



**2025 TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT
AND RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS
FOR
WARRINGTON VISUALLY IMPAIRED PEOPLE**

For the period

1st APRIL 2024 TO 31st MARCH 2025

1. Reference and Administration

Charity Name: Warrington Visually Impaired People
Registered Charity No: 1169900
Address: Fairfield and Howley Centre
Fairfield Street Warrington
WA13AJ

Trustees

Name	Position	Notes
Mr. Geoff Settle		Appointed September 2021
Cllr Mr. Peter Walker		Resigned May 2025
Ms. Linda Welding		Appointed January 2022
Mr. Frederick Parkinson		Appointed January 2023
Mr. David Latham		Appointed September 2023
Mrs. Janet Bates		Deceased September 2025
Mrs. Nicola Hartley		Appointed May 2025
Mrs. Lisa Wong		Appointed September 2025
Mr Neil Johnson		Appointed September 2025

Senior Staff

Name	Position	Notes
Mrs. Fiona Patterson	Centre Manager	

2. Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

Warrington Visually Impaired People (WVIP) was established in 2016 and is registered with the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The charity is governed by a constitution adopted on 10 July 2016.

Prior to this, the organisation operated as the *Warrington, Widnes and District Society for the Blind*, which was founded in 1923 and registered as a charity with the Charity Commission.

Appointment of trustees

At the launch of the CIO in 2016, trustees were appointed for an initial term of one year by resolution at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

- The charity must have a minimum of five trustees. If the number falls below this, the remaining trustee(s) may act only to call a meeting or appoint new trustees.
- The maximum number of trustees is seven. No further appointments may be made if this maximum would be exceeded.
- A trustee may serve for a maximum of three consecutive terms. After stepping down for at least one year, they may be eligible for reappointment.

Trustee induction and training

New trustees take part in an induction programme designed to ensure they are aware of their legal obligations under charity law, the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and the charity's constitution. They are provided with copies of the constitution, the latest trustees' report, and the annual accounts.

The induction includes:

- Meetings with key staff and trustees.
- A briefing on governance, financial management, and operational processes.
- An introduction to current services and activities.

Trustees are also encouraged to attend relevant external training events to support them in carrying out their roles effectively.

Organisation

The charity is governed by an Executive Committee made up of a minimum of five and a maximum of seven trustees. The Committee meets regularly throughout the year and may establish sub-committees as required to support specific areas of work.

Day-to-day operations are managed by a Centre Manager, who is appointed by and accountable to the Executive Committee. The Centre Manager has delegated authority for operational matters, including finance, staffing, and service delivery, within the scope set by the trustees.

In planning and delivering services, the trustees have regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. WVIP provides support to all visually impaired people in Warrington, irrespective of age, gender, faith, or personal circumstances.

3. Objectives and Activities

Objects of the charity

The charity's objectives are to support blind and visually impaired people, their families, and carers in Warrington, in particular but not exclusively, through the following activities:

- Providing financial or other assistance to visually impaired individuals experiencing age-related challenges, sickness, hardship, or distress, with the aim of improving their quality of life.
- Organising social, educational, and recreational activities to enhance wellbeing and reduce isolation.
- Supporting and collaborating with official visitors and other organisations working with visually impaired people.
- Maintaining a Resource Centre that offers equipment, advice, and information.
- Delivering a caring, supportive, and confidential service to all visually impaired people across Warrington and the surrounding district.

4. Main Activities and Achievements

Chair-Based Exercise – Fitness Meets Fun!

In partnership with the **Warrington Wolves Foundation**, we reintroduced **chair-based exercise** classes. These monthly sessions are joyful and energising, featuring beachballs, dance routines, coloured scarves, boxing gloves and a lively ABBA soundtrack.

Attendees have grown from 5 to a steady 10, with all members leaving feeling revitalised and waiting for the next session.



Macular Society Support Group

This vital group supports people with age-related macular degeneration, offering both peer guidance and friendship along with a brew, soup and a sandwich. The group has expanded steadily and remains a key service, with many attendees forming friendships outside of the group. As with all our services this advice for welfare, aids and devices is available throughout.

Lunch Club – Food, Friendship and Community

Our Tuesday and Thursday lunch clubs continue to thrive headed up by Abi as the kitchen assistant. In summer, we welcomed Chef Steve, a professionally trained chef whose links to the Food Alliance Network have reduced food costs and introduced a fresh, nutritious, and varied menu.

Lunch is served alongside social events including:

- Guest speakers (e.g. ECLO, WBC Sensory team, Healthwatch, Warrington Disability Partnership)
- Pamper days - nail painting and facials from Tropic & Activity Angels
- Music and entertainment – Rock Choir, Centenary Theatre, Warrington U3a Ukulele group, Boos Mobile Zoo and Owls
- Quizzes and bingo – Delivered by Adrian and the volunteering team
- Special occasions or themed lunches such as the south Indian cuisine cooked by Pam from the U3a group which included homemade poppadom's, chicken tikka and vegetable curry.





We actively seek member feedback and tailor activities formally through an annual survey, through the committee meetings and by speaking to members each week.

Day trips and Holidays

Following a member request for a new destination, after we travelled to Lytham St Annes in September 2024 and Llandudno in March 2025 for a 5-day stay at the Merrion Hotel. Highlights included:

- Afternoon tea by the sea
- Fish and chips
- Shopping excursions
- Dancing and evening entertainment
- And of course—ice cream on the prom!

This much-loved trip organised by **Centre Manager Fiona** and our volunteer team was filled with fun and smiles all round.

We had many trips out locally to the London Inn, afternoon tea at the Town Hall with the Mayor and....



Transport – Combating Isolation

We operate three accessible minibuses, which are essential to reducing isolation. Over 60% of lunch club attendees use this service, with a further 30% driven by family members. Regular fundraising ensures we can maintain and eventually replace these vehicles, one vehicle was replaced.

Home Visiting Service

Funded by a renewed Service Level Agreement with Warrington Borough Council, our team of five trained Home Visitors continues to support individuals in their own homes—particularly in the period following diagnosis. The service has expanded, and referrals are growing with case studies showing the positive impact of helping someone to read their mail, attend an appointment, link them up with community services, advocate on their behalf or simply having someone to talk to.

5. Community Engagement and Partnerships

Website & Media Support

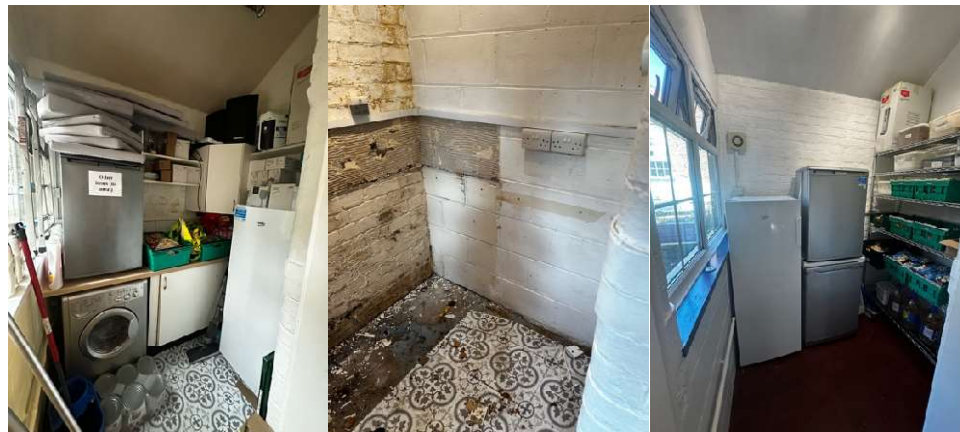
A local media company **Mutacio** maintains and updates our website **free of charge**, ensuring accessible information is always available.

Centre Renovation and Sensory Garden

Thanks to an **Absolute Radio grant**, plus support from:

- The **VIP Garden Gang**
- **Fujitsu volunteers**
- Family members of the VIP team
- A full building repaint by **Waines Estates**

...our centre has been **refreshed, repainted, and replanted**, becoming an even more welcoming, accessible space. The small kitchen which needed a freshen up is now a purposeful larder for chefs fresh produce, and his freezers.



A grant from **Morrisons** funded a **commercial cooker**, making our kitchen more efficient. Trustee Dave a retired electrician installed the cooker following the conversion of the electrical supply to triple Phase with a former colleague to certify the work.



The centre now proudly features a **smart blue interior** (reflecting the VIP logo), and **portraits and group pictures of our members** decorate the walls—celebrating the people at the heart of what we do.

6. Volunteers – The Heart of VIP

Our **volunteer programme** continues to grow. Roles include:

- Driving and passenger assistance
- Helping in the kitchen and dining areas
- Social support and friendly listening
- Supporting events and holiday logistics

Many have been with us for years and are integral to daily operations. Volunteers receive **training** and are recognised at our annual **Volunteer Appreciation Evening**, is a night where they are served a three-course meal by staff and trustees in gratitude for their service. It's a great opportunity for all volunteers to get together to chat, laugh and have a lovely time. We are partner with Warrington Vale Royal and Willow Green to offer work experience and supported internships with the annual trip to WVR Buckleys restaurant a firm favourite of our VIPs. The Willow Green Internship has led to a permanent volunteering position for Aleshia who was prompted to be passenger assistant alongside her centre assistant role early 2025.



7. Member Feedback

A survey conducted in June 2024 highlighted:

- **30%** of lunch club members joined in the last 12 months
- **32%** have been with us 5–15 years
- Several have attended for **20+ years**, demonstrating strong loyalty

Members say they value:

- **Friendship and connection**
- **Getting out of the house**
- **Hot, nutritious meals**
- **Fun and purpose-filled days**

Referrals come primarily from:

- **The NHS**
- **Social care teams**
- **Family and friends**

8. Financial Review

Grants & Income Sources:

- Ongoing support from **WBC**
- Member contributions (£5/month via "**Brick in the Wall**" scheme)
- Local **lottery shares** and **Give as You Live**
- Grants from **EET Fuels (£1,000)**, **Torus (£1,500)**, **Omega (£3,000)**, **Morrisons**, and others

Although income has remained steady, the trustees acknowledge the need to develop **new funding streams** to build long-term resilience.

Reserves policy

The Trustees have reviewed the reserves policy for Warrington VIP and have decided to aim to retain three months running costs in unrestricted cash reserves as this should ensure the Charity can continue to operate effectively.

The Trustees also decided that the Investment Assets that were created when the Charity sold their previous property on Museum Street in Warrington should be treated as Designated reserves which are held for the future purchase of a property. The timing of this expenditure is unknown but the Trustees believe that it is prudent to hold these funds in reserve to secure the future of the Charity if a relocation is required.

9. Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the trustees report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signed: *Geoffrey F Settle*

Name: Geoffrey F Settle

Position Chair WVIP

Date: 07/01/2026

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS/TRUSTEES OF WARRINGTON VISUALLY IMPAIRED PEOPLE

CHARITY NUMBER: 1169900

I report on the accounts for the period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025, which is set out on pages 11-17

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The trustees of the charity are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

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


Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

1. Which give me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements
 - To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have, not been met; or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: 

Date: 08/01/2026

Address: 8, Wimmerleigh Street
Warrington
WA1 1JW

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR WARRINGTON VISUALLY IMPAIRED PEOPLE
PERIOD: 1st APRIL 2024 TO 31st MARCH 2025

Receipts and Payments

a) Receipts

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Donations & Legacies	3a	54,101	-	1,000	55,101	38,250
Income from charitable activities	3b	3,154	-	40,575	43,729	36,501
Fundraising	3c	970	-	-	970	-
Investment Income	3d	2,510	-	-	2,510	3,501
<i>Sub Total</i>		60,735	-	41,575	102,310	78,252
<i>Asset and Investment Sales</i>		40,000	-	-	40,000	44,100
Total Receipts		100,735	-	41,575	142,310	122,352

b) Payments

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Expenditure on raising funds	3e	-	-	-	-	-
Expenditure on charitable activities	3f	136,175	-	34,032	170,207	155,493
<i>Sub Total</i>		136,175	-	34,032	172,207	155,493
<i>Asset and Investment Purchases</i>		14,118	-	-	14,118	533
Total Payments		150,293	-	34,032	184,325	156,026
Excess Payments over Receipts		(49,558)	-	7,543	(42,015)	(33,674)
Transfers between funds		28,968	(13,632)	(15,336)	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank 1 st April		42,448	20,344	27,300	90,092	123,766
Cash at bank 31 st March		21,858	6,712	19,507	48,077	90,092

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR WARRINGTON VISUALLY IMPAIRED PEOPLE
PERIOD: 1st APRIL 2024 TO 31st MARCH 2025 (cont'd....)

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

c) Cash Funds

	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £
HSBC Current Account	4,438	-	-
HSBC Home Visiting Account	-	-	19,507
HSBC Hospital Desk Account	16,140	-	-
HSBC Fundraising Deposit Account	-	6,712	-
NatWest No1 Account	1,280	-	-
Total Cash Funds	21,858	6,712	19,507

d) Other Monetary Assets due

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £
Gift Aid Recoverable	-	-
Loan to The Old School Project	6,450	
Total Monetary Assets	6,450	-

e) Investment Assets

	Fund £	Value £
2,499 units M&G Chari fund	Designated	37,942
54 Royal Bank of Scotland Ordinary Shares	Designated	248
CCLA Ethical Investment Fund	Designated	346,277
CCLA Property Fund	Designated	102,400
Total Investment Assets		486,867

**ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR WARRINGTON VISUALLY IMPAIRED PEOPLE
PERIOD: 1st APRIL 2024 TO 31st MARCH 2025 (CONT'D....)
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES (CONT'D)**

f) Assets Retained for charity's own use

	Fund	Value £
Minibuses	Unrestricted	21,436
IT Equipment	Unrestricted	369
Furniture and Fixtures	Unrestricted	10,121
Stock of Aids and Adaptations	Unrestricted	-
Total Assets		31,926

g) Liabilities

	Fund	Value £
Pension Liability	Unrestricted	761
P.A.Y.E. Liability	Unrestricted	486
Total Liabilities		1,247

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR WARRINGTON VISUALLY IMPAIRED PEOPLE

PERIOD: 1st APRIL 2024 TO 31st MARCH 2025 (CONT'D....)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Accounting Policies

The trustees have agreed that as the charity is not a company and has an annual gross income of less than £250,000 then it can prepare Receipts and Payments accounts.

2. Restricted Funds

Fund	B/Fwd £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	C/Fwd £
Home Visiting	27,300	40,575	(33,032)	(15,336)	19,507
Garden	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-
Total Funds	27,300	41,575	(34,032)	(17,154)	19,507

Home Visiting fund is a service agreement from Warrington Borough Council which supports visually impaired people who have just been diagnosed with sight loss. This includes visiting clients in their homes and providing help and assistance where necessary.

Garden this fund provides for ongoing maintenance of the sensory garden at the Fairfield Center which visually impaired people use on a regular basis. The trustees have confirmed the project is now complete and the balance has been transferred to the unrestricted fund.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR WARRINGTON VISUALLY IMPAIRED PEOPLE

PERIOD: 1st APRIL 2024 TO 31st MARCH 2025 (CONT'D....)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONT'D)

Designated Funds

Fund	B/Fwd £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	C/Fwd £
Minibus Fund	20,344	-	-	(13,632)	6,712
Garden	-	-	-	-	-
Property Fund – Investment Assets	-	-	-	486,867	486,867
Total Funds	20,344	-	-	473,244	493,579

Minibus Fund – The trustees have decided to use a legacy given in 2018/19 to fund a new minibus in the next year or so.

Property Fund – The trustees have decided that the investment assets should be held for the potential purchase of a new property for the Charity.

3. Notes to the Accounts

3a) Donations & Legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Donations	54,101	1,000	55,101	38,250
Legacies	-	-	-	-
In Memory	-	-	-	-
Gift Aid	-	-	-	-
Total	54,101	1,000	55,101	38,250

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR WARRINGTON VISUALLY IMPAIRED PEOPLE

PERIOD: 1ST APRIL 2024 TO 31ST MARCH 2025 (CONT'D....)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONT'D)

3b) Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Grants	-	40,575	40,575	36,472
Luncheon club sales	3,120	-	3,120	-
Aids and adaptation sales	34	-	34	29
Total	3,154	40,575	43,729	36,501

3c) Fundraising

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Raffles	970	-	970	-
Total	970	-	970	-

3d) Investment Income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Bank interest	245	-	245	1,352
Investment interest	2,265	-	2,265	2,149
Rental income	-	-	-	-
Total	2,510	-	2,510	3,501

3e) Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Disability Day	-	-	-	-	-
Property Utilities	-	-	-	-	-
Property repairs	-	-	-	-	-
Legal Fees	-	-	-	-	-
Equip Hire	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR WARRINGTON VISUALLY IMPAIRED PEOPLE

PERIOD: 1st APRIL 2024 TO 31st MARCH 2025 (CONT'D....)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONT'D)

3f) Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Staff costs	73,812	-	30,906	104,718	99,523
Staff & Volunteer expenses	2,293	-	1,819	4,112	1,967
Staff & Volunteer training	788	-	307	1,095	623
Rent and Insurance	23,279	-	-	23,279	22,762
Phone, Zoom, broadband & IT Support & Software	2,228	-	-	2,228	2,333
Stationery, postage & office costs	1,393	-	-	1,393	1,493
Holidays	7,394	-	-	7,394	4,702
Minibus costs	7,614	-	-	7,614	6,537
Fees	180	-	-	180	184
Accountancy fees	3,264	-	-	3,264	144
Repairs and refurbishment	192	-	1,000	1,192	2,962
Activities & Entertainment	2,890	-	-	2,890	1,288
Catering costs	9,510	-	-	9,510	9,414
Cost of aids and adaptations	1,082	-	-	1,082	1,292
Bank Charges	256	-	-	256	203
IT Equip	-	-	-	-	66
Total	136,175	-	34,032	170,207	155,493

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signed: Geoffrey F Settle

Name: Geoffrey F Settle

Position Chair WVIP

Date: 07/01/2026