

# VISION NORTH SOMERSET

England & Wales - Charity number 1165364

## Details

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Other names	VNS
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2016-02-01
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

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Address	3 Neva Road Weston-Super-Mare BS23 1YD
Phone	01934419393
Email	<a href="mailto:contact@visionns.org.uk">contact@visionns.org.uk</a>
Website	<a href="https://visionnorthsomerset.org">https://visionnorthsomerset.org</a>

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE PREVENTION AND ALLEVIATION OF BLINDNESS, IMPAIRED VISION AND HEARING LOSS.

**Activities:** Advice to help reduce poverty for individuals; Support Service at local hospital; Befrienders to reduce social isolation; Clubs to provide peer support; Home visitors to help with correspondence and provide companionship; Registration and Rehabilitation for Blind and Partially Sighted People; Demonstration of aids and equipment; Environmental Equipment Service for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Disability
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities

## Geography

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- North Somerset

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£323,000	£314,000	-	-
2024-03-31	£322,879	£313,704	-	-
2023-03-31	£311,508	£341,883	-	-
2022-03-31	£397,818	£319,989	-	-
2021-03-31	£332,437	£324,073	-	-
2020-03-31	£348,069	£336,619	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>MARIE STARK MACKLE</b>	Chair	2022-02-21
Emma Hopkinson-Spark		2024-06-28
Kim Morrissey		2023-07-04
Michael Bowen		2023-07-04
Sammi Joseph Samad		2023-12-13
Sonja Greenfield		2024-04-24

**VISION NORTH SOMERSET**

England & Wales - Charity number 1165364

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# Accounts

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# Annual Report

## Year Ending April 2025

**Vision**   
North Somerset

Charity Registered in England & Wales: 1165364

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# Reference & Administrative Details for the Year Ended 31.03.2025

## Trustees

M Bowen  
S Greenfield  
E Hopkinson-Spark  
M Mackle  
S Samad  
K Morrissey

## Principal Office & Registered Office

3 Neva Road,  
Weston-super-Mare,  
BS23 1YD

## Bankers

Unity Bank, 9 Brindley Place,  
4 Oozells Square,  
Birmingham  
B1 2HB

## Independent Examiner

Michelle Ferris  
BSc (Hons) FCA DChA  
Albert Goodman LLP,  
Goodwood House,  
Blackbrook Park Avenue,  
Taunton, TA1 2PX

# Trustees' Report

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the Charity For the Year ended 31 March 2025. The provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice “Accounting and Reporting by Charities” (SORP FRS 102 – implemented 1 January 2019) have been adopted in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the Charity.

# Welcome in this, our 50<sup>th</sup> Year

The end of this financial year was a significant time in the charity's history, as we were reflecting having started our 50<sup>th</sup> year in operation. When the charity was established (as Woodspring Association for Blind People) back in 1975, the founders might never have imagined the impact their actions would have.

They would likely have been astounded at how technological advancement now benefits people with both visual impairment and hearing loss. This year, we noted increased demand for help in this area. We were reminded of the importance of ensuring that those with sensory impairments are not deprived of the opportunities brought by both mainstream digital technologies, and specialised solutions.



Whatever the focus, our model of providing services which foster independence, safety and connection continued to bring clear results every day.



We acknowledge too, the value of our positive partnerships with other organisations to bring the best results for our service users.

## Thank You

We are proud that we continue our longstanding partnership with North Somerset Council, and thankful to all who have funded our work in the last year, and volunteered their time to help us reach our goals.

In this celebration year, we continue to honour our founders by ensuring that we all - staff, trustees and volunteers - put our service users at the heart of what we do.



Marie Mackle  
Chair

# Structure, Governance & Management

Vision North Somerset is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered with the Charity Commission since February 2016. The charity was set up to replace Woodspring Association for Blind People, an unincorporated charity, registration number 270331, established in 1975.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the strategic direction and overall governance of the charity. As needed, sub-committees are set up to explore specific issues in depth. Trustees are appointed in accordance with the charity's governing document and receive an induction covering their responsibilities, safeguarding and financial oversight. External training opportunities are accessed where appropriate.

Between four and twelve trustees are elected at the AGM by members present, and additional trustees may be co-opted at any time. Co-opted trustees hold office until the next AGM, when members may appoint them through majority vote. Nominations are sought prior to the AGM. The Board meets regularly throughout the year. Policies are set by the Trustees and are reviewed on a rolling basis.

Day-to-day operational management is delegated to the Chief Executive, who is supported by a staff team and volunteers. The Chief Executive delivers reports to the trustees at ordinary meetings, and informally when required.

## Risk Management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that appropriate systems and controls are in place to mitigate those. Key risks include financial sustainability, safeguarding, and staffing capacity, all of which are regularly reviewed by the Board.

## Public Benefit

The Trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and activities.



## Trustees

Trustees who served during period and since are:

M Mackle (Chair)

M Bowen

S J Samad

K Morrissey

K Govind (resigned 21.10.24)

S Smith (resigned 11.10.24)

S Greenfield (appointed 24.04.24)

E Hopkinson-Spark (appointed 28.06.24)

J Brice (appointed 09.12.24, resigned 31.03.25)

Trustees are aware of their responsibilities in relation to compliance and policy making. Policies, risk management and compliance are regularly reviewed at Trustee meetings and between meetings via email as needed.

Day-to-day management of the organisation is the responsibility of the Chief Executive. Regular reports are made to the Trustees to ensure they are up to date with operational activities. Trustees are responsible for the overall management of the Charity. Where needed, sub-committees are set up to consider specific issues in depth, reporting to the Trustee board to facilitate informed decision-making.

## Objectives & Activities

The purpose of the charity, set out in the governing document, is ‘the prevention and alleviation of blindness and impaired vision and hearing loss’.

We support people living with sight and vision loss to live independent, fulfilled and connected lives. In pursuit of our objectives, during the year, we provided services in line with our current priorities.

- > Professional sight loss rehabilitation services
- > Advice, guidance and information, including on aids and equipment, at service users’ homes and at our office
- > Training and help to use technologies, including specialist aids for hearing and sight loss
- > A resource centre, where service users can explore aids and equipment
- > Social opportunities, including peer support hubs, supported activities, talks and other events
- > Advocacy and awareness raising through partnerships with other organisations, and representation local networks
- > Volunteering opportunities, including supported volunteering

**“Such a massive difference now that I can do things on my own. Your team are good people.” DT**

The Trustees and staff team work hard to maintain our high profile and positive reputation and to ensure we deliver services to as many people as possible. As well as direct referrals from hospitals, healthcare providers and other organisations, we engage with service users through our social media, attendance at events, community room hire and our quarterly newsletter.

**“They have given me so much support - as well as passing me to other services.” AB**



**Fun fact:  
Volunteers who collect our donation containers are known as ‘Elephant Hunters’!**

**The containers are a familiar sight all across North Somerset.**

# Achievements & Performance

Vision North Somerset is the only local charity supporting adults with sight loss and/or hearing loss, and our long presence in the area, and solid reputation, ensure we are a trusted name.

In our last annual report, we noted that **demand** for our services seemed set to **grow by 22%** over the next ten years. That expectation looked to be on target as we welcomed a higher-than-expected number of service users.



Our staff team was supported by over **54 wonderful volunteers**, some of whom who have been with the charity for **over 20 years**. They shared their skills in administration work, offered tech advice, supported our activities and meet-up hubs, and so much more.

Volunteers, including supported volunteers, also helped with fundraising, supporting the charity through sponsored events, bucket collections and other activities. Our **collection boxes** are a familiar sight locally and can be found in **over 100 locations** around the county.

**“I have so many good things to say about your charity. You think of everything.” PP**

Sensory loss can quickly lead to isolation and disadvantage. Providing opportunities and support to stay connected is a key focus for the charity. We ran **four regular meet-up hubs** around the county, and offered supported activities, including **skittles and swimming**. Some of our service users enjoyed the support of **befrienders** and **online clubs**.



**213 service users with sight impairment** benefited from at-home advice, support and guidance, including **professional rehabilitation** support services. Through **events**, the **resource centre** and other channels, we reached hundreds more.

Our hearing loss advice service is focused on offering advice on **technologies and equipment** to help people **stay connected** and **combat isolation**.



We reached **303 people with hearing loss** through our at-home visits, and still more through other channels.

**“I can’t believe I can hear on the phone again. It’s changed my life!” AJ**

**Technological developments** are growing rapidly and offer huge **opportunities** for people with sight impairment and hearing loss - but only if they can access them. We focused on ensuring our service users, many of whom are elderly, are not left behind.

Through **home visits** and **events** in our **training** room we provided tech **training and help** to **over 140 people**. We reached many more in other ways, including through informal advice and by working with partners.



We continued to **network** widely with other VCSO organisations, healthcare bodies and other stakeholders with shared interests.

## Stories that Matter: AB and isolation

Sometimes, our relationships with other agencies make all the difference: here, nine organisations worked together to ensure a successful outcome.

AB, who had suicidal ideation and was isolated, was referred to VNS from the DWP. She trusted us enough to provide a sight loss assessment, something she had been avoiding.

Our professional sight loss rehabilitation officer stepped in to offer cane training and advice on magnifiers and specialist kitchen equipment for people with sight loss. This provided her with opportunities to explore the independence that she had lacked. Our home visits can often lead to complex outcomes, and we regularly offer advice on fire safety, home adaptations and safety measures.

We were able to engage with a GP and the fire service on AB's behalf and even contacted the RSPCA to explore opportunities to help AB's dog.

Our team built on the positive relationship we had with AB to encourage her to take up social opportunities and find connection with others with sight loss. We helped AB to learn to use a tablet and accessibility controls to use email.

AB was in a much happier and safer place. Her confidence and independence were returned; she was engaged socially and was receiving the support she needed.

**“I would have given up without you.”**

## Stories that Matter: EF and New Opportunities

So many of our service users come to us completely unaware of the opportunities available to them because they don't like to 'make a fuss'.

EF had contacted us to ask for help with his audio book player. We resolved the problem and then stopped for a chat, during which we learned that his macular degeneration had worsened, and he had lost more of his eyesight in the two years since we'd last had contact. He had attended numerous hospital appointments, and it seemed likely that he would receive a certificate of visual impairment. EF quite was feeling very lonely and troubled by what was to come.

We talked through all the services we could offer, including advice on ways to stay independent, something EF was relieved to know. One of our sight loss advisors dropped in to show EF how even simple changes to lighting, and the use of tactile stickers could make a big difference. We discovered that EF was a fan of tech, and were able to set him up with voice commands and the Be My Eyes app.

EF had been reluctant to come along to a support hub; for him it was a more public acknowledgement of his new way of being. We were delighted then to hear his feedback:

**“Everyone is so friendly! I will definitely come again.  
I really enjoyed it!”**

## Financial review

The income of the Charity increased by £92,785 to £415,664, of which £125,425 (2024 - £57,777) was unrestricted, and £290,239 (2024 - £265,102) was restricted. The year-end funds of the Charity had increased by £47,645 to £431,870, of which £397,946 (2024 - £370,114) were unrestricted, and £33,92 (2024 - £14,111) were restricted. The Charity's free reserves at the year-end are £129,225. Free reserves are calculated as net current assets held within unrestricted funds, excluding the defined benefit pension scheme liability repayments due within one year.

During the year ended 31 March 2024, the final entrant in the scheme left the charity's employment, thereby crystallising the scheme at this point. Negotiations were entered into with the pension provider, and an agreement for repayment was reached. The balance owing at the year-end of £153,337 (2024: £266,400) is included in creditors, split between amounts due in more than and less than one year based on the anticipated repayment scheme. The property at 3 Neva Road is security against this debt.

## Reserves Policy Statement

Vision North Somerset's reserves policy (set in June 2022) sets aside two levels of cash reserves to be met by unrestricted funds:

- A buffer amount that will allow the organisation to continue to operate whilst income is reduced.
- A closure amount that will be used if Vision North Somerset ceases activity and closes to allow the organisation to meet essential expenses.

Tier one is set at three months' operating costs (£78,000 in June 2022). Tier two is calculated as the costs to cover an additional three months of salaries, plus statutory redundancy payments (£60,500 in June 2022). This fund will be used in the case of Vision North Somerset ceasing operations.

## Plans for future periods

In the coming year, the Charity aims to:

- Further develop services for people with sight and or/hearing loss, in particular focusing on supported activities and digital access
- Improve systems for volunteer recruitment, training and contact
- Develop how we engage with other organisations for the benefit of our service users, for example by improving accessibility and supporting service users to access their existing local services

# Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

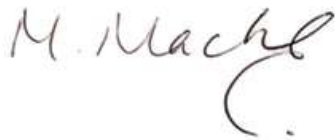
The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales 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 income and expenditure of the Charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable 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 at the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and 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/constitution. 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.

Approved by the Board on April 20 2026, and signed on their behalf by

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'M. Mackle', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

M Mackle  
Trustee

# Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Vision North Somerset

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts for Vision North Somerset ("the Charity") for the year ended 31 March 2025.

## Responsibilities and Basis of Report

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

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

## Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not comply with these records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the 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 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.

Michelle Ferris BSc (Hons) FCA DChA  
Albert Goodman LLP  
Goodwood House  
Blackbrook Park Avenue  
Taunton  
Somerset  
TA1 2PX

Dated:

## Statement of Financial Activities For the Year ended 31 March 2025

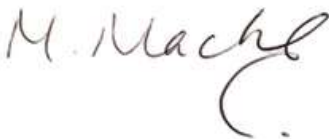
	Notes	Unre- stricted Funds	Re- stricted Funds	Total 2025	Unre- stricted Funds	Re- stricted Funds	Total 2024
<b>Income from:</b>							
Donations (including grants)	2	89,455	290,239	379,694	35,875	265,102	300,977
Other trading activities	3	26,673	-	26,673	16,750	-	16,750
Income from investments	4	9,297	-	9,297	5,152	-	5,152
<b>Total</b>		<b>125,425</b>	<b>290,239</b>	<b>415,664</b>	<b>57,777</b>	<b>265,102</b>	<b>322,879</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Charitable activities	5	97,593	270,426	368,019	35,616	278,088	313,704
<b>Total</b>		<b>97,593</b>	<b>270,426</b>	<b>368,019</b>	<b>35,616</b>	<b>278,088</b>	<b>313,704</b>
<b>Net income / (expenditure) for the year before transfers</b>		<b>27,832</b>	<b>19,813</b>	<b>47,645</b>	<b>22,161</b>	<b>(12,986)</b>	<b>9,175</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Other recognised losses:</b>							
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	15	-	-	-	62,067	-	62,067
<b>Net movements in funds</b>		<b>27,832</b>	<b>19,813</b>	<b>47,645</b>	<b>84,228</b>	<b>(12,986)</b>	<b>71,242</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>							
Fund balances at 1 April		370,114	14,111	384,225	285,886	27,097	312,983
Fund balances at 31 March		397,946	33,924	431,870	370,114	14,111	384,225

The results for the year derive from continuing activities and there are no gains or losses other than those shown above.

## Balance Sheet at 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible fixed assets	8	394,842	401,963
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stock		-	13,722
Debtors		2,445	103
Cash at bank and in hand		201,452	229,272
Investments	9	-	66,000
		<u>203,897</u>	<u>309,097</u>
<b>Creditors</b>			
Amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>(27,140)</u>	<u>(168,373)</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>176,757</u>	<u>140,724</u>
		571,599	542,687
<b>Creditors due more than one year</b>			
Defined benefit pension scheme liabilities	11	<u>(139,729)</u>	<u>(158,462)</u>
<b>Total net assets including pension liabilities</b>		<u>431,870</u>	<u>384,225</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	12	397,946	370,114
<b>Restricted funds</b>	12	33,924	14,111
<b>Total funds</b>		<u>431,870</u>	<u>384,225</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on April 20 2026 and signed on their behalf by



M. Mackle  
Trustee

## Statement of Cash Flows

	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Net movement in funds for the year	47,645	71,242
Adjustments to cash flows from non-cash items		
Depreciation and amortisation charged in year	9,850	9,451
Change in pension fund	-	(73,600)
Investment income received	(9,297)	(5,152)
	<u>48,198</u>	<u>1,941</u>
Working capital adjustments		
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(2,342)	(23)
Decrease/(increase) in stock	13,722	(10,406)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(159,966)	19,666
	<u>(100,388)</u>	<u>11,178</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Sale of investments	66,000	-
Investment income received	9,297	5,152
Purchase of fixed assets	(2,729)	-
	<u>(27,820)</u>	<u>16,330</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	<u>(27,820)</u>	<u>16,330</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	<u>229,272</u>	<u>212,942</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	<u>201,452</u>	<u>229,272</u>
Cash & Cash equivalents reconciliation:		
Cash at bank	<u>201,452</u>	<u>229,272</u>
Total cash & cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	<u>201,452</u>	<u>229,272</u>

# Notes to the Financial Statements For Year ended 31 March 2025

## 1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows.

### 1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) (Charities SORP (FRS102)) and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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

### 1.2 Income

Income from grants and donations is recognised in the year in which they are receivable when there is evidence of entitlement, receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Income from government grants and local authorities is recognised when the Charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred. Where no conditions are attached to the grant income they are recognised within donations and legacies and where conditions relating to performance of services are attached, grant income is recognised in income from charitable activities within the Statement of Financial Activities.

Income from other trading activities is included in the period in which the Charity is entitled to receipt, it is probable that economic benefits will flow to the entity and the amount can be reliably measured.

## Notes to the Financial Statements For Year ended 31 March 2025

### 1.3 Expenditure

Resources expended are recognised on the accruals basis to match the period in which the expenditure was incurred.

Charitable expenditure comprises costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

### 1.4 Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost or valuation of fixed assets over their estimated useful lives at the following rate:

Freehold property – 1% straight line

Fixtures and fittings – 25% straight line

Fixed assets are capitalised where the expenditure incurred is in excess of £500 and the asset purchased is considered to have a long term benefit to the organisation.

### 1.5 Debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for services performed in the ordinary activities of the Charity.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the Charity will not be able to collect all amounts due to according to the original terms of the receivables. Other debtors comprise amounts due from prepayments. Amounts due from prepayments arise from the payments for services prior to benefit from those services.

### 1.6 Cash at bank and in hand

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

## Notes to the Financial Statements For Year ended 31 March 2025

### 1.7 Creditors

Creditors 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 are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

### 1.8 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items. Cost is calculated on a first in, first out basis.

### 1.9 Taxation

Vision North Somerset is a registered Charity and is therefore not liable to corporation tax to the extent that income and gains are applied to charitable purposes.

### 1.10 Investments

Investments are held at fair value determined by the amounts held in National Savings and Investments bonds.

### 1.11 Fund accounting

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

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets this criterion is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

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

## Notes to the Financial Statements For Year ended 31 March 2025

### 1.12 Local Government Pension Scheme

Retirement benefits to employees of Vision North Somerset are provided by the Avon Pension Fund Local Government Pension Scheme ('LGPS'). This is a multi-employer defined benefit scheme, that is contracted out of State Earnings-Related Pension Scheme ('SERPS'), and the assets are held separately from those at Vision North Somerset.

The LGPS is a funded scheme and the assets are held separately from those of Vision North Somerset in separate trustee administered funds. Pension Scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current the current service cost and gains and losses on settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs. Past service costs are recognised immediately, the costs are recognised over the period until vesting occurs. The expected return on assets and the interest cost are shown as a net finance amount of other finance costs or credit adjacent to interest. Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other gains and losses.

During the year ended 31 March 2023, the final entrant in the scheme left the employment of the charity thereby crystallising the scheme at this point. During the year, following negotiations with the pension provider, an agreement for repayment has been entered into. The balance owing at the year end of £153,337 is included in creditors, split between amounts due in more than and less than one year based on the repayment scheme.

### 1.13 Defined contribution pension scheme

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme (NEST. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which fixed contributions (7.5% employer contribution) are paid into a pension fund and the Charity has no legal or contrastive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

## Notes to the Financial Statements For Year ended 31 March 2025

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as staff pension expenses through the SOFA when they are due.

### 1.14 Going concern

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to the events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of the period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements.

The Trustees have concluded that the likelihood is that funding will be available to support the objectives of the Charity and that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. There are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

### 1.15 Financial instruments

The Charity only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and liabilities of the Charity and their measurements are as follows:

Financial assets – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

Cash at bank – is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

Financial liabilities – trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

## Notes to the Financial Statements For Year ended 31 March 2025

2 Donations and legacies	Unre- stricted Funds £	Re- stricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Unre- stricted Funds £	Re- stricted Funds £	Total 2024 £
<b>Grant income</b>						
Anton Jurgens Charitable Trust	-	5,000	5,000	-	-	-
St Monica Trust - Digital Inclusion	-	36,750	36,750	-	35,000	35,000
North Somerset Council Social Services*	-	171,806	171,806	-	165,598	165,598
Will Charitable Trust	-	20,000	20,000	-	-	-
Lottery - Awards for All Medlock Charitable Trust	-	20,000	20,000	-	-	-
NSC Public Health Community Quartet - Volunteering	-	4,500	4,500	-	-	-
NSC - Social Prescribing Destination*	-	-	-	-	19,280	19,280
UK Social Prescribing Destination	-	-	-	-	5,000	5,000
St Monica - Community Impact Quartet - Resilience fund	-	-	-	-	10,000	10,000
St Monica Trust - Impact Improving	-	13,333	13,333	-	16,890	16,890
Henry Smith Charity Community Fund	50,000	-	50,000	-	10,000	10,000
Quartet Express Society of Merchant Venturers	-	3,850	3,850	-	-	-
	-	5,000	5,000	-	-	-
	<u>50,000</u>	<u>290,239</u>	<u>340,239</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>265,102</u>	<u>265,102</u>
Donations	39,455	-	39,455	35,875	-	35,875
	<u>89,455</u>	<u>290,239</u>	<u>379,694</u>	<u>35,875</u>	<u>265,102</u>	<u>300,977</u>

\*denotes government funding

## Notes to the Financial Statements For Year ended 31 March 2025

3 Other trading activities	Unre- stricted Funds £	Re- stricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Unre- stricted Funds £	Re- stricted Funds £	Total 2024 £
Other	6,048	-	6,048	4,166	-	4,166
Re-sale equipment	12,249	-	12,249	8,614	-	8,614
Room hire	8,376	-	8,376	3,970	-	3,970
	<u>26,673</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26,673</u>	<u>16,750</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,750</u>
<b>4 Investment income</b>	<b>Unre- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Re- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2025 £</b>	<b>Unre- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Re- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2024 £</b>
Bank interest receivable	9,297	-	9,297	5,152	-	5,152
	<u>9,297</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,297</u>	<u>5,152</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,152</u>
<b>5 Direct charitable expenditure</b>	<b>Unre- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Re- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2025 £</b>	<b>Unre- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Re- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2024 £</b>
Wages and salaries	35,253	219,895	255,148	6,032	214,438	220,470
Core and operating costs	39,628	19,023	58,651	59,208	10,216	69,424
Legal and professional	8,543	-	8,543	2,027	-	2,027
Re-sale equipment purchased	12,184	-	12,184	731	5,335	6,066
Project costs	33,461	32	33,493	10,810	4,907	15,717
Contribution to core costs	(31,476)	31,476	-	(43,192)	43,192	-
	<u>97,593</u>	<u>270,426</u>	<u>368,019</u>	<u>35,616</u>	<u>278,088</u>	<u>313,704</u>

## Notes to the Financial Statements For Year ended 31 March 2025

6 Employees	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	216,516	198,207
Social security costs	23,576	9,606
Pension costs	15,056	12,657
	<u>255,148</u>	<u>220,470</u>

No individual was paid over £60,000 (2024: £60,000).

The average number of employees for the year was as follows:

	2025	2024
Number of staff	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>

One person is considered key management personnel of the Charity, being the Chief Executive Officer. Total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Charity were £49,033 (2024: £47,325), including employers' national insurance and employers' pension contributions.

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The charge in the Statement of Financial Activities for the year is shown above. Contributions totalling £nil (2024: £nil) were payable to the schemes at the year end and are included in creditors.

During the year, termination payments of £9,705 were paid in full and final settlement (2024 - £nil). No amounts were owing at the year-end (2024 - none).

7 Net incoming resources before transfers	2025 £	2024 £
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation	9,850	9,451
Accountants remuneration		
- independent examination	2,556	1,427
- other	600	600
	<u>600</u>	<u>600</u>

## Notes to the Financial Statements For Year ended 31 March 2025

### 8 Tangible assets

	Freehold property	Fixtures & Fittings	Total
		£	£
<b>Cost</b>			
As at 01.04.2024	425,000	129,824	554,824
Additions	-	2,729	2,729
As at 31.03.2025	425,000	132,553	557,553
<b>Depreciation</b>			
As at 01.04.2024	34,014	118,847	152,861
Charge for period	4,252	5,598	9,850
As at 31.03.2025	38,266	124,445	162,711
<b>Net book value</b>			
As at 31.03.2025	386,734	8,108	394,842
As at 31.03.2024	390,986	10,977	401,963

The pension deficit (as disclosed in note 11) is secured against the property.

### 9 Investments

	2025 £	2024 £
National Savings Bond investments	-	66,000
	-	66,000

## Notes to the Financial Statements For Year ended 31 March 2025

### 10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	3,215	-
Accruals & deferred income	6,513	56,443
Other creditors	3,804	3,992
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	13,608	107,938
	<u>27,140</u>	<u>168,373</u>
<b>Deferred income</b>	<b>2025 £</b>	<b>2024 £</b>
Deferred income brought forward	53,416	35,000
Released in year	(50,083)	(35,000)
Deferred in the year	-	53,416
	<u>3,333</u>	<u>53,416</u>

Deferred income relates to grants received from the St Monica Trust which do not meet the criteria for recognition.

### 11 Creditors: amounts falling due over one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	139,729	158,462
	<u>139,729</u>	<u>158,462</u>
<b>Pension scheme liability</b>	<b>2025 £</b>	<b>2024 £</b>
Amounts due < 1 year	13,608	107,938
Amounts due > 1 year	139,729	158,462
	<u>153,337</u>	<u>266,400</u>

## Notes to the Financial Statements For Year ended 31 March 2025

12 Statement of Funds	Balance 01.04.24 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers/ (losses) £	Balance 31.03.25 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Anton Jurgens Charitable Trust	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Lottery - Awards for All	-	20,000	(20,000)	-	-
Medlock Charitable Trust	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
North Somerset Council - Social Services	-	171,807	(171,807)	-	-
NSC Public Health Community Quartet - Wessex Water Community Fund	-	4,500	(4,500)	-	-
Quartet Express	-	3,850	(3,850)	-	-
Society of Merchant Venturers	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
St Monica Trust					
Community Impact	8,693	13,332	(13,219)	-	8,806
Digital Inclusion	5,418	36,750	(37,050)	-	5,118
Will Charitable Trust	-	20,000	-	-	20,000
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>14,111</b>	<b>290,239</b>	<b>(270,426)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33,924</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Unrestricted funds excluding pension reserve	370,114	125,425	(97,593)	-	397,946
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>370,114</b>	<b>125,425</b>	<b>(97,593)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>397,946</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>384,225</b>	<b>415,664</b>	<b>(368,019)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>431,870</b>

## Notes to the Financial Statements For Year ended 31 March 2025

Statement of Funds - Prior year	Balance 01.04.23 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers/ (losses) £	Balance 31.03.24 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
St Monica Trust - Digital	-	35,000	(29,582)	-	5,418
VANS	5,000	-	(5,000)	-	-
UK Social Prescribing Destination	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Postcode Local Trust	7,396	-	(7,396)	-	-
Quartet - Resilience Fund	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
North Somerset Council - Social Prescribing Destination	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Quartet - Volunteering	3,651	19,280	(22,931)	-	-
St Monica Trust - Community Impact	8,616	16,890	(16,813)	-	8,693
St Monica Trust - Coronation	500	-	(500)	-	-
Age UK Bristol - Digital Inclusion	1,934	-	(1,934)	-	-
St Monica - Improving Connections	-	3,334	(3,334)	-	-
North Somerset Council	-	165,598	(165,598)	-	-
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>27,097</b>	<b>265,102</b>	<b>(278,088)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14,111</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Unrestricted funds excluding pension reserve	285,886	57,777	(35,616)	62,067	370,114
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>285,886</b>	<b>57,777</b>	<b>(35,616)</b>	<b>62,067</b>	<b>370,114</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>312,983</b>	<b>322,879</b>	<b>(313,704)</b>	<b>62,067</b>	<b>384,225</b>

## Notes to the Financial Statements For Year ended 31 March 2025

The purposes for material funds are as follows:

- Lottery – Awards for All - support of the social groups and befriending service, Seeing Friends project.
- North Somerset Council – delivering statutory services and a contribution towards essential costs for the charity.
- St Monica Trust – Community Impact is for delivering peer support and social inclusion activities such as social groups and support groups.
- St Monica Trust – Digital Inclusion – delivering technology advice and training to people with visual impairment and relevant professional partners.
- Will Charitable Trust – funding received towards a systems improvement project to support the growth, development and sustainability of the charity’s services and to reach and benefit more people with sight loss.
- Quartet Resilience Fund – developing the infrastructure and resilience of the charity through training and communications.
- Quartet Community Foundation Volunteering – the development and growth of the volunteering programme.
- UK Social Prescribing Destination – developing social support for people with visual impairment.
- Postcode Local Trust – developing and growing social and wellbeing support for people with visual impairment.

### 13 Related party transactions

Remuneration of £Nil was paid to Trustees during the year (2024: none). No trustees were reimbursed for travelling expenses during the year (2024: none).

### 14 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unre- stricted Funds £	Re- stricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Unre- stricted Funds £	Re- stricted Funds £	Total 2024 £
Tangible assets	394,842	-	394,842	401,963	-	392,512
Net current assets	142,833	33,924	176,757	126,613	14,111	140,724
Creditors due > 1 year	(139,729)	-	(139,729)	(158,462)	-	(158,462)
	<u>397,946</u>	<u>33,924</u>	<u>431,870</u>	<u>370,114</u>	<u>14,111</u>	<u>374,774</u>

## Notes to the Financial Statements For Year ended 31 March 2025

### 15 Pension commitments

Some of the Charity's employees belonged to the Local Government Pension Schemes (LGPS) managed by the Avon Pension Fund ("APF").

As of 31 March 2023, the final entrant in the scheme left the employment of the charity, thereby crystallising the scheme at this point. An amount has been included within creditors due under one year and due in more than one year for the final balance owed which is on a different valuation basis to that of the previous actuarial valuations. There is therefore no actuarial valuation carried out for the scheme as at 31 March 2025.

The pension valuation included in the accounts was an estimated value as at 1 April 2023, which has since been updated to reflect the amount of repayment due under an agreement.

	2025 £	2024 £
Pension scheme liability b/fwd	266,400	340,000
Repayments	(113,063)	(11,533)
Revaluation in year	-	(62,067)
Pension scheme liability c/fwd	<u>153,337</u>	<u>266,400</u>

**Vision**   
**North Somerset**

A Charitable Incorporated  
Organisation in England &  
Wales, Number 1165364

01934 419393

[info@visionns.org.uk](mailto:info@visionns.org.uk)

3 Neva Road  
Weston-super-Mare  
BS23 1YD

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**VISION NORTH SOMERSET**

England & Wales - Charity number 1165364

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# Accounts

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# Vision

## North Somerset

(a Charitable Incorporated Organisation)



# ANNUAL REPORT

**AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE  
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**CHARITY REGISTERED IN ENGLAND AND  
WALES NUMBER: 1165364**

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**Vision North Somerset  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024**

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Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024**

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**Vision North Somerset  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024**

**Trustees** M Bowen appointed 4 July 2023  
J Brice (resigned 31 March 2024)  
D Burden (resigned August 2023)  
K Govind  
M Mackle (Chair)  
H Morgan (resigned 19 February 2024)  
K Morrissey appointed 4 July 2023  
S Samad appointed 13 December 2023  
S Smith (Treasurer) (resigned 11 October 2024)

**Chief Executive** L Williams

**Principal Office and  
Registered Office** 3 Neva Road  
Weston Super Mare  
Somerset BS23 1YD

**Bankers** Unity Trust Bank  
9 Brindley Place  
4 Oozells Square  
Birmingham B1 2HB

**Independent Examiner** Michelle Ferris BSc (Hons) FCA DChA  
Albert Goodman LLP  
Goodwood House Blackbrook Park  
Avenue  
Taunton Somerset TA1 2PX

# Vision North Somerset Trustees' Report For the Year ended 31 March 2024

## Welcome from the Chair

Welcome to Vision North Somerset's Annual Report in a year when, together with our Service Users, health professionals and funders, we reviewed our services and set our strategy for the coming five years. In doing this we reaffirmed our ambition to improve life for people throughout North Somerset living with vision impairment and hearing loss.

Over the course of the year we have been able to help over 800 people with sight and hearing impairment and we know that the number of people in North Somerset with sight loss alone is expected to grow by 22% over the next ten years. Many of these people will face a range of other health conditions alongside sensory loss.



**Vision North Somerset  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024**

As an effective and independent local charity we have never been more needed, with increasing levels of calls for help, many of them not directly related to sight issues but where people come to us because they know and trust us. In these cases we are happy to take the time to refer them if a more appropriate agency can help them, but this of course adds a strain on our resources. In order to meet the need for our help we have set as one of our main objectives the continuation of building on our strong foundations to develop a well-funded and managed organisation. In doing this we are grateful for the generous support of many individuals, families and trust funds that provide the financial resources which are essential and the only income we have to deliver our charitable activities. We are proud that we retain the support of North Somerset Council to deliver the statutory services required for sight and hearing-impaired people in North Somerset.

Despite all the challenges we face we know that everybody at Vision North Somerset - Trustees, Staff and Volunteers - will continue to work together and look forward to supporting the delivery of high quality services to help local people.

**Marie Mackle -  
Chair of Trustees  
[trustees@visionns.org.uk](mailto:trustees@visionns.org.uk)**

**Vision North Somerset  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024**

**Section One: objectives and activities**

The purpose of the Charity as set out in its governing document is “the prevention and alleviation of the effects of blindness and impaired vision and hearing loss”.

In North Somerset we are facing a growing population with sight loss or hearing loss. The older a person is, the greater the risk of sight loss or hearing loss. Around 12% of the people we support have dual sensory loss. The proportion of people aged 75 years and over in North Somerset is significantly higher than the average for England: 12% of the population are aged 75 plus, compared to 9% across the whole of England.

Life with visual impairment can involve being disabled by an inaccessible society and the negative attitudes of others. Many businesses and services, including health services, seem to struggle to provide vital information in accessible formats, leaving people unable to manage their health and wellbeing independently.

Transport is a challenge for many in North Somerset but the need to rely on often inaccessible public transport can limit opportunities for people with visual impairment.

Navigating streets, public spaces and buildings can be difficult for people with sight loss, especially if the environment is unfamiliar or not designed in an accessible way.

## **Vision North Somerset Trustees' Report For the Year ended 31 March 2024**

Shockingly, more than one-third of blind and partially sighted people say that they sometimes or frequently experience negative attitudes from the public because of their sight loss. People with sight loss were more than twice as likely to have experienced difficulties with unhappiness or depression than the UK average. More than 40 per cent of blind and partially sighted people feel moderately or completely cut off from the people and things around them. (RNIB, 2021).

At the end of 2023/24 Vision North Somerset was supporting around 14% of the estimated local population with visual impairment. There may be many in the remaining 86% who could be safer, happier and more independent through support from our charity. In addition, the number of local people with sight loss is predicted to increase to over 11,000 by 2032.

These facts are our drivers to grow fundraising income so that we can support the increasing number of people who need our help.



**Vision North Somerset  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024**

## **Summary of services and activities**

Vision North Somerset offers a range of essential services to help people with visual impairment and a hearing equipment service. Our strategy focuses on key areas to encourage the independence of people with visual impairment and hearing impairment:

**Connect** – we provide opportunities for people to come together with others in similar situations and with the wider community through support groups in person, online and via teleconferencing and through befriending.

**Inform** – we support people to access the information, advice, and guidance they need, in the way that they need it through our sight loss Advisors, registration of visual impairment and the hearing equipment service.

**Enable** – we support people to develop or rebuild the skills they need to maintain their independence and live the way they choose through vision rehabilitation, the hearing equipment service and our sight loss advisors.

**Empower** – we work with local and national partners to support people to make their voices heard and to raise awareness of issues that matter to them, for example responding to local consultations, supporting networks such as the Disabled Access Group and the Sight Loss Council.

## **Vision North Somerset Trustees' Report For the Year ended 31 March 2024**

Our strategy also prioritises 'building strong foundations'. This means continuing to develop a well-funded and well-managed organisation so that we can deliver excellent services for local people.

### **Public benefit statement**

The Trustees are aware of their duty to have regard to the Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit in the exercise of their powers and duties and they take this into account in their decision making. This Annual Report describes activities undertaken this year to meet Vision North Somerset's charitable purpose.

Trustees are clear about who can benefit from the Charity's activities. People using Vision North Somerset's services must have low vision or be blind or partially sighted or be deaf or hard of hearing. People the Charity supports may have both sight loss and hearing loss. Vision North Somerset works with families, carers and health and social care professionals supporting people who fit into the categories above.



**Vision North Somerset  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024**

## **Section Two: achievements and performance**

Vision North Somerset is the only local charity in North Somerset supporting people with visual impairment or hearing impairment. We are often the first agency visiting vulnerable people in their homes to ensure that they are safe and well. This year we have noticed a significant increase in the difficulties facing the people we help. We are seeing an increase in mental health issues, self-harm and suicidal ideation, housing problems, the effects of poverty and discrimination, complex health issues and difficulties in accessing healthcare or social care, among other issues.

The complex situations that people present have demanded great skill, effort and sensitivity from our frontline staff and managers. Vision North Somerset works closely with local partners, including on safeguarding and in multi-disciplinary meetings. We refer people to local services and receive referrals from a wide range of partners including the NHS, community optometry and audiology, the local authority, the Integrated Community Stroke Service, local housing providers, social prescribers, other charities and more.

**Vision North Somerset  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024**

We are proud to work closely with North Somerset Council, delivering the statutory services of vision rehabilitation, registration of sight loss and disability equipment. We offer a comprehensive suite of services to people with visual impairment and a hearing equipment service.

Vision North Somerset contributes to local consultations, strategy and policy development and local working groups such as the Disability Access Group.



**Vision North Somerset  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024**

**In 2023-24 we helped 527 visually impaired people of all ages. We also helped over 300 hearing impaired or deaf people with our hearing equipment service. A proportion of our service users will have both hearing loss and sight loss – this is more likely as people age.**

We often support people for years, or even decades with our range of services. During 2023-24 we delivered over **2007 individual service activities** to people with visual impairment or hearing impairment. This does not include ad hoc support such as answering questions via telephone, email or social media. We also provide information in our newsletter and on social media.



**Vision North Somerset  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024**

## **Staff and volunteers**

At the end of the financial year, Vision North Somerset employed **7.2 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff** with 12 staff members. Most staff members work part-time on different schedules to cover the working week.

We are grateful to the **42 volunteers** who provide essential support to the charity and to people with visual impairment.

### **Volunteer roles:**

- Befriending
- Leading or supporting social or physical activity groups
- Driving
- Managing fundraising collection boxes
- technology training as a 'Digital Buddy'
- Ad hoc administrative support

**Vision North Somerset  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024**

We are particularly grateful to the three Office Administration volunteers who between them offer 12 hours a week of support with reception and administrative tasks.

Our Trustees also volunteer their time and expertise to support the charity in many ways.

Around a quarter of our volunteers are visually impaired and many have other disabilities or long-term health conditions so they bring their lived experiences to their volunteering work.



**Vision North Somerset  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024**

**Strategy development**

In late 2022 and through 2023 Vision North Somerset developed our new five-year strategy. We gathered views and information through surveys, workshops, and meetings with a wide range of participants. We also used local and national research on the needs and aspirations of people with visual impairments and hearing impairments.

The feedback confirms that Vision North Somerset is already delivering services that meet many of the needs and wishes of blind and partially sighted people and people with a hearing impairment. It also suggests that people want Vision North Somerset to expand our current services to reach more people across our geographical area and to reach younger people with visual impairment.

Increased and sustainable funding will be crucial to meet increased demand in future years. Due to the ageing population, the number of local people with visual impairment is predicted to grow nearly 30% by 2032.



**Vision North Somerset  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024**

## **Achievements - Services**

Against the backdrop of greatly increased complexity and struggle in the lives of local visually impaired people, the service team exceeded expectations to provide life-changing support to over 500 people.

The services below are listed against the most relevant strategic priorities from our strategy document.

- Connect
- Inform
- Enable



**Vision North Somerset  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024**

**Advice, Registration and Low Vision  
Equipment - Inform, Enable**

Our two Sight Loss Advisors are an invaluable first port of call for everyone with visual impairment who comes to Vision North Somerset for help. Sight Loss Advisors usually visit the person at home for an assessment in the form of a relaxed conversation to establish their needs and issues.

Sight Loss Advisors have a wealth of knowledge to make referrals to other local or national services. They provide advice, light-touch emotional support and refer people to other Vision North Somerset services as needed. Sight Loss Advisors can be involved in safeguarding and welfare concerns; for example, for people with dementia who have lost the ability to care for themselves, or for those with serious mental health issues.

We manage the **Registration process** for visual impairment on behalf of North Somerset Council. This involves receiving Certificates of Visual Impairment from Hospital Ophthalmology services, informing North Somerset Council, issuing people with a registration card, informing people of the benefits of Registration and how to access further support such as a Blue Badge or disabled bus pass.

Our **Low Vision Resource Centre** in Weston-super-Mare offers appointments for people to try a wide range of assistive equipment and to receive advice and training. Equipment can range from a talking microwave oven to specialised glare shield sunglasses, a large button telephone or a liquid level indicator device to safely make a hot drink. Ours is the only service in North Somerset displaying most of this equipment.

All of the respondents to our outcome monitoring survey agreed that they feel more confident and independent around the home and that they feel happier in their day to day living after our support.

67% of people felt more confident to cope with their sight loss. This figure may reflect how distressing it is to lose sight and the impact of the progressive nature of many eye conditions.

75% of people agreed that the future seems brighter and 80% agreed that they felt less anxious or stressed.

In 2023-24 we provided **assessments, information, advice, equipment or Registration for 220 people** through a mixture of home visits and visits to our well-equipped Resource Centre.



**Vision North Somerset  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024**

**Brians\* story**

After receiving a referral from the Department for Work and Pensions our Sight Loss Advisor quickly gave Brian a call.

Brian shared that, while he was only in his early 60s, he had severe cataracts and multiple health issues. He was struggling with finances and did not have support from family or friends. He lacked basics such as kettle, washing machine, and Hoover. Living in small bedsit with a damp problem, he had fallen down the steep front steps several times as there was no handrail. To top it all off, Brian's beloved dog was ill and he couldn't afford a vet visit.

We linked up with the two other agencies already involved with Brian to share information and to plan support with him.

After months of work with Brian he is now in a much more positive place.



**Vision North Somerset  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024**

- We contacted the hospital and ensured that Brian was back on the list for cataract surgery after he was removed from the list due to an error. He received a cataract procedure in 2024 leading to improved sight.
- The correct magnifier means Brian can read his post.
- We ensured that an Occupational Therapist fitted a handrail and made adaptations to Brian's home.
- We loaned a mobile phone and advised on a tablet computer. After training, Brian is now able to access emails and social media and make calls.
- A vet successfully treated the dog.
- Brian felt safer walking in community with a symbol cane and lanyard.
- Brian is now on the council housing list with the aim to move into extra care housing. He is now supported by a social worker and Alliance Homes, with a carer to help with shopping and cleaning.
- Brian wasn't taking vital medications as he couldn't manage the packaging. After our intervention with the pharmacy, he had a dosette box delivered and support with medications.

\*Name changed to protect privacy

**Vision North Somerset  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024**

Brian says “Without Vision (North Somerset) I would have been stuck, with no help. They have been a tremendous help to me. I would have given up without them. They have given me so much support as well as passing me on to other services. The whole team have been brilliant.”



**Vision North Somerset  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024**

**Vision Rehabilitation and Low Vision Support - Enable**

Our experienced **Vision Rehabilitation Specialist** helps people to regain independence and increase their safety, reducing risks such as falls and burns. Vision rehabilitation can give people who have experienced sight loss the skills and confidence to manage activities like making a cup of tea, shopping, crossing a road safely, reading post, and continuing in work. Vision Rehabilitation is a statutory requirement; it is a reablement service similar to Occupational Therapy and requires a specialist qualification.

Our Vision Rehabilitation Specialist is trained to provide **functional low vision appointments** focussing on lighting, magnification and training to make the best use of remaining vision for reading or close work. People can try out equipment before purchasing and we have some donated equipment for those who struggle financially. Functional low vision assessments complement the oversubscribed hospital low vision service and any low vision support provided by high street optometrists. Our service enables people to receive vision support within two to four weeks of requesting an appointment. This service is free to local people with sight loss.

**Vision North Somerset  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024**

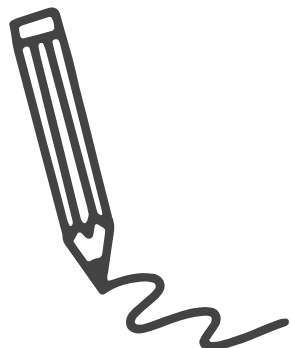
From our outcome monitoring, 67% of respondents said that they have not fallen or not fallen as often as they used to before our interventions. 60% of people can now participate in leisure activities or now find them easier than before their contact with us. Some respondents were more confident to use public transport to travel, however the majority of our service users rely on being driven by family members or friends.

in 2023-24 we supported **107 people with rehabilitation programmes**. We follow national guidance, so rehabilitation is provided in accordance with the needs of the individual. People may have months of weekly sessions to enable them to achieve their goals.

We delivered **102 functional low vision assessments**, helping people use lighting and magnification to make the best of their remaining vision.



**Vision North Somerset  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024**



**Sonia's\* story:**

We have been supporting a lady called Sonia since she moved to Weston from outside the area recently. She is in her late 60s and has multiple health issues alongside her severe sight loss: an autoimmune disorder, arthritis, hearing loss, issues with mobility, diabetes, respiratory issues and poor mental health. She was socially isolated, living alone in supported housing with no contact with family. Initially when speaking to our staff, she was often in tears and said that she was overwhelmed with all her issues. She sometimes repeated herself or became confused.

We initiated a range of support from Vision North Somerset including minor home adaptation, equipment such as glare shields and white cane training so that she could get out and about independently.

**Vision North Somerset  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024**

She is now being trained in using her mobile phone at our office with a volunteer who is also severely sight impaired, offering peer support alongside the technology training. Sonia is proudly travelling independently using her white cane, saying that it's like when you first get your driving licence and you're nervous but need to practice.

Name changed to protect privacy



**Vision North Somerset  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024**

**Social support - Connect**

Hearing that you are going to lose your sight can be devastating news. Often friends and family struggle to understand and people with visual impairment can quickly feel cut off from others. It can be helpful for people with visual impairment to meet to support one another through tough situations and to share a laugh. Our various support groups and activities are popular and continually growing.

Our social support work includes befriending, in-person support groups, teleconference groups and a range of physical activities as suggested by local people with visual impairment. During 2023-24 we began a new visually impaired bowling group, referred service users to accessible online pilates and opened a new teleconferencing group.

In 2023-24 we offered **15 different support and activity groups**. This includes **four in-person social groups** in various locations around North Somerset: Weston-Super-Mare (weekly), Clevedon, Portishead and Nailsea (all monthly.)



## Vision North Somerset Trustees' Report For the Year ended 31 March 2024

We have deliberately chosen public venues such as cafes, pubs and a community centre to support the inclusion of visually impaired people into society

We used a grant from St Monica Trust to celebrate the King's Coronation in 2023 with **three outreach events** reaching 46 people in Weston-super-Mare, Portishead and Clevedon. The events included a cream tea, thanking our volunteers and sharing information about our services.

Our teleconferencing groups continue to be popular with **five phone groups running regularly**, including an audiobook group and technology chat groups. The book group receive the audiobooks in advance via memory stick. We use a teleconferencing system where we can telephone participants as a group.

We also support a range of activities including gardening, VI bowls and swimming to improve the wellbeing of people with sight loss.



**Vision North Somerset  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024**

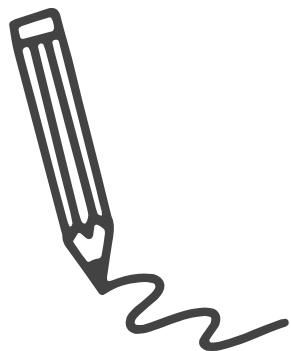
**We had 209 visually impaired people** attending one or more support group. This is an increase of nearly two thirds from last year.

**17 people were meeting regularly with Befrienders,** nearly double the number from last year.

From our outcome survey, 80% of people supported by Vision North Somerset agreed that they feel less alone and 90% agreed that they are more in contact with people than before



**Vision North Somerset  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024**



### **Alice's\* story**

Alice was working full time in healthcare when she noticed that she couldn't see the difference between pink and blue on some medical equipment. She was diagnosed with advanced Macular Degeneration.

This sudden sight loss turned her active life into a very small world. She was unable to work, drive, care for her elderly mother, or look after her grandchildren. This affected her mental health and wellbeing. She thought, "I will never have anything again in my life, I won't ever have a life again".

Our Volunteer Coordinator initially visited Alice as she had enquired about volunteering with Vision North Somerset. When our staff member visited, Alice shared that she sat on her sofa in her lounge all day while her husband worked. She was too anxious to complete any tasks in the home or to go out by herself. We immediately put a range of training and support in place to develop Alice's skills and confidence.

**Vision North Somerset  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024**

At the same time, Alice also joined one of our support groups where she met other people who have sight loss. This peer support was key to her rehabilitation as she was able to chat with people who had been visually impaired for many years and start to come to terms with her sight loss. After joining our support group, we noticed that she started to become less anxious and seemed happier. Alice now joins in with our swimming club as well as joining her local gym. She has also become a regular volunteer in our office garden. Without our support Alice would still be sitting alone on her sofa, unable to move during the day.

\*Name changed to protect privacy



**Vision North Somerset  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024**

## **Digital Support - Inform, Enable**

People are being excluded from everyday activities such as booking an appointment with their GP, banking, paying for parking, managing their bills and much more as services increasingly 'go digital'. While many people do not have the skill, equipment or interest to manage their lives online, these activities are significantly more difficult for people with visual impairment.

It is not right that small charities like ours are picking up the burden of helping the population adjust to the digitisation of services. We continue to support national campaigns around digital exclusion. However, while we await further support from government and businesses, we have significant demand for technology support from local people with sight loss.



## Vision North Somerset Trustees' Report For the Year ended 31 March 2024

Our Digital Support service offers expert advice and the chance to try a range of equipment such as mobile phones, tablet computers, smart speakers and digital magnifiers. People can receive training sessions to help them use equipment to carry out tasks in their daily lives and stay connected with others. Sessions are delivered at our four local 'Hub' meetings, in our technology suite in Weston-super-Mare and via home visits for those who cannot travel.

We recruited and trained volunteer 'Digital Buddies' who offer one-to-one training, provide talks and group training. Our staff have also provided advice on equipment, individual training and home visits where needed.

Last year, **333 people** benefited from technology support delivered by our two part time staff and four volunteers. This is an increase of over 50 people helped compared to last year.

90% of people answering our outcome survey after our support agree that they use technology to stay in touch with family or friends.



**Vision North Somerset  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024**

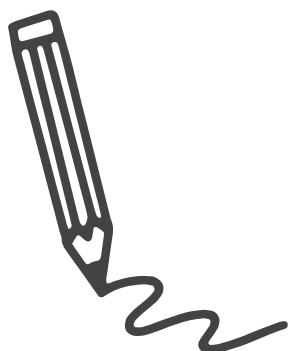
## **Hearing Equipment Service - Inform, Enable**

People with hearing impairment are at high risk of social isolation, poor mental health and developing dementia, which can lead to increased care needs. Our hearing equipment service helps people maintain independence, pursue leisure activities and sustain social connections.

Our experienced Hearing Equipment Officer visits people at home to provide personalised advice on the appropriate equipment for each person such as doorbells, telephones and devices to help people hear the television. He provides referrals to the Fire Service regarding fire alarms. He fits the equipment and trains people in using it; for example, explaining how to use Bluetooth technology to older people who have no prior experience.

Our hearing service supports an independent monthly hard-of-hearing group which meets in our meeting room. We also liaise with hospital audiology departments and high street audiology, as well as providing awareness talks and personalised advice about hearing loops to local organisations.

**Vision North Somerset  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024**



**Sally's story:**

We have been supporting a lady called Sally who lives alone and has both hearing loss and sight loss. Sally is in her early 80s and many other health issues. She had been having falls and was often in tears when talking to our staff.

Sally was very worried about the digital switchover of telephones, especially with how the new systems might interact with her hearing aid. Our Hearing Officer worked with our Digital Officer to help her choose a mobile phone which she was able learn to use. Our Hearing Officer visited her several times for training and to set up the phone with her hearing aid. He organised weekly trial telephone calls for her to practice using her phone by calling the office.

Sally is now confidently using her new telephone and sounds much happier when we speak to her.

\* Name changed to protect privacy.

**Vision North Somerset  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024**

**Section Three: structure, governance and management**

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the Charity for the Year ended 31 March 2024. The provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice “Accounting and Reporting by Charities” (SORP FRS 102 – implemented 1 January 2019) have been adopted in preparing the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Charity.

Vision North Somerset is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered with the Charity Commission in February 2016. The Charity was set up to replace Woodspring Association for Blind People, an unincorporated Charity registration number 270331.

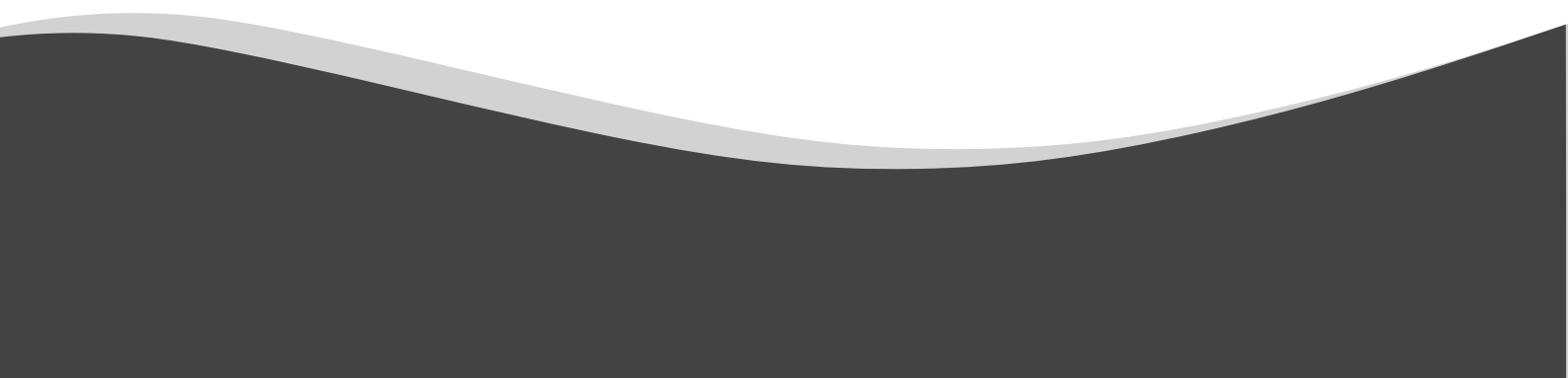


**Vision North Somerset  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024**

This report covers the period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

Vision North Somerset is governed by a constitution, which allows for between four and twelve Trustees. Decisions are made by a majority vote of Trustees present at their meetings. Trustees are elected at the AGM by members present. People with sensory loss are encouraged to serve as Trustees and make an important contribution to our Board; during the year we had three sight impaired Trustees. Officers of the Committee are elected from amongst themselves at the first meeting following the AGM. The Committee has the power to appoint to fill occasional vacancies and anyone so appointed would have full voting rights and hold office until the next AGM, when they are eligible for election.

All Trustees are volunteers and as such benefit from the support of the Vision North Somerset Volunteer Policy, including induction and visual impairment awareness training. Trustees are offered relevant training and networking opportunities.



**Vision North Somerset  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024**

The Trustees who served during the period and since the period end are:

M Bowen appointed 4 July 2023

J Brice (resigned 31 March 2024)

D Burden (resigned August 2023)

K Govind

M Mackle (Chair)

H Morgan (resigned 19 February 2024)

K Morrissey appointed 4 July 2023

S Samad appointed 13 December 2023

S Smith (Treasurer) (resigned 11 October 2024)

As at the year end, the Charity had seven Trustees, which meets constitutional requirements.

All Trustees are aware of their responsibilities in relation to compliance and policy making. Policies, risk management and compliance are regularly reviewed at Trustee meetings and between meetings via email as needed.

**Vision North Somerset  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024**

Day-to-day management of the organisation is the responsibility of the Chief Executive. Regular reports are made by the Chief Executive to the Trustees to ensure they are aware of operational activities. Trustees are responsible for the overall management of the Charity.

**Policies, Procedures and Risk Management**

Vision North Somerset has policies and procedures in place to assist with the operation of the Charity; these include Health and Safety, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Volunteer Disciplinary, Grievance, Safeguarding Children and Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults policies. All are reviewed on a regular schedule.

Vision North Somerset maintains and regularly reviews a risk register to support the management of significant risks. Mitigating actions to avoid or manage risks are recorded by trustees.

**Vision North Somerset  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024**

**Fundraising**

Vision North Somerset undertakes the majority of its fundraising activities in-house and uses a consultant who knows our charity well for the purpose of large grant applications. Vision North Somerset was registered with the Fundraising Regulator during 2024. We adhere to the codes of ethics laid out by the Fundraising Regulator and The Code of Fundraising practice in relation to all fundraising activities. The Charity received no complaints about its fundraising practice in this financial year.



**Vision North Somerset  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024  
Section Four: financial review**

**Reserves Policy Statement**

Vision North Somerset's Reserves Policy (set in June 2022) sets aside two levels of cash reserves to be met by unrestricted funds:

- Tier one: a buffer amount that will allow the organisation to continue to operate if income is unexpectedly reduced.
- Tier Two: a closure amount that will be used if Vision North Somerset ceases activity and closes to allow the organisation to meet essential expenses.

**Actions to deliver the Policy**

At the end of the 2023-24, Vision North Somerset has sufficient reserves to meet the needs of the reserves policy. The Trustees aim to secure financial support sufficient to ensure that the minimum reserves target continues to be met, and that funds are available to cover future capital expenditure or unexpected costs.

**Vision North Somerset  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024**

**Plans for future periods**

**Developing Our Services – what we offer and how we offer it.**

- Review, hone and prioritise our service offering (detailed reviews of the needs of visually impaired children and young people and adults with hearing impairment to be revisited in 1 – 2 years)
- Expand our reach to include more people across North Somerset, especially those outside Weston-super-Mare and younger people with visual impairment. Link to wider community to raise awareness of services available
- Continue to build partnerships with other organisations and strengthen our existing networks

**Building Strong Foundations – long term investment in our organisation.**

- Achieve income growth from different sources to stabilise the organisation and reach more people with our services
- Build a team of outstanding staff and a growing number of volunteers who feel supported and empowered to deliver excellent services
- Review and develop the organisation's structures, processes, policies and systems to ensure that they support excellent service delivery, with an initial focus on outcome measurement, reviewing our database and upgrading the website.

**Vision North Somerset  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024**

**Principal Funding Sources**

Vision North Somerset is primarily funded by grants from trusts, foundations and other sources including grant funding from North Somerset Council.

We are grateful to the individuals, local organisations and businesses who choose to support our vital local work with donations. We thank the visually impaired people and their families who have chosen to leave a gift in their Will or give a gift in memory of a loved one.

The Charity is seeking to grow local fundraising so that it can continue to help the increasing number of local people who come to us for support.



**Vision North Somerset  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024**

During 2023-24 the Charity is grateful for financial support from the following:

- Quartet Community Foundation
- St Monica Trust
- Postcode Local Trust
- Ashwell's Charitable Trust
- Uk Government through the UK Social Prosperity Fund
- Age UK Bristol
- Town and Parish councils including: Yatton Parish Council and Clevedon Parish Council.

North Somerset Council is a significant funder of Vision North Somerset as the Charity delivers some statutory services on behalf of the council. The grant supports specific activities within the scope of our grant agreement and contributes towards operational costs.

**Vision North Somerset**

**Trustees' Report**

**For the Year ended 31 March 2024**

**Statement of Trustees' responsibilities**

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales 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 income and expenditure of the Charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements the Trustees are required to:

**Vision North Somerset  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024**

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and 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/constitution. 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.

Approved by the board on 16 October 2024 and signed  
on their behalf by:



M Mackle Trustee

**Vision North Somerset**  
Independent Examiners' Report to the Trustees  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024

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**Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Vision North Somerset**

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts for Vision North Somerset ("the Charity") for the year ended 31 March 2024.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

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

**Independent examiner's statement**

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

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not comply with these records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the 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 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.



.....  
Michelle Ferris BSc (Hons) FCA DChA  
Albert Goodman LLP  
Goodwood House  
Blackbrook Park Avenue  
Taunton  
Somerset  
TA1 2PX

Dated: 17.10.2024.....

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Vision North Somerset  
Statement of Financial Activities  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	Unre- stricted Funds	Re- stricted Funds	Total 2024	Unre- stricted Funds	Re- stricted Funds	Total 2023
<b>Income from:</b>							
Donations (including grants)	2	35,875	265,102	300,977	37,116	255,921	293,037
Other trading activities	3	16,750	-	16,750	16,477	-	16,477
Income from investments	4	5,152	-	5,152	1,994	-	1,994
<b>Total</b>		<b>57,777</b>	<b>265,102</b>	<b>322,879</b>	<b>55,587</b>	<b>255,921</b>	<b>311,508</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Charitable activities	5	35,616	278,088	313,704	74,654	267,229	341,883
<b>Total</b>		<b>35,616</b>	<b>278,088</b>	<b>313,704</b>	<b>74,654</b>	<b>267,229</b>	<b>341,883</b>
<b>Net income / (expenditure) for the year before transfers</b>		<b>22,161</b>	<b>(12,986)</b>	<b>9,175</b>	<b>(19,067)</b>	<b>(11,308)</b>	<b>(30,375)</b>
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	10,673	(10,673)	-
<b>Other recognised losses:</b>							
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	15	62,067	-	62,067	8,000	-	8,000
<b>Net movements in funds</b>		<b>84,228</b>	<b>(12,986)</b>	<b>71,242</b>	<b>(394)</b>	<b>(21,981)</b>	<b>(22,375)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>							
Fund balances at 1 April		285,886	27,097	312,983	286,280	49,078	335,358
<b>Fund balances at 31 March</b>		<b>370,114</b>	<b>14,111</b>	<b>384,225</b>	<b>285,886</b>	<b>27,097</b>	<b>312,983</b>

The results for the year derive from continuing activities and there are no gains or losses other than those shown above.

Vision North Somerset  
Balance sheet  
As at 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible fixed assets	8	401,963	411,414
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stock		13,722	3,316
Debtors		103	80
Cash at bank and in hand		229,272	212,942
Investments	9	66,000	66,000
		<u>309,097</u>	<u>282,338</u>
<b>Creditors</b>			
Amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>(168,373)</u>	<u>(380,769)</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>140,724</u>	<u>(98,431)</u>
		542,687	312,983
<b>Creditors due more than one year</b>			
Defined benefit pension scheme liabilities	11	<u>(158,462)</u>	-
<b>Total net assets including pension liabilities</b>		<u><u>384,225</u></u>	<u><u>312,983</u></u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	12	370,114	285,886
<b>Restricted funds</b>	12	<u>14,111</u>	<u>27,097</u>
<b>Total funds</b>		<u><u>384,225</u></u>	<u><u>312,983</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 16 October 2024, and signed on their behalf by:

  
.....

M Mackle  
Trustee

## 1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows.

### 1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) (Charities SORP (FRS102)) and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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

### 1.2 Income

Income from grants and donations is recognised in the year in which they are receivable when there is evidence of entitlement, receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Income from government grants and local authorities is recognised when the Charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred. Where no conditions are attached to the grant income they are recognised within donations and legacies and where conditions relating to performance of services are attached, grant income is recognised in income from charitable activities within the Statement of Financial Activities.

Income from other trading activities is included in the period in which the Charity is entitled to receipt, it is probable that economic benefits will flow to the entity and the amount can be reliably measured.

### 1.3 Expenditure

Resources expended are recognised on the accruals basis to match the period in which the expenditure was incurred.

Charitable expenditure comprises costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

### 1.4 Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost or valuation of fixed assets over their estimated useful lives at the following rate:

Freehold property	– 1% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	– 25% straight line

Fixed assets are capitalised where the expenditure incurred is in excess of £500 and the asset purchased is considered to have a long term benefit to the organisation.

## 1.5 Debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for services performed in the ordinary activities of the Charity.

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

Other debtors comprise amounts due from prepayments. Amounts due from prepayments arise from the payments for services prior to benefit from those services.

## 1.6 Cash at bank and in hand

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

## 1.7 Creditors

Creditors 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 are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

## 1.8 Stocks

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

Cost is calculated on a first in, first out basis.

## 1.9 Taxation

Vision North Somerset is a registered Charity and is therefore not liable to corporation tax to the extent that income and gains are applied to charitable purposes.

## 1.10 Investments

Investments are held at fair value determined by the amounts held in National Savings and Investments bonds.

## 1.11 Fund accounting

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

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets this criterion is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

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

## Vision North Somerset Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year ended 31 March 2024

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### 1.12 Local Government Pension Scheme

Retirement benefits to employees of Vision North Somerset are provided by the Avon Pension Fund Local Government Pension Scheme ('LGPS'). This is a multi-employer defined benefit scheme, that is contracted out of State Earnings-Related Pension Scheme ('SERPS'), and the assets are held separately from those at Vision North Somerset.

The LGPS is a funded scheme and the assets are held separately from those of Vision North Somerset in separate trustee administered funds. Pension Scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current the current service cost and gains and losses on settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs. Past service costs are recognised immediately, the costs are recognised over the period until vesting occurs. The expected return on assets and the interest cost are shown as a net finance amount of other finance costs or credit adjacent to interest. Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other gains and losses.

During the ended 31 March 2023, the final entrant in the scheme left the employment of the charity thereby crystallising the scheme at this point. During the year, negotiations have been entered into with the pension provider, and a draft agreement for repayment is in discussion. The balance owing at the year end of £266,400 is included in creditors, split between amounts due in more than and less than one year based on the anticipated repayment scheme.

### 1.13 Defined contribution pension scheme

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme (NEST). A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which fixed contributions (7.5% employer contribution) are paid into a pension fund and the Charity has no legal or contrastive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as staff pension expenses through the SOFA when they are due.

### 1.14 Going concern

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to the events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of the period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements.

The Trustees have concluded that the likelihood is that funding will be available to support the objectives of the Charity and that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. There are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

## 1.15 Financial instruments

The Charity only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and liabilities of the Charity and their measurements are as follows:

Financial assets – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

Cash at bank – is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

Financial liabilities – trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

Vision North Somerset  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024

2 Donations and legacies	Unre- stricted Funds £	Re- stricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Unre- stricted Funds £	Re- stricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
Grant income						
Ian Karten Charitable Trust	-	-	-	-	9,503	9,503
St Monica Trust - Digital	-	35,000	35,000	-	-	-
North Somerset Council Social Services*	-	165,598	165,598	-	164,885	164,885
VANS Chat & Connect	-	-	-	-	4,829	4,829
Thomas Pocklington Trust	-	-	-	-	10,000	10,000
Postcode Local Trust	-	-	-	-	22,423	22,423
Quartet - Volunteering	-	19,280	19,280	-	19,726	19,726
NSC - Social Prescribing Destination*	-	5,000	5,000	-	-	-
UK Social Prescribing Destination	-	10,000	10,000	-	-	-
St Monica - Community Impact	-	16,890	16,890	-	16,581	16,581
Quartet - Resilience fund	-	10,000	10,000	-	-	-
St Monica Trust - Impact Improving	-	3,334	3,334	-	-	-
Tesco - Groundwork UK - Digital	-	-	-	-	500	500
Age UK Bristol - Digital Inclusion	-	-	-	-	1,974	1,974
VANS	-	-	-	-	5,000	5,000
St Monica - Coronation	-	-	-	-	500	500
	-	265,102	265,102	-	255,921	255,921
Donations	35,875	-	35,875	37,116	-	37,116
	<u>35,875</u>	<u>265,102</u>	<u>300,977</u>	<u>37,116</u>	<u>255,921</u>	<u>293,037</u>

\*denotes government funding

Vision North Somerset  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024

3	Other trading activities	Unre- stricted Funds £	Re- stricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Unre- stricted Funds £	Re- stricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
	Other	4,166	-	4,166	947	-	947
	Re-sale equipment	8,614	-	8,614	10,092	-	10,092
	Room hire	3,970	-	3,970	5,438	-	5,438
		<u>16,750</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,750</u>	<u>16,477</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,477</u>
4	Investment income	Unre- stricted Funds £	Re- stricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Unre- stricted Funds £	Re- stricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
	Bank interest receivable	5,152	-	5,152	1,994	-	1,994
5	Direct charitable expenditure	Unre- stricted Funds £	Re- stricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Unre- stricted Funds £	Re- stricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
	Wages and salaries	6,032	214,438	220,470	33,304	195,712	229,016
	Core and operating costs	59,208	10,216	69,424	3,680	58,921	62,601
	Legal and professional	2,027	-	2,027	2,419	9,396	11,815
	Re-sale equipment purchased	731	5,335	6,066	13,425	-	13,425
	Project costs	10,810	4,907	15,717	21,826	3,200	25,026
	Contribution to core costs	(43,192)	43,192	-	-	-	-
		<u>35,616</u>	<u>278,088</u>	<u>313,704</u>	<u>74,654</u>	<u>267,229</u>	<u>341,883</u>
6	Employees			2024 £	2023 £		
	Wages and salaries			198,207	203,495		
	Social security costs			9,606	7,939		
	Pension costs			12,657	17,582		
				<u>220,470</u>	<u>229,016</u>		

Vision North Somerset  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024

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No individual was paid over £60,000 (2023: none).

The average number of employees for the year was as follows:

	2024	2023
Number of staff	10	10

One person is considered key management personnel of the Charity, being the Chief Executive Officer. Total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Charity were £47,325 (2023: £42,572), including employers national insurance and employers pension contributions.

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The charge in the Statement of Financial Activities for the year is shown above. Contributions totalling £nil (2023: £nil) were payable to the schemes at the year end and are included in creditors.

7	Net incoming resources before transfers	2024	2023
		£	£
	This is stated after charging:		
	Depreciation	9,451	9,450
	Accountants remuneration	1,427	1,630
	- independent examination		
	- other	600	1,080

Vision North Somerset  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024

8 Tangible assets

	Freehold property	Fixtures & Fittings	Total
		£	£
<b>Cost</b>			
As at 01.04.2023	425,000	129,824	554,824
Additions	-	-	-
As at 31.03.2024	425,000	129,824	554,824
<b>Depreciation</b>			
As at 01.04.2023	29,762	113,648	143,410
Charge for period	4,252	5,199	9,451
As at 31.03.2024	34,014	118,847	152,861
<b>Net book value</b>			
As at 31.03.2024	390,986	10,977	401,963
As at 31.03.2023	395,238	16,176	411,414

The pension deficit (to a maximum of £200,000) is secured against the property.

9 Investments

	2024 £	2023 £
National Savings Bond investments	66,000	66,000
	66,000	66,000

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	-	-
Accruals & deferred income	56,443	37,835
Other creditors	3,992	2,934
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	107,938	340,000
	<u>168,373</u>	<u>380,769</u>
Deferred income	2024 £	2023 £
Deferred income brought forward	35,000	-
Released in year	(35,000)	-
Deferred in the year	53,416	35,000
	<u>53,416</u>	<u>35,000</u>
Deferred income carried forward	53,416	35,000

Deferred income relates grants received from the St Monica Trust which will start 1 April 2024 or do not meet the criteria for recognition.

11 Creditors: amounts falling due over one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	158,462	-
	<u>158,462</u>	<u>-</u>
Pension scheme liability	2024 £	2023 £
Amounts due < 1 year	107,938	340,000
Amounts due > 1 year	158,462	-
	<u>266,400</u>	<u>340,000</u>
Total pension scheme liability	266,400	340,000

Vision North Somerset  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024

12 Statement of Funds	Balance 01.04.23 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers/ (losses) £	Balance 31.03.24 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
St Monica Trust - Digital	-	35,000	(29,582)	-	5,418
VANS	5,000	-	(5,000)	-	-
UK Social Prescribing Destination	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Postcode Local Trust	7,396	-	(7,396)	-	-
Quartet - Resilience Fund	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
North Somerset Council - Social Prescribing Destination	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Quartet - Volunteering	3,651	19,280	(22,931)	-	-
St Monica Trust - Community Impact	8,616	16,890	(16,813)	-	8,693
St Monica Trust - Coronation	500	-	(500)	-	-
Age UK Bristol - Digital Inclusion	1,934	-	(1,934)	-	-
St Monica - Improving Connections	-	3,334	(3,334)	-	-
North Somerset Council	-	165,598	(165,598)	-	-
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>27,097</b>	<b>265,102</b>	<b>(278,088)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14,111</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Unrestricted funds excluding pension reserve	285,886	57,777	(35,616)	62,067	370,114
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>285,886</b>	<b>57,777</b>	<b>(35,616)</b>	<b>62,067</b>	<b>370,114</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>312,983</b>	<b>322,879</b>	<b>(313,704)</b>	<b>62,067</b>	<b>384,225</b>

Vision North Somerset  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024

	Balance 01.04.22 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers/ (losses) £	Balance 31.03.23 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Ian Karten Centre	-	9,503	(605)	(8,898)	-
VANS Chat & Connect	-	4,829	(4,829)	-	-
VANS	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
The Big Lottery	25,884	-	(25,884)	-	-
Postcode Local Trust	-	22,423	(15,027)	-	7,396
Thomas Pocklington Trust	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Quartet Express Grant	155	-	(155)	-	-
Awards for all	3,639	-	(3,639)	-	-
Quartet - Talking for health	8,567	-	(6,872)	(1,695)	-
Quartet - Volunteering	-	19,726	(16,075)	-	3,651
St Monica Trust - Community Impact	8,411	16,581	(16,376)	-	8,616
St Monica Trust - Coronation	-	500	-	-	500
Age UK Bristol - Digital Inclusion	-	1,974	(40)	-	1,934
Tesco - Groundwork UK - Digital	-	500	(500)	-	-
NSC Infection Control Fund	2,422	-	(2,422)	-	-
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>49,078</b>	<b>255,921</b>	<b>(267,229)</b>	<b>(10,673)</b>	<b>27,097</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Unrestricted funds excluding pension reserve	634,280	55,587	(74,654)	(329,327)	285,886
Pension reserve	(348,000)	-	-	348,000	-
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>286,280</b>	<b>55,587</b>	<b>(74,654)</b>	<b>18,673</b>	<b>285,886</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>335,358</b>	<b>311,508</b>	<b>(341,883)</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>312,983</b>

Vision North Somerset  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024

The purposes for material funds are as follows:

- St Monica Trust – Digital Inclusion – delivering technology advice and training to people with visual impairment and relevant professional partners.
- UK Social Prescribing Destination – developing social support for people with visual impairment.
- Postcode Local Trust – developing and growing social and wellbeing support for people with visual impairment.
- Quartet Resilience Fund – developing the infrastructure and resilience of the charity through training and communications.
- Quartet Community Foundation Volunteering – the development and growth of the volunteering programme.
- St Monica Trust – Community Impact is for delivering peer support and social inclusion activities such as social groups and support groups.
- North Somerset Council – delivering statutory services and a contribution towards essential costs for the charity.
- Ian Karten Centre fund are amounts received for the purchase of information technology assets that will aid the training of the visually impaired. Fund is reduced by the purchase and depreciation of assets.
- The Big Lottery Fund is to fund the ‘In Sight, In Touch’ project providing a suite of services to people with visual impairment.
- Thomas Pocklington Trust – funding to develop a new long-term strategy for the charity.

When fixed assets have been purchased with restricted funds, upon purchase, a transfer has been made from restricted to unrestricted. During the year, this amounted to £0 of fixed assets being purchased using restricted funds (2023: £10,593).

13 Related party transactions

No remuneration has been paid to Trustees during the year (2023: none). No trustees were reimbursed travelling expenses during the year (2023: two - £334).

14 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unre- stricted Funds £	Re- stricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Unre- stricted Funds £	Re- stricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
Tangible assets	401,963	-	401,963	411,414	-	411,414
Net current assets	126,613	14,111	140,724	(125,528)	27,097	(98,431)
Creditors due > 1 year	(158,462)	-	(158,462)	-	-	-
	<u>370,114</u>	<u>14,111</u>	<u>384,225</u>	<u>285,886</u>	<u>27,097</u>	<u>312,983</u>

Vision North Somerset  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the Year ended 31 March 2024

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15 Pension commitments

Some of the Charity's employees belonged to the Local Government Pension Schemes (LGPS) managed by the Avon Pension Fund ("APF").

During the ended 31 March 2023, the final entrant in the scheme left the employment of the charity thereby crystallising the scheme at this point. An amount has been included within creditors due under one year and due in more than one year for the final balance owed which is on a different valuation basis to that of the previous actuarial valuations. There is therefore no actuarial valuation carried out for the scheme as at 31 March 2024 or 31 March 2023.

The pension valuation included in the accounts was an estimated value, which has since been updated to reflect the amount of repayment due under a draft agreement.

	2024	2023
	£	£
Pension scheme liability b/fwd	340,000	348,000
Repayments	(11,533)	-
Revaluation in year	(62,067)	(8,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Pension scheme liability c/fwd	266,400	340,000
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**VISION NORTH SOMERSET**

England & Wales - Charity number 1165364

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# Accounts

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# Vision

## North Somerset



# ANNUAL REPORT

and Financial Statements  
For the Year ended 31 March 2023

Charity Registered in England and Wales  
Number: 1165364

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# Vision North Somerset

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**Trustees**  
**J Brice**  
**D Burden**  
**K Govind**  
**M Mackle (Chair)**  
**H Morgan**

**Chief Executive L Williams**

**Principal Office and Registered Office 3 Neva Road**  
**Weston Super Mare**  
**Somerset**  
**BS23 1YD**

**Bankers Unity Trust Bank**  
**9 Brindley Place**  
**4 Oozells Square**  
**Birmingham**  
**B1 2HB**

**Independent Examiner Michelle Ferris BSc (Hons) FCA DChA**  
**Albert Goodman LLP**  
**Goodwood House**  
**Blackbrook Park Avenue**  
**Taunton**  
**Somerset**  
**TA1 2PX**

# **Welcome**

**Welcome to Vision North Somerset's Annual Report in a year which has seen great changes for our Charity. As we came out of Covid restrictions, we saw an enormous increase in the number of referrals to our services as the NHS returned to running clinics which had been suspended. We are very proud that during the pandemic, when we were not able to provide our usual range of services and locations, we made doorstep visits where possible.**

**We ensured that every one of our 1500 service users, many of whom were struggling with isolation, received regular contact from us to provide reassurance that we were always available to help them in any way possible.**

**We started the year in 2022 by welcoming a new Chief Executive. Over the last twelve months we have reviewed and developed our way of delivering services and bedded in a new structure to take us forward where, in addition to our rehabilitation, registration and information services, we have restructured and extended our befriending, peer support and digital learning services.**

**These are all vital to provide inclusion and give confidence to our service users.**





**We are very proud that we retain the grant to provide the services which North Somerset Council is required to provide for sight and hearing impaired people in North Somerset.**

Apart from this grant we are entirely reliant on charitable donations to provide our services. We are very grateful to the generous trusts and individual donors who support our work; without them we would not be able to provide the vital services to support the people with sensory impairment in North Somerset.

The wider economic climate is, and will continue to be, challenging and fundraising is a concern for us, as it is for all in the charity sector. Despite the challenges, we go forward with optimism knowing we have a superb staff team, supported by our generous volunteers, who are determined to deliver the very best care and support for all our visually impaired and hard of hearing service users.

**Marie Mackle – Chair of Trustees**  
**[trustees@visionns.org.uk](mailto:trustees@visionns.org.uk)**



**Vision North Somerset  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2023**

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2023. The provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP FRS 102 – implemented 1 January 2019) have been adopted in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the Charity.

**Structure, Governance and  
Management**

Vision North Somerset is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered with the Charity Commission in February 2016. The Charity was set up to replace Woodspring Association for Blind People, an unincorporated Charity registration number 270331.

**This report covers the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.**

Vision North Somerset is governed by a constitution, which allows for between 4 and 12 Trustees. Decisions are made by a majority vote of Trustees present at board meetings. Trustees are elected at the AGM by members present.

Nominations are sought prior to the meeting from members. People with sensory loss are encouraged to serve as Trustees and make an important contribution to our board; at present we have one Trustee who is sight impaired and one who is sight impaired and hearing impaired.

Officers of the Trustee Board are elected from amongst themselves at the first meeting following the AGM. The Board has the power to appoint to fill occasional vacancies and anyone so appointed would have full voting rights and hold office until the next AGM, where they are eligible for election.



## **The Trustees**

All Trustees are volunteers and as such benefit from the support of the Vision North Somerset Volunteer Policy, including induction and visual impairment awareness training. External training opportunities are accessed where appropriate.

The Trustees who served during the period and since the period end are:

**J Brice**

**D Burden (appointed December 2022 & resigned August 2023)**

**K Govind**

**M Mackle (Chair)**

**H Morgan**

**J Campbell (resigned April 2022)**

**S Pinnock (resigned April 2022)**



As at the year end, the Charity had five trustees, which meets the constitution requirements. After a recruitment drive, two further trustees were recruited in 2023.

All Trustees are aware of their responsibilities in relation to compliance and policy making. Policies, risk management and compliance are regularly reviewed at Trustee meetings and between meetings via email as needed.

Day to day management of the organisation is the responsibility of the Chief Executive. Regular reports are made to the Trustees to ensure they are up to date with operational activities. Trustees are responsible for the overall management of the Charity. Where needed, Sub Committees are set up to explore specific issues in depth, reporting to the Trustee board to facilitate informed decision making.

## Procedures and Policies

Vision North Somerset has policies and procedures in place to assist with the operation of the Charity; these include Health and Safety, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Volunteer Policy, Disciplinary, Grievance, Safeguarding Children and Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults. Policies are reviewed on a regular schedule.

Vision North Somerset maintains and regularly reviews a risk register to support the management of significant risks. Mitigating actions to avoid or manage risks are recorded.

The objects of the Charity are:

**The prevention and alleviation of the effects of blindness and impaired vision and hearing loss.**



## **Summary of services and activities**

Vision North Somerset offers a holistic suite of services and activities to people with visual impairment and a hearing equipment service.

Our activities focus on key areas for people with visual impairment:

- Individual support (information, advice and guidance based on a needs assessment)
- Aids and equipment
- Vision rehabilitation
- Social support (social groups and telephone befriending)
- Digital support (training and support to use the internet mobile phones and assistive technology)



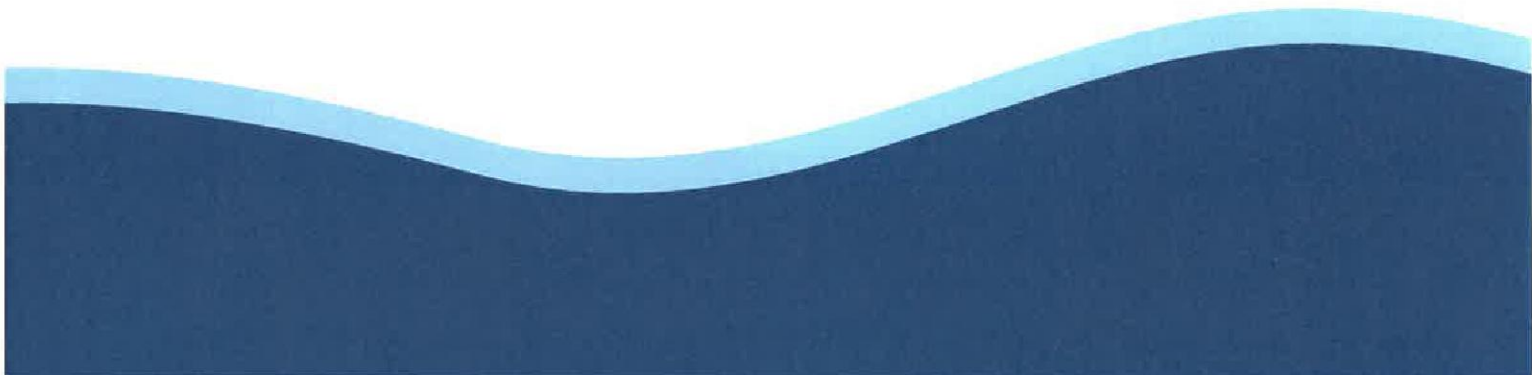
We administer the **Registration** process for people with visual impairment on behalf of North Somerset Council after they have been Certified Visually Impaired by an Ophthalmologist.

The **hearing equipment service** offers impartial assessments, advice, and training around equipment in the home to help people maximise their independence. Equipment can then be fitted in the home by our Hearing Officer, if required.

### **Public benefit statement**

The Trustees are aware of their duty to have regard for the Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit in the exercise of their powers and duties and they take this into account in their decision making. This annual report describes activities undertaken this year to meet Vision North Somerset's charitable purpose.

Trustees are clear about who can benefit from the Charity's activities. People using Vision North Somerset's services must have low vision or be blind or partially sighted or be deaf or hard of hearing. Vision North Somerset works with families, carers and health and social care professionals supporting people who fit into the categories above.



## Achievements and performance

### Summary

Vision North Somerset is the local sight loss Charity for North Somerset, providing community based, practical and emotional support for visually impaired people, many of whom are older and have multiple health issues. In 2022-23 **we helped 325 visually impaired people** from babies to people in their 90s. We also **helped 260 hearing impaired or deaf people** with our hearing equipment service. A proportion of our service users will have both hearing loss and sight loss – more likely as people age.

We often support people for years with a range of services as needed. During 2022-23 we provided over **966 individual service interventions** to people with a visual impairment or hearing impairment.

At the end of the financial year, Vision North Somerset employed 7.7 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff over 11 roles with most staff members working part-time.



## **A service in demand**

Demand for our services was high and growing during 2022-23 due to a range of factors including the ageing population of our area, the cost-of-living crisis, the lingering effects of the pandemic and pressures on NHS and statutory services. As a well-connected local Charity in a small unitary authority with few local charities, Vision North Somerset provides a lifeline for many. We not only offer direct support but also advise on and refer to other local services.

**“If I didn’t know I could get you on the end of the phone, I would be petrified. I don’t say I rely on you, but you’re always there.” Mary**



## **Service re-development during 2022**

In June 2022 Vision North Somerset faced **the end of funding from two different grants**, totalling over a third of our income. Despite significant fundraising achievements, we were unable to sustain the staffing funded by these grants, so we had to reduce the number of roles in the Charity.

As a result of the changes in Vision North Somerset's income and learnings from the three-year grant funded project, we re-designed some of the services to be more efficient and empowering. We have ceased some activities which were previously offered for example, funded counselling sessions. Where we have had to reduce services, we refer to other local services for support.

Changes to services were led by feedback from people with visual impairment, for example the technology service re-design was based on the results of a survey of people on the technology training waiting list. We have taken inspiration from the experiences of other charities within the sight loss sector. Social and support groups have been co-produced with visually impaired people and volunteers – many of whom are visually impaired themselves.

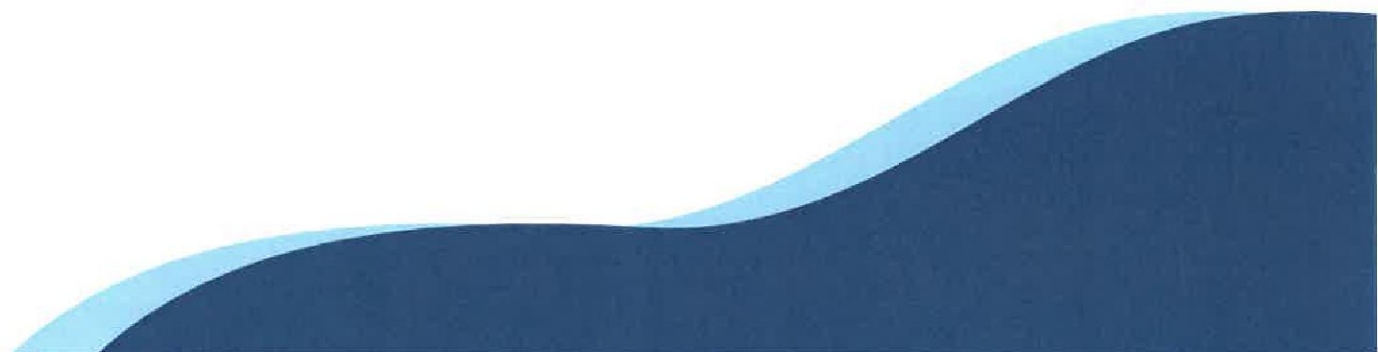


**Our aim in all service design is to empower people and move them towards independence within a supportive community.**

### **New strategy development**

The previous Vision North Somerset strategy ended in 2022. After the pandemic and the changes at the Charity, we felt that the time was right to undertake a significant consultation with our stakeholders to guide our new strategy. Working with an experienced consultant, during late 2022 and early 2023 we undertook a range of activities including:

- A research review including local and national statistics and demographics, research on the needs and desires of people with visual impairment and hearing impairment.
- Online, paper and telephone surveys with people with visual impairment, hearing impairment, volunteers and local professionals working with us.
- Staff workshops.
- Two workshops with staff, local people with visual impairment or hearing impairment and local professionals.



The new 5-year strategy is due to be completed and communicated during 2023. It will be reviewed annually to account for the volatile situation in England and in the charity sector.

## **Achievements – Services**

### **Help to adjust – Individual Support, aids and equipment**

An experienced staff member visits people in their homes, generally in the early stages of sight loss, or when they are referred to us. The purpose of the visit is to assess the person's individual needs and provide tailored information, advice and guidance. Visits take about an hour and cover issues such as the home environment, risks such as falls or burns, living skills, personal care, and wellbeing.


Assessment often results in referral to other Vision North Somerset services such as Vision Rehabilitation, Social Support or Hearing equipment. We work closely with external organisations, providing referrals or joint working, for example Occupational Therapists (for people at risk of falling), local housing associations, Woodspring Talking Newspaper, dementia support, community transport, the Stroke team and many more.




Our staff briefly discuss aids and equipment in their first visit. People are then able to access our specialist equipment at any time. They visit our well-equipped Resource Centre, or we can visit them at home if needed for them to try out aids and receive personalised advice.

We receive Certificates of Visual Impairment from Hospital Ophthalmology services and manage the Registration process. This includes issuing people with a Registration card and informing people of the benefits of Registration.

In 2022-23 we provided **assessments, information, and advice for 225 people** through a mixture of home visits, telephone calls, and visits to our Resource Centre.



“When I was first diagnosed at Bristol Eye Hospital, Vision North Somerset were the first on the scene. The help was incredible. The white lights were the main thing – in the kitchen where I can do some chopping. I got these wonderful sunglasses; they helped me do gardening.”



## Help to get about and with daily living – Vision Rehabilitation

Our experienced Vision Rehabilitation Specialist helps people to regain independence after sight loss, whether being able to use public transport or use their cooker safely to prepare a meal. People receive a comprehensive mobility assessment and a plan with regular (usually weekly) training sessions to build confidence, skills, and safety. Unlike many parts of the UK, we are proud to be able to offer first appointments within two-three weeks of first request. Our support is based on need, rather than being time-limited as is required by the 2019 Vision Rehabilitation Standards ‘See, Plan and Provide’.

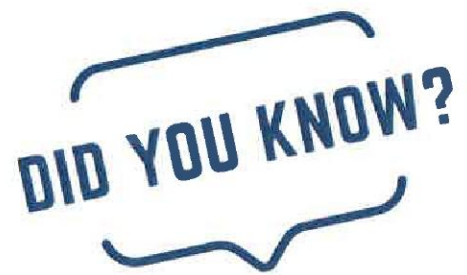
Our Vision Rehabilitation Specialist can also offer functional low vision appointments focussing on lighting and magnification to make the best use of remaining vision.

In 2022-23 we provided **288 rehab sessions** or low vision appointments.



“Staff very helpful -  
supplying aids, lighting -  
home visits -  
recommending  
equipment”.

## Help to stay in touch - Social Support



Research shows that blind and partially sighted people may be particularly vulnerable to loneliness, anxiety, and depression. During the Covid years (2020-2022), many of our service users became even more isolated. Vision North Somerset's peer support work aims to ensure that visually impaired people have regular opportunities to meet each other to share experiences and opportunities to link into community activities.

Recognising how difficult it can be for visually impaired people to travel, we provided **social groups in local communities**. Members meet in person for coffee, lunch, or around a shared interest such as swimming or reading (using audio books). Groups are facilitated by sighted and visually impaired volunteers with light-touch support from our staff.



Those unable to get out and about are encouraged to join one of our **phone groups**. Using a specialist telephone conferencing system, people join a regular call around a theme or mutual interest such as the creative arts, or using technology, sharing ideas and experiences.

In addition to the groups, we have a **Befriending Service**, where sighted and visually impaired volunteers are trained, and then carefully matched to visually impaired people at high risk of isolation. Befrienders visit or connect by phone weekly, our staff keep in touch with both parties to ensure that it's a positive and mutually beneficial experience.



We also trialled a four week online 'Living with Sight Loss' course delivered in partnership with RNIB. The course covers basic information about visual impairment, services, and support available from health care, social care and the third sector and more.

**During 2022-23 we had 6 in-person social groups and 4 phone groups, with 73 visually impaired people attending one or more group. 9 people were matched to Befrienders.**

"I'd be climbing the walls without these groups".

"I thought I was the only person with sight loss in this area, so nice to find out I'm not the only one."

"Meeting people has been so important."




## **Help to get connected – Technology Support**

There is huge potential for digital technology such as smart phones to help visually impaired people live more independently. However, people with sight loss are often unable to use standard technology, either because they can't see well enough or because they are older and have never learned.

Our technology advice and training service, helps people learn skills and use accessibility features and specialist equipment for tasks such as online banking and shopping. We help people access everyday activities like social media, reading, using a smart TV, Alexa, email and word processing.

Activities include one to one training, group support and talks workshops hosted by local libraries throughout North Somerset.

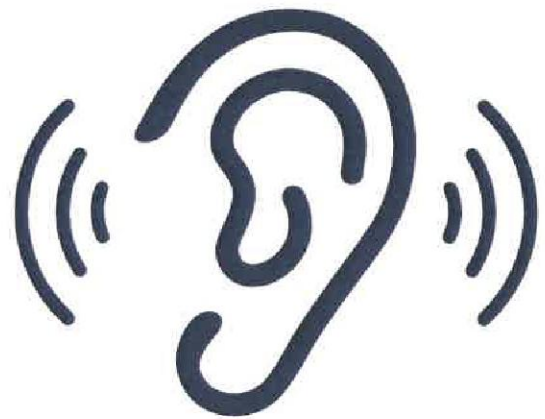
Last year, **282 people** benefited from technology support. The life changing benefits that come with being able to use a device to get online, communicate, access services and information have led to high demand, and we expect this project to grow significantly in 2023-24.



"I text all my family now, especially my grandchildren. It's lovely keeping in touch because I'm on my own."

## **Help for hard-of-hearing - Hearing equipment service**

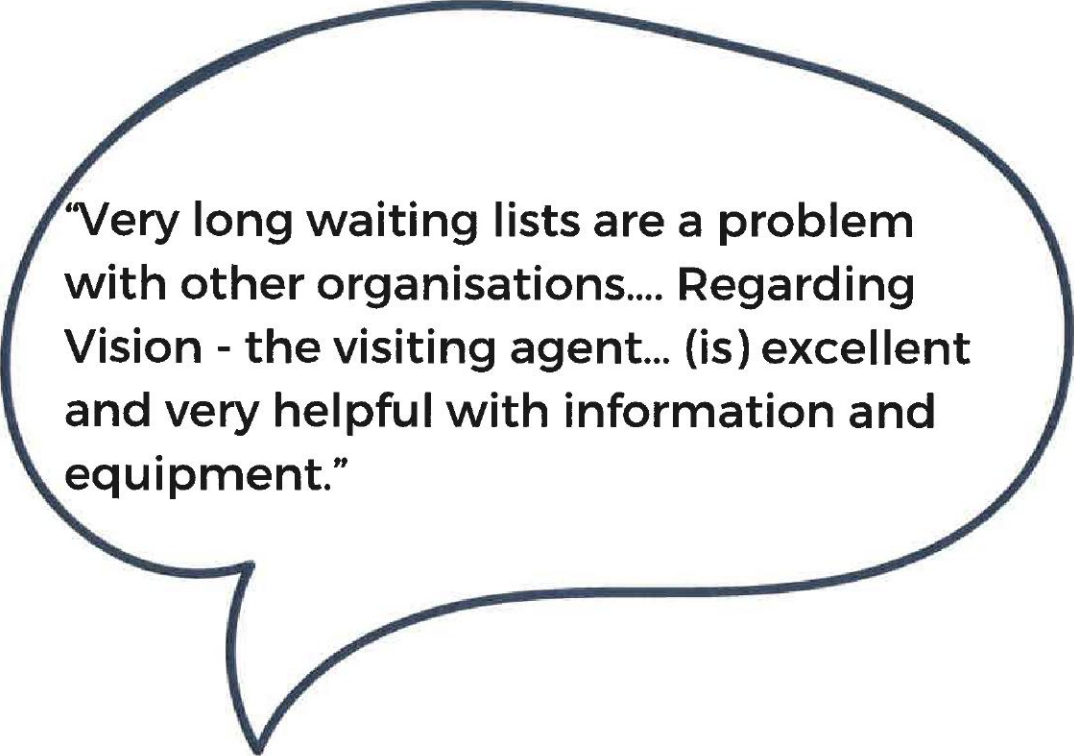
People with a hearing impairment are at high risk of social isolation, poor mental health and developing dementia, which can lead to increased care needs. Our hearing equipment service helps people maintain independence, pursue leisure activities and sustain social connections.



Our experienced hearing equipment officer visits people at home to provide personalised advice on the appropriate equipment for each person such as doorbells, telephones and devices to help people hear the television. He provides referrals to the Fire Service regarding fire alarms. He fits the equipment and trains people in using it, for example explaining how to use Bluetooth technology to people who have no prior experience.



Our hearing service works closely with the local Social Worker for the Deaf, supporting a monthly hard-of-hearing social group in our meeting room. We also liaise with hospital audiology departments and high street audiology, as well as providing awareness talks and personalised advice about hearing loops to local organisations.



“Very long waiting lists are a problem with other organisations... Regarding Vision - the visiting agent... (is) excellent and very helpful with information and equipment.”



## **Financial Review**

The year end funds of the Charity had decreased by £22,375 (including a pension adjustment of £8,000) to £312,983, of which £285,886 (2022 - £286,280) were unrestricted, £27,097 (2022 - £49,078) were restricted. The Charity's free reserves at the year end have decreased by £9,537 to £214,472.

Free reserves are calculated as net current assets held within unrestricted funds and excluding the pension reserve and fixed assets.

During the year ended 31 March 2023, the final entrant in the pension scheme left the employment of the Charity thereby crystallising the scheme at this point. At the date of approval of the accounts, the final funded balance due on the scheme is as yet uncalculated by the Scheme Actuary and therefore the most reliable estimate available of the balance owed has been included. This balance of £340,000 is included within creditors due within one year as repayment terms for the amount owed have not yet been agreed. The property at 3 Neva Road is secured against this debt. Repayment terms will be discussed and agreed as soon as possible and may include repayment over the long term.



## **Reserves Policy Statement**

Vision North Somerset's reserves policy sets aside two levels of cash reserves to be met by unrestricted funds:

- A buffer amount that will allow the organisation to continue to operate whilst income is reduced.
- A closure amount that will be used if Vision North Somerset ceases activity and closes to allow the organisation to meet essential expenses.

Tier one is set at three months' operating costs. Tier two is calculated as the costs to cover an additional three months' salaries, plus statutory redundancy payments. This fund will be used in the event of Vision North Somerset ceasing operations.

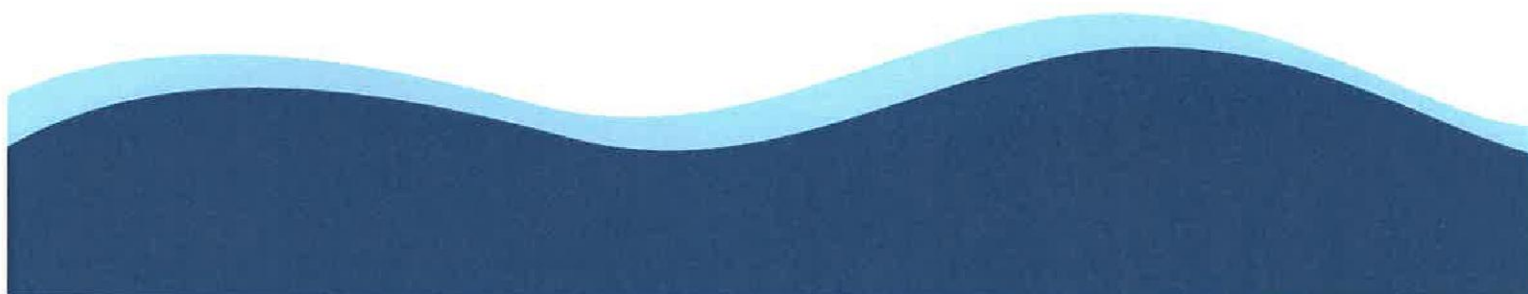


## **Actions to deliver the policy**

A reserve of £35,000 was held to cover notice periods with a further £66,000 held to fund the expected Local Government Pension Scheme deficit. Redundancy costs and the demands of creditors would be met from the sale of the assets of the organisation, including the premises at 3 Neva Road.

The reserves policy was updated in August 2022 to respond to the changing economic climate, guidance from trust funders and The Charity Commission. Vision North Somerset now operates a two-tier reserves policy with Tier 1 supporting the Charity through periods of reduced income, and Tier 2 supporting staff salaries and redundancy costs if liquidation was required. Details will be updated for the next annual report and are available on request. The reserve policy now covers almost six months of the Charity's running costs.

The Trustees aim to secure financial support sufficient to ensure that the minimum reserves target continues to be met, and that funds are available to cover future capital expenditure or unexpected costs.



Vision North Somerset has worked with people with sight or hearing loss, partner organisations, staff and volunteers and learned from local and national research to create a new **five-year strategy**. The key pillars of this strategy are four priorities around service delivery and one around organisational development.

- **Connect** - We will provide opportunities for people to come together with others in similar situations and with the wider community
- **Inform** – we will support people to access the information, advice, and guidance they need, when and how they need it.
- **Enable** – we will support people to develop or rebuild the skills they need to maintain their independence and live the way they choose.
- **Empower** – we will work with local and national partners to support people to make their voices heard and to raise awareness on issues that matter to them.
- **Build On Our Strong Foundations** –we will continue to develop a well-funded and managed organisation to support the delivery of high-quality services to support local people

**For 2024-25 the focus will be on continuing to deliver excellent support for local people and on increasing and diversifying our funding so that we are able to reach more people with more support in future years.**

Vision North Somerset is primarily funded by grants from trusts, foundations and other sources including statutory funding. We are also grateful to the individuals, local organisations and small businesses who choose to support our vital local work.

The Charity is grateful for financial support from the following:

- Ian Karten Charitable trust
- Quartet Community Foundation
- National Lottery Awards for All
- Thomas Pocklington Trust
- St Monica Trust
- Voluntary Action North Somerset
- Age UK Bristol
- Postcode Local Trust
- Ashwell's Charitable Trust
- Waitrose Community Foundation (Weston-Super-Mare)
- Tesco
- Town and Parish Councils including - Churchill, Yatton and Clevedon

North Somerset Council is a significant funder of Vision North Somerset. Its grant supports specific activities within the scope of our agreement and makes a contribution to operational costs.

## **Statement of Trustees' responsibilities**

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales 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 income and expenditure of the Charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable 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 maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and 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/constitution. 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.

Approved by the board on .....20<sup>th</sup> November 2023..... and signed on their behalf by:

*M. Mackle*  
.....

**M Mackle**  
**Trustee**



## **Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Vision North Somerset**

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts for Vision North Somerset ("the Charity") for the year ended 31 March 2023.

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

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

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

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

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



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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not comply with these records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the 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.

**Emphasis of matter**

I draw your attention to note 1.12 which sets out the basis on which the balance owed on crystallisation of the local government pension scheme has been accounted for. There is significant uncertainty with regards to the amount and timing of this payment. My report is not modified in respect of this matter.

I have no other 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.

**Michelle Ferris BSc (Hons) FCA DChA  
Albert Goodman LLP  
Goodwood House  
Blackbrook Park Avenue  
Taunton  
Somerset  
TA1 2PX**

**Dated: .....**

**Vision North Somerset  
Statement of Financial Activities**

## Statement of Financial Activities year end March 31st 2023


	Notes	Unre- stricted Funds	Re- stricted Funds	Total 2023	Unre- stricted Funds	Re- stricted Funds	Total 2022
<b>Income from:</b>							
Donations (including grants)	2	37,116	255,921	293,037	36,246	336,956	373,202
Other trading activities	3	16,477	-	16,477	24,435	-	24,435
Income from investments	4	1,994	-	1,994	181	-	181
<b>Total</b>		<b>55,587</b>	<b>255,921</b>	<b>311,508</b>	<b>60,862</b>	<b>336,956</b>	<b>397,818</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Charitable activities	5	74,654	267,229	341,883	24,733	295,256	319,989
<b>Total</b>		<b>74,654</b>	<b>267,229</b>	<b>341,883</b>	<b>24,733</b>	<b>295,256</b>	<b>319,989</b>
<b>Net income / (expenditure) for the year before transfers</b>		<b>(19,067)</b>	<b>(11,308)</b>	<b>(30,375)</b>	<b>36,129</b>	<b>41,700</b>	<b>77,829</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>		<b>10,673</b>	<b>(10,673)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,571</b>	<b>(11,571)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Other recognised losses:</b>							
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	14	8,000	-	8,000	68,000	-	68,000
<b>Net movements in funds</b>		<b>(394)</b>	<b>(21,981)</b>	<b>(22,375)</b>	<b>115,700</b>	<b>30,129</b>	<b>145,829</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>							
Fund balances at 1 April		286,280	49,078	335,358	170,580	18,949	189,529
Fund balances at 31 March		285,886	27,097	312,983	286,280	49,078	335,358

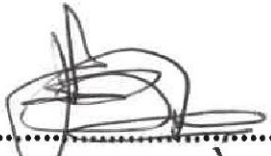
The results for the year derive from continuing activities and there are no gains or losses other than those shown above.

**Balance Sheet**

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible fixed assets	8	411,414	410,271
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stock		3,316	7,110
Debtors		80	-
Cash at bank and in hand		212,942	207,501
Investments	9	66,000	66,000
		<u>282,338</u>	<u>280,611</u>
<b>Creditors</b>			
Amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>(380,769)</u>	<u>(7,524)</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>(98,431)</u>	<u>273,087</u>
<b>Net assets excluding pension liabilities</b>		<u>312,983</u>	<u>683,358</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liabilities		<u>-</u>	<u>(348,000)</u>
<b>Total net assets including pension liabilities</b>		<u>312,983</u>	<u>335,358</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
Unrestricted funds excluding pension reserve	11	285,886	634,280
Pension reserve		-	(348,000)
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>		<u>285,886</u>	<u>286,280</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>	11	<u>27,097</u>	<u>49,078</u>
<b>Total funds</b>		<u>312,983</u>	<u>335,358</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on  
 20<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

  
 .....  
**M Mackle**  
 Trustee

  
 .....  
**J Brice**  
 Trustee

## **1 Accounting policies**

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows.

### **1.1 Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) (Charities SORP (FRS102)) and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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

### **1.2 Income**

Income from grants and donations is recognised in the year in which they are receivable when there is evidence of entitlement, receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.



Income from government grants and local authorities is recognised when the Charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred. Where no conditions are attached to the grant income they are recognised within donations and legacies and where conditions relating to performance of services are attached, grant income is recognised in income from charitable activities within the Statement of Financial Activities.

Income from other trading activities is included in the period in which the Charity is entitled to receipt, it is probable that economic benefits will flow to the entity and the amount can be reliably measured.

### **1.3 Expenditure**

Resources expended are recognised on the accruals basis to match the period in which the expenditure was incurred.

Charitable expenditure comprises costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost or valuation of fixed assets over their estimated useful lives at the following rate:

Freehold property - 1% straight line

Fixtures and fittings - 25% straight line

Fixed assets are capitalised where the expenditure incurred is in excess of £500 and the asset purchased is considered to have a long term benefit to the organisation.

#### **1.4 Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost or valuation of fixed assets over their estimated useful lives at the following rate:

#### **1.5 Debtors**

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for services performed in the ordinary activities of the Charity.

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

Other debtors comprise amounts due from prepayments. Amounts due from prepayments arise from the payments for services prior to benefit from those services.

#### **1.6 Cash at bank and in hand**

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

## **1.7 Creditors**

Creditors 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 are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

## **1.8 Stocks**

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

Cost is calculated on a first in, first out basis.

## **1.9 Taxation**

Vision North Somerset is a registered Charity and is therefore not liable to corporation tax to the extent that income and gains are applied to charitable purposes.

## **1.10 Investments**

Investments are held at fair value determined by the amounts held in National Savings and Investments bonds.



## **1.11 Fund accounting**

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

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets this criterion is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

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

## **1.12 Local Government Pension Scheme**

Retirement benefits to employees of Vision North Somerset are provided by the Avon Pension Fund Local Government Pension Scheme ('LGPS'). This is a multi-employer defined benefit scheme, that is contracted out of State Earnings-Related Pension Scheme ('SERPS'), and the assets are held separately from those at Vision North Somerset.



The LGPS is a funded scheme and the assets are held separately from those of Vision North Somerset in separate trustee administered funds. Pension Scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service cost, gains and losses on settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs. Past service costs are recognised immediately, the costs are recognised over the period until vesting occurs. The expected return on assets and the interest cost are shown as a net finance amount of other finance costs or credit adjacent to interest. Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other gains and losses.

During the year ended 31 March 2023, the final entrant in the scheme left the employment of the Charity thereby crystallising the scheme at this point. At the date of approval of the accounts, the final funded balance due on the scheme is yet uncalculated by the scheme actuary and therefore the most reliable estimate available of the balance owed has been included. This balance of £340,000 is included within creditors due within one year as repayment terms for the amount owed have not yet been agreed.

### **1.13 Defined contribution scheme**

In addition to the LPGS, the charity also operates a defined contribution pension scheme (NEST) for those not entitled to join the LPGS. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which fixed contributions (7.5% employer contribution) are paid into the pension fund and the charity has no legal or contrastive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods. contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as staff pension expenses through the SOFA when they are due.

### **1.14 Going concern**

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to the events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of the period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements.

The Trustees have concluded that the likelihood is that funding will be available to support the objectives of the Charity and that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. There are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

## **1.15 Financial instruments**

The Charity only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and liabilities of the Charity and their measurements are as follows:

Financial assets – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

Cash at bank – is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

Financial liabilities – trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.



2 Donations and legacies	Unre- stricted Funds £	Re- stricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Unre- stricted Funds £	Re- stricted Funds £	Total 2022 £
<b>Grant income</b>						
Ian Karten Charitable Trust	-	9,503	9,503	-	-	-
The Big Lottery	-	-	-	-	114,084	114,084
North Somerset Council Social Services*	-	164,885	164,885	-	165,600	165,600
VANS Chat & Connect	-	4,829	4,829	-	-	-
Thomas Pocklington Trust	-	10,000	10,000	-	-	-
Postcode Local Trust	-	22,423	22,423	-	-	-
Quartet Volunteering	-	19,726	19,726	-	-	-
NSC - Infection Control Fund*	-	-	-	-	3,000	3,000
St Monica Peer Support	-	16,581	16,581	-	19,789	19,789
Quartet - Talking for health	-	-	-	-	19,683	19,683
Quartet Express	-	-	-	-	4,900	4,900
Awards for All - Helping each other	-	-	-	-	9,900	9,900
Tesco - Groundwork	-	-	-	-	-	-
UK - Digital	-	500	500	-	-	-
Age UK Bristol -	-	-	-	-	-	-
Digital Inclusion	-	1,974	1,974	-	-	-
VANS	-	5,000	5,000	-	-	-
St Monica Trust	-	-	-	-	-	-
Coronation	-	500	500	-	-	-
	-	255,921	255,921	-	336,956	336,956
Donations	37,116	-	37,116	36,246	-	36,246
	37,116	255,921	293,037	36,246	336,956	373,202

\*denotes local government funding

<b>3 Other trading activities</b>	<b>Unre- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Re- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>	<b>Unre- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Re- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2022 £</b>
Other	947	-	947	6,602	-	6,602
Re-sale equipment	10,092	-	10,092	16,073	-	16,073
Room hire	5,438	-	5,438	1,760	-	1,760
	<u>16,477</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,477</u>	<u>24,435</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,435</u>

<b>4 Investment Income</b>	<b>Unre- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Re- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>	<b>Unre- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Re- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2022 £</b>
Bank interest receivable	<u>1,994</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,994</u>	<u>181</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>181</u>

<b>5 Direct charitable expenditure</b>	<b>Unre- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Re- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>	<b>Unre- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Re- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2022 £</b>
Wages and salaries	33,304	195,712	229,016	7,296	229,064	236,360
Core and operating costs	3,680	58,921	62,601	10,782	36,174	46,956
Legal and professional	2,419	9,396	11,815	-	6,343	6,343
Re-sale equipment purchased	13,425	-	13,425	13,409	-	13,409
Project costs	21,826	3,200	25,026	6,766	10,155	16,921
Contribution to core costs	-	-	-	(13,520)	13,520	-
	<u>74,654</u>	<u>267,229</u>	<u>341,883</u>	<u>24,733</u>	<u>295,256</u>	<u>319,989</u>

<b>6 Employees</b>	<b>2023 £</b>	<b>2022 £</b>
Wages and salaries	191,237	196,027
Social security costs	7,939	7,316
Pension costs (note 14)	29,840	33,017
	<u>229,016</u>	<u>236,360</u>

No individual was paid over £60,000 (2022: none).

The average number of employees for the year was as follows:

One person is considered key management personnel of the Charity, being the Chief Executive Officer & Interim Chief Executive Officer. Total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Charity were £42,572 (2022: £32,578), including employers national insurance and employers pension contributions.

The Charity operates both defined benefit and defined contribution pension schemes. The charge in the Statement of Financial Activities for the year is shown above. Contributions totalling £nil (2022: £nil) were payable to the schemes at the year end and are included in creditors. Further details of the defined benefit scheme are given in note 14.

<b>7</b>	<b>Net incoming resources before transfers</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	This is stated after charging:		
	Depreciation	9,450	11,016
	Accountants remuneration		
	- independent examination	1,630	1,500
	- other	1,080	1,080
		<hr/>	<hr/>

**8 Tangible assets**

	<b>Freehold property</b>	<b>Fixtures &amp; Fittings</b>	<b>Total</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cost</b>			
As at 01.04.2022	425,000	119,231	544,231
Additions	-	10,593	10,593
<b>As at 31.03.2023</b>	<b>425,000</b>	<b>129,824</b>	<b>554,824</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
As at 01.04.2022	25,510	108,450	133,960
Charge for period	4,252	5,198	9,450
<b>As at 31.03.2023</b>	<b>29,762</b>	<b>113,648</b>	<b>143,410</b>
<b>Net book value</b>			
As at 31.03.2023	395,238	16,176	411,414
As at 31.03.2022	399,490	10,781	410,271

The pension deficit (to a maximum of £200,000) is secured against the property.

**9 Investments**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
National Savings Bond investments	66,000	66,000
	<b>66,000</b>	<b>66,000</b>

**10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade creditors	-	1,890
Accruals & deferred income	37,835	2,580
Other creditors	2,934	3,054
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	340,000	-
	<u>380,769</u>	<u>7,524</u>
<b>Deferred income</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Deferred income brought forward	-	-
Released in year	-	-
Deferred in the year	35,000	-
	<u>35,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Deferred income carried forward	<u>35,000</u>	<u>-</u>

**Deferred income relates to a grant received from the St Monica Trust - Digital inclusion which will start 1 April 2023.**

11 Statement of Funds	Balance 01.04.22 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers/ (losses) £	Balance 31.03.23 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Ian Karten Centre	-	9,503	(605)	(8,898)	-
North Somerset Council Social Services	-	164,885	(164,805)	(80)	-
VANS Chat & Connect	-	4,829	(4,829)	-	-
VANS	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
The Big Lottery	25,884	-	(25,884)	-	-
Postcode Local Trust	-	22,423	(15,027)	-	7,396
Thomas Pocklington Trust	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Quartet Express Grant Awards for all	155 3,639	-	(155) (3,639)	-	-
Quartet - Talking for health	8,567	-	(6,872)	(1,695)	-
Quartet - Volunteering	-	19,726	(16,075)	-	3,651
St Monica Trust - Peer Support	8,411	16,581	(16,376)	-	8,616
St Monica Trust - Coronation	-	500	-	-	500
Age UK Bristol - Digital Inclusion	-	1,974	(40)	-	1,934
Tesco - Groundwork UK - Digital	-	500	(500)	-	-
NSC Infection Control Fund	2,422	-	(2,422)	-	-
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>49,078</b>	<b>255,921</b>	<b>(267,229)</b>	<b>(10,673)</b>	<b>27,097</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Unrestricted funds excluding pension reserve	634,280	55,587	(74,654)	(329,327)	285,886
Pension reserve	(348,000)	-	-	348,000	-
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>286,280</b>	<b>55,587</b>	<b>(74,654)</b>	<b>18,673</b>	<b>285,886</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>335,358</b>	<b>311,508</b>	<b>(341,883)</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>312,983</b>

	Balance 01.04.21 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers/ (losses) £	Balance 31.03.22 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Ian Karten Centre	2,819	-	(2,819)	-	-
North Somerset Council Social Services	-	165,600	(165,600)	-	-
Quartet Community Foundation (Digital Profile)	873	-	(873)	-	-
The Big Lottery	12,136	114,084	(98,566)	(1,770)	25,884
National Lottery Awards	2,542	-	(2,542)	-	-
Thomas Pocklington Trust	579	-	(579)	-	-
Quartet Express Grant	-	4,900	-	(4,745)	155
Awards for all	-	9,900	(6,261)	-	3,639
Quartet - Talking for health	-	19,683	(10,292)	(824)	8,567
St Monica Trust	-	19,789	(7,146)	(4,232)	8,411
NSC Infection Control Fund	-	3,000	(578)	-	2,422
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>18,949</b>	<b>336,956</b>	<b>(295,256)</b>	<b>(11,571)</b>	<b>49,078</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Unrestricted funds excluding pension reserve	580,580	60,862	(18,733)	11,571	634,280
Pension reserve	(410,000)	-	(6,000)	68,000	(348,000)
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>170,580</b>	<b>60,862</b>	<b>(24,733)</b>	<b>79,571</b>	<b>286,280</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>189,529</b>	<b>397,818</b>	<b>(319,989)</b>	<b>68,000</b>	<b>335,358</b>

**The purposes for material funds are as follows:**

- Ian Karten Centre fund are amounts received for the purchase of information technology assets that will aid the training of visually impaired people. Fund is reduced by the purchase and depreciation of assets.
- The Social Services fund is the North Somerset Council grant for the sensory impairment service offered by Vision North Somerset.
- The Big Lottery is to fund the 'in sight, in touch' project as mentioned in detail in the Trustees' Report.
- National Lottery Awards for All is for staff and volunteer training costs to be able to better support service users.
- Thomas Pocklington Trust – to support the development of a new multi-year strategy.



- Quartet - Talking for health is for delivering IT advice and training to people with visual impairment.
- St Monica Trust is for delivering peer support and social inclusion activities such as social groups and support groups.
- Postcode Local Trust
- Quartet (North Somerset Community Partnership Fund - To support our volunteering programme.
- When fixed assets have been purchased with restricted funds, upon purchase, a transfer has been made from restricted to unrestricted. During the year, this amounted to £10,593 of fixed assets being purchased using restricted funds (2022: £11,571).

## 12 Related party transactions

No remuneration has been paid to Trustees during the year (2022: none). Two trustees were reimbursed travelling expenses during the year totalling £334 (2022: one - £7).



**13 Analysis of net assets between funds**

	Unre- stricted Funds £	Re- stricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Unre- stricted Funds £	Re- stricted Funds £	Total 2022 £
Tangible assets	411,414	-	411,414	410,271	-	410,271
Net current assets excluding pension reserve	(125,528)	27,097	(98,431)	224,009	49,078	273,087
Pension reserve	-	-	-	(348,000)	-	(348,000)
	285,886	27,097	312,983	286,280	49,078	335,358
	285,886	27,097	312,983	286,280	49,078	335,358

**14 Pension commitments**

Some of the Charity’s employees belong to the Local Government Pension Schemes (LGPS) managed by the Avon Pension Fund (“APF”).

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest actuarial valuation for the LGPS was 31 March 2020.

The scheme is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with assets held in a separate Trustee-administrated fund.

During the year ended 31 March 2023, the final member of the scheme left the employment of the Charity thereby crystallising the scheme at this point. An amount has been included within creditors due under one year for the final balance owed which is on a different valuation basis to that of the previous actuarial valuations. There is therefore no actuarial valuation carried out for the scheme as yet at 31 March 2023 and the disclosure below relates to the comparative disclosure only.

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### Summary of net pension liability as at 31 March 2023

	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Present value of defined benefit obligations	-	(1,223)
Fair value of share of scheme assets	-	875
Deficit in the scheme	-	(348)

### Principal Actuarial Assumptions

	At 31 March 2023	At 31 March 2022
Salary increases	-	4.90%
Pension increases	-	3.50%
Discount rate	-	2.80%
CPI increases	-	3.40%

## 14 Pension commitments (cont.)

The current mortality assumptions include sufficient allowance for the future improvements in mortality rates.

The assumed life expectations on retirement age 65 are:

	At 31 March 2023	At 31 March 2022
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	-	23.1
Females	-	25.3
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	-	24.6
Females	-	27.3

The Trust's share of the assets and liabilities in the Avon Pension Fund are as follows:

	As at 31 March 2023		As at 31 March 2022	
	Fair value £'000	% of total scheme assets	Fair value £'000	% of total scheme assets
Equities	-	-	353	41%
Gilts	-	-	109	12%
Other bonds	-	-	66	8%
Property	-	-	59	7%
Cash	-	-	14	2%
Other	-	-	274	31%
<b>Total market value of assets</b>	-	-	<b>875</b>	<b>100%</b>
Present value of scheme				
Liabilities - funded	-		(1,223)	
<b>Deficit in the scheme</b>	-		<b>(348)</b>	

The actual return on scheme assets was nil (2022: £80,000).

#### **14 Pension commitments (cont.)**

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities are as follows:

	At 31 March 2023 £'000	At 31 March 2022 £'000
Current service cost (net of employee contributions)	-	(25)
Net interest cost	-	(7)
Admin expenses	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>(32)</b>

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Movements in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as follows:

	At 31 March 2023 £'000	At 31 March 2022 £'000
<b>At 1 April 2022</b>	(1,223)	(1,221)
Current service cost	-	(25)
Interest cost	-	(24)
Estimated benefits paid	-	45
Employee contributions	-	(4)
Actuarial gains/(losses)	-	6
Transfer out on crystallisation	1,223	-
<b>At 31 March 2023</b>	-	(1,223)

Movements in the fair value of the Charity's share of scheme assets were as follows:

	At 31 March 2023 £'000	At 31 March 2022 £'000
<b>At 1 April 2022</b>	875	811
Interest income	-	17
Expected return on fund assets	-	62
Employer contributions	-	26
Employee contributions	-	4
Estimated benefits paid	-	(45)
Transfer out on crystallisation	(875)	-
<b>At 31 March 2023</b>	-	875

**Document ends.**

**VISION NORTH SOMERSET**

England & Wales - Charity number 1165364

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# Accounts

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**Vision North Somerset**  
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

**Annual Report and Financial Statements**

**For the Year ended 31 March 2022**

**Charity Registered in England and Wales Number: 1165364**

**Vision North Somerset**  
Contents  
For the Year ended 31 March 2022

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**Vision North Somerset**  
Reference and Administrative Details  
For the Year ended 31 March 2022

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**Trustees**

J Brice  
K Govind  
M Mackle (Chair)  
H Morgan

**Chief Executive**

N Farr (until 13 July 2021)  
L Williams (from 17 January 2022)

**Interim Chief Executive**

J Stafford (from 2 August 2021, until 16 January 2022)

**Principal Office and Registered Office**

3 Neva Road  
Weston Super Mare  
Somerset  
BS23 1YD

**Bankers**

Unity Trust Bank  
9 Brindley Place  
4 Oozells Square  
Birmingham  
B1 2HB

**Independent Examiner**

Michelle Ferris BSc (Hons) FCA DChA  
Albert Goodman LLP  
Goodwood House  
Blackbrook Park Avenue  
Taunton  
Somerset  
TA1 2PX

**Vision North Somerset**  
Trustees' Report  
For the Year ended 31 March 2022

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The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the Charity For the Year ended 31 March 2022. The provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP FRS 102 – implemented 1 January 2019) have been adopted in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the Charity.

**Structure, Governance and Management**

Vision North Somerset is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered with the Charity Commission in February 2016. The Charity was set up to replace Woodspring Association for Blind People, an unincorporated Charity registration number 270331.

This report covers the period from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

Vision North Somerset is governed by a constitution, which allows for between 4 and 12 Trustees. Decisions are made by a majority vote of Trustees present at committee meetings. Trustees are elected at the AGM by members present. Nominations are sought prior to the meeting from sighted and visually impaired members. People with sensory loss are encouraged to serve as Trustees and make an important contribution to our board; at present we have two Trustees who are sight impaired. Officers of the Committee are elected from amongst themselves at the first meeting following the AGM. The Committee has the power to appoint to fill occasional vacancies and anyone so appointed would have full voting rights and hold office until the next AGM, where they are eligible for election.

All Trustees are volunteers and as such benefit from the support of the Vision North Somerset Volunteer Policy, including induction and visual impairment awareness training. External training opportunities are accessed where appropriate.

The Trustees who served during the period and since the period end are:

J Brice	
R Burrows	(resigned December 2021)
J Campbell	(resigned April 2022)
K Govind	
M Mackle	(Chair)
H Morgan	
I Parker	(resigned July 2021)
J Pride	(resigned November 2021)
S Pinnock	(resigned April 2022)
T Rolph	(resigned 2 September 2021)

As at the year end, the Charity had 6 Trustees, which meets the constitution requirements.

All Trustees are aware of their responsibilities in relation to compliance and policy making. Policies, risk management and compliance are regularly reviewed at Trustee meetings and between meetings via email as needed.

Day to day management of the organisation is the responsibility of the Chief Executive. Regular reports are made to the Trustees to ensure they are up to date with operational activities. Trustees are responsible for the overall management of the Charity. Where needed, Sub Committees are set up to explore specific issues in depth, reporting to the Trustee board to facilitate informed decision making.

In July 2021 Chief Executive Nina Farr, died suddenly. Julia Stafford was appointed as Interim Chief Executive from August to December 2021 to provide stability while a permanent CEO was recruited. Lauren Williams joined as Chief Executive in January 2022.

### **Risk Management**

Vision North Somerset maintains and regularly reviews a risk register to support the management of significant risks. Mitigations to avoid risks or manage situations are recorded on the risk register.

### **The implications of COVID-19**

The Covid-19 pandemic continued to affect the work of Vision North Somerset over the 2021-22 financial year with changing restrictions and government guidance. The Chief Executive and staff regularly reviewed the Covid-19 policy and communicated with service users and volunteers. Staff continued to support people with visual impairment and hearing impairment throughout the pandemic – either by telephone or online or in person - with risk mitigations when appropriate.

The pandemic meant that many service users were unable to access normal health care and social care, so they were grateful for continued support from Vision North Somerset.

Most community fundraising activities ceased during the pandemic, leading to reduced income from these sources.

### **Procedures and Policies**

Vision North Somerset has procedures and policies in place to assist with the mitigation of risk; these include Health and Safety, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Volunteer Policy, Disciplinary, Grievance and Safeguarding Children and Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults. Policies are reviewed on a regular schedule.

### **The objects of the Charity are:**

The prevention and alleviation of the effects of blindness and impaired vision and hearing loss.

### **Public benefit statement**

The Trustees are aware of their duty to have regard for the Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit in the exercise of their powers and duties and they take this into account in their decision making. This annual report describes activities undertaken this year to meet Vision North Somerset's charitable purpose.

Trustees are clear about who can benefit from the Charity's activities. People using Vision North Somerset's services must have low vision or be blind or partially sighted or be deaf or hard of hearing. Vision North Somerset works with families, carers and health and social care professionals supporting people who fit into the categories above.

### **Activities**

Vision North Somerset provides a wide range of services for people with sensory loss who live in North Somerset. The two complementary halves of the service offer are the services funded by the North Somerset Council grant and those funded by voluntary income.

### **Voluntary funded services:**

Lottery funded 'In Sight, In Touch' project running from April 2019 to June 2022.

- Outreach service for information, advice and guidance, equipment advice, support with benefits and grant applications for individuals.
- Digital inclusion service for advice on and trials of digital equipment such as mobile phones, tablets and digital magnifiers. Digital skills training and ongoing support.
- Connect Me for peer support and social inclusion including telephone and online support groups.
- Buddy volunteering service encouraging people with sensory loss or other barriers into volunteering to gain life skills, improve employment prospects and increase social inclusion.

As well as the staff members funded by the National Lottery, voluntary services included an additional part-time Digital Service staff member and an additional part-time Peer Support Services Coordinator.

The Volunteer Coordinator also managed services below:

- Befrienders to reduce social isolation
- Social and Activity Clubs to provide peer support
- Home visitors to help with correspondence and provide companionship

North Somerset Council grant funded services:

- Registration of Sight Impairment including an initial assessment, information, advice and guidance and referrals as needed.
- Rehabilitation for Blind and Partially Sighted People including mobility training and daily living skills.
- Resource Centre and home visits to demonstrate daily living aids and equipment, lighting and magnifiers, equipment sales.
- Environmental Equipment Service for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People.
- Initial Assessment, Information, Advice and Guidance for visually impaired people who are not registered.

As part of the work funded by North Somerset Council, Vision North Somerset contributes to regular consultations, workshops and working groups bringing the voice of people with sight and hearing loss.

### **Outcomes for people with sensory loss**

Vision North Somerset maintained its outcome monitoring and evaluation system measuring the following social value outcomes from people receiving Vision North Somerset services:

- Quality of life
- Health and Wellbeing
- Independence
- Inclusion

An external report on the 'In Sight, In Touch' Lottery funded project found that 69.9% of people agreed that their quality of life had improved 'much' or 'very much' since their support from Vision North Somerset. 65.9% agreed that their health and wellbeing had improved and 60.5% felt that their sense of independence had improved.

In terms of satisfaction with Vision North Somerset services, 96.2% scored 4 or 5 out of 5. Remembering that services were delivered against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, these are impressive outcomes for local people with visual impairment.

### **Achievements**

At the end of the financial year, Vision North Somerset employed 7.8 FTE staff and had a database of 1477 visually impaired people and 703 hearing impaired people.

Staff provide services either at our Resource Centre in Weston-super-Mare or via home visits. Home visits are particularly important to our service user group, many of whom are elderly with other health issues and may have limited public transport available. This service has been restricted during the pandemic; however staff have continued to provide support by telephone, online or by visiting when allowed by national guidelines.

### **Achievements against set objectives - Strategic Plan 2020-2022**

#### **1. To continue to provide existing services**

The year 2021 to 2022 was arguably one of the most difficult in the Charity's history. It is to the credit of everybody in the organisation that all services continued to support local people throughout tragedy, disruption and change.

**2. Influence services by representing people with sensory loss and making their needs known to service providers**

We are actively involved with local health and social care providers and vigorously promote the needs of people with sensory loss.

As at the end of the financial year, the Chief Executive and staff were members of:

- North Somerset Disability Access Group
- Rehabilitation Workers Professional Network
- The steering group of the North Somerset Health and Wellbeing Collective
- Visionary (the umbrella body for local sight loss charities)
- Voluntary Action North Somerset working groups
- A local visual impairment Charity network.

**3. Work with volunteers to increase social value**

Vision North Somerset had approximately 80 volunteers, of which, approximately 30% were visually impaired. Volunteers enable the Charity to support many more people and improve outcomes through the use of peer support. Volunteer-led services provide excellent value for funders.

**4. Improve and Develop Services with commissioners and other funders:**

During the financial year, Vision North Somerset continued to analyse and improve services, with support from an external evaluation of the 'In Sight, In Touch' programme. The Charity reports to North Somerset Council twice yearly, giving a full overview of service delivery against grant requirements.

**5. Provision of training in Visual Impairment Awareness**

Vision North Somerset had a very experienced VI awareness trainer who delivered regular training sessions to stakeholders such as North Somerset Library service and talks to community groups as the pandemic restrictions allowed.

**6. Income Generation**

Vision North Somerset was fortunate to benefit from National Lottery Funding during a period when community fundraising activities were severely affected by the pandemic. As the Lottery funding ends in June 2022, the Charity will need to increase and diversify other income streams such as trusts and grants, community fundraising, individual donors and gifts in wills.

## **Financial Review**

The year end funds of the Charity had increased by £145,829 (including a pension adjustment of £68,000) to £335,358, of which £634,280 (2021 - £580,580) were unrestricted, £49,078 (2021 - £18,949) were restricted and negative reserves £348,000 (2021 - £410,000) related to the Charity's pension reserve. The Charity's free reserves at the year end have increased by £50,326 to £224,009. Free reserves are calculated as net current assets held within unrestricted funds, therefore excluding the pension reserve and fixed assets (see note 13).

## **Reserves Policy Statement**

The Vision North Somerset Trustees considered 2021-22 obligations including those to trust and foundation funders, employees, suppliers, HMRC and pension providers in the event that the organisation needs to reorganise its activities or close. Vision North Somerset will hold funds in reserve to meet this eventuality; these funds are held in a low-risk investment product.

The Trustees have established a policy whereby free reserves held by the Charity should be maintained at a minimum of 'three months' running costs and staff salary costs.

## **Actions to deliver the policy**

A reserve of £35,000 was held to cover notice periods with a further £66,000 held to fund the expected Local Government Pension Scheme deficit. Redundancy costs and the demands of creditors would be met from the sale of the assets of the organisation, including the premises at 3 Neva Road.

The reserves policy was updated in August 2022 (after the period to which this report relates) to respond to the changing economic climate, guidance from trust funders and The Charity Commission. Vision North Somerset now operates a two-tier reserves policy with Tier 1 supporting the Charity through periods of reduced income, and Tier 2 supporting staff salaries and redundancy costs if liquidation was required. Details will be updated for the next annual report and are available on request. The whole reserve now covers almost 'six months' of the Charity's running costs.

The Trustees aim to secure financial support sufficient to ensure that the minimum reserves target continues to be met, and that funds are available to cover future capital expenditure or unexpected costs.

### **Plans for future periods**

With a new CEO and a refreshed trustee board, Vision North Somerset is poised to create an exciting new strategic plan to support more local people, more effectively, working in partnership with local stakeholders.

The needs of local people with visual impairment and hearing loss are growing and becoming more complex as people live longer with disabilities and multiple medical conditions. The RNIB reliably estimates that there are around 8,920 people living with significant sight loss in North Somerset, with this figure due to rise by 29% by 2030, mainly due to an ageing population. Around 60% of people who experience strokes will also experience some form of visual impairment immediately after the stroke. Prevalence of sight loss is higher among people with dementia, especially those living in care homes. People with learning disabilities are 10 times more likely to experience sight loss than the general population. In North Somerset, it is estimated that 1,140 people with sight loss aged over 65 experience a fall per year. Of these falls, 540 are directly attributable to sight loss. People with visual impairment are much more likely to have poor mental health, being at least twice as likely to live with depression.

RNIB also estimates that 28,400 people in North Somerset have a moderate or severe hearing impairment, and 650 people have a profound hearing impairment.

Social care and health services are struggling with demand, the cost-of-living crisis is disproportionately affecting people with disabilities as households including disabled people are at least twice as likely to be struggling. People are regularly contacting Vision North Somerset for help with a wide range of issues, including services where there are gaps in local provision, such as benefit and individual grant application support and counselling. We have never been more needed.

### **Principal Funding Sources**

North Somerset Council is a significant funder. Its grant fully supports the activities carried out under our agreement but does not in any way contribute to the charitable activities of the organisation.

The National Lottery has been a significant source of funds for our voluntary-funded services.

The Charity is also grateful for financial support from the following:

- Quartet Community Foundation
- National Lottery Awards For All
- Thomas Pocklington Trust
- North Somerset Council Infection Control grant
- St Monica Trust
- Awards for All Helping Each Other
- Ashwell's Charitable Trust
- Gifts in memory of Nina Farr
- Yeo Valley Lions
- WSM Seniors Golf
- Worle Baptist Church
- Churches Together, Winscombe
- Chris Wood sponsored walk
- R Palmer (Christmas lights)

### **Statement of Trustees responsibilities**

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales 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 income and expenditure of the Charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable 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 maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and 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/constitution. 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.

Approved by the board on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

**M Mackle**  
Trustee

**Vision North Somerset**  
Independent Examiners' Report to the Trustees  
For the Year ended 31 March 2022

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**Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Vision North Somerset**

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts for Vision North Somerset ("the Charity") for the year ended 31 March 2022.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

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

**Independent examiner's statement**

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

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not comply with these records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the 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.

**Michelle Ferris BSc (Hons) FCA DChA**  
Albert Goodman LLP  
Goodwood House  
Blackbrook Park Avenue  
Taunton  
Somerset  
TA1 2PX

Dated: 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022

**Vision North Somerset**  
Statement of Financial Activities  
For the Year ended 31 March 2022

	Notes	Unre- stricted Funds	Re- stricted Funds	Total 2022	Unre- stricted Funds	Re- stricted Funds	Total 2021
<b>Income from:</b>							
Donations (including grants)	2	36,246	336,956	373,202	20,353	300,437	320,790
Other trading activities	3	24,435	-	24,435	10,922	-	10,922
Income from investments	4	181	-	181	725	-	725
<b>Total</b>		<b>60,862</b>	<b>336,956</b>	<b>397,818</b>	<b>32,000</b>	<b>300,437</b>	<b>332,437</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Charitable activities	5	24,733	295,256	319,989	15,110	308,963	324,073
<b>Total</b>		<b>24,733</b>	<b>295,256</b>	<b>319,989</b>	<b>15,110</b>	<b>308,963</b>	<b>324,073</b>
<b>Net income / (expenditure) for the year before transfers</b>		<b>36,129</b>	<b>41,700</b>	<b>77,829</b>	<b>16,890</b>	<b>(8,526)</b>	<b>8,364</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>		<b>11,571</b>	<b>(11,571)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Other recognised losses:</b>							
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	14	68,000	-	68,000	(23,000)	-	(23,000)
<b>Net movements in funds</b>		<b>115,700</b>	<b>30,129</b>	<b>145,829</b>	<b>(6,110)</b>	<b>(8,526)</b>	<b>(14,636)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>							
Fund balances at 1 April		170,580	18,949	189,529	176,690	27,475	204,165
Fund balances at 31 March		<b>286,280</b>	<b>49,078</b>	<b>335,358</b>	<b>170,580</b>	<b>18,949</b>	<b>189,529</b>

The results for the year derive from continuing activities and there are no gains or losses other than those shown above.

## Vision North Somerset

Balance sheet

As at 31 March 2022

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	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible fixed assets	8	410,271	409,716
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stock		7,110	4,721
Cash at bank and in hand		207,501	125,628
Investments	9	66,000	66,000
		<u>280,611</u>	<u>196,349</u>
<b>Creditors</b>			
Amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>(7,524)</u>	<u>(6,536)</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>273,087</u>	<u>189,813</u>
<b>Net assets excluding pension liabilities</b>		<u>683,358</u>	<u>599,529</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liabilities		<u>(348,000)</u>	<u>(410,000)</u>
<b>Total net assets including pension liabilities</b>		<u><u>335,358</u></u>	<u><u>189,529</u></u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
Unrestricted funds excluding pension reserve	11	634,280	580,580
Pension reserve		(348,000)	(410,000)
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>		<u>286,280</u>	<u>170,580</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>	11	<u>49,078</u>	<u>18,949</u>
<b>Total funds</b>		<u><u>335,358</u></u>	<u><u>189,529</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

**M Mackle**  
Trustee

**J Brice**  
Trustee

**1 Accounting policies**

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows.

**1.1 Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) (Charities SORP (FRS102)) and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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

**1.2 Income**

Income from grants and donations is recognised in the year in which they are receivable when there is evidence of entitlement, receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Income from government grants and local authorities is recognised when the Charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred. Where no conditions are attached to the grant income they are recognised within donations and legacies and where conditions relating to performance of services are attached, grant income is recognised in income from charitable activities within the Statement of Financial Activities.

Income from other trading activities is included in the period in which the Charity is entitled to receipt, it is probable that economic benefits will flow to the entity and the amount can be reliably measured.

**1.3 Expenditure**

Resources expended are recognised on the accruals basis to match the period in which the expenditure was incurred.

Charitable expenditure comprises costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

**1.4 Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost or valuation of fixed assets over their estimated useful lives at the following rate:

Freehold property	– 1% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	– 25% straight line

Fixed assets are capitalised where the expenditure incurred is in excess of £500 and the asset purchased is considered to have a long term benefit to the organisation.

**1.5 Debtors**

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for services performed in the ordinary activities of the Charity.

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

Other debtors comprise amounts due from prepayments. Amounts due from prepayments arise from the payments for services prior to benefit from those services.

**1.6 Cash at bank and in hand**

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

**1.7 Creditors**

Creditors 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 are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

**1.8 Stocks**

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

Cost is calculated on a first in, first out basis.

**1.9 Taxation**

Vision North Somerset is a registered Charity and is therefore not liable to corporation tax to the extent that income and gains are applied to charitable purposes.

**1.10 Investments**

Investments are held at fair value determined by the amounts held in National Savings and Investments bonds.

**1.11 Fund accounting**

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

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets this criterion is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

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

**1.12 Local Government Pension Scheme**

Retirement benefits to employees of Vision North Somerset are provided by the Avon Pension Fund Local Government Pension Scheme ('LGPS'). This is a multi-employer defined benefit scheme, that is contracted out of State Earnings-Related Pension Scheme ('SERPS'), and the assets are held separately from those at Vision North Somerset.

The LGPS is a funded scheme and the assets are held separately from those of Vision North Somerset in separate trustee administered funds. Pension Scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current the current service cost and gains and losses on settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs. Past service costs are recognised immediately, the costs are recognised over the period until vesting occurs. The expected return on assets and the interest cost are shown as a net finance amount of other finance costs or credit adjacent to interest. Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other gains and losses.

**1.13 Defined contribution pension scheme**

In addition to the LGPS, the Charity also operates a defined contribution pension scheme (NEST) for those not entitled to join the LGPS. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which fixed contributions (7.5% employer contribution) are paid into a pension fund and the Charity has no legal or contrastive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as staff pension expenses through the SOFA when they are due.

**1.14 Going concern**

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to the events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of the period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements.

The Trustees have concluded that the likelihood is that funding will be available to support the objectives of the Charity and that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. There are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

### **1.15 Financial instruments**

The Charity only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and liabilities of the Charity and their measurements are as follows:

Financial assets – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

Cash at bank – is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

Financial liabilities – trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

**Vision North Somerset**  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the Year ended 31 March 2022

<b>2 Donations and legacies</b>	<b>Unre- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Re- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2022 £</b>	<b>Unre- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Re- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2021 £</b>
<b>Grant income</b>						
The Big Lottery	-	114,084	114,084	-	111,844	111,844
North Somerset Council Social Services*	-	165,600	165,600	-	165,146	165,146
The Will Charitable Trust	-	-	-	-	5,000	5,000
Thomas Pocklington Trust	-	-	-	-	9,957	9,957
Screwfix Foundation	-	-	-	-	4,490	4,490
Miss K B Sleigh Charitable Trust	-	-	-	-	2,000	2,000
NSC - Infection Control Fund*	-	3,000	3,000	-	2,000	2,000
St Monica Peer Support	-	19,789	19,789	-	-	-
Quartet - Talking for health	-	19,683	19,683	-	-	-
Quartet Express	-	4,900	4,900	-	-	-
Awards for All - Helping each other	-	9,900	9,900	-	-	-
	-	336,956	336,956	-	300,437	300,437
Donations	36,246	-	36,246	20,353	-	20,353
	36,246	336,956	373,202	20,353	300,437	320,790

\*denotes government funding

**Vision North Somerset**  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the Year ended 31 March 2022

<b>3 Other trading activities</b>	<b>Unre- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Re- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2022 £</b>	<b>Unre- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Re- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2021 £</b>
Other	6,602	-	6,602	1,037	-	1,037
Re-sale equipment	16,073	-	16,073	8,560	-	8,560
Room hire	1,760	-	1,760	1,325	-	1,325
	<u>24,435</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,435</u>	<u>10,922</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,922</u>
<b>4 Investment Income</b>	<b>Unre- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Re- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2022 £</b>	<b>Unre- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Re- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2021 £</b>
Bank interest receivable	181	-	181	725	-	725
	<u>181</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>181</u>	<u>725</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>725</u>
<b>5 Direct charitable expenditure</b>	<b>Unre- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Re- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2022 £</b>	<b>Unre- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Re- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2021 £</b>
Wages and salaries	7,296	229,064	236,360	12,957	226,899	239,856
Core and operating costs	10,782	36,174	46,956	3,793	52,815	56,608
Legal and professional	-	6,343	6,343	-	6,561	6,561
Re-sale equipment purchased	13,409	-	13,409	8,051	-	8,051
Project costs	6,766	10,155	16,921	575	12,422	12,997
Contribution to core costs	(13,520)	13,520	-	(10,266)	10,266	-
	<u>24,733</u>	<u>295,256</u>	<u>319,989</u>	<u>15,110</u>	<u>308,963</u>	<u>324,073</u>
<b>6 Employees</b>				<b>2022 £</b>	<b>2021 £</b>	
Wages and salaries				196,027	182,629	
Social security costs				7,316	8,911	
Pension costs (note 14)				33,017	48,316	
				<u>236,360</u>	<u>239,856</u>	

**Vision North Somerset**  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the Year ended 31 March 2022

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No individual was paid over £60,000 (2021: none).

The average number of employees for the year was as follows:

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Number of staff	12	10

One person is considered key management personnel of the Charity, being the Chief Executive Officer & Interim Chief Executive Officer. Total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Charity were £32,578 (2021: £47,620), including employers national insurance and employers pension contributions.

The Charity operates both defined benefit and defined contribution pension schemes. The charge in the Statement of Financial Activities for the year is shown above. Contributions totalling £nil (2021: £nil) were payable to the schemes at the year end and are included in creditors. Further details of the defined benefit scheme are given in note 14.

<b>7 Net incoming resources before transfers</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation	11,016	14,346
Accountants remuneration		
- independent examination	1,500	1,470
- other	1,080	930

**8 Tangible assets**

	Freehold property	Fixtures & Fittings	Total
		£	£
<b>Cost</b>			
As at 01.04.2021	425,000	107,660	532,660
Additions	-	11,571	11,571
As at 31.03.2022	<u>425,000</u>	<u>119,231</u>	<u>544,231</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
As at 01.04.2021	21,258	101,686	122,944
Charge for period	4,252	6,764	11,016
As at 31.03.2022	<u>25,510</u>	<u>108,450</u>	<u>133,960</u>
<b>Net book value</b>			
As at 31.03.2022	<u>399,490</u>	<u>10,781</u>	<u>410,271</u>
As at 31.03.2021	<u>403,742</u>	<u>5,974</u>	<u>409,716</u>

The pension deficit (to a maximum of £200,000) is secured against the property.

**9 Investments**

	2022 £	2021 £
National Savings Bond investments	66,000	66,000
	<u>66,000</u>	<u>66,000</u>

**10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	1,890	887
Accruals	2,580	2,985
Other creditors	3,054	2,664
	<u>7,524</u>	<u>6,536</u>

**Vision North Somerset**  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the Year ended 31 March 2022

<b>11 Statement of Funds</b>	<b>Balance 01.04.21</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Transfers/ (losses)</b>	<b>Balance 31.03.22</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Ian Karten Centre	2,819	-	(2,819)	-	-
North Somerset Council					
Social Services	-	165,600	(165,600)	-	-
Quartet Community					
Foundation (Digital profile)	873	-	(873)	-	-
The Big Lottery	12,136	114,084	(98,566)	(1,770)	25,884
National Lottery Awards	2,542	-	(2,542)	-	-
Thomas Pocklington Trust	579	-	(579)	-	-
Quartet Express Grant	-	4,900	-	(4,745)	155
Awards for all	-	9,900	(6,261)	-	3,639
Quartet - Talking for health	-	19,683	(10,292)	(824)	8,567
St Monica Trust	-	19,789	(7,146)	(4,232)	8,411
NSC Infection Control Fund	-	3,000	(578)	-	2,422
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>18,949</b>	<b>336,956</b>	<b>(295,256)</b>	<b>(11,571)</b>	<b>49,078</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Unrestricted funds excluding					
pension reserve	580,580	60,862	(18,733)	11,571	634,280
Pension reserve	(410,000)	-	(6,000)	68,000	(348,000)
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>170,580</b>	<b>60,862</b>	<b>(24,733)</b>	<b>79,571</b>	<b>286,280</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>189,529</b>	<b>397,818</b>	<b>(319,989)</b>	<b>68,000</b>	<b>335,358</b>

**Vision North Somerset**  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the Year ended 31 March 2022

	<b>Balance 01.04.20 £</b>	<b>Income £</b>	<b>Expenditure £</b>	<b>Transfers/ (losses) £</b>	<b>Balance 31.03.21 £</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Ian Karten Centre	9,006	-	(6,187)	-	2,819
North Somerset Council					
Social Services	-	165,146	(165,146)	-	-
Quartet Community Foundation (Reboot)	2,055	-	(2,055)	-	-
Quartet Community Foundation (Digital Profile)	1,128	-	(255)	-	873
The Big Lottery	6,911	111,844	(106,619)	-	12,136
National Lottery Awards	8,375	-	(5,833)	-	2,542
The Will Charitable Trust	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Thomas Pocklington Trust	-	9,957	(9,378)	-	579
Screwfix Foundation	-	4,490	(4,490)	-	-
Miss K B Sleight Charitable Trust	-	2,000	(2,000)	-	-
NSC Infection Control Fund	-	2,000	(2,000)	-	-
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>27,475</b>	<b>300,437</b>	<b>(308,963)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,949</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Unrestricted funds excluding pension reserve	555,690	32,000	(7,110)	-	580,580
Pension reserve	(379,000)	-	(8,000)	(23,000)	(410,000)
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>176,690</b>	<b>32,000</b>	<b>(15,110)</b>	<b>(23,000)</b>	<b>170,580</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>204,165</b>	<b>332,437</b>	<b>(324,073)</b>	<b>(23,000)</b>	<b>189,529</b>

**Vision North Somerset**  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the Year ended 31 March 2022

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The purposes for material funds are as follows:

- Ian Karten Centre fund are amounts received for the purchase of information technology assets that will aid the training of the visually impaired. Fund is reduced by the purchase and depreciation of assets.
- The Social Services fund is the North Somerset District Council grant for the sensory impairment service offered by Vision North Somerset commissioned by the Local Authority.
- The Big Lottery is to fund the 'in sight, in touch' project as mentioned in detail in the Trustees Report.
- National Lottery Awards for All is for staff and volunteer training costs to be able to better support service users.
- Thomas Pocklington Trust – in order to deliver a Telephone Counselling and Emotional Support Programme through the Covid-19 crisis.
- Quartet - Talking for health is for delivering IT advice and training to people with visual impairment.
- St Monica Trust is for delivering peer support and social inclusion activities such as social groups and support groups.

When fixed assets have been purchased with restricted funds, upon purchase, a transfer has been made from restricted to unrestricted. During the year, this amounted to £11,571 of fixed assets being purchased using restricted funds (2021: £nil).

## 12 Related party transactions

No remuneration has been paid to Trustees during the year (2021: none). One trustee was reimbursed travelling expenses during the year totalling £7 (2021: none).

## 13 Analysis of net assets between funds

	<b>Un- restricted Funds</b>	<b>Re- stricted Funds</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>	<b>Un- restricted Funds</b>	<b>Re- stricted Funds</b>	<b>Total 2021</b>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible assets	410,271	-	410,271	406,897	2,819	409,716
Net current assets excluding pension reserve	224,009	49,078	273,087	173,683	16,130	189,813
Pension reserve	(348,000)	-	(348,000)	(410,000)	-	(410,000)
	<u>286,280</u>	<u>49,078</u>	<u>335,358</u>	<u>170,580</u>	<u>18,949</u>	<u>189,529</u>

**14 Pension commitments**

Some of the Charity's employees belong to the Local Government Pension Schemes (LGPS) managed by the Avon Pension Fund ("APF").

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest actuarial valuation for the LGPS was 31 March 2020.

The scheme is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with assets held in a separate Trustee-administrated fund. The total contributions made for the year ended 31 March 2022 were £30,000 of which employer's contributions totalled £26,000 and employees' contributions totalled £4,000. The current employer contribution rate for future years is 23.7% of members payroll from 1 April 2021. In addition to the employer contribution, the Charity makes additional monthly payments of £983 towards the LGPS pension scheme, in order to repay the pension deficit over 12 years.

**Summary of net pension liability as at 31 March 2022**

	<b>Total 2022 £'000</b>	<b>Total 2021 £'000</b>
Present value of defined benefit obligations	(1,223)	(1,221)
Fair value of share of scheme assets	875	811
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Deficit in the scheme	(348)	(410)
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

**Principal Actuarial Assumptions**

	<b>At 31 March 2022</b>	<b>At 31 March 2021</b>
Salary increases	4.90%	4.20%
Pension increases	3.50%	2.80%
Discount rate	2.80%	2.10%
CPI increases	3.40%	2.70%

**14 Pension commitments (cont.)**

The current mortality assumptions include sufficient allowance for the future improvements in mortality rates.

The assumed life expectations on retirement age 65 are:

	<b>At 31 March 2022</b>	<b>At 31 March 2021</b>
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	23.1	23.3
Females	25.3	25.4
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	24.6	24.8
Females	27.3	27.4

The Trust's share of the assets and liabilities in the Avon Pension Fund are as follows:

	<b>As at 31 March 2022</b>		<b>As at 31 March 2021</b>	
	Fair value £'000	% of total scheme assets	Fair value £'000	% of total scheme assets
Equities	353	41%	304	38%
Gilts	109	12%	114	14%
Other bonds	66	8%	69	9%
Property	59	7%	58	7%
Cash	14	2%	24	3%
Other	274	31%	242	30%
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
Total market value of assets	875	100%	811	100%
Present value of scheme Liabilities - funded	(1,223)		(1,221)	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
Deficit in the scheme	(348)		(410)	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	

The actual return on scheme assets was £80,000 (2021: £119,000).

**14 Pension commitments (cont.)**

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities are as follows:

	At 31 March 2022 £'000	At 31 March 2021 £'000
Current service cost (net of employee contributions)	(25)	(33)
Net interest cost	(7)	(8)
Admin expenses	-	(1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(32)</b>	<b>(42)</b>

Movements in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as follows:

	At 31 March 2022 £'000	At 31 March 2021 £'000
<b>At 1 April 2021</b>	(1,221)	(1,064)
Current service cost	(25)	(33)
Interest cost	(24)	(25)
Estimated benefits paid	45	31
Employee contributions	(4)	(6)
Actuarial gains/(losses)	6	(124)
<b>At 31 March 2022</b>	<b>(1,223)</b>	<b>(1,221)</b>

Movements in the fair value of the Charity's share of scheme assets were as follows:

	At 31 March 2022 £'000	At 31 March 2021 £'000
<b>At 1 April 2021</b>	811	685
Interest income	17	17
Expected return on fund assets	62	101
Employer contributions	26	34
Employee contributions	4	6
Estimated benefits paid	(45)	(31)
Administrative expenses	-	(1)
<b>At 31 March 2022</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>811</b>

**VISION NORTH SOMERSET**

England & Wales - Charity number 1165364

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# Accounts

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**Vision North Somerset**  
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

**Annual Report and Financial Statements**

**For the Year ended 31 March 2021**

**Charity Registered in England and Wales Number: 1165364**

# Vision North Somerset

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For the Year ended 31 March 2021

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## **Vision North Somerset**

Reference and Administrative Details

For the Year ended 31 March 2021

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### **Trustees**

J Brice  
R Burrows (Treasurer and Chair)  
J Campbell  
K Govind  
M Mackle  
H Morgan  
S Pinnock (Vice Chair)  
J Pride

### **Chief Executive**

### **Interim Chief Executive**

N Farr (until 13 July 2021)  
J Stafford (from 2 August 2021)

### **Principal Office and Registered Office**

3 Neva Road  
Weston Super Mare  
Somerset  
BS23 1YD

### **Bankers**

Unity Trust Bank  
9 Brindley Place  
4 Oozells Square  
Birmingham  
B1 2HB

### **Independent Examiner**

Christopher Walford ACA  
Albert Goodman LLP  
Goodwood House  
Blackbrook Park Avenue  
Taunton  
Somerset  
TA1 2PX

## **Vision North Somerset**

### **Trustees' Report**

For the Year ended 31 March 2021

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The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity For the Year ended 31 March 2021. The provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP FRS 102 – implemented 1 January 2019) have been adopted in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

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

Vision North Somerset is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered with the Charity Commission in February 2016. The charity was set up to replace Woodspring Association for Blind People, an unincorporated charity registration number 270331.

This report covers the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

Vision North Somerset is governed by a Constitution, which allows for between 8 and 12 Trustees. Decisions are made by a majority vote of Trustees present at committee meetings. Trustees are elected at the AGM by members present. Nominations are sought prior to the meeting from sighted and visually impaired members. Service Users with sensory loss are encouraged to serve as Trustees and make an important contribution to our board; at present we have one Trustee who is sight impaired. Officers of the Committee are elected from amongst themselves at the first meeting following the AGM. The Committee has the power to appoint to fill occasional vacancies and anyone so appointed would have full voting rights and hold office until the next AGM, where they are eligible for election.

All Trustees are volunteers and as such benefit from the support of the Vision North Somerset Volunteer Policy, including induction and visual impairment awareness training. In addition, Trustees receive training in relation to the operational activities of the organisation. External training opportunities are accessed where appropriate.

The Trustees who served during the period and since the period end are:

J Brice	
R Burrows	
J Campbell	
D Godly	(resigned 27 May 2020)
K Govind	
M Mackle	
H Morgan	(appointed 27 January 2021)
I Parker	(resigned 7 July 2021)
J Pride	(appointed 27 January 2021)
S Pinnock	
T Rolph	(resigned 2 September 2021)

As at the year end, the charity had 10 trustees, which meets the constitution requirements.

## **Vision North Somerset**

### Trustees' Report

For the Year ended 31 March 2021

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An Audit Sub Committee is responsible for ensuring that all Trustees are aware of their responsibilities in relation to compliance and policy making. Policies, risk management and compliance are regularly reviewed by the Audit Sub Committee, with recommendations being made to the Executive Committee to inform its decision making.

Day to day management of the organisation is the responsibility of the Chief Executive. Regular reports are made to the Trustees to ensure they are up to date with operational activities. Trustees are responsible for the overall management of the Charity. Where needed, Sub Committees are set up to explore specific issues in depth, reporting to the Executive Committee to facilitate informed decision making.

In July, 2021 our Chief Executive, Nina Farr, died suddenly. Nina had been an employee of VNS for more than two decades and she is much missed. We are deeply grateful for the outstanding contribution she made both before and after her promotion to CEO.

We have appointed Julia Stafford as Interim Chief Executive. Julia is very experienced and has stabilised the situation while we look for a permanent replacement. The trustees and staff have been very supportive.

### **Risk Management**

Vision North Somerset will ensure that the major risks to which the charity is exposed are reviewed and that systems are established to mitigate those risks. A risk register is maintained and reviewed annually.

The Executive Committee considers that a major risk is one which, if it materialised, would have a significant impact on the Charity's ability to function and achieve its objectives, namely the provision of services and support for visually impaired people. The Executive Committee recognises that risks can arise not only from the Charity's activities, but also from failure to act or exploit opportunities.

The Trustees do not consider that all risks should be avoided: they are not averse to taking reasonable risks as part of the strategy to achieve the Charity's objects. However, they require to be made aware of the major risks the Charity faces so that they can plan how to manage those risks and mitigate their possible effects.

### **The implications of COVID-19**

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic started to become apparent in the UK during February and March 2020. During this time there was a growing uncertainty and concern amongst many, especially as it became commonly understood older people and those with underlying health conditions were most at risk and on 23rd March 2020 the government announced a nationwide lockdown. VNS Trustees and staff reacted quickly, stopping face to face support from 16th March, setting up remote working for staff and volunteers. The impact of the pandemic on VNS 2020/21 work had an inevitable impact on methods of work but, wherever possible support for service users was maintained. Social clubs and related activities were severely limited.

Some areas of income generation e.g. pink elephant collecting tins, room hire and low vision service have decreased over the past 12 months but this has been mitigated by emerging COVID-19 grant making opportunities and development in digital fundraising. Statutory funding from North Somerset Council continues and the Lottery, reaching communities fund runs until the end of March 2022.

## **Vision North Somerset**

Trustees' Report

For the Year ended 31 March 2021

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### **Procedures and Policies**

Vision North Somerset has procedures and policies in place to assist with the mitigation of risk; these include Health and Safety, Equality and Diversity, Volunteer Policy, Discipline, Grievance and Safeguarding Children and Adult.

### **The objects of the Charity are:**

The prevention and alleviation of the effects of blindness and impaired vision and hearing loss.

### **Public benefit statement**

The Trustees are aware of their duty to have regard for the Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit in the exercise of their powers and duties and they take this into account in their decision making.

The purpose of the Charity is the prevention and alleviation of the effects of blindness and impaired vision and hearing loss and this annual report describes activities undertaken this year to meet the purpose.

An Audit Sub Committee advises the Trustees on managing risk to ensure the public are protected. The Trustees are clear about who can benefit from the purpose and give proper consideration to a full range of activities to fulfil the purpose. The only restriction placed on the services provided is that the persons benefiting are blind or partially sighted, or are deaf or hard of hearing.

### **Activities**

Vision North Somerset provides a wide range of services for people with sensory loss living in North Somerset. In addition to its own voluntary funded activities the organisation works with other agencies, both statutory and voluntary, to meet its objectives.

Our ongoing 3 year (started April 2019) Lottery funded "in sight, in touch" project its four strands:

- Outreach service
- Digital inclusion service
- Connect ME
- Buddy volunteering service

Our existing voluntary sector activities:

- Benefit Advice to help reduce poverty for individuals
- Information Support Service at our local hospital
- Befrienders to reduce social isolation
- Social and Activity Clubs to provide peer support
- Home visitors to help with correspondence and provide companionship
- One to one learning support for information and assistive technology
- These activities are managed by a part time Voluntary Services Co-ordinator responsible for recruiting, training and supporting 80 volunteers.

## **Vision North Somerset**

Trustees' Report

For the Year ended 31 March 2021

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Vision North Somerset is commissioned by North Somerset Council to provide statutory services including:

- Registration for Blind and Partially Sighted People
- Rehabilitation for Blind and Partially Sighted People
- Demonstration facility for aids and equipment
- Environmental Equipment Service for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People

### **Volunteers and Social Value**

More than ever before our Charity needs to understand and promote the importance of social value and the impact it has not only for service users, but also for the local economy and community.

Volunteers are crucial in helping to achieve our aims relating to Social Value. Reducing poverty by assisting with benefit applications, improving health via our swimming club, providing peer support, companionship and community interaction to lift depression and improve well-being all play a part in improving the quality of life for our members.

Our organisation maintained its outcome monitoring and evaluation system measuring the following social value outcomes from people receiving VNS services, the four key outcome indicators are:

- Quality of life
- Health and Wellbeing
- Independence
- Inclusion

The quantitative and qualitative data gathered will provide evidence of social value and help to formulate and develop new projects and services for our beneficiaries.

### **Achievements**

Vision North Somerset employs 7.19 FTE staff and has a register of 1,480 visually impaired service users.

Staff provide a service either at our Resource and Information Centre or via home visits. Home visits are particularly important to our service user group, many of whom are elderly and have other health issues as well as sensory loss. This service has been restricted during the pandemic. Transport is often a problem for people living in rural areas of North Somerset.

### **Achievements against set objectives - Strategic Plan**

#### **1. To continue to provide existing services**

Vision North Somerset continues to provide the voluntary sector services outlined in our Strategic Plan, together with the statutory services that we provide via our contract with the local authority. This means that people with sensory loss can access a wide range of services from one source.

During its second year the Lottery initiative "In sight, In touch" was professionally reviewed and was found to have excelled against its objectives except where the Covid pandemic restrictions made it impossible. This review will be repeated to evaluate the outcomes of the total project. Evidence produced is key to applying to the Lottery for continuation.

Our outcomes were achieved via:

- An outreach service – visiting people at home, providing information about sight loss and the range of services to support people. The project links in with our existing services, aimed at reducing social isolation via social opportunities and home visitors, maximising income via support with benefit applications.
- Digital inclusion service – offering learning opportunities for people who want to know how to use smartphones, tablets and assistive technology. People who are not able to get to our centre in Weston receive free one to one tuition at home.
- Buddy volunteering – enabling people who lack confidence or face obstacles to volunteering to take those first steps towards volunteering. Buddy volunteers have helped people to settle in, build confidence and enjoy the benefits of volunteering for VNS and other organisations.
- Connect Me - a user led opportunity for blind and partially sighted people to get together and connect, bringing them together to provide peer support, reduce isolation be part of the wider community, explore education and employment opportunities.

## **2. Influence services by representing people with sensory loss and making their needs known to service providers**

We are actively involved with local health and social care providers and vigorously promote the needs of people with sensory loss. VNS's participation across health and social care forums ensure we are a critical friend for people with sensory loss, enabling facilitation of engagement between service users and the health and social care commissioners.

Our Chief Executive is a member of:

- The Voluntary Sector Leaders Group
- Chairs the North Somerset Disability Access Group
- The steering group of the North Somerset Health and wellbeing Collective
- The Visionary SWAN (South West Area Network)
- The Bristol, North Somerset and South Glos Clinical Commissioning Group (BNSSG) Patient and Public Participation Forum
- North Somerset Council, Equalities implementation Forum.

**3. Work with volunteers to increase social value**

We are very aware that funders, particularly statutory organisations, expect us to be able to demonstrate social value. The outcome monitoring system mentioned above enables us to be confident that we can measure just how valuable our volunteer activities are. Not only do they help economically by giving their time for free, but the social value impact on the lives of the individuals they help is proven to improve quality of life, reduce isolation, increase independence and improve health and well-being - which all provide great benefit to our service users and can significantly reduce the demand for health and social care support as people become less dependent on public services.

**4. Improve and Develop Services with commissioners and other funders:**

Vision North Somerset continues a close relationship with North Somerset Council and we have direct links into allied health and social care departments to ensure a high quality service for people with sensory loss.

Our place on the earlier mentioned forums enables us to influence strategic developments in areas of joint working and procurement with both the local authority, BNSSG and other funders.

Over the three years our "In sight, In touch" project Connect Me strand is also enabling us to develop partnership working with the RNIB (Royal National Institute for the Blind) tailoring the offer of South West Connect to meet the needs of people living in North Somerset.

**5. Provision of training in Visual Impairment Awareness**

Free training for community groups and other organisations written into the "In sight, In touch" project has enabled us to raise the awareness of the needs of visually impaired people and placing visually impaired volunteers. This work will continue as part of the new strategic plan.

**6. Income Generation**

Our varied and diverse funding strategy ensures that we continue to explore local and national funding sources of earned income from beneficiary donations, legacies, VNS venue hire, applications to local and national Trust funds, Town and Parish Councils and our commissioned services. There has been a sharp decline in income from our "pink elephant" collecting tins. As a way to offset and improve individual donations VNS will be developing its digital fundraising strategy via its website and social media during 2021-2022. In addition to the Lottery we have been successful with several bids and the accounts demonstrate that we have no immediate fears of insolvency

## **Vision North Somerset**

Trustees' Report

For the Year ended 31 March 2021

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### **Financial Review**

The year end funds of the charity had decreased by £14,636 to £189,529, of which £580,580 (2020 - £555,690) were unrestricted, £18,949 (2020 - £27,475) were restricted and negative reserves £410,000 (2020 - £379,000) related to the charity's pension reserve. The charity's free reserves at the year end have increased by £26,789 to £173,683. Free reserves are calculated as net current assets held within unrestricted funds, therefore excluding the pension reserve and fixed assets (see note 13).

To ensure the ongoing success and viability of the Charity the trustees have reconsidered the strengths and skills of its key employees and have aimed to ensure these are focused and utilised appropriately. In addition the trustees have also increased their focus on the Charity's cost base and cash requirements, monitoring them both at a trustees level at least monthly. The benefit of these changes were seen in 2018/19 and have continued thereafter.

### **Reserves Policy Statement**

The Vision North Somerset (VNS) Executive Committee has carefully considered its obligations to employees, suppliers, HMRC and others in the event that the organisation needs to close or reorganise its activities. VNS will hold funds in reserve to meet this eventuality; these funds will be held in a low risk investment product.

### **Actions to deliver the policy**

A total reserve of £35,000 will be held. It is intended that this will provide £30,000 to cover periods of notice for employees, together with a £5,000 contingency fund. Any redundancy costs and the demands of creditors will be met from the sale of the assets of the organisation, including its premises.

### **Plans for future periods**

Our Strategic Plan for 2020-2022 has been refreshed and its strategic aims are:

1. To provide a holistic service for people with sight loss with statutory and voluntary services available from one source.
2. To ensure the voice of people with sensory loss is heard.
3. Implement and learn from our lottery funded activities
4. Increase take up of the community based low vision service.
5. Provision of External Training to community groups and health and social care professionals to raise awareness of the needs of people with sight loss and of the services provided by VNS.
6. Implement a diverse income strategy.

"In sight, In touch", our Lottery funded project implementation and evaluation, continues for the next year. The external evaluation, user led involvement and outcome monitoring will enable VNS to plan an exit strategy and sustainability beyond the proposed 3 year end date of 2022. However a sustained effort will be made to obtain continuation funding.

## **Vision North Somerset**

Trustees' Report

For the Year ended 31 March 2021

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### **Principal Funding Sources**

North Somerset Council is our major funder and its contract fully supports the activities carried out under the Sensory Loss Contract but does not in any way contribute to the charitable activities of the organisation.

The Lottery has been our principal source of funds for our non-statutory work.

### **The Charity is also grateful for financial support from the following:**

- Backwell Parish Council
- Banwell Parish Council
- Nailsea Town Council
- Waitrose Community Fund
- Charities Trust - Movement For Good
- Haley Security
- B. Green deceased
- Thomas Pocklington Trust
- Screwfix Foundation
- Miss K.B. Sleigh Charitable Trust
- NSC Infection Control Fund

## **Vision North Somerset**

Trustees' Report

For the Year ended 31 March 2021

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### **Statement of Trustees responsibilities**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales 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 income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable 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 maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and 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/constitution. 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.

Approved by the board on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

R Burrows  
Trustee

## **Vision North Somerset**

Independent Examiners' Report to the Trustees  
For the Year ended 31 March 2021

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### **Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Vision North Somerset**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts for Vision North Somerset ("the charity") for the year ended 31 March 2021.

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

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act").

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

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

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

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not comply with these records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the 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.

Christopher Walford ACA  
Albert Goodman LLP  
Goodwood House  
Blackbrook Park Avenue  
Taunton  
Somerset  
TA1 2PX

Dated: 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021

**Vision North Somerset**  
Statement of Financial Activities  
For the Year ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	Unre- stricted Funds	Re- stricted Funds	Total 2021	Unre- stricted Funds	Re- stricted Funds	Total 2020
<b>Income from:</b>							
Donations (including grants)	2	20,353	300,437	320,790	26,429	290,265	316,694
Other trading activities	3	10,922	-	10,922	30,259	-	30,259
Income from investments	4	725	-	725	1,116	-	1,116
<b>Total</b>		<b>32,000</b>	<b>300,437</b>	<b>332,437</b>	<b>57,804</b>	<b>290,265</b>	<b>348,069</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Charitable activities	5	15,110	308,963	324,073	53,438	283,181	336,619
<b>Total</b>		<b>15,110</b>	<b>308,963</b>	<b>324,073</b>	<b>53,438</b>	<b>283,181</b>	<b>336,619</b>
<b>Net income / (expenditure) for the year before transfers</b>		<b>16,890</b>	<b>(8,526)</b>	<b>8,364</b>	<b>4,366</b>	<b>7,084</b>	<b>11,450</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>(700)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Other recognised losses:</b>							
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	15	(23,000)	-	(23,000)	(15,000)	-	(15,000)
<b>Net movements in funds</b>		<b>(6,110)</b>	<b>(8,526)</b>	<b>(14,636)</b>	<b>(9,934)</b>	<b>6,384</b>	<b>(3,550)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>							
Fund balances at 1 April		176,690	27,475	204,165	186,624	21,091	207,715
Fund balances at 31 March		170,580	18,949	189,529	176,690	27,475	204,165

The results for the year derive from continuing activities and there are no gains or losses other than those shown above.

**Vision North Somerset**

Balance sheet

As at 31 March 2021

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	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible fixed assets	8	409,716	419,857
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stock		4,721	4,828
Debtors	9	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand		125,628	98,164
Investments	9	66,000	66,000
		<u>196,349</u>	<u>168,992</u>
<b>Creditors</b>			
Amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>(6,536)</u>	<u>(5,684)</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>189,813</u>	<u>163,308</u>
<b>Net assets excluding pension liabilities</b>		<u>599,529</u>	<u>583,165</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liabilities		<u>(410,000)</u>	<u>(379,000)</u>
<b>Total net assets including pension liabilities</b>		<u>189,529</u>	<u>204,165</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
Unrestricted funds excluding pension reserve	11	580,580	555,690
Pension reserve		<u>(410,000)</u>	<u>(379,000)</u>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>		<u>170,580</u>	<u>176,690</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>	11	<u>18,949</u>	<u>27,475</u>
<b>Total funds</b>		<u>189,529</u>	<u>204,165</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

R Burrows  
Trustee

S Pinnock  
Trustee

## Vision North Somerset

Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the Year ended 31 March 2021

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### 1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows.

#### 1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) (Charities SORP (FRS102)) and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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

#### 1.2 Income

Income from grants and donations is recognised in the year in which they are receivable when there is evidence of entitlement, receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Income from government grants and local authorities is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred. Where no conditions are attached to the grant income they are recognised within donations and legacies and where conditions relating to performance of services are attached, grant income is recognised in income from charitable activities within the Statement of Financial Activities.

Income from other trading activities is included in the period in which the charity is entitled to receipt, it is probable that economic benefits will flow to the entity and the amount can be reliably measured.

#### 1.3 Expenditure

Resources expended are recognised on the accruals basis to match the period in which the expenditure was incurred.

Charitable expenditure comprises costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

#### 1.4 Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost or valuation of fixed assets over their estimated useful lives at the following rate:

Freehold property	– 1% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	– 25% straight line

Fixed assets are capitalised where the expenditure incurred is in excess of £500 and the asset purchased is considered to have a long term benefit to the organisation.

## Vision North Somerset

Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the Year ended 31 March 2021

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### 1.5 Debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for services performed in the ordinary activities of the charity.

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

Other debtors comprise amounts due from prepayments. Amounts due from prepayments arise from the payments for services prior to benefit from those services.

### 1.6 Cash at bank and in hand

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

### 1.7 Creditors

Creditors 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 are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

### 1.8 Stocks

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

Cost is calculated on a first in, first out basis.

### 1.9 Taxation

Vision North Somerset is a registered charity and is therefore not liable to corporation tax to the extent that income and gains are applied to charitable purposes.

### 1.10 Investments

Investments are held at fair value determined by the amounts held in National Savings and Investments bonds.

### 1.11 Fund accounting

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

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets this criterion is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

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

## Vision North Somerset

Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the Year ended 31 March 2021

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### 1.12 Local Government Pension Scheme

Retirement benefits to employees of Vision North Somerset are provided by the Avon Pension Fund Local Government Pension Scheme ('LGPS'). This is a multi-employer defined benefit scheme, that is contracted out of State Earnings-Related Pension Scheme ('SERPS'), and the assets are held separately from those at Vision North Somerset.

The LGPS is a funded scheme and the assets are held separately from those of Vision North Somerset in separate trustee administered funds. Pension Scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current the current service cost and gains and losses on settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs. Past service costs are recognised immediately, the costs are recognised over the period until vesting occurs. The expected return on assets and the interest cost are shown as a net finance amount of other finance costs or credit adjacent to interest. Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other gains and losses.

### 1.13 Defined contribution pension scheme

In addition to the LGPS, the charity also operates a defined contribution pension scheme (NEST) for those not entitled to join the LGPS. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which fixed contributions (7.5% employer contribution) are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or contrastive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as staff pension expenses through the SOFA when they are due.

### 1.14 Going concern

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to the events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of the period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements.

Some areas of income generation e.g. pink elephant collecting tins, room hire and low vision service have decreased over the past 12 months but this has been mitigated by emerging COVID-19 grant making opportunities and development in digital fundraising. Statutory funding from North Somerset Council continues and the Lottery, reaching communities fund runs until the end of March 2022.

The trustees have concluded that, although the current economic climate is not favourable for charitable purposes, past experience suggests that funding will be available to support the objectives, the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

### **1.15 Financial instruments**

The charity only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and liabilities of the charity and their measurements are as follows:

Financial assets – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost and details in note 15. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

Cash at bank – is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

Financial liabilities – trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost and detailed in note 15. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

## Vision North Somerset

Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the Year ended 31 March 2021

<b>2 Donations and legacies</b>	<b>Unre- stricted Funds</b>	<b>Re- stricted Funds</b>	<b>Total 2021</b>	<b>Unre- stricted Funds</b>	<b>Re- stricted Funds</b>	<b>Total 2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Grant income</b>						
The Big Lottery	-	111,844	111,844	-	110,400	110,400
North Somerset Council Social Services	-	165,146	165,146	-	165,146	165,146
The Will Charitable Trust	-	5,000	5,000	-	-	-
Thomas Pocklington Trust	-	9,957	9,957	-	-	-
Screwfix Foundation	-	4,490	4,490	-	-	-
Miss K B Sleigh Charitable Trust	-	2,000	2,000	-	-	-
NSC - Infection Control Fund	-	2,000	2,000	-	-	-
Training Project	-	-	-	-	125	125
Quartet Community Foundation	-	-	-	-	1,128	1,128
Low Vision Assessments	-	-	-	-	700	700
Somerset Community Foundation	-	-	-	-	2,500	2,500
Rank Foundation	-	-	-	-	650	650
National Lottery Awards	-	-	-	-	9,616	9,616
	-	300,437	300,437	-	290,265	290,265
Donations	20,353	-	20,353	26,429	-	26,429
	20,353	300,437	320,790	26,429	290,265	316,694
<b>3 Other trading activities</b>						
	<b>Unre- stricted Funds</b>	<b>Re- stricted Funds</b>	<b>Total 2021</b>	<b>Unre- stricted Funds</b>	<b>Re- stricted Funds</b>	<b>Total 2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Other	1,037	-	1,037	1,075	-	1,075
Re-sale equipment	8,560	-	8,560	23,054	-	23,054
Room hire	1,325	-	1,325	6,130	-	6,130
	10,922	-	10,922	30,259	-	30,259

## Vision North Somerset

Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the Year ended 31 March 2021

<b>4 Investment Income</b>	<b>Unre- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Re- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2021 £</b>	<b>Unre- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Re- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2020 £</b>
Bank interest receivable	725	-	725	1,116	-	1,116

<b>5 Direct charitable expenditure</b>	<b>Unre- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Re- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2021 £</b>	<b>Unre- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Re- stricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2020 £</b>
Wages and salaries Core and operating costs	12,957	226,899	239,856	18,459	213,787	232,246
Legal and professional	3,793	52,815	56,608	5,339	57,407	62,746
Re-sale equipment purchased	-	6,561	6,561	1,088	666	1,754
Project costs	8,051	-	8,051	18,974	-	18,974
Contribution to core costs	575	12,422	12,997	9,578	11,321	20,899
	(10,266)	10,266	-			
	15,110	308,963	324,073	53,438	283,181	336,619

<b>6 Employees</b>	<b>2021 £</b>	<b>2020 £</b>
Wages and salaries	182,629	165,349
Social security costs	8,911	8,279
Pension costs (note 14)	48,316	58,618
	239,856	232,246

No individual was paid over £60,000 (2020: none).

The average number of employees for the year was as follows:

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Number of staff	10	10

## Vision North Somerset

Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the Year ended 31 March 2021

One person is considered key management personnel of the charity, being the Chief Executive Officer. Total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Charity were £47,620 (2020: £46,051), including employers national insurance and employers pension contributions.

The charity operates both defined benefit and defined contribution pension schemes. The charge in the Statement of Financial Activities for the year is shown above. Contributions totalling £nil (2020: £nil) were payable to the schemes at the year end and are included in creditors. Further details of the defined benefit scheme are given in note 14.

<b>7 Net incoming resources before transfers</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation	14,346	13,299
Accountants remuneration		
- independent examination	1,470	1,470
- other	930	930

<b>8 Tangible assets</b>	<b>Freehold property</b>	<b>Fixtures &amp; Fittings</b>	<b>Total</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cost</b>			
As at 01.04.2020	425,000	103,455	528,455
Additions	-	4,205	4,205
As at 31.03.2021	425,000	107,660	532,660
<b>Depreciation</b>			
As at 01.04.2020	17,006	91,592	108,598
Charge for period	4,252	10,094	14,346
As at 31.03.2021	21,258	101,686	122,944
<b>Net book value</b>			
As at 31.03.2021	403,742	5,974	409,716
As at 31.03.2020	407,994	11,863	419,857

The pension deficit (to a maximum of £200,000) is secured against the property.

**Vision North Somerset**  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the Year ended 31 March 2021

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<b>9 Investments</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
National Savings Bond investments	66,000	66,000
	<u>66,000</u>	<u>66,000</u>

<b>10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade creditors	887	1,702
Accruals	2,985	2,340
Other creditors	2,664	3,698
	<u>6,536</u>	<u>7,740</u>

**Vision North Somerset**Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the Year ended 31 March 2021

<b>11 Statement of Funds</b>	<b>Balance 01.04.20 £</b>	<b>Income £</b>	<b>Expenditure £</b>	<b>Transfers/ (losses) £</b>	<b>Balance 31.03.21 £</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Ian Karten Centre	9,006	-	(6,187)	-	2,819
North Somerset Council Social Services	-	165,146	(165,146)	-	-
Quartet Community Foundation (Reboot)	2,055	-	(2,055)	-	-
Quartet Community Foundation (Digital profile)	1,128	-	(255)	-	873
The Big Lottery	6,911	111,844	(106,619)	-	12,136
National Lottery Awards	8,375	-	(5,833)	-	2,542
The Will Charitable Trust	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Thomas Pocklington Trust	-	9,957	(9,378)	-	579
Screwfix Foundation	-	4,490	(4,490)	-	-
Miss K B Sleigh Charitable Trust	-	2,000	(2,000)	-	-
NSC Infection Control Fund	-	2,000	(2,000)	-	-
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>27,475</b>	<b>300,437</b>	<b>(308,963)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,949</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Unrestricted funds excluding pension reserve	555,690	32,000	(7,110)	-	580,580
Pension reserve	(379,000)	-	(8,000)	(23,000)	(410,000)
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>176,690</b>	<b>32,000</b>	<b>(15,110)</b>	<b>(23,000)</b>	<b>170,580</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>204,165</b>	<b>332,437</b>	<b>(324,073)</b>	<b>(23,000)</b>	<b>189,529</b>

**Vision North Somerset**

Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the Year ended 31 March 2021

**Statement of Funds- Prior year**

	<b>Balance 01.04.19 £</b>	<b>Income £</b>	<b>Expenditure £</b>	<b>Transfers/ (losses) £</b>	<b>Balance 31.03.20 £</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Ian Karten Centre	15,193	-	(6,187)	-	9,006
North Somerset Council Social Services	-	165,146	(165,146)	-	-
Quartet Community Foundation (Reboot)	5,232		(3,177)	-	2,055
Quartet Community Foundation (Digital profile)	-	1,128	-	-	1,128
The Big Lottery	-	110,400	(103,489)	-	6,911
National Lottery Awards	-	9,616	(1,241)	-	8,375
Somerset Community Foundation	-	2,500	(2,500)	-	-
Rank Foundation	-	650	(650)	-	-
Low Visions Assessments Training Project	-	700	-	(700)	-
Lloyds Bank Foundation	666	-	(666)	-	-
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>21,091</b>	<b>290,265</b>	<b>(283,181)</b>	<b>(700)</b>	<b>27,475</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Unrestricted funds excluding pension reserve	532,624	57,804	(35,438)	700	555,690
Pension reserve	(346,000)	-	(18,000)	(15,000)	(379,000)
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>186,624</b>	<b>57,804</b>	<b>(53,438)</b>	<b>(14,300)</b>	<b>176,690</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>207,715</b>	<b>348,069</b>	<b>(336,619)</b>	<b>(15,000)</b>	<b>204,165</b>

## Vision North Somerset

Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the Year ended 31 March 2021

The purposes for material funds are as follows:

- Ian Karten Centre fund are amounts received for the purchase of information technology assets that will aid the training of the visually impaired. Fund is reduced by the purchase and depreciation of assets.
- The Social Services fund is the North Somerset District Council grant for the sensory impairment service offered by Vision North Somerset commissioned by the Local Authority.
- Quartet Community Foundation (Reboot) grant was given specifically for the development of the Rendevous café project that aimed to increase meetings for VNS service users. Fund is reduced by the purchase and depreciation of assets.
- The Big Lottery is to fund the 'in sight, in touch' project as mentioned in detail in the Trustees Report.
- National Lottery Awards is for staff & volunteer training costs to be able to better support service users.
- Thomas Pocklington Trust – in order to deliver a Telephone Counselling and Emotional Support Programme through the Covid-19 crisis.

### 12 Related party transactions

No remuneration has been paid to Trustees during the year (2020: none). No trustees were reimbursed travelling expenses during the year (2020: none).

### 13 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unre- stricted Funds £	Re- stricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Unre- stricted Funds £	Re- stricted Funds £	Total 2020 £
Tangible assets	406,897	2,819	409,716	408,796	11,061	419,857
Net current assets excluding pension reserve	173,683	16,130	189,813	146,894	16,414	163,308
Pension reserve	(410,000)	-	(410,000)	(379,000)	-	(379,000)
	<u>170,580</u>	<u>18,949</u>	<u>189,529</u>	<u>176,690</u>	<u>27,475</u>	<u>204,165</u>

#### 14 Pension commitments

The majority of the Charity's employees belong to the Local Government Pension Schemes (LGPS) managed by the Avon Pension Fund ("APF").

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest actuarial valuation for the LGPS was 31 March 2020.

The scheme is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with assets held in a separate Trustee-administrated fund. The total contributions made for the year ended 31 March 2021 were £40,000 of which employer's contributions totalled £34,000 and employees' contributions totalled £6,000. The current employer contribution rate for future years is 23.7% of members payroll from 1 April 2020. In addition to the employer contribution, the charity makes additional monthly payments of £950 (£983.33 from 1 April 2021) towards the LGPS pension scheme, in order to repay the pension deficit over 12 years.

##### Summary of net pension liability as at 31 March 2021

	<b>Total 2021 £'000</b>	<b>Total 2020 £'000</b>
Present value of defined benefit obligations	(1,221)	(1,064)
Fair value of share of scheme assets	811	685
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Deficit in the scheme	(410)	(379)
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

##### Principal Actuarial Assumptions

	<b>At 31 March 2021</b>	<b>At 31 March 2020</b>
Salary increases	4.20%	3.60%
Pension increases	2.80%	2.20%
Discount rate	2.10%	2.40%
CPI increases	2.70%	2.10%

**14 Pension commitments (cont.)**

The current mortality assumptions include sufficient allowance for the future improvements in mortality rates.

The assumed life expectations on retirement age 65 are:

	At 31 March 2021	At 31 March 2020
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	23.3	23.2
Females	25.4	25.3
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	24.8	24.7
Females	27.4	27.3

The Trust's share of the assets and liabilities in the Avon Pension Fund are as follows:

	As at 31 March 2021		As at 31 March 2020	
	Fair value £'000	% of total scheme assets	Fair value £'000	% of total scheme assets
Equities	304	38%	299	44%
Gilts	114	14%	38	6%
Other bonds	69	9%	62	9%
Property	58	7%	68	10%
Cash	24	3%	15	2%
Other	242	30%	203	30%
	-----		-----	
Total market value of assets	811	100%	685	100%
Present value of scheme Liabilities - funded	(1,221)		(1,064)	
	-----		-----	
Deficit in the scheme	(410)		(379)	
	-----		-----	

The actual return on scheme assets was £119,000 (2020: £46,000).

**14 Pension commitments (cont.)**

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities are as follows:

	<b>At 31 March 2021 £'000</b>	<b>At 31 March 2020 £'000</b>
Current service cost (net of employee contributions)	(33)	(44)
Past service cost	-	(4)
Net interest cost	(8)	(8)
Admin expenses	(1)	(1)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total</b>	<b>(42)</b>	<b>(57)</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Movements in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as follows:

	<b>At 31 March 2021 £'000</b>	<b>At 31 March 2020 £'000</b>
<b>At 1 April 2020</b>	<b>(1,064)</b>	<b>(1,056)</b>
Current service cost	(33)	(44)
Interest cost	(25)	(25)
Estimated benefits paid	31	22
Employee contributions	(6)	(7)
Past service cost	-	(4)
Actuarial gains/(losses)	(124)	50
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>At 31 March 2021</b>	<b>(1,221)</b>	<b>(1,064)</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**14 Pension commitments (cont.)**

**Movements in the fair value of the charity's share of scheme assets were as follows:**

	<b>At 31 March 2021 £'000</b>	<b>At 31 March 2020 £'000</b>
<b>At 1 April 2020</b>	685	710
Interest income	17	17
Expected return on fund assets	101	(65)
Employer contributions	34	39
Employee contributions	6	7
Estimated benefits paid	(31)	(22)
Administrative expenses	(1)	(1)
<b>At 31 March 2021</b>	<u>811</u>	<u>685</u>

**15 Financial instruments**

	<b>2021 £</b>	<b>2020 £</b>
Financial assets that are debt instruments measured at amortised cost	191,628	164,164
	<u>191,628</u>	<u>164,164</u>
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	4,052	3,343
	<u>4,052</u>	<u>3,343</u>

There were no items of income, expense, gains or losses to report.