the first few weeks of the pandemic. For many this provided reassurance and comfort knowing that we were still there to help as best we could.

"I don't know what I'd have done without you, you are so kind. No-one else at all has even checked on me for months."

'Thank you for the information - I had no idea the shops were doing anything like this...this sounds useful for us'.

We soon confirmed that there were a significant number of people who were not seeing anyone and were very lonely. We had already advised our befriending volunteers that they could not visit people until further notice, 61 of these people switched to telephone befriending; we had established a successful model, so we decided to expand this by recruiting more telephone befrienders. We moved the training and support online via video meetings and managed to successfully recruit 44 new telephone befrienders. Along with our current volunteers we were able to reach 117 people providing someone to talk to, to reduce some of the loneliness. Regular newsletters to volunteers and video meetings have created a stronger relationship with the volunteers, and many are more confident to let us know if there is anything that they feel our sight loss advisors could assist with.

"I would like to take this opportunity to say how much I like your newsletters. Regular, relevant and up to date information maintains volunteers' interest and helps them feel included, along with your zoom sessions showing how supportive you are."

"Thank you so much for caring about my dad, and for calling especially at a weekend. It's nice to know Sight Concern is there."

The Malvern Talking News had been recorded by a team of dedicated volunteers for many years. Every week they met in a church to record and copy the news onto over 100 memory sticks that were posted out to blind and partially sighted listeners, this was another activity that had come to a halt due to the pandemic. When we realised that that 'normality' was not going to be returning soon, we decided to make the switch to providing the talking news in a digital capacity, this meant that volunteer readers could carry out this activity safely from their own home. We approached our current team to invite them to get involved, but many did not have the technical skills to record at home, fortunately we were able to recruit some new technical editors and some new readers. We made the talking news available via smart speakers and on our website. We also developed a dial-in service to enable clients who don't have access to this type of technology to listen via phone by simply dialling a dedicated phone number. Some clients expressed a preference for the news to be read to them by a volunteer reader, so we also set this up. During the last quarter of the year the Malvern Talking News received 184 'Alexa' smart speaker listens and 83 telephone listens. These are significantly higher numbers of people than those who received the memory stick via the post.

"Thank you for advising me of the return of the Malvern Talking Newspaper. I listened to the 28th of January edition using your website and was very pleased to hear the readers again"

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

Achievements and performance (CONTINUED)

"It is fitting, given the remarkable work of our volunteers, that in May 2020 we were delighted to receive the news that we had been awarded Investors in Volunteer status. "iV Standard is UK quality standard for all organisations that involve volunteers in their work. The Standard enables organisations to comprehensively review their volunteer management and also publicly demonstrates their commitment to volunteering".

As a result of the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, many of our clients experienced increased anxiety and lower mood and required more emotional support from the sight loss advisors. Many lost skills and confidence leaving their homes. Other organisations were experiencing increased demand and reduced capacity, which made securing appropriate support for clients difficult. We know that other people with sight loss across the country would be experiencing the same, so we joined forces with Sight Advice South Lakes and Support for Sight Essex to provide monthly joint Zoom information sessions. Sessions were provided on a regular basis and included inspirational speakers or useful information such as Blind Poet (David Steel), technology sessions from various people including VitalTech on Assistive tech and Galloways talking about apps, someone from RNIB explaining how she managed to adjust to severe sight loss and found work and one of our own Sight Loss Advisors running seated exercise class and offering tips on staying healthy. We also introduced telephone support sessions for those people who are not able to use the internet. These are accessed via a dedicated phone number.

In the Autumn of 2020, we invested in training and implementation of the Sight Loss MOT. This is an assessment, action planning and outcome framework which helps to ensure that people who are blind or partially sighted can access the information and support they need in order to maximise their independence, wellbeing and choice. It was first developed by Devon in Sight in 2016 as part of a new Community Support Service in order to deliver a more outcome-focused service and has been adopted by a number of sight loss charities across the UK. The Sight Loss MOT framework has been based on national research and best practice and provides a practitioner's toolkit to help organisations deliver against the objectives of the England Vision Strategy and the 'Seeing it My Way' Outcome Framework.

During the pandemic, when we have been unable to visit people, we have used this toolkit to provide telephone and online assessments, identifying what support could be put in immediately and what would need to be added to an action plan that would be implemented when restrictions eased. Where support was required from external organisations, the process was more complex and time-consuming than it has been previously because other organisations were also facing challenges resulting from the pandemic, such as reduced staffing, staff working from home and thus harder to contact and increased workloads for staff who remain working. The sight loss advisors showed tenacity and commitment in securing the relevant support, even in what were often very frustrating circumstances.

"Thank you for listening and for being so helpful. I feel like I have an action plan now which is what I needed"

"You have been absolutely wonderful. I can't thank you enough for all the help you have given me and for listening"

"The help has been excellent just knowing what is out there to help mum has really opened my eyes"

We have an NHS contract to provide 200 Low Vision appointments each year, our optician usually carries out an assessment of a persons remaining sight and prescribes magnifiers that will help them to make the most of this. Unfortunately, we had to suspend this services for several months at the outset of the pandemic, due to the close nature of the work. Our optician moved to a system of telephoning clients, and where possible, making a judgement based on the information they could provide and sending out a range of magnifiers for them to try out at home. When the government agreed that opticians could start up again, we purchased a wide range of protective equipment, set up a system for cleaning in between client appointments and put on additional face to face clinics to try and clear some of the backlog. Over the year, 169 new referrals were made to the low vision service, this was on top of an existing waiting list. Despite the challenges, a total of 202 appointments were completed in person or remotely.

"Thank you very much for the magnifiers, they are very useful"

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

Achievements and performance (CONTINUED)

"...you very kindly loaned me a very large high-quality magnifier. It has been the most helpful item..."

In April 2020 we had planned to expand our digital technology support services, aimed at helping people to learn more about the technology available, assess which is the most suitable for them, support them to purchase and set it up and trouble shoot when things went wrong. Sadly, we knew this was going to be significantly hampered by us not being able to see people on a face-to-face basis. We therefore made the decision to delay the services expansion and continue to run this on an ad hoc demand led basis. We were able to support 88 people over the phone during the year, by giving advice or resolving specific issues.

Towards the end of the year our Chair of Trustees, Mr Jon Parsons, advised that, after 10 years he felt it was time for him to step down from this role and hand over the role of Chair. Our Vice Chair, Elizabeth Baio had already stood down from this role but would remain as a trustee. We had struggled to recruit a Treasurer to the board for many years, so we set about recruiting to these roles. We were delighted to be joined by Caroline Wigley, Hazel Shaw and Rob Milford, who have a wide skill set between them including senior management in the NHS, marketing and consultancy.

We would like to use this opportunity to pay tribute to our long-standing President, Lady Morrison, who sadly passed away unexpectedly in October 2020. She will be greatly missed, her support over the many years will not be forgotten, her kindness and compassion always came across so strongly whenever she attended any of our events.

b. Fundraising activities and income generation

For 19 years we had benefitted from income from tenants leasing the first floor of our building, bringing in around 10% of our annual income. However, we had lost our tenants in January 2019 and being unable to secure new tenants we were struggling with the ongoing costs of running such a large old building without this income. We were about to secure new first floor tenants in March 2020 when Covid 19 hit and they were forced to pull out as they were also facing uncertainties due to the pandemic. It proved impossible to secure any other tenants over the next few months, however later in the year, the original business was able to reconsider and moved into the building in January 2021. In addition to this our ground floor tenant has agreed to extend the lease of our hall as a Worcester based showroom for their mobility company.

In March 2020 our Fundraising Manager, of 9 years, left the charity to take on a new challenge with another local charity. We saw this as an opportunity to review our income generation and consider what we needed to do differently in the future. The timing of this was fortuitous, in some respects, as it soon became clear that, as a result of the pandemic, our fundraising activity was going to take a significant hit, as much of our activity ground to a halt. We had to put our fundraising officer on furlough, as we did not feel confident that she could cover the costs of her salary through the limited income we believed we could raise through fundraising. We had to cancel all of our planned events including our tenth annual quiz night.

During the year we were notified that we have been left significant funds through the legacies of three generous donors. This income had the potential to change the course of the charity over the next few years. Whilst many charities were struggling due to the financial impact of the pandemic, we were able to concentrate on investing these funds in future services and sustainability for the charity.

Following receipt of some of the legacy income, we had to make the difficult decision to make our Grants and Trust Bid Writer redundant, as we did not feel it was appropriate to be asking for grant funding in the short term. Instead of bringing in a new Fundraising Manager, we made the decision to invest in an Income Generation Manager, who would try to diversify the ways in which we raised funds. Our new member of staff joined us in April 2021, we hope to be reporting the positive impact of this in next year's annual report.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

Achievements and performance (CONTINUED)

Prior to us becoming aware of the legacy funding we were still making successful applications to trusts and foundations. We give grateful thanks to all those who have given us funds including: The National Lottery Building Connections and Reaching Communities, Cadbury Trust, Kildare Trust, Eveson Charitable Trust, John Martins Charity, KJ Tandy Trusts, Francis Winham Trust, The Sir Cliff Richard Charitable Trust, MK Rose Charitable Trust, British Wireless for the Blind, Albright Grimley, The Will Charitable Trust, Baron Davenport, Lillie C Johnson, Garfield Weston, Hawthorne Trust, Edward Cadbury Trust, D'Oyly Carte, Worcester Community Trust, Rowlands Trust, The Grimmitt trust and The Masonic Lodge.

Financial review

a. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charitable Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

b. Reserves policy

The Trustees have given careful consideration to the requirement to maintain an appropriate level of free reserves, being those unrestricted funds not invested in fixed assets, designated for specific purposes or otherwise committed.

The charity needs reserves to enable it to develop its long term aims as well as to ensure the continuation of its current activities. In order to meet their responsibilities and to ensure that the charity continues to operate on a going concern basis, the Finance Committee has reviewed the requirements and risks faced by the charity in both the short and medium term.

Our reserves policy takes into consideration that, as we are a charity that relies heavily on fundraising, we are subject to the effects of short-term volatility in income. We therefore hold funds in reserve to ensure that we can continue to provide continuity in our core services in the face of fluctuations.

We hold reserves to meet the following purposes:

Loss of lease income: We currently have one tenant whose lease expires in December 2021, if they do not renew this lease, we are set to lose £4,672 of income in the final quarter of the year, therefore we have included this in our reserves.

We use the income from the interest on our investment towards our core costs, the markets may fall so we have set aside £5k to mitigate this.

The costs of closure or wind-down of the core operations of the charity:

This represents funds to cover the salary and personnel costs of closure/wind-down of the charity. This includes redundancy costs, professional fees and nine months' salary for the CEO and Finance Manager to attempt to rescue and/or close down the charity.

The Trustees have set aside £84k, in total, to cover these contingencies.

Costs of repairs to the building: The building that the charity occupies is an old property and repairs can be costly. We have included £30k for building repairs; we have identified a number of issues relating to repairs and maintenance that require attention, including needing ventilation in some rooms. We are aware that a flat roof is due for replacement, quotes are in the region of £60k. Our maximum excess on insurance is £1k.

The Trustees therefore have a target reserve of £91k, in total to cover these contingencies.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

The designated funds of £69,307 shown later in the accounts (note number 19) allow for the main charitable activities to take place and therefore make up part of the free reserves required for our contingency funding that ensures that key services can continue in the event of a downturn in income.

Based on the above assessment the trustees estimate that the total level of free reserves required to mitigate against identifiable risks is approximately £375,000

The level of our free reserves held at the year-end - excluding fixed assets, restricted funds and including payment of our creditors – stands at £567k (2020: £251k). This includes £355k investment funds which are convertible at short notice if required (2020: £294k), less current liabilities of £32k, plus unrestricted current assets of £244K

Our reserves currently exceed the amount required to mitigate our risks, therefore we have decided to draw down some of these savings to use for frontline services, and to invest in business development to diversify how we generate income with an aim to be more sustainable in the future.

Structure, governance and management

a. Structure

Worcestershire Association for the Blind (operating as Sight Concern Worcestershire) is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital and governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The association was established by a charitable trust deed in 1930. The trustees transferred all assets to the charitable company limited by guarantee which was incorporated on 19th May 2010.

b. Governance

The charity is governed by a board of trustees, who also act as directors, under its memorandum and articles.

The trustees/directors have overall responsibility for ensuring that:

- The charity is operating efficiently and effectively;
- Its assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition;
- Proper records are maintained, and that the financial information used within the charity or for publication is reliable;
- The charity complies with relevant laws and regulations.

Trustees are selected for the skills they can offer; a skills audit is used to identify the range of skills required and any gaps the current board needs to fill.

All new trustees undertake the charity's Sight Loss Awareness training, receive an induction from the Chief Executive Officer and spend time with key members of staff. They also receive a trustee handbook containing relevant information about their role and responsibility as a trustee, the charity's services and its policies.

c. Management

The trustees delegate the day-to-day management, the development of strategy, and overall leadership of the charity to the Chief Executive Officer.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

Plans for future periods

We continue to adapt to the ongoing challenges brought by the pandemic, this has had a significant impact on the lives of people with sight loss, many of whom were already facing issues due to reduced independence, isolation and loss of confidence. These were only further exacerbated through the need to social distance, restrictions in getting out of the house and barriers to accessing technology, information and key services.

With a new chair of Trustees, Vice Chair and Treasurer and having faced a year of continual change, we are using this opportunity to review some of the different practices we have put in place during the pandemic. As well as looking at what we did well prior to the pandemic, what we do well now and areas for improvement. We are engaging an external consultant to carry out an independent review with key stakeholders, giving people the opportunity to speak freely and honestly. She will speak with staff, trustees, volunteers, clients, family/carers, people with sight loss who do not use our services and professionals from across the health and social care sector. We will use the information gathered through this 'Discovery Project' to write a new strategy, fit for a world that is still affected by the global pandemic.

We are already facing waiting lists for face-to-face support and expect the demand for our services to continue to grow. Many people have lost their confidence as they made fewer journeys outside of their own home and became less familiar with the routes they used to take, so skills will need to be retaught. People will have gone through loss of sight or changes to their circumstances without receiving training, equipment or emotional support, so there is pent up demand for this. We have already separated out our work facilitating group support and social activities, which formed part of the role of our sight loss advisers. We are freeing them up to focus purely on assessments and support on an individual basis, to help to tackle some of these issues. We are recruiting a new member of staff whose work will focus purely on group work that enables people to meet peers with sight loss and learn from each other.

Partnership will be a key focus going forward, ensuring that we avoid duplication and work with other agencies to provide joined up services that compliment each other. We will be working closely with Royal National Institute of Blind People to deliver services such as Living Well with Sight Loss and some group social support. We are also looking at how we can provide a joint technology support service, with us assisting people to use their national technology helpline, whilst we provide the local hands-on support for people to be trained to identify and use the most appropriate digital aids and equipment. We will be taking on a dedicated Technology Coordinator to lead on this exciting and vital area of service development.

Herefordshire and Worcestershire will become an Integrated Care Systems (ICS) from 1 April 2021, in line with expectations set out in the NHS Long Term Plan. The Government has subsequently proposed a White Paper that will be considered by Parliament and recommends that Integrated Care Systems become statutory NHS bodies in April 2022, replacing Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). Integrated Care Systems aim to bring greater collaboration to all parts of the health and care system including GPs, hospitals, community care and social care, as well as physical and mental health services, county and district councils and the voluntary sector. The NHS say 'Our patients will find it easier to access services, see more joined up care delivery and staff should find it easier to work with colleagues from other organisations'. We see this as an opportunity to tackle some of the ongoing issue faced by people with sight loss.

- Too many people are still being discharged from the hospital eye clinics without any information or a referral to us for support. Some are not receiving a certificate of visual impairment and the opportunity to be registered as sight impaired or receive support from the council's rehabilitation officers of visual impairment. We want to change this so that everyone diagnosed with sight loss can obtain early reach support, at the point of diagnosis, to help them to emotionally and practically adapt.
- Hospital low vision services would be better placed in the community to free up space for medical interventions in the eye clinics and to improve access for low vision patients. We are talking to the NHS about merging our low vision services so that Sight Concern can oversee the delivery of all low vision services, in accessible community settings, across the county.
- Many people find the system disjointed and difficult to navigate, they often fall through the gaps and do not receive the support they need. We want to work towards providing a single point of access.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

Plans for future periods (CONTINUED)

- In 2019 Worcestershire County Council reduced the number of Rehabilitation Officers for Visual Impairment (ROVI'S), the criteria for support and for free aids and equipment now seems tighter and some people are no longer getting the support they need. We are keen to work with the council to see how our Sight Loss Advisors can help by providing the lower-level training and support, freeing up the ROVI's to concentrate their skills on the people with more complex needs. If we can provide an effective joined up model this could pave the way for cost savings and efficiencies for the council in the future through contracting this lower-level work to us.

As mentioned earlier, the significant legacy funding that we have received this year is going to enable us to develop some new services, in response to our consultation project. However, we will also be using this to invest in developing a sustainable income generation strategy and improve our communications. We will be reviewing the use of our building, our largest asset, to ensure that we are making the most of this. With more staff choosing to work remotely and as we grow and develop our community-based services, we have less need for the space that we currently occupy in the building, so we will be carrying out a comprehensive review of the building, included what we facilities we need on an ongoing basis and the potential for income generation through this.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial . Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charitable Company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, 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 of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) 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 business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charitable Company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charitable Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charitable Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



C Wigley

Chair

Date: 21.12.21

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WORCESTERSHIRE
ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND ('the Charitable Company')**

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charitable Company for the year ended 31 March 2021.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

As the Trustees of the Charitable Company (and its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

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

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

Since the 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 Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

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

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

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE OF WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

This report is made solely to the Charitable Company's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charitable Company's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charitable Company and the Charitable Company's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Signed:



Dated: 22nd December 2021

Andrew Wood FCCA DChA

BISHOP FLEMING LLP

Chartered Accountants

1-3 College Yard

Worcester

WR1 2LB

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	213,728	22,725	236,453	27,278
Charitable activities	4	70,455	253,786	324,241	273,438
Other trading activities	5	1,805	-	1,805	35,931
Investments	6	40,563	-	40,563	28,817
Other income	7	10	-	10	7
Total income		326,561	276,511	603,072	365,471
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	8	15,899	33,289	49,188	67,920
Charitable activities	9	55,235	206,919	262,154	353,540
Total expenditure		71,134	240,208	311,342	421,460
Net income/(expenditure) before net gains/(losses) on investments		255,427	36,303	291,730	(55,989)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	15	60,787	-	60,787	(9,619)
Net movement in funds		316,214	36,303	352,517	(65,608)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		519,656	561,290	1,080,946	1,146,554
Net movement in funds		316,214	36,303	352,517	(65,608)
Total funds carried forward	18	835,870	597,593	1,433,463	1,080,946

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 18 to 35 form part of these financial statements.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
REGISTERED NUMBER:07258623

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	334,492	340,875
Investments	15	354,950	294,163
Investment property	14	353,955	353,955
		<u>1,043,397</u>	<u>988,993</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	16	11,396	11,919
Cash at bank and in hand		447,649	179,388
		<u>459,045</u>	<u>191,307</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(68,979)	(99,354)
Net current assets		<u>390,066</u>	<u>91,953</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>1,433,463</u>	<u>1,080,946</u>
Total net assets		<u>1,433,463</u>	<u>1,080,946</u>
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	18	597,593	561,290
Unrestricted funds			
Designated funds	18	68,307	135,640
General funds	18	767,563	384,016
Total unrestricted funds	18	<u>835,870</u>	<u>519,656</u>
Total funds		<u>1,433,463</u>	<u>1,080,946</u>

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
REGISTERED NUMBER:07258623**

**BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 MARCH 2021**

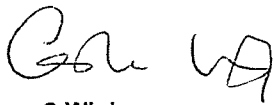
The Charitable Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

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

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

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

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



C Wigley

Chair

Date: 20.12.2021

The notes on pages 18 to 35 form part of these financial statements.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

	2021 £	2020 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net cash used in operating activities	275,875	(22,533)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	10	7
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(7,624)	-
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities	(7,614)	7
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	268,261	(22,526)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	179,388	201,914
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	447,649	179,388

The notes on pages 18 to 35 form part of these financial statements

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Worcestershire Association for the Blind is a private limited Charitable Company incorporated in the UK and registered in England and Wales.

The Charitable Company is a private company limited by guarantee. The members of the Charitable Company are the Trustees named on page 1. In the event of the Charitable Company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the Charitable Company.

The principal activity of the Charitable Company is that set out in the Trustees' Report.

The accounts are presented in GBP and are rounded to the nearest GBP.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

2.1 BASIS OF PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Worcestershire Association For The Blind meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

2.2 GOING CONCERN

At the time of approving the accounts, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

The impact of Covid 19 has and will continue to inevitably have an impact of the charities fundraising and direct service delivery, however we have sufficient reserves to see us through a period of reduced income. We have grants from the National Lottery that are expected to continue to be paid, as well as an NHS contract that is expected to continue to be paid. Our service delivery costs have reduced as we are not paying for room hire or travel cost and have staff working reduced hours or on furlough in some cases.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

2.3 INCOME

All income is recognised once the Charitable Company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the Charitable Company has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the Charitable Company, can be reliably measured.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

2.4 EXPENDITURE

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Charitable Company to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Charitable Company's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.5 INTEREST RECEIVABLE

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charitable Company; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

2.6 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

At each reporting date the Charitable Company assesses whether there is any indication of impairment. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined to be the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. An impairment loss is recognised where the carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Long-term leasehold property	- 2% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	- 10-20% on cost

2.7 INVESTMENTS

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance Sheet date, unless the value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as 'Gains/(Losses) on investments' in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Investments held as fixed assets are shown at cost less provision for impairment.

2.8 DEBTORS

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

2.9 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2.10 LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Charitable Company anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as a finance cost.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

2.11 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Charitable Company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.12 PENSIONS

The Charitable Company operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Charitable Company to the fund in respect of the year.

2.13 FUND ACCOUNTING

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charitable Company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charitable Company for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

3. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Donations	7,366	22,725	30,091	27,181
Legacies/In Memoria	206,362	-	206,362	97
	<u>213,728</u>	<u>22,725</u>	<u>236,453</u>	<u>27,278</u>
TOTAL 2020	<u>5,152</u>	<u>22,126</u>	<u>27,278</u>	

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Grants	70,385	253,786	324,171	273,126
Sale of aids and equipment	70	-	70	312
	<u>70,455</u>	<u>253,786</u>	<u>324,241</u>	<u>273,438</u>
TOTAL 2020	<u>23,731</u>	<u>249,707</u>	<u>273,438</u>	

5. INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

Income from fundraising events

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Events	1,805	-	1,805	35,931
	<u>32,691</u>	<u>3,240</u>	<u>35,931</u>	
TOTAL 2020	<u>32,691</u>	<u>3,240</u>	<u>35,931</u>	

6. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Investment income - investment properties	29,960	29,960	16,447
Investment income - listed investments	10,544	10,544	12,164
Investment income - interest	59	59	206
	<u>40,563</u>	<u>40,563</u>	<u>28,817</u>
TOTAL 2020	<u>28,817</u>	<u>28,817</u>	

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

7. OTHER INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Other incoming resources	10	10	7
	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>
TOTAL 2020	7	7	
	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	

8. EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS

COSTS OF RAISING VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Premises costs	15,899	8,014	23,913	39,855
Staff costs	-	15,972	15,972	18,538
Depreciation	-	9,303	9,303	9,527
	<u>15,899</u>	<u>33,289</u>	<u>49,188</u>	<u>67,920</u>
TOTAL 2020	39,855	28,065	67,920	
	<u>39,855</u>	<u>28,065</u>	<u>67,920</u>	

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

9. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES

	Activities undertaken directly 2021 £	Support costs 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Expenditure on charitable activities	219,100	43,054	262,154	353,540
TOTAL 2020	308,448	45,092	353,540	

ANALYSIS OF DIRECT COSTS

	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Staff costs	200,026	269,313
Depreciation	4,704	2,483
Consumables and equipment	12,226	13,551
Staff and volunteer travel	945	12,168
Staff training and recruitment	989	2,650
Direct premises expenses	210	7,573
Newsletters and website	-	710
	219,100	308,448

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

9. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Printing, postage and stationery	2,170	2,883
Recruitment and support	310	790
Telephone	3,885	5,755
Computer costs	12,811	10,715
Sundry expenses	1,070	2,668
Irrecoverable VAT	12,277	10,893
Entertainment charges	120	1,484
Professional fees	6,911	6,704
Independent Examiner's fees	3,500	3,200
	43,054	45,092

10. INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REMUNERATION

The independent examiner's remuneration amounts to an independent examiner fee of £3,500 (2020 - £3,200).

11. STAFF COSTS

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	199,649	268,519
Social security costs	10,808	12,637
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	5,541	6,695
	215,998	287,851

Staff costs are shown at gross value, staff costs in the year paid were net of furlough grants received of £10,216.

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11. STAFF COSTS (CONTINUED)

The average number of persons employed by the Charitable Company during the year was as follows:

	2021 No.	2020 No.
Charitable	8	9
Fundraising	1	2
Admin	1	4
Management	4	2
	<u>14</u>	<u>17</u>

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

12. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2020 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 March 2021, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2020 - £NIL).

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Long-term leasehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Total £
COST OR VALUATION			
At 1 April 2020	605,765	240,607	846,372
Additions	-	7,624	7,624
At 31 March 2021	<u>605,765</u>	<u>248,231</u>	<u>853,996</u>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 April 2020	276,520	228,977	505,497
Charge for the year	9,080	4,927	14,007
At 31 March 2021	<u>285,600</u>	<u>233,904</u>	<u>519,504</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2021	<u>320,165</u>	<u>14,327</u>	<u>334,492</u>
At 31 March 2020	<u>329,245</u>	<u>11,630</u>	<u>340,875</u>

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14. INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	Investment property £
VALUATION	
At 1 April 2020	353,955
At 31 March 2021	<u>353,955</u>

The investment property represents leasehold land and buildings situated in Sansome Walk, Worcester. The fair value of the investment property has been determined by the Trustees. The valuation was made on an open market, value in use basis by reference to market evidence of transaction prices for similar properties and the percentage growth rate of the property market over the year, having due regard to any impairment provision necessary.

15. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Other fixed asset investments £
COST OR VALUATION	
At 1 April 2020	294,163
Revaluations	60,787
AT 31 MARCH 2021	<u>354,950</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
AT 31 MARCH 2021	<u>354,950</u>
AT 31 MARCH 2020	<u>294,163</u>

16. DEBTORS

	2021 £	2020 £
DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		
Trade debtors	7,286	8,319
Prepayments and accrued income	4,110	3,600
	<u>11,396</u>	<u>11,919</u>

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17. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	3,515	7,661
Other taxation and social security	1,928	3,678
Other creditors	9,700	14,266
Accruals and deferred income	53,836	73,749
	<u>68,979</u>	<u>99,354</u>

18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
Unrestricted Funds						
Designated Funds						
Volunteering	-	-	-	15,440	-	15,440
Wyre Forest Branch	6,197	700	(299)	-	-	6,598
Local Eyes - Information Advice & Support	100,000	-	-	(63,000)	-	37,000
Malvern Branch	1,715	1,835	(281)	-	-	3,269
I.T.	10,000	-	-	(10,000)	-	-
Building Maintenance	3,528	-	(7,098)	9,570	-	6,000
Bid Writer	14,200	-	(14,200)	-	-	-
	<u>135,640</u>	<u>2,535</u>	<u>(21,878)</u>	<u>(47,990)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>68,307</u>
General Funds						
General Funds	363,628	324,026	(49,256)	47,990	60,787	747,175
Volunteering	15,656	-	-	-	-	15,656
Influence, Engagement & Development	4,732	-	-	-	-	4,732

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR (continued)

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
	384,016	324,026	(49,256)	47,990	60,787	767,563
Total Unrestricted Funds	519,656	326,561	(71,134)	-	60,787	835,870
Restricted Funds						
Sansome Walk Property	430,492	-	(9,303)	-	-	421,189
Big Lottery Reaching Communities	64,456	112,200	(72,154)	-	-	104,502
Information, Advice & Support	3,867	51,994	(32,411)	-	-	23,450
Low Vision	1,583	-	(1,583)	-	-	-
Volunteering	10,169	37,678	(40,612)	-	-	7,235
Digital Technology	35,162	1,000	(1,195)	-	-	34,967
Influence, Engagement & Development	5,817	-	(5,817)	-	-	-
Increasing Our Reach	4,244	-	(4,244)	-	-	-
Admin	4,500	67,389	(71,889)	-	-	-
Fundraising	1,000	-	(1,000)	-	-	-
Group Support	-	6,250	-	-	-	6,250
	561,290	276,511	(240,208)	-	-	597,593
Total of Funds	1,080,946	603,072	(311,342)	-	60,787	1,433,463

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

FUND DESCRIPTIONS

Designated Funds

Volunteering

Volunteers play a vital role in the delivery of our services, we need to ensure that we have sufficient resources to recruit, train and support them. We were successful in securing £58k of funding during the year that enabled us to provide an enhanced project. However, we have a shortfall for the project for this year. Grant applications are made for this area of work; however, funds are designated as the total funds have not yet been secured.

Wyre Forest Branch and Malvern Branch

Attendance fees are charged, and specific fundraising activities take place to raise the funds for these two volunteer-led branches. The funds raised are designated for expenditure that enables the branches to continue to operate.

Local Eyes - Information, advice and support

This is a three-year project which was initially due to come to an end in July 2019, however, we have secured three more years of continuation funding. Although it has received significant BIG Lottery funding from the Reaching Communities Programme, it does require us to secure a further £193k worth of funding during the three years of the project. We have a good track record of raising additional funds for this area of work, and will continue to make grant applications, but we feel it is prudent to increase the amount of designated funds we allocate to this project.

I.T.

Funds have been expended on the cost of moving to the cloud. Additional funds are required to replace computers that are more than 5 years old and are required for the charity to operate.

Building Maintenance

We operate from a large old building that requires ongoing maintenance to ensure it is fit for us to occupy and that we are meeting health and safety requirements. We have designated funds based on average spend per year.

Bid Writer

We are heavily reliant on grant and trust income at present and need dedicated resource to ensure that we can continue to raise the necessary income to fund services.

Restricted Funds

Sansome Walk Property

This fund relates to the establishment of the Bradbury Centre in Worcester. The fund balance at the year-end represents the net book value of the part of the property that was funded from restricted income.

Big Lottery Reaching Communities – Information, advice and support

This fund represents a grant made by the Big Lottery towards the cost of our information, advice and support project that enables people with sight loss to make informed choices, improve their mental wellbeing, become more independent, feel less socially isolated and lead more active lives

Information, advice and support

This fund is made up of a range of grants that have been provided to meet the funding gap in our information advice and support project, as described above.

Low Vision

This fund is made up of a contract provided towards the cost of running a community based low vision assessment service, including the provision of free prescribed magnifiers.

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18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Volunteering

This fund represents grants provided towards the cost of Volunteer Management, including, recruitment, training and ongoing support.

Digital Technology

This fund represents grants provided towards the cost of advice, training and support for people to make the most of digital technology

Influence, Engagement and Development

This fund represents grants provided towards the cost of listening to and representing the voices of people affected by sight loss, and developing new services and initiatives to ensure that the charity is fit to meet these needs in the future

Increasing Our Reach

This fund represents grants that have been provided towards activity that promotes the charity and enables more people to access our services or to support our work

Admin

This fund represents grants that have been provided towards our core operating costs, including the cost of purchasing new I.T equipment.

Fundraising

This fund represents a grant provided to purchase fundraising materials to assist us to raise income at events.

Group Support

This fund represents a grant towards the cost of our information, advice and support project that enables people with sight loss to make informed choices, improve their mental wellbeing, become more independent, feel less socially isolated and lead more active lives

Transfers between funds

The transfers between funds are in relation to ensuring the designated funds are at the level thought to be required by the Board of Trustees, for the funds set out.

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Balance at 1 April 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2020 £
Unrestricted Funds						
Designated Funds						
Volunteering	15,656	-	-	(15,656)	-	-
Wyre Forest Branch	5,000	2,600	(4,620)	3,217	-	6,197
Local Eyes - Information Advice & Support	100,000	-	-	-	-	100,000
Malvern Branch	5,000	3,085	(3,684)	(2,686)	-	1,715
I.T.	2,224	-	(600)	8,376	-	10,000

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR (CONTINUED)

	Balance at 1 April 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2020 £
Building Maintenance	6,000	-	(2,472)	-	-	3,528
Influence, Engagement & Development	23,000	-	(18,268)	(4,732)	-	-
Bid Writer	15,537	-	(10,728)	9,391	-	14,200
	<u>172,417</u>	<u>5,685</u>	<u>(40,372)</u>	<u>(2,090)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>135,640</u>
General Funds						
General Funds	461,368	84,713	(154,536)	(18,298)	(9,619)	363,628
Volunteering	-	-	-	15,656	-	15,656
Influence, Engagement & Development	-	-	-	4,732	-	4,732
	<u>461,368</u>	<u>84,713</u>	<u>(154,536)</u>	<u>2,090</u>	<u>(9,619)</u>	<u>384,016</u>
Total Unrestricted Funds	<u>633,785</u>	<u>90,398</u>	<u>(194,908)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(9,619)</u>	<u>519,656</u>
Restricted Funds						
Sansome Walk Property	440,019	-	(9,527)	-	-	430,492
Big Lottery Reaching Communities	36,673	150,000	(122,217)	-	-	64,456
Information, Advice & Support	12,675	14,584	(23,392)	-	-	3,867
Low Vision	5,525	750	(4,692)	-	-	1,583
Volunteering	-	52,239	(42,070)	-	-	10,169
Digital Technology	12,964	33,000	(10,802)	-	-	35,162
Influence, Engagement & Development	-	19,000	(13,183)	-	-	5,817

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR (CONTINUED)

	Balance at 1 April 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2020 £
Increasing Our Reach	4,913	-	(669)	-	-	4,244
Admin	-	4,500	-	-	-	4,500
Fundraising	-	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
	<u>512,769</u>	<u>275,073</u>	<u>(226,552)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>561,290</u>
Total of Funds	<u>1,146,554</u>	<u>365,471</u>	<u>(421,460)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(9,619)</u>	<u>1,080,946</u>

19. SUMMARY OF FUNDS

SUMMARY OF FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
Designated funds	135,640	2,535	(21,878)	(47,990)	-	68,307
General funds	384,016	324,026	(49,256)	47,990	60,787	767,563
Restricted funds	561,290	276,511	(240,208)	-	-	597,593
	<u>1,080,946</u>	<u>603,072</u>	<u>(311,342)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>60,787</u>	<u>1,433,463</u>

SUMMARY OF FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Balance at 1 April 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2020 £
Designated funds	172,417	5,685	(40,372)	(2,090)	-	135,640
General funds	461,368	84,713	(154,536)	2,090	(9,619)	384,016
Restricted funds	512,769	275,073	(226,552)	-	-	561,290
	<u>1,146,554</u>	<u>365,471</u>	<u>(421,460)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(9,619)</u>	<u>1,080,946</u>

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

20. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	334,492	334,492
Fixed asset investments	354,950	-	354,950
Investment property	268,485	85,470	353,955
Current assets	244,014	215,031	459,045
Creditors due within one year	(31,579)	(37,400)	(68,979)
TOTAL	835,870	597,593	1,433,463

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	340,875	340,875
Fixed asset investments	294,163	-	294,163
Investment property	268,485	85,470	353,955
Current assets	918	190,389	191,307
Creditors due within one year	(43,910)	(55,444)	(99,354)
TOTAL	519,656	561,290	1,080,946

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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21. RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2021 £	2020 £
Net income/expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	352,517	(65,608)
ADJUSTMENTS FOR:		
Depreciation charges	14,007	12,010
Gains/(losses) on investments	(60,787)	9,619
Interest receivable	(10)	(7)
Decrease in stocks	-	811
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	523	(1,243)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(30,375)	21,885
NET CASH PROVIDED BY/(USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES	275,875	(22,533)

22. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2021 £	2020 £
Cash in hand	447,649	179,388
TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	447,649	179,388

23. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At 1 April 2020 £	Cash flows £	At 31 March 2021 £
Cash at bank and in hand	179,388	268,261	447,649

24. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The Charitable Company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the group in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the group to the fund and amounted to £5,541 (2020 - £6,695). Contributions totalling £1,238 (2020: £1,766) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

