

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021
FOR
CROYDON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)

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(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)

CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Page
Legal and administrative information	1
Report of the Trustees	2 to 19
Independent Examiner's Report	20
Statement of Financial Activities	21
Balance Sheet	22
Cash Flow Statement	23
Notes to the Financial Statements	24 to 35
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	36 to 37

**CROYDON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**

**LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity Name

Croydon Voluntary Association for the Blind

Other Working Name

Croydon Vision

Registered Charity number

1165086

Principal Charity Office

Bedford Hall

72-74 Wellesley Road

Croydon

Surrey

CR0 2AR

The Trustees serving during the year and to the date of this report were as follows: -

Trustees

Frances Cullen	- Chair (Outgoing Chair, October 2021)
Nigel Gooding CBE	- Trustee (Appointed September 2021, Incoming Chair)
Richard Wragg	- Vice Chair
Alexey (Asher) Persits	- Treasurer
Joy Dell	- Trustee – Resigned November 2020
Kieren Exley	- Trustee – Appointed July 2021
Jamie Henderson	- Trustee – Appointed July 2021
Ketan Jadeja	- Trustee
Dhruvin Patel	- Trustee
Swarna Pillai	- Trustee

Chief Executive

Susanette Mansour

Senior Team

Natasha Thompson Campbell	- Operation's Manager
Mickella Hosannah	- Brand Manager
Josie Robson	- PR & Partnership Manager

Independent Examiner

Mark Blackwell ACMA
For and behalf of M H R Consultancy Limited
Chartered Management Accountants
Minster House, 126a High Street
Whitton, Twickenham, Middlesex
TW2 7LL

Principal Bankers

Natwest Bank
Croydon Whitgift Centre Branch
40 Whitgift Centre
Croydon
Surrey
CR0 1UQ

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

**CROYDON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**

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

The Trustees present their annual report together with the unaudited financial statements of Croydon Voluntary Association for the Blind for the year ended 31 March 2021. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the accounts on pages 24 and 25 and comply with the Charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Croydon Voluntary Association for the Blind (Aka Croydon Vision) is a charitable incorporated organisation constituted on 8 January 2016 and registered with the Charity Commission on that date. The formation of this CIO resulted from a decision to restructure the governance of the Charity and convert from an unincorporated trust to a CIO. On 1 May 2017 all of the activities and undertakings of Croydon Voluntary Association for the Blind (registered charity number 200482) were merged with this Charity. Croydon Voluntary Association for the Blind (registered charity number 200482) was removed from the register of charities on 16 November 2017.

Recruitment and appointment of new Trustees

The Charity's constitution states that the number of Trustees shall not be less than three and not more than eight plus the Chair. At least two of the Trustees should; if possible, be members who are visually impaired with skills set that complement the board. In 2020, the board discussed succession planning for Chair and Vice Chair roles as well as bespoke roles such as legal, brand champions. This resulted in a recruitment process and pleased to welcome two new trustees whilst pursuing recruitment for Chair.

At every annual general meeting of the members of the CIO, one-third of the Charity's Trustees shall retire from office. If the number of Charity Trustees is not three or a multiple of three, then the number nearest to one-third shall retire from office, but if there is only one Charity Trustee, he or she shall retire. The Charity Trustees to retire by rotation shall be those who have been longest in office since their last appointment or reappointment. If any Trustees were last appointed or reappointed on the same day those to retire shall (unless they otherwise agree among themselves) be determined by lot.

The members or the Charity Trustees may at any time decide to appoint a new Charity Trustee, whether in place of a Charity Trustee who has retired or been removed, or as an additional Charity Trustee, provided that the limit on the number of Charity Trustees would not as a result be exceeded. Trustees who retire by rotation are eligible for reappointment. A Charity Trustee who has served for two consecutive terms may not be reappointed for a third consecutive term but may be reappointed after an interval of one year.

Induction and training of new Trustees

The review process of Trustee recruitment and appointment has been a positive for the organisation. To date, the Charity has attracted new Trustees within Eye Health, Banking and Finance as well as HR. Trustees are now involved in various appropriate trainings; to further strengthen their role. A Register of Interests for Trustees, staff and volunteers is in place and updated annually. Each Trustee has a champion role, to drive positive change and sustainability of the Charity long term.

Each Trustee undertakes an induction process, consisting of the following: meet and greet the team and understanding our culture, Trustee welcome pack, policies and procedures; H&S processes. In addition, a copy of the CIO's constitution and any amendments made to it and a copy of the CIO's latest Trustees' annual report and financial statements. This is to ensure that Trustees carry out their responsibilities effectively; guided by advice provided from Charity Commission.

Board members are encouraged to spend ½ day at the Charity to further understand the operational aspect of the organisation. Furthermore, an annual event calendar is shared with Trustees with encouragement to attend some events. At each board meeting, financial and operational information is supplied together with suitable explanations, including front line presentation at Board meetings. Board members are expected to be aware of the various Charity Commission publications that can be obtained to assist them with their duties as Trustees.

Organisation

The Board of Trustees administers the Charity and generally meets every 12 weeks and a finance committee. Between these meetings, a meeting of the finance and grant-giving sub-committees is held when required. Other task and finish groups are formed based on needs.

The current Chief Executive is Susanette Mansour; appointed (2018) by the Trustees to drive positive change for the future. Phase one Croydon Vision was all about a Firmer Foundation, organisational change, and reconnecting with our community. Croydon Vision has stepped into phase 2 which focuses on Purpose, People and Performance. There's a culture shift taking place at Croydon Vision, we are no longer just a 'tea and sympathy' organisation, instead, everything we do focuses on transforming lives, on the journey to independence. The organisation is aiming for a blended model Heart of a Charity, Mindset of a Business. Susanette, members of the management team and service enablers meet and advise the Trustee Board as required.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT - continued

Leadership

Leadership and decision making of the Charity is delegated to the Chief Executive who works closely with Management and Trustees to fulfil the Charity's objectives and ensure the smooth and effective running of the organisation. The Chief Executive reports to the Chair and to the Board of Trustees.

The Trustees, CEO and the Senior Management team comprise the key management personnel of the Charity in charge of leading or managing the running and operating the Charity on a day-to-day basis.

All Trustees give of their time freely and no trustee received remuneration in the year. Our Chair leads an activity at Croydon Vision and charges the organisation at a substantially reduced rate. Details of Trustees' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed on pages 27 and 28 in Notes 9 and 13 of the accounts.

Croydon Vision has fully embraced generational diversity whereby feedback and appraisals are tailored to individual needs rather than an annual process. The pay structure of staff focuses on culture contribution, the added value and performance. In view of the nature of the Charity, the Trustees benchmark against pay levels within the voluntary sector across London as well as the public sector; with some consideration of NJC pay scales.

Volunteers

Croydon Vision's Volunteers are simply awesome! There is a total of (51) volunteers that give many hours of their time to the Charity. Our social value for 2021 was a whopping £61,251 – amazing support from our Volunteers. The Trustees and Staff Team would like to record their thanks for their valuable support. The Charity could not host its annual celebrating volunteer's event (June 2021) due to restrictions of Covid-19, however, the staff team adapted and surprised each volunteer with a gift of thanks as well as video by members and staff. The team is hopeful to organise an event for 2022, specifically for volunteers' week.

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

None of our Trustees received remuneration from their work with the Charity as Trustees. However, our Chair leads an activity at Croydon Vision and charges the organisation at a substantially reduced rate. Any connection between a Trustee, CEO or Senior Manager of the Charity with Service user, external contractor or supplier of services must be disclosed to the CEO or Board of Trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party.

Risk Management

The Trustees have been reviewing risk management frequently; especially since the pandemic of 2020. An integrated risk strategy is in place, led by the Treasurer and rest of finance committee. In addition, a risk management policy and register is now in place. The strategy comprises the following:

- An annual review of the risks which Croydon Vision may have to face.
- The establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks; and
- The implementation of procedures designed to report on and minimise any potential impact on Croydon Vision should any of those risks materialise.

The Board of Trustees is confident that the planned process will enable them to identify the major risks to which the Charity is exposed and that they have established systems to mitigate those risks.

The Trustees re-appointed Mark Blackwell of MHR Consultancy Ltd to carry out an independent examination of the Charity's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Croydon Vision's objects and funding limit the services we provide to those detailed in our charitable objectives. The Charity's Trustees have complied with the duty in section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission. Our primary beneficiaries are those people with sight loss or individuals with an interest in sight loss.

WHY, HOW and WHAT we do...

OUR VISION: Why we do what we do.

Everything we do is focused on transforming lives, the journey from dependence to living independently.

OUR MISSION: How we do this

We encourage people to re-evaluate what's possible when you're blind or partially sighted - there is life after sight loss

There are three branches to our work...

Practical support

We work directly with people affected by sight loss in a number of different ways. Providing quality information, advice, advocacy, tech training and counselling services are invaluable in helping blind and partially sighted people to thrive, in spite of their sight loss. We also combat the isolation and powerlessness that can come hand in hand with visual impairment, by facilitating peer support groups and recreational activities.

Spreading awareness

It isn't just blind and partially sighted people that we work with. By informing and educating carers, family members, employers and the public about the challenges faced by blind and partially sighted people, we're gradually helping to change perceptions.

Improving services

We don't operate in a bubble. Working with Moorfields, GPs, optical professionals, sensory impairment team, local and national voluntary organisations means the provision available for our members in Croydon is joined-up and timely.

OUR SERVICES: What we do (Personal development):

- Advice & Advocacy
- Low Vision Clinic
- Sight Loss Workshops
- Tech Training
- Outreach Service
- Young People (Out of the Box project)
- Route to Employment
- Transport & Lunch
- Various Social Groups (Peer Led)

OUR CULTURE DEFINED:

We put People First

We Empower our People, on the journey to independence

We take great pride in our Vibrant Community.

OUR VALUES

Awareness - Flexible to enhance efficiency

The people we work with face a whole range of different challenges, each of which demands a different response. We have to be agile to effect change.

Compassion - Always ready to take action

We approach problem solving and empowerment with empathy, without that our efforts will make minimal difference.

Teamwork - Together we achieve more

By sharing skills, energy, expertise, and experience, we know we can do more, so we work together to make things better for our members and their families/carers.

Integrity - Always do the right thing

We're steadfast in our commitment to making a real difference to real people.

Diversity - Each person is unique

We're here to value each other and make a difference. Our diversity is a fundamental part of what makes our community special.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Review of activities

COVID-19 – Response & Impact

There are many dimensions to the Covid-19 pandemic and the humanitarian implications have been enormous. The coronavirus pandemic is an unparalleled situation that has both divided and united our communities. Lockdowns and ongoing social distancing rules have created new challenges for our members (service users), in addition to the struggles of living with sight loss.

Financially, trading income depleted, losing 87% of hall hire income, operational services ceased, whilst additional safety measures, adapted services increased significantly. In addition, fundraising plans were paused for medium to long term projects, having huge effect on the organisation 2021-22.

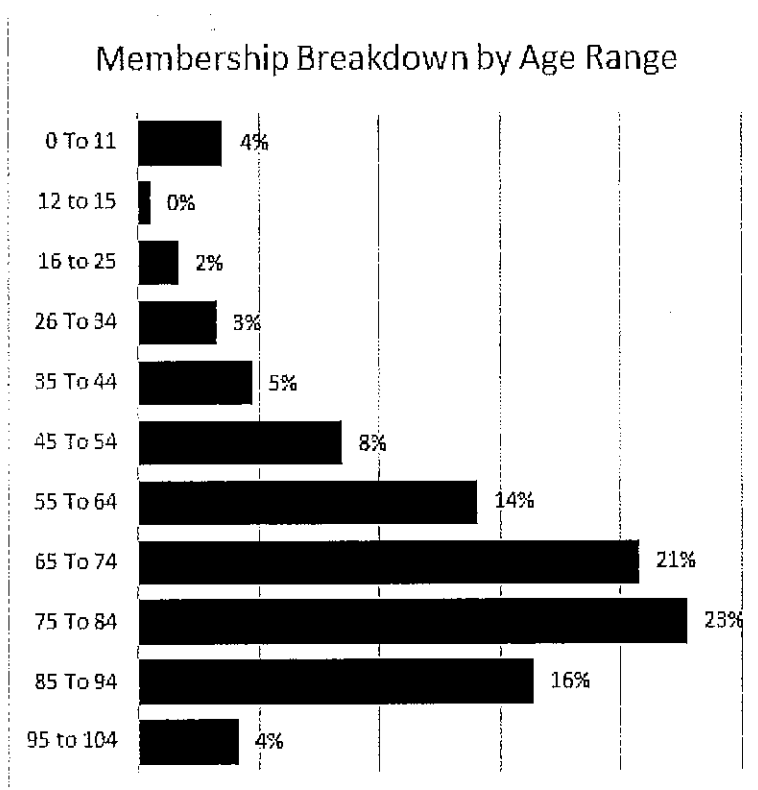
Learnings from Crisis (Covid-19)

However, the learnings and opportunity to connect with our members during the pandemic was a real blessing and there's no going back to what life was, pre-covid – our key focus is to enhance and further develop our hybrid model of working. We also learnt more so to:

- Always put people first – our volunteers and staff went above and beyond to meet the needs of our members.
- Becoming a brick (physical) and clicks (virtual) organisation to reach many more people.
- 90% of our visually impaired (VI) members need to improve their physical and mental health.
- 70% of our members, extra community engagement and outreach are essential to improve QoL.
- 45% of members have identified technology as a key life-enhancer to connect, engage and open doors to new opportunities.
- 50% of our VI community have admitted difficulties with eye health compliance, including challenges to attend check-ups.
- 80% of VI people in Croydon experience unemployment (up from 65% in 2019) and highly disproportionate.

Our Community:

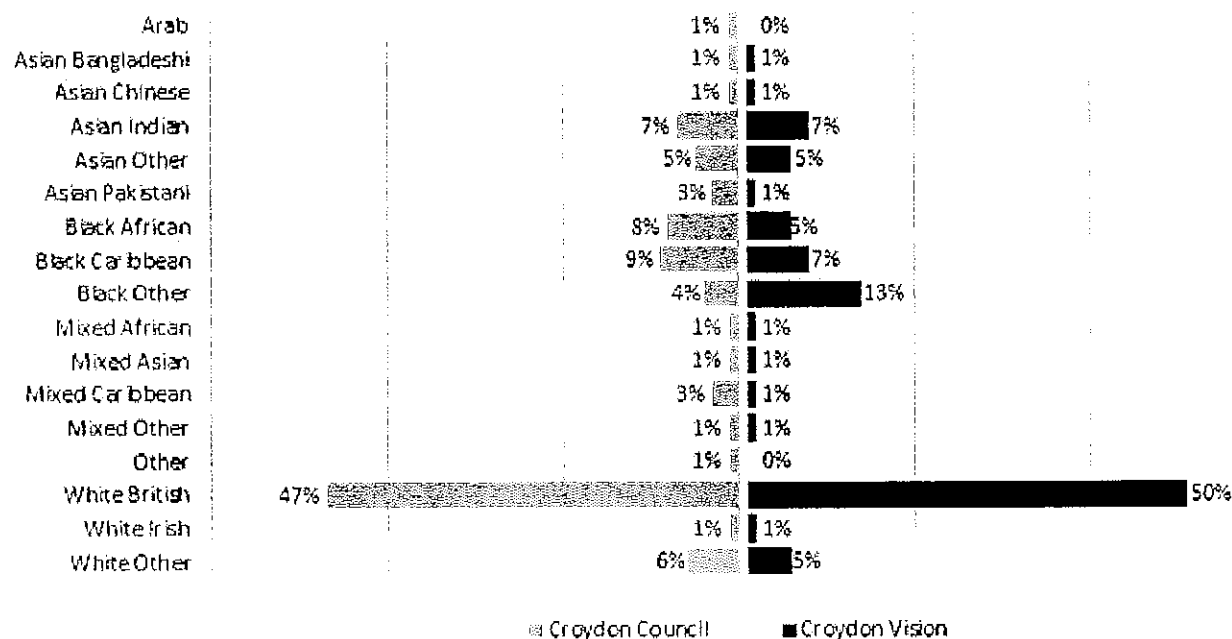
Since 2018 (phase 1), we've worked far and wide to re-brand Croydon Vision as an all-ages organisation and really pleased to report on progress so far. Community outreach continues to be a key focus, making sure that no VI person gets left behind.



Ethnicity Profile of Our Members

We've invested much time and energy into outreach and engagement. The below graph is a demonstration of our commitment to inclusion, equity and diversity – representing one of our values.

Ethnicity Profile in Croydon



Croydon Council

Toppled with pandemic came a shocking news November 2020, the local council declared itself bankrupt. Uncertainties emerged, and service contracts were on the line, statutory services were at a standstill and things may only get worse for residents without working smart. However, with problems comes opportunities and we are looking at new ways to ensure best value for taxpayers' money. With that in mind, we are asking the council to outsource VI Sensory Services into the community, enabling a 'One Hub' approach, based at Croydon Vision where medical, statutory and support services work together: in alignment with the **Care Act 2014**.

Why a Model Change

Croydon Council's coat of arms; 'Let us grow in health', aligns with our vision and mission. However, people are being failed, overlooked for support services by statutory bodies. The referral process is disjointed, slow and inefficient. It can take up to 8 months from a GP referral to someone attending Low Vision Clinic (Moorfields Hospital). There can be a further 9-12 months waiting before an individual receives a full specialist assessment by Sensory Team. Whereas the recommended best practise from initial contact to home assessment should be **28 days**. Change is required because services delivered must enable Croydon Council to comply with the key requirements of the **Care Act 2014**.

A part of the problem and finding solutions is reaching the Lost 500, people left behind due to failure of appropriate referral pathway between statutory services. Our pursuit is to reach these individuals and provide appropriate support whilst working to bring systematic change in Croydon. Majority of these individuals are working age, at home rather than developed to get closer to the labour market.

Resolution or Bigger Problems Ahead

UK:

By 2050, 3.5 million people will live with sight loss (up from the current 2.5 million) with more than a million people living with avoidable sight loss. The cost to the UK economy will be £33.5 billion by 2050 (up from £25.2 billion at present).

Croydon:

Croydon's current population stands at 384,837 and is estimated to increase by 14% by 2031. Over 51% of this community identify as Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic (BAME). Our local ethnic diversity means that the prevalence of certain eye conditions such as glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy are disproportionately high. A rising number of 1,210 residents live with severe sight loss and a further 9,420 experience some degree of sight loss. With very low quality of life (QoL) scores in line with national average - **We need to act fast.**

Strategic Plan 2020-23

Our five pillars, **Co-production, Community, Accessibility, Holistic Health and Sustainable Reach**, are key to our 2020-2023 Strategic Plan and guide everything we do. Below you'll see how these pillars have focussed our activity this year (left) and how we're building on those achievements in our targets for next year (right):

Coproduction -- our members to actively shape service development

2021

- **92 new members** joined (pre-Covid target of 100)
- **50 service enablers** engaged in operational development meetings
- Surpassed engagement for **peer support** by 20%

2022

- **Collaborate** with 8 external organisations
- **Further embed our model**, Heart of a Charity, Mindset of a Business
- Introduce quarterly evening and weekend sessions to further **engage working age members**

Community -- improving our reach and engagement in Croydon through

- **Engaged with 3 new schools** to raise awareness
- Ever-increasing number of members reached through **Bricks & Clicks**
- Our new mobility vehicle has **enhanced outreach**
- Focus on **local areas** of deprivation and reach 200 newly diagnosed visually impaired (VI) people
- Develop **5 new partnerships** in our community
- **Activate** the 'Lost 500' project, reaching people who've fallen between the gaps in the referral system

Accessibility -- transforming our premises and improving technology usage

- **Lift and building work** to commence in 2022
- Built a **tech studio** to improve virtual services
- Produced our own **podcasts** and 'Did you know?' videos
- To obtain a **Mobile tech hub**; allowing us to work smarter and increase reach
- Become a specialised contractor for IT certified training
- Build tech trailblazer credentials and pilot accessible tech

Holistic Health -- putting our members at the centre of their care pathways:

- Developed **Living with Sight Loss workshops**, 6 sessions undertaken so far
- **Moorfields Low Vision Clinic** now operates at Croydon Vision; a one-hub approach
- **Commercially align** with 7 new businesses (CSR), on eye health awareness
- Improve the **referral pathway** between statutory, medical and support services

Sustainable Reach -- improving our brand, communications, and income stream:

- **Defined our culture** to improve branding and impact
- Facilitated **7 Visual Awareness Workshops** (revenue generation)
- **Recruited** a Trusts & Foundation Fundraiser
- The use of **PESTLE analysis** for in/outward assessment
- Development of a **communication strategy** and an Impact Officer
- **Connecting** with 2 sight loss charities, building transatlantic connections

Our achievements - Continued

- **People development** – a book club at Croydon Vision has enabled us to explore and Start with Why (Purpose).
- Defining the type of culture, we want to see at Croydon Vision and the journey of bringing people along
- Expansion of our Tech Team, thus enabling us to serve more people through outreach and virtual programmes
- A Brand Manager to focus on social media interaction – in/outward looking organisation.

The New Now

Building for the Future will require us to make changes - having the heart of a Charity, and the mindset of a Business. Our approach means that essential services are subsidised by grant and additional services are paid for. This both supports our sustainability and changes members' expectations of what Croydon Vision can deliver free. **Why the change?** – The fundraising environment is currently challenging, we lost over 87% of hall hire income and some projects ended in April 2021.

Physically Distanced, Socially Closer

Whilst we look into the future for Croydon Vision, it is equally important to pause and celebrate the awesome work in 2020-21.

It has been more than a year since the first lockdown – at the time of adapting services, we had one focus, making sure our members live well and stay safe rather than falls, trips which leads to hospitalisation. We want to express our heartfelt thanks to the Team (volunteers & staff). Our adapted services were a life saver for many, and we are so grateful for their continued support. The challenges and opportunities have been evident, so many stories to tell, from people living alone and Croydon Vision team being their only contact to virtually connecting with our members – it's been hectic yet so rewarding.

Some data to build context on adapted services, the reach and support; a demo of groups and one-on-one services #Teamwork.

- 11,476 Facebook views, its official, we are a Bricks & Clicks provider.
- 3,359 Lunch meals served – a big shout out to the hospitality team!
- 1,740 Befriending calls – special shout out to our amazing volunteers.
- 1,251 Social Group calls/zoom – that's amazing, thank you group leaders.
- 346 Tech Trainings – home and telephone, whoop whoop Tech Team!
- 315 Advice & Advocacy service – the testimonials just keep coming!
- 195 Children & Young People activities (face to face/zoom) – thank you!
- 147 Personal Development – the passion to transform lives, so grateful!
- 87 Grocery, prescription collection and doorstep buddying; we salute you!

Voice of our Community

Throughout the pandemic, we connected with our members like never before, our services were categorised into three pillars:

- **Doorstep** – freshly cooked lunch, prescription collections, doorstep buddying and grocery shopping.
- **Home Visits** – IT and tech training, Advice & Advocacy, and other essential support.
- **Virtual services** – talking therapy, Facebook live event, talking news, befriending, fit & fun, various social groups, personal development.

Doorstep Services:

"The first few days of lock down, I was only eating sandwiches, now I have hot nutritious meals 4 times a week - it makes such a difference." - **Steve**

"The lunch service is great and a life saver for many of us – thank you for supporting my needs." - **Vee**.

"It's nice to come home and see mum has been looked after with food and social activities." - **Sherisse (Evelyn's Daughter)**

"I am currently shielding and cannot go out to the shops or prioritised for online shopping. Thank you for providing me with grocery every week." – **Deborah**

"Croydon Vision have reached out to us and assisted with prescription collection. We are very grateful for their support; they have provided a remarkable service". - **Danielle**.

"Each week, I look forward to Croydon Vision speaking to me at my door, I felt joyful." - **Lloyd**

"What a lovely idea for sending out a talking Christmas card. It was such a lovely surprise and so thoughtful. So on behalf of my mother Irene, she would like to say a big thank you! Once again, I would like to thank you all for what you have done and achieved in this difficult time." - **Jenny (Irene's daughter)**.

Home Visit Services

It is so assuring to know I can get help and I'm not on my own anymore." – **Peter**

"Your IT support helped me to understand the use of Zoom; enabling me to use at full potential for work."- **Ritu**

"It's been fantastic getting my skype fixed and connecting with my family and friends – thank you so much." - **Ann**

"A big thank you to the tech team for all the help you've given me. I successfully purchased grocery on-line, yes!" – **Graham**

"Thank you all for your kindness to me, especially when I was quite ill and unable to do things for myself." - **Ellen**.

"I struggle to complete applications and sometimes bump into things when I am out in the road. The officer visited my home and helped me complete various forms and even posted it for me. Thanks!" - **David**.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Voice of our Community – continued

Virtual Services:

"Conference Group calls are great and such a lovely way to keep in touch with everyone within the groups and allows us to have interaction with each other. It enables people to chat, laugh and share any concerns, that they may have. Befriending is important and a lifeline for many and lovely to look forward to either a group call, telephone call and in most cases both. Thank you so much for making this all possible. It is very appreciated." - **Jane, volunteer**

"I listen to the talking news again and again; it keeps me good company and very entertaining. Every week I look forward to receiving my USB by post, thank you." - **George**

"Croydon Vision has helped my daughter build her confidence and make new friends." - **Rachel**

"The face book live events are really good! I enjoy socialising and chatting with everyone." - **Sitas.**

"I look forward to the live events each week. They are fun and informative, and it helps me keep in contact." - **Bob**

"I've been especially blown away by how Croydon Vision has adapted to support members with sight loss during a pandemic, managing to deliver meals, offer support, and hold activities online from book clubs to craft days." - **Sarah, volunteer**

Post Lockdown – Returning to Croydon Vision:

"I've enjoyed coming back to Croydon Vision and have really looked forward to it. The safety measures in place is quite reassuring - I feel safe." – **Eddie**

"I was a bit dubious coming back. When I was collected by transport, it was clean, distancing was taking place on the bus and my temperature was taken. Croydon Vision have prepared well, everyone was in PPE, and it made me feel relaxed and confident." - **June**

"I was nervous when I first came back but it's been nice to come back and see my friends." – **Elizabeth**

"So nice to be back, I missed Croydon Vision, the people and I met new members as well, it's like family." – **Lauren**

"As a new member of Croydon Vision, I was apprehensive on my first day, I've been home for many years and my confidence shattered I was unsure how to engage with people and expected the worst. However, they made me feel so welcomed, I am happy." - **Mark**

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

A sample of services at Croydon Vision

Volunteering Service:

Our Service Enablers Group (since February 2018) empowers trustees, staff, volunteers, and service user representatives to influence organisational decision making. Meeting quarterly, they focus on securing effective change, making recommendations to the CEO, management team and Board of Trustees.

We strive to ensure that those in greatest need and diverse communities access our provision; currently 41%, (17% - 2018) of beneficiaries are from BAMER backgrounds. There's a variety of routes to participation for the wider community in this project. Volunteering is central to our work, and we engage volunteers across our organisation.

A key development within volunteering service is the creation of a movement to empower, creating a win, win approach whereby both parties experience an added value. The guided categories are:

- **Skill up:** from young people (Duke of Edinburgh awards) to over 65 keen on learning whilst giving back.
- **Route to employment:** volunteering programme that leads to employment or entrepreneurship.
- **Classics:** individuals who simply want to give back their time and enhance our community.

Further progress; Croydon Vision teamed up with **St Mary's University for Student Placements**. This new partnership presented an opportunity for students to carry out their placements at Croydon Vision. A Project Manager was appointed (Intern) who worked on a new volunteering strategy, identifying best practise methods to adopt. This document is now a working paper to enhance service delivery for volunteering. Student voice: "Croydon Vision are very united. I have learnt the importance of teamwork" – Oscar

During Celebrating Volunteers this year, we caught up with 3 across all ages – three different experiences.

Sue Ardley is part of the beating heart of Croydon Vision, when friends ask her whether volunteering here is depressing, she responds with "It's the day I laugh most during the week!" "The atmosphere at Bedford Hall is wonderful. It's more of a family than anything else; as one member recently said to me "I don't know what I'd do without this place". It's humbling to help out somewhere that visually impaired people feel safe and stimulated, where sighted people are playfully referred to as the "odd ones out!"

The ethos at Croydon Vision is definitely independence rather than dependence. During lockdown we had two group conference calls each week with quizzes, poems and word games; the member-led sessions are always great and very interesting! During this time we've all become even closer through all the phone calls.

One volunteering highlight for me was an after-hours tour for visually impaired people of The Houses of Parliament. One member, Claire sat in The Speaker's Chair and shouted "ORDER! ORDER!", the tour guides told us even they weren't allowed to do that. That's Claire!

Another time I welcomed a member "It's nice to see you Jean!" and she replied, "It's nice to half see you dear." Volunteering here is really all about giving your time, caring and sharing a laugh."

Sammy is 13 and volunteers at Croydon Vision in his free time. He loves the way everyone has made him feel so welcomed. "I'm proud to volunteer at Croydon Vision. I'm a Branding Assistant, which means I make and edit videos about what Croydon Vision does. I have my own YouTube Channel, so video editing is something I do already, but Ola (aka Mr Computer) is teaching me how to use Adobe Creative Cloud which is kind of cool. I want to be a coder or a developer for Microsoft when I'm older, so it's good experience for me.

I volunteer here as part of my Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, I applied because I thought it would be a cool place to work. If I had to describe Croydon Vision in three words I'd say friendly, hospitable and homey."

Ketan Jadeja is our Health & Social Care Trustee, and his professional life sees him bridging the gap between Moorfields Eye Hospital and community practice. "Growing up I wanted to do something medical. Both of my grandmothers had glaucoma, and I find the eye generally fascinating, so I followed a path from work experience in a local Croydon optician, to studying Optometry at City University. I've done a number of post-grad studies, so my job is more clinical than your average high street optometrist. That means I've been able to be part of Croydon Vision's Glaucoma Support Group. As part of that role I deliver talks on everything from how glaucoma affects the eye, to current treatments, I also share information about new treatments, as well as new pathways to access care in the community.

The Croydon Vision members are a really good bunch, who like to get involved. I feel that visually impaired people should be given the respect of not being treated differently but the same as everyone else. Last year for the first time I helped out with Christmas parcel drop-offs for members, I took my four-year-old along and we had a lot of fun. Sharing just a few hours means a lot. If I had one wish for Croydon Vision it would be to remedy the isolation of the last year with a big get-together; nice food, activities, music – I think we all need that right now.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Children & Young People – Building confidence through Fun

Children living with sight loss are often unable to access mainstream activities, which can result in a lack of confidence. We're all about taking that on. Croydon Vision's younger members, who range from 3 years old right up to 18, are all visually impaired or blind and some also have additional needs, such as physical or learning disabilities. But that's not the focus here.

Our focus is helping them to live without being defined by their sight loss.

The activities our younger members participate in through Croydon Vision are designed to challenge and stimulate them, while meeting their specific needs:

- Building self-esteem, independence and confidence.
- Boosting social and communication skills
- Making new friends who have shared experiences and challenges.

Laying foundations for a rich, full life.

Our goal is to equip the children who come here with practical and physical skills, which will eventually lead them to being able to complete everyday tasks – such as cooking and travelling – independently. We encourage everyone to become more physically active and have fun in the process. How do we do that?

- Cookery
- Playing VI cricket and goalball
- Reading Workshops
- Travelling Independently
- Tech Training > Career workshops
- Virtual Groups – Peer Support and even touch tours.

Transitioning into the New – Out of the Box Project.

This year, we are introducing our new OUT OF THE BOX project – providing a fun, safe, and stimulating environment for young people from the age of 5 – 18 with sight loss. Our aim is to support our younger members to explore, learn and experience the world freely. The activities are designed to encourage confidence, independence, and friendships in order to develop our future leaders.

Our four focus categories:

- **Active** - Active fun and games do not only fight boredom but also challenge their minds and muscles without the barriers of sight loss
- **Creative** - Creative activities help our young members to discovering new concepts and techniques, to develop their ideas and their understanding of the world
- **Life skills** - Life skills will help our young members to stand on their own feet with sight loss, build their independence and help them to master skills that they'll be able to use into adulthood
- **Entrepreneurship** - Entrepreneurs take risks and inspire others to achieve big ideas. We teach our younger members to develop important life skills such as planning, teamwork, and leadership.

Next steps:

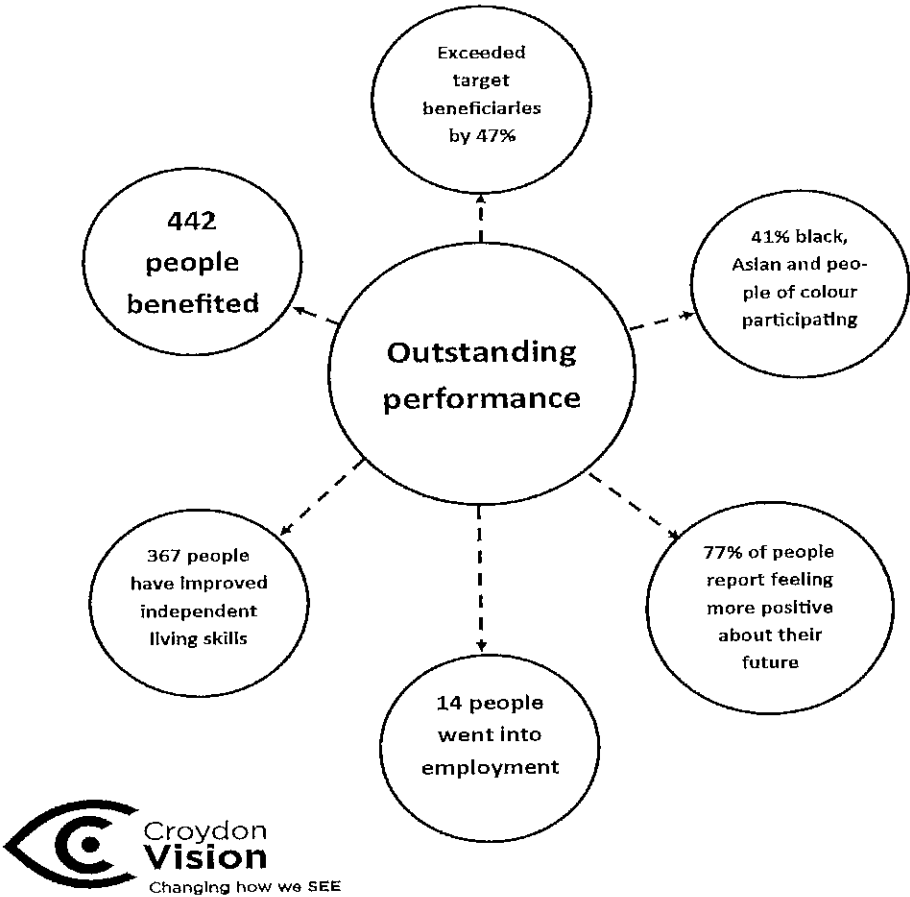
As you read this there's a blind child in a classroom full of chattering children, feeling alone. Their classmates don't know how to interact with them; they're scared of saying something hurtful, 'rude' or 'wrong'. Their teacher is overwhelmed; doesn't know how to integrate them into the classroom, so their grades suffer. Family and friends are worried about their emotional wellbeing, lack of self-confidence and their future.

The solution is to empower this child. To build their independence, smash the taboos and banish shame. We focus on transforming lives, changing perceptions and build leaders of tomorrow.

Seeing the Bigger Picture

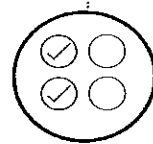
This project focused on improving the ability of blind and partially sighted people in Croydon to fully participate in society over a three-year period and beyond. Project was funded by BIG Lottery (Reaching Communities). We provided early intervention, support to re-learn daily living tasks and 'Putting People in the Lead' ('coproduction') centring beneficiaries in project design, steering, volunteering, and buddying. An evaluation was undertaken between January and April 2021, please see below:

Summary of findings



Seeing the Bigger Picture – continued

Achievements



- 42% growth in income between 2018 and 2020
- 3,000 hot meals delivered during lockdown
- £111,000 (51%) raised towards building refurbishment
- Moorfields Eye Hospital have moved their eye clinic in Croydon Vision's building
- New coproduction systems
- 332 people reported increased community inclusion (11% above target)
- 79% more people than projected through the resource centre
- Supported 184% more beneficiaries than projected during the pandemic
- 238 people reported an improved ability to determine their own future

Summary of Recommendation - Seeing the Bigger Picture

- Finalise a core impact assessment framework with additional sections relating to specific services
- Build referral and communication channels with the Primary Care Networks and Social Prescribing Link Workers
- Develop a range of interventions that both mitigate the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on those with sight loss and supports a more equal recovery
- Adopt of a core set of impact indicators used across all areas of activity
- Explore methods to improve the quality of data secured from online service use and/or interaction
- Explores approaches to address the mental health and wellbeing challenges encountered by people with sight loss
- Expand opportunities for members to lead and deliver activities internally and externally
- Continue work to tackle digital exclusion but also increase awareness and access to required aids and technology
- Increase activity locally to tackle the lack of awareness of sight loss, inequality and exclusion at all levels of society
- More work required to engage and support young people with sight loss is required in the medium term, to tackle the systemic and societal inequality experienced
- In response to the pandemic recovery greater focus on tackling health inequalities should be a priority over the next few.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Working Age Programme

Right now, more than 2 million people in the UK are living with sight loss, causing a significant impact on their daily lives. Issues around employment represent one of the biggest barriers to equal participation, only 1 in 4 blind and partially sighted people of working age in employment, a figure that has worsened in the last decade.

The sight loss employment gap is a shocking 48%. Currently 75% of the general population are in employment, falling to 51% amongst the disabled population (excluding sight loss).

The Need:

Approximately 27% of people with sight loss are in employment (nationally). In Croydon, only 15% are employed – we need to act fast.

- 64% of people living with sight loss are women
- BAMER communities are at greater risk of the leading causes of sight loss
- Adults with learning disabilities are 10 times more likely to have sight loss
- 29% of people registered blind have additional disability.

We continually assess services, making sure it is fit for purpose, thus enabling a route to work. Following consultation, we realised we were missing some key steps in supporting people into work. There were personal and external barriers that require tackling, before the prospect of employment. A vision board was required, working from the inside out of an individual, building confidence and hope for the future. We sourced funds from CAF Resilience and piloted a project – open for our working age cohort.

We shaped a circle of movement plan; 5 stages for route to work or volunteering:

- Stage 1 - Rebuilding: part of community, counselling/befriending and active well being
- Stage 2 - Re-direction: coaching/mentoring, designing an agreed career pathway
- Stage 3 - Upskilling: formal education, tech training and living aids
- Stage 4 - Applied Knowledge: CV, cover letter, mock interviews, and role assimilation
- Stage 5 - Placement & After: volunteering, apprentice, employment, access to work.

And so far...

- 15 into employment
- 1 startup entrepreneur
- 3 into formal studies (career path)
- 7 actively looking for work
- 5 into volunteering
- 3 has moved from building confidence to skills training.

Voice of a Member:

" Your confidence sessions have given me the tools to create a vision board - it has been great and I feel like a new confident person. Watch who's going to go after the best life" **Marsha T.**

Next Steps:

- Developing relationships with local businesses, get involved through our employment mentoring programme and participation in the Work Preparation Programme
- To achieve our goals of improving connectivity, access and user pathways across local services, to engage community organisations, the NHS, local authority, DWP and others
- Qualified Peer Social Prescribing Link Volunteers to increase access
- Individual mentoring programme with local businesses, Kickstart scheme
- Provide, Assistance Technology (AT) advice to employers.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Eat, Live and Age Well Programme

This project is aimed at tackling social inequalities, to enhance and sustain service provision for our members to eat, live and age well. It stemmed from identified problems below and finding solutions – we believe that prevention and early intervention are paramount and must be improved; to influence change. Initial assessment for people with sight loss experience:

- 60% reported more difficulty in accessing health services or getting out of the house
- 64% reported having lower feelings of wellbeing and lower satisfaction with overall health
- 49% have reduced self-confidence, risks of falls particularly in new environments
- People with sight loss are faced with barriers to access travel and shopping – 61% reported
- Increased isolation and most over 75 have three or more long-term conditions
- 52% of people with sight loss are more likely to experience financial hardship
- Nearly 50% said they always limit the amount of walking they do outside the house.

A Movement to Empower:

- We host quarterly 'Living with sight loss workshops' as part of new member induction process. This gives perspective of sight loss and enabling members to better understand their eye condition and support in getting them out of the house - reduced social isolation and improved health conditions.
- Engaging and connecting with Moorfields Eye Hospital and having Low Vision clinic at Croydon Vision will massively promote a holistic approach of working, thus preventing "missed" appointment by members/new referrals.
- Working with sensory impairment team to improve current delay with referrals, to bridge the 6-9mths waiting time, thereby reducing the effect of depression and seclusion.
- Re-branded our counselling service based on members feedback, now known as Talking Therapy, demand has surged.
- Our live well campaign has seen an increase in wellbeing and satisfaction with overall health, thereby increasing the amount of fit and fun participation by members and most recently, outdoor activities.
- Our transport service enables members to participate in weekly keep fit, bowls and dance sessions to promote healthy living, which then followed by a hearty, fresh cooked meal – provides social interaction and friendship for many.
- We organise excursions, walks, climb for all ages; to promote wellbeing; for example, Lloyds Park, seaside trips, Power Up as per members' request.
- With the expansion of our tech team, members are self-reporting improved skills to use low vision equipment or technology thus improving self-confidence, independence, and reduced risks of falls.
- Part of our development programme is to promote a cycle from dependence to interdependence (giving back), our members become trained ambassadors, volunteering here and the community as buddies/facilitators/spokespeople.
- To be the change you want to see, active participation is required and so we encourage our members to mystery shop in Croydon, shops and restaurant, providing feedback on service delivery and improve access/inclusion for sight loss.
- Members are empowered and equipped to provide "Visual awareness" training for the community following workplace assessment, share their stories at events to prevent rapid sight loss for others. Ambassadors are involved in mobility forums and accessibility for public transport.

Forward Thinking Objectives:

Strategic plan 2020-2023 (Year 2 focus)

- Social media engagement: reaching more people and improve awareness
- Creation of a mobile technology hub; to reach the community and awareness
- Develop an active tech committee, building mentor/mentee opportunities
- Sight loss can be prevented – promoting the essence of this message to individuals, professionals and businesses
- Increased networking event to engage with businesses, schools, health professionals, family, friends of Croydon Vision
- Increase community knowledge on sight loss software's/accessibility
- Creation of a working communication strategy including a lead staff.

Vision Board – Building for the next 100years...

As Croydon Vision approaches its centenary (2023), we have set ourselves an ambitious long-term goal. We aim to support people with sight loss to overcome structural and social inequality. Increased independence, improved health outcomes and creation of work opportunities for people. Transforming our building over the next five years is the cornerstone of this ambition

Phase one will create an expansion of an accessible, modern resource centre designed to be a hub for support, services and connectivity for those with sight loss by March 2022.

Phase two - the sustainability of our charitable activities through a new income generation profile with the addition of housing, space for hire and creative workspace.

Next steps - the development of an Advisory Team:

Purpose (Why):

As our centenary approaches 2023, we are developing future plans - **building for the next 100 years...**

How (achieve)

Sustainable income through diversifying

A culture from dependence > independence > interdependence

What we will do:

Creation of a one stop hub – focused on holistic health

Tech trailblazers (start local) – promote independence, employment, changing perception

Building redevelopment (flats) – asset-based approach

Feasibility study & execution – planning development and raising capital

Training centre – development of visual awareness training, making Croydon excellent for sight loss

A community – rebuild, redirect, empower (cycle).

Come join us as we paint for the next 100 years

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Statement of Financial Activities

The Statement of Financial Activities is shown on page 21, with a more detailed analysis of income and expenditure within the notes to the financial statements.

Pandemic Impact:

Financially, the pandemic took a toll on Croydon Vision's resource to ensure we reached our members to eat, live and stay well. We were able to secure £132,196 from Covid Emergency Funding which was a great help to offset some of the below cost/loss:

- 17% - increase on expense, charitable activities due to adapted services
- 87% - decrease in Hall Hire income
- 37% - increase in lift project due to rise in materials, labour, and basement work

The total income for the year was £532,058 (2020: £557,695). The reduction in income is largely attributed to a reduced level of fundraising and rental income due to the pandemic for most of 2020-21. The Charity was successful in obtaining new grant funding, most notably for new projects: Tech for Success, Outreach & Progression and Emergency Covid grants (Adapted services). More information on projects can be found elsewhere within this report and these Financial Statements. Most of these grant funding covers multiple years and has therefore changed the income profile of the Charity in the short to medium term.

Expenditure for the year was £565,407 (2020: £515,154). Expenditure is incurred to enable the Charity to perform its charitable functions and raise additional funds. Due to the demand and nature of our work, all team members worked right through the pandemic, none was furloughed. We required additional support and contracted seasonal support, this attributed to a deficit coupled with expense to adapted services, safety measures to obtain a Covid secure business certificate – all of which were key strength in our delivery for 2020-21.

Principal funding sources

The Charity is dependent upon grants and donations from individual donors and institutions. Details of the Charity's income is set out in Notes 2, 3 and 4 on page 26 of the accounts.

Balance Sheet

The above result led to a deficit of £33,349 (2020: surplus £42,541), which has resulted in a combined fund balance of £1,884,994 (2020: £1,918,343) at the year end. The Charity's free reserves are £352,802 (2020: £205,602). An analysis of the funds can be found in Note 18 on page 30, with the movements within each fund detailed in Note 19 on pages 31 and 32.

Future Planning

In June 2021, the board released an endowment fund of £121,000 to support the ongoing work at Croydon Vision such as:

- Appointment of a Fundraiser, to support the CEO – 1 year contract
- Adapted services (bricks & clicks) to ensure no one get left behind
- Exceptional circumstances for project delivery – bridging gaps (short term) whilst new funding is sourced.

Investment policy

The Trustees are responsible for the safekeeping of all assets of the Charity and may invest funds as they see fit.

Reserves Policy

Croydon Vision adopts the following principles in relation to on-going project funding:

- Planning for staffing changes will align with project-funding timeline; staffing expenditure will not be met by reserves.
- In exceptional circumstances when Trustees expressly wish that a specific activity continues and have a strong and realistic expectation that new funds will be received, designated funds will be used to sustain posts for a defined period
- Redundancy for all members of staff for whom redundancy is applicable.
- Staff long-term sickness.
- Contracts and commitments, including Telephones, IT
- Accountant, HR Contract and legal costs.
- 6 months operating cost of core (£34,962 per month, totalling £209,772).

The Trustees undertake a yearly assessment of its general reserves. The Board decided, based on the impact of Covid-19 (fundraising), to self-invest in some service delivery and as a result, unrestricted reserves decreased, covering just under six months of operational activities (£209,772). The Board, CEO and management have a contingency programme to increase reserves to nine months within the next three years, factoring inflation.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

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

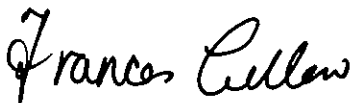
The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provision of the constitution requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the Charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the SORP 2015 FRS102;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the Charity and financial information included on the Charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Frances Cullen (Chair)
For and on behalf of the Board of Trustees

22 September 2021

**CROYDON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**

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

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Croydon Voluntary Association for the Blind (the Charity) for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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 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.



Mark Blackwell ACMA
M H R Consultancy Limited
Chartered Management Accountants
Minster House
126a High Street, Whitton
Twickenham
Middlesex
TW2 7LL

22 September 2021

CROYDON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

				2021	2020
	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £	Total £
INCOMING AND ENDOWMENT FROM:					
Donations and Legacies	2	66,081	-	66,081	224,041
Charitable activities	3	114,062	308,111	422,173	246,021
Other trading activities	4	43,789	-	43,789	72,316
Investments	5	15	-	15	30
Other Income		-	-	-	15,287
Total Income		223,947	308,111	532,058	557,695
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds	6	2,843	4,694	7,537	35,403
Charitable activities	7	244,625	297,839	557,870	479,751
Total Expenditure		247,468	302,533	565,407	515,154
Operating (Deficit)/Surplus		(23,521)	5,578	(33,349)	42,541
Net gains/(losses) on investments		-	-	-	-
Net (expenses)/Income		(23,521)	5,578	(33,349)	42,541
Transfer between funds		116,127	5,284	(121,411)	-
Net movement in funds		92,606	10,862	(33,349)	42,541
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS	19/20				
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD		684,882	33,258	1,200,203	1,875,802
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		777,488	44,120	1,063,386	1,918,343

CROYDON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)

BALANCE SHEET
AT 31 MARCH 2021

		2021	2020
		£	£
FIXED ASSETS	Notes		
Tangible assets	14	1,419,101	1,439,570
Investments	15	<u>458</u>	<u>458</u>
		1,419,559	1,440,028
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock		1,722	1,686
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	16	41,337	50,781
Cash at bank		<u>478,855</u>	<u>465,136</u>
		521,914	517,603
LIABILITIES			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	17	<u>(56,479)</u>	<u>(39,288)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>465,435</u>	<u>478,315</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>1,884,994</u>	<u>1,918,343</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>1,884,994</u>	<u>1,918,343</u>
TOTAL FUNDS OF THE CHARITY	19		
Unrestricted funds		352,802	205,602
Designated funds		424,686	479,280
Restricted funds		44,120	33,258
Endowment funds		<u>1,063,386</u>	<u>1,200,203</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>1,884,994</u>	<u>1,918,343</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 22 September 2021 and were signed on its behalf by:


Frances Cullen - Chair/Trustee


Alexey Persits - Treasurer/Trustee

**CROYDON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

	2021 £	2020 £
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>32,668</u>	<u>110,903</u>
	32,668	110,903
Cash flows from investing activities		
Sale of investments	-	-
Sale of fixed assets	1	-
Purchase of fixed assets	<u>(18,950)</u>	<u>(18,470)</u>
Cash provided by (used in) investing activities	<u>(18,949)</u>	<u>(18,470)</u>
	13,719	92,433
Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year expended		
Cash and cash equivalents at the start of the year	<u>465,136</u>	<u>372,703</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	<u><u>478,855</u></u>	<u><u>465,136</u></u>

CASH FLOW NOTES

	2021 £	2020 £
Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities		
Net (expenditure) income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(33,349)	42,541
Adjustments for:		
Add back depreciation charge	39,418	34,681
(Increase)/decrease in stock	(36)	314
Decrease in debtors	9,444	45,970
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	<u>17,191</u>	<u>(12,603)</u>
Net cash used in operating activities	<u><u>32,668</u></u>	<u><u>110,903</u></u>

	2021 £	2020 £
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents		
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>478,855</u>	<u>465,136</u>
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u><u>478,855</u></u>	<u><u>465,136</u></u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A summary of the principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the accounts are laid out below.

Basis of preparation of the Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting 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) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and applicable regulations.

Croydon Voluntary 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.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the Charity and rounded to the nearest £.

Judgement and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Charity is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an on-going basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees. Unrestricted funds may include designated funds where the Trustees, at their discretion, have created a fund for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the Charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Where required, a monitoring report is sent to the donor or funder detailing expenditure. Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in Note 20 on pages 33 to 35.

Income

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the Charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met.

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Costs of raising funds is detailed on page 27 in Note 6, and comprises the costs associated with attracting voluntary income and any fundraising events. Charitable expenditure is detailed in Note 7, and comprises those costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature to support them.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES – continued

Going concern

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

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or valuation less depreciation. Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Asset Category	Annual Rate
Motor Vehicles	25% on cost
Specialist Equipment	25% on cost
Computer Equipment	33.33% on cost
Fixtures and Fittings	20% on cost
Freehold Buildings	2% on cost
Land	No depreciation

Investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price when the amount is material. The income arising on the investments is shown under investment income in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Gains and losses on investment assets disposed of are shown as gains and losses in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand represents bank accounts where funds are available on demand.

Stocks

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

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are recognised at the invoiced cost prepaid.

Creditors and Provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the Charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Taxation

The Charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010. Accordingly, it is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income and capital gains received to the extent that such income or gains are applied to exclusively charitable purposes. No provision for taxation has been made in these financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and was offered to all staff. Contributions payable to the Charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

**CROYDON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2021	2020
	£	£
Donations	13,242	5,378
Grants and Service Level fees	49,839	35,150
Legacies, Bequests and In Memory	3,000	173,750
Salary Contribution	-	9,763
	<u>66,081</u>	<u>224,041</u>

Income from donations and legacies was £66,081 (2020: £224,041) of which £66,081 was unrestricted (2020: £224,041) and £nil was restricted (2020: £nil).

3. INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

		2021	2020
	Activity	£	£
Grants -restricted	Seeing the Bigger Picture	105,967	95,116
Grants - unrestricted	Core Services	93,834	29,050
Grants - restricted	Children and Young People's Programme	48,990	48,643
Grants - restricted	Working Age	-	11,250
Grants - restricted	Outreach and Progression	23,643	16,649
Grants - restricted	Seven-Seater Vehicle	-	13,000
Grants - restricted	VCF Emergency Covid-19	7,204	-
Grants - restricted	Delivering Differently	27,887	-
Grants - restricted	Tech For Success	57,850	-
Grants - restricted	CAF Resilience	36,570	-
Service users Income - unrestricted	Core Services	13,349	29,549
Goods for resale - unrestricted	Core Services	1,066	2,764
Sundry Income - unrestricted	Core Services	5,813	-
		<u>422,173</u>	<u>246,021</u>

4. INCOME FROM TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2021	2020
	£	£
Fundraising	12,951	13,798
Hall hire	4,660	36,943
Rent received	26,178	21,575
	<u>43,789</u>	<u>72,316</u>

Income earned from trading activities was £43,789 (2020: £72,316) of which £43,789 was unrestricted (2020: £72,316) and £nil was restricted (2019: £nil).

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2021	2020
	£	£
Investment income	<u>15</u>	<u>30</u>

All of the Charity's investment income of £15 (2020: £30) is unrestricted.

CROYDON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

6. RAISING FUNDS

	2021	2020
	£	£
AGM, Marketing costs and Rebrand	5,721	16,771
Direct fundraising costs	1,816	18,632
	<u>7,537</u>	<u>35,403</u>

Of the total raising funds expenditure of £7,537 (2020: £35,403), £4,694 was in respect of restricted funds (2020: £5,897) and £2,843 was in respect of unrestricted funds (2020: £29,506).

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct costs	Governance (See note 8)	2021	2020
	£	£	Totals £	Totals £
Seeing the Bigger Picture	111,705	2,100	113,805	99,742
Core Services	246,802	13,229	260,031	312,902
Children and Young People Project	50,139	-	50,139	41,943
Working Age	-	-	-	10,779
Outreach and Progression	23,778	-	23,778	14,385
VCF Emergency Covid-19	6,460	744	7,204	-
Delivering Differently	27,874	13	27,887	-
Tech For Success	38,412	-	38,412	-
CAF Resilience	36,614	-	36,614	-
	<u>541,784</u>	<u>16,086</u>	<u>557,870</u>	<u>479,751</u>

Of the total charitable activities costs of £557,870 (2020: £479,751), £297,839 was in respect of restricted funds (2020: £166,849), £244,625 was in respect of unrestricted funds (2020: £297,496) and £15,406 in respect of endowment funds (2020: £15,406).

8. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Accountancy fees	6,100	8,225
Health & Safety	5,541	3,542
HR fees	3,065	3,071
Independent Examiner fee	990	990
Payroll fees	390	843
	<u>16,086</u>	<u>16,671</u>

Of the total governance costs of £16,086 (2020: £16,671), £2,857 was in respect of restricted funds (2020: £nil) and £13,229 was in respect of unrestricted funds (2020: £16,671).

9. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

The Charity Trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the Charity in the year (2020: £nil) neither were they reimbursed expenses during the year (2020: £nil).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

10. STAFF COSTS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	294,663	250,574
Social security costs	20,216	16,331
Pension costs	<u>14,323</u>	<u>7,180</u>
	<u>329,202</u>	<u>274,085</u>

No employees had employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2020: nil). Pension costs are allocated to activities in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred.

The Senior Management Team of the Charity comprises of the Trustees and those detailed on page 1 of the Trustees report. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Charity were £145,440 (2020: £125,267).

11. STAFF NUMBERS

The average monthly number of employees (including casual and part time staff) during the year was as follows:

	2021 Numbers	2020 Numbers
Senior Management Team	4	4
Other Direct Charitable Staff	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>
	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>

12. PENSION COSTS

The company has a defined contribution pension scheme, which all employees are entitled to join. The company contributes 5% and the employees contributed 5% and employees may make further additional voluntary contributions.

During the year ended 31 March 2021, the Charity's total contributions amounted to £14,323 (2020: £7,180).

The Trustees are satisfied that any foreseeable change in employer's contributions can be budgeted for without detriment to the Charity's on-going activities.

13. TRANSACTIONS AND RELATED PARTIES

None of the Trustees received remuneration from their work with the Charity as Trustees. However, the Charity's Chair leads an activity at Croydon Vision and charges the organisation at a substantially reduced rate. Any connection between a Trustee or Senior Manager of the Charity with Service User, external contractor or supplier of services must be disclosed to the full Board of Trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party.

There were no other material related party transactions during the period.

14. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Property Unrestricted £	Freehold Property Endowment £	Other Assets £	Totals £
COST/VALUATION				
At 1 April 2020	344,581	1,155,419	158,779	1,658,779
Additions	-	-	18,950	18,950
Disposal	-	-	(15,682)	(15,682)
	<u>344,581</u>	<u>1,155,419</u>	<u>162,047</u>	<u>1,662,047</u>
At 31 March 2021	344,581	1,155,419	162,047	1,662,047
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 April 2020	22,852	76,627	119,730	219,209
Charge for year	4,594	15,406	19,418	39,418
Eliminated on disposal	-	-	(15,681)	(15,681)
	<u>27,446</u>	<u>92,033</u>	<u>123,467</u>	<u>242,946</u>
At 31 March 2021	27,446	92,033	123,467	242,946
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 March 2021	<u>317,135</u>	<u>1,063,386</u>	<u>38,580</u>	<u>1,419,101</u>
At 31 March 2020	<u>321,729</u>	<u>1,078,792</u>	<u>39,049</u>	<u>1,439,570</u>

Valuation of the Freehold Property

A revaluation of the freehold property was carried out in May 2015 by an external firm of valuers and property was valued on an "existing use" basis at £1,500,000. This was split between £500,000 land and £1,000,000 buildings.

Endowment Funds

In previous years, £500,000 of the freehold property was originally regarded by the Charity Commission as a permanent endowment and therefore restricted. At the time of the last valuation before May 2015, the freehold buildings had a total net book value of £649,115. So using the fraction £500,000/£649,115 the restricted proportion is calculated at £1,063,386 net book value as at 31 March 2021 (2020: £1,078,792).

15. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	£ Listed Investments	£ Totals
MARKET VALUE		
At 1 April 2020	458	458
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
Revaluation	-	-
	<u>458</u>	<u>458</u>
At 31 March 2021	458	458

During the year ended 31 March 2018 the portfolio of UK listed investments were sold for £121,411. These investments were originally bought from the proceeds of a property originally owned by the old unincorporated trust. The original proceeds of £110,000 from the sale of this property were put into investments at the time of the sale and were regarded as a permanent endowment, which was non-distributable. The proceeds of £121,411, were held in the Charity's bank account, and ring fenced as a permanent endowment. During the year the Trustees obtained permission to transfer this balance to the general fund. (see page 34)

The remaining non-UK listed investments are 135 shares in Banco Santander, S.A. shares of €0.50 nominal value. Revaluation was considered to be immaterial due the small value of the shares held.

16. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021	2020
	£	£
Other debtors	11,537	15,381
Accrued income	29,800	35,400
	<u>41,337</u>	<u>50,781</u>

17. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	5,819	9,876
Deferred income	44,014	25,412
Other creditors and accrued expenses	6,646	4,000
	<u>56,479</u>	<u>39,288</u>

18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Current year information for the net assets between funds:

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	352,821	2,894	1,063,386	1,419,101	1,439,570
Investments	458	-	-	458	458
Current assets	434,987	86,927	-	521,914	517,603
Current liabilities	(10,778)	(45,701)	-	(56,479)	(39,288)
	<u>777,488</u>	<u>44,120</u>	<u>1,063,386</u>	<u>1,884,994</u>	<u>1,918,343</u>

Comparative year information for the net assets between funds:

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	354,991	5,787	1,078,792	1,439,570	1,455,781
Investments	458	-	-	458	458
Current assets	340,429	55,763	121,411	517,603	471,454
Current liabilities	(10,996)	(28,292)	-	(39,288)	(51,891)
	<u>684,882</u>	<u>33,258</u>	<u>1,200,203</u>	<u>1,918,343</u>	<u>1,875,802</u>

CROYDON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS – Current Year

	At 1/4/20 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31/3/21 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund – Free reserves	205,602	(18,927)	166,127	352,802
Designated funds				
Designated fund – Freehold building	321,729	(4,594)	-	317,135
Designated fund – Minibus	50,000	-	(50,000)	-
Designated fund – Lift project	107,551	-	-	107,551
	684,882	(23,521)	116,127	777,488
Restricted funds				
Children and Young People's Project	24,413	(1,149)	284	23,548
Croydon Relief in Need - Outreach Project	1,971	(135)	-	1,836
BIG Lottery - Seeing the Bigger Picture	(6,126)	(8,174)	17,956	3,656
Seven-Seater Vehicle	13,000	-	(13,000)	-
Croydon Council - VCF Emergency Covid-19	-	-	-	-
London Funders - Delivering Differently	-	-	-	-
Big Lottery - Tech For Success	-	15,080	-	15,080
CAF Resilience	-	(44)	44	-
	33,258	5,578	5,284	44,120
Endowment funds				
Freehold Building	1,078,792	(15,406)	-	1,063,386
Investment fund	121,411	-	(121,411)	-
	1,200,203	(15,406)	-	1,063,386
TOTAL FUNDS	1,918,343	(33,349)	-	1,884,994

Net movement in funds for the current year are as follows:

	Income £	Expenses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	223,947	(242,874)	(18,927)
Designated fund – Freehold building	-	(4,594)	(4,594)
Designated fund – Lift project	-	-	-
	223,947	(247,468)	(23,521)
Restricted funds			
Children and Young People's Project	48,990	(50,139)	(1,149)
Croydon Relief in Need - Outreach Project	23,643	(23,778)	(135)
BIG Lottery - Seeing the Bigger Picture	105,967	(114,141)	(8,174)
Seven-Seater Vehicle	-	-	-
Croydon Council - VCF Emergency Covid-19	7,204	(7,204)	-
London Funders - Delivering Differently	27,887	(27,887)	-
Big Lottery - Tech For Success	57,850	(42,770)	15,080
CAF Resilience	36,570	(36,614)	(44)
	308,111	(302,533)	5,578
Endowment funds			
Freehold Building	-	(15,406)	(15,406)
Investment fund	-	-	-
	-	(15,406)	(15,406)
TOTAL FUNDS	532,058	(565,407)	(33,349)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS – Previous Year

Comparative year information:

	At 1/4/19 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31/3/20 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund – Free reserves	232,973	63,078	(90,449)	205,602
Designated funds				
Designated fund – Freehold building	326,323	(4,594)	-	321,729
Designated fund – Minibus	50,000	-	-	50,000
Designated fund – Lift project	30,000	(12,449)	90,000	107,551
	639,296	46,035	(449)	684,882
Restricted funds				
Children and Young People's Project	18,377	6,036	-	24,413
Croydon Relief in Need - Outreach Project	-	1,971	-	1,971
BIG Lottery - Seeing the Bigger Picture	3,440	(9,566)	-	(6,126)
Seven-Seater Vehicle	-	13,000	-	13,000
Working Age	(920)	471	449	-
	20,897	11,912	449	33,258
Endowment funds				
Freehold Building	1,094,198	(15,406)	-	1,078,792
Investment fund	121,411	-	-	121,411
	1,215,609	(15,406)	-	1,200,203
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,875,802</u>	<u>42,541</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,918,343</u>

Net movement in funds for the current year are as follows:

	Income £	Expenses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	373,037	(309,959)	63,078
Designated fund – Freehold building	-	(4,594)	(4,594)
Designated fund – Lift project	-	(12,449)	(12,449)
	373,037	(327,002)	46,035
Restricted funds			
Children and Young People's Project	48,643	(42,607)	6,036
Croydon Relief in Need - Outreach Project	16,649	(14,678)	1,971
BIG Lottery - Seeing the Bigger Picture	95,116	(104,682)	(9,566)
Seven-Seater Vehicle	13,000	-	13,000
Working Age	11,250	(10,779)	471
	184,658	(172,746)	11,912
Endowment funds			
Freehold Building	-	(15,406)	(15,406)
Investment fund	-	-	-
	-	(15,406)	(15,406)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>557,695</u>	<u>(515,154)</u>	<u>42,541</u>

20. FUND DESCRIPTION

Unrestricted Funds

General Fund

This fund is held to meet the day-to-day activities of the Charity in line with the Charity's objectives. This fund has been raised through donations, legacies and grants from Trusts and Foundations.

Designated Funds

Freehold Building

This fund is held to match the unrestricted element of the Charity's freehold buildings. The unrestricted portion of the building has a net book value at 31 March 2021 of £317,135 (see note 14, page 29 for further details).

Minibus & Other Movements in Funds > £166,127

£121,411- transfer from the Investment fund to unrestricted funds, to use 2021-22.

£50,000 - transfer from the minibus fund to meet the need of adapted services 2021-22

£13,000 - transfer from the Seven-Seater fund as this has now been spent 2020-21

(£284) - transfer to Children & Young Peoples project (BBC CiN) to match the overspends June 2021

(£17,956) - transfer to the BIG lottery fund to match the overspends identified in the final report

(£44) - transfer to the CAF fund to make up the small overspend.

In line with our strategic plan 2020-23, Croydon Vision intended on replacing its fleet (3) by 2021. The fleet are aged, and not Eco friendly. The designated funds were to cover one accessible minibus and source additional income to replace vehicles. This plan was not realised, and the funds were needed to sustain adapted services for our members.

During the year a Seven-Seater Vehicle was purchased, and the designated fund set aside last year has been transferred back into the general fund.

Lift Project

In May 2020, The Trustees convened and decided on designating some funds towards the lift project, a much-needed building work; refurbishment and lift installation - thereby, becoming much more accessible as well as the creation of space for people with sight loss in Croydon. However, the prolonged impact of the Covid-19, reduced cost and increased expense left the project in uncertainties. Pleased to report that following recent fundraising, we are back on track and the new timeline for completion is March 2022.

August 2021	Structural Engineer visit, electrical works and obtaining a re-costing due to uplift on materials.
September 2021	Tendering for building work *3 quotes & appointment
October to December	Ordering of lift (takes 3mths)
17 th December 2021	Closure of CV (Christmas break)
January 2022	Commencing refurb work and prep for lift
February 2022	Installation of lift and finalising building work
7 th March 2022	Open for services

Cost Plan:

The estimated cost for this project was undertaken 2019 (£218,505), the environment has changed since then, Covid, Brexit therefore, the cost of materials and labour increased considerably, therefore total cost of project is £346,754. This amount also includes our vision of heart of a charity, mindset of a business – refurbishing our basement as a training centre.

So far, we've secured 90% of total funds with a few pending applications from foundations and trusts. This project will truly transform our building into an accessible place and modern, with an expansion of an IT suit, and the promotion of a 'one hub' whereby, statutory, medical and support service work together.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

20. FUND DESCRIPTION - continued

Endowment Funds

Freehold Building

In previous years, £500,000 of the freehold property was originally regarded by the Charity Commission as a permanent endowment and therefore restricted. At the time of the last valuation before May 2015, the freehold buildings had a total net book value of £649,115. So using the fraction £500,000/£649,115 the restricted proportion is calculated at £1,063,383 net book value as at 31 March 2021 (2020: £1,078,792).

Investment fund

Investments were originally bought from the proceeds of a property originally owned by the old unincorporated trust. The original proceeds of £110,000 from the sale of this property were put into investments at the time of the sale and were regarded as a permanent endowment, which was non-distributable. The investments have been sold during the previous period and the proceeds of £121,411. Following a review of the charity's financial situation, the board decided to release the endowment funds and designate for building works 2022 at Croydon Vision. The Charity requested a release of the funds from Charity Commission, this was granted 13th December 2021, to form part of our building and lift project, improving accessibility for members of Croydon Vision.

Restricted Funds

Children and Young People's Project

The children and young people's project continue to grow and is ever adapting and is funded by BBC Children in Need. The project is also subsidised by a local trust; Croydon Charitable Trust limited, enabling Croydon Vision to provide sessions all year for young people, fun and interactive.

We want to harness the fun and friendship valued by our young people, whilst bringing in new ways of working, to build future leaders, encouraging them to speak more, make decisions and grow in independence, ready for life after school. This project is known as 'Out of the Box' starting August 2021, whilst we source funds to sustain and expand to ensure that no VI child is left behind.

Croydon Relief in Need - Outreach Project

It was such a blessing when Croydon Relief in Need provided us with funding for year 2, to continue meeting the emerging needs of our members who are unable to attend activities at Croydon Vision and may be in need of short-term home support. This project is focused at walking the journey with each member from dependence to living independent lives. Outreach & Progression focuses on the below:

1. Reducing poverty and improving well-being
2. Improved inclusion and empowerment; building confidence to self-advocate
3. Improved eye health awareness and action amongst members, the public, particularly those at heightened risk, thus reducing preventable blindness

BIG Lottery - Seeing the Bigger Picture

The aim of this project is to improve the ability of blind and partially sighted people in Croydon to fully participate in society over a three-year period and beyond. Croydon Vision is doing this through early intervention, providing support to re-learn daily living tasks and 'Putting People in the Lead' ('coproduction') centring beneficiaries in project design, steering, volunteering and buddying. The project creates a hub for people with sight loss in the local area, facilitated by the new resource centre, providing tech training and promoting independence.

This project has since come to an end April 2021, an evaluation report was undertaken by an external consultant. BIG Lottery were extremely pleased with the progress which can be found on pages 13 and 14.

Seven-Seater Vehicle

Our fundraising initiative was absolutely encouraging and in October 2021, we purchased the seven-seater. This was unveiled at our Annual General Meeting. Members asked many questions about the trip in 2019 and well appreciated the efforts by the three participants to obtain this vehicle. The multipurpose vehicle has been a life saver for lunch delivery during lock down 2, appointments for members and even excursions as most staff members can also drive the vehicle.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

20. FUND DESCRIPTION – continued

Restricted Funds

Croydon Council – VCF Emergency Covid-19

This fund was provided for emergency support (April to June 2020). It enabled us to adapt services, providing an assurance in the midst of this chaos. Many members were unable to pay the full cost of meal service and therefore, this fund subsidised for freshly cooked Lunch, Advice & guidance, Newsletter and talking news weekly.

London Funders – Delivering Differently

The combination of lockdown, shielding and fear of contracting Covid-19 could have resulted in possibly more deaths, however, with the support from London Funders, we were able to adapt services and connect communities than ever before. This fund provided services for talking therapy, personal developments, befriending and some tech training.

BIG Lottery – Tech for Success

This project was borne out of crisis, it emerged following adaption of our strategic launch 2nd April 2020. From hosting the launch on face book, members requested for **virtual events** and more **tech training**. 60% more members wanted to upskill in technology, both home visits and by phone. The demand exceeded resources and therefore, this fund enabled us to reach more members and upskill using technology. We were able to build a tech studio, expand our tech team and create a library platform for replay videos, after Facebook live events.

CAF Resilience Fund – Department for Digital, Culture, Sports and Media

This project, 'I Can, We Can' was all about connecting with our members and the start of our phase 2, movement to empower campaign. The team did amazing and exceeded all expectations which were:

- Physical activities – promoting a live well campaign weekly (USB)
- Confidence building – social & befriending sessions, eye health awareness.
- Tech training – 33% of our members are requesting tech training at home!
- Route to work – provide 20 members (work readiness) with one to one/group coaching and mentor/mentee ship.
- Talking therapy – providing 6wks session for up to 15 members p/m

21. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

The Charity has authorised and contracted for expenditure of £Nil.

In May 2020, The Trustees convened and decided on designating some funds towards the lift project, a much-needed building work; refurbishment and lift installation - thereby, becoming much more accessible as well as the creation of space for people with sight loss in Croydon. However, the prolonged impact of the Covid-19, reduced cost and increased expense left the project in uncertainties. Pleased to report that following recent fundraising, we are back on track and the new timeline for completion is March 2022.

**CROYDON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

	2021	2020
	£	£
Voluntary income		
Donations	13,242	5,378
Grants and service level contracts	49,839	35,150
Legacies, Bequests, and in Memory	3,000	173,750
Salary contribution	-	9,763
	66,081	224,041
Incoming resources from charitable activities		
Service users' income	13,349	29,549
Grants	401,945	213,708
Goods for resale	1,066	2,764
Sundry income	5,813	-
	422,173	246,021
Activities for generating funds		
Fundraising events	12,951	13,798
Hall hire	4,660	36,943
Rent received	26,178	21,575
	43,789	72,316
Investment income		
Dividends	15	30
	15	30
Other Income		
Sundry income	-	15,287
Total incoming resources	532,058	557,695
Fundraising costs		
AGM, Marketing costs and rebrand	5,721	16,771
Direct fundraising costs	1,816	18,632
	7,537	35,403
Charitable activities		
Staff Salaries	329,202	274,085
Team Training (staff and volunteers)	10,009	8,349
Staff Recruitment	89	619
Contract Staff	19,619	7,230
Staff Travelling and Meetings	744	3,236
Consultancy	2,469	-
Depreciation	39,418	34,681
Direct Projects expenses	39,227	52,216
Flat expenses	1,395	6,002
Hall expenses	461	4,487
IT and website	16,143	8,055
Office Administration	25,378	22,291
Premises expenses	35,020	27,094
Feasibility Study - Lift project	19,353	12,449
Volunteer expenses	3,257	2,286
	541,784	463,080

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

CROYDON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
Governance costs		
Accountancy fees	6,100	8,225
Health & Safety	5,541	3,542
HR fees	3,065	3,071
Independent Examiner fee	990	990
Payroll fees	390	843
	<u>16,086</u>	<u>16,671</u>
Total resources expended	565,407	515,154
	<u></u>	<u></u>
Operating (Deficit)/Surplus	<u>(33,349)</u>	<u>42,541</u>