

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1175066

SANDWELL VISUALLY IMPAIRED
CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2022

SANDWELL VISUALLY IMPAIRED CIO

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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SANDWELL VISUALLY IMPAIRED CIO

TRUSTEES AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

Registered charity name Sandwell Visually Impaired CIO

Charity number 1175066

Principal address SVI Office
West Bromwich Town Hall
Lodge Road
West Bromwich
B70 8DY

Trustees A D Averis
K Averis
P Bhachu
T Burling
R Flatley
R Gormley
T Gracesmith
G Orlebar
K Patel
H Rourke

Independent examiner J S Pye FCCA
23 Carline Crescent
Shrewsbury
Shropshire
SY3 7EU

SANDWELL VISUALLY IMPAIRED CIO

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The Trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Reference and administrative details are shown in the schedule of members of the board and professional advisers on page 1 of the financial statements.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

(a) Governing document

The charity is controlled by its constitution dated 10 October 2017 and is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

(b) Organisational structure

The charity has a management committee of up to 15 members who meet regularly and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity.

(c) Appointment of trustees

Under the requirements of the constitution trustees are elected to the management committee to serve for a period of up to three years after which trustees must be re-elected at the next annual general meeting.

(d) Risk management

The trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational issues which the organisation faces. They confirm that systems are in place to enable regular reports to be produced so that necessary steps can be taken to reduce risks.

SANDWELL VISUALLY IMPAIRED CIO

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT *(continued)*

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objects and principle activities of the charity are to relieve the needs of blind and visually impaired people living or working of the Borough of Sandwell in the West Midlands, their families and carers in particular, but not exclusively, by assistance in the provision of advice, education, information and support to enable increased independence and life opportunities.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

This Financial Year has seen a steady return to 'normality'. With the continued relaxation of Covid rules and guidance being eased over subsequent months. As the year progressed, we continued to review our Covid-19 strategies and work on our recovery plan to get out of the pandemic restrictions safely and in a timely manner. We made careful and well-considered plans to commence outdoor, face to face activities, gradually increasing our provision to include limited indoor sessions in line with Covid safe procedures.

Our standard services continue to be offered and are available to our membership of 353 members, carers and associates who have an interest in sight loss issues. We have responded to 1034 sight loss enquires via telephone support and doorstep visits. Sandwell has 1,115 people registered as sight impaired with the Local Authority as of 02.09.21. According to RNIB (Royal National Institute of the Blind) statistics, Sandwell would be expected to have an estimated 9,130 adult residents with some level of sight loss. Many of these people are not receiving a regular support service via statutory provision.

SVI's work is based on true user participation and co-production. Our aim is to:

- reduce the isolation, disempowerment and loss of confidence experienced by many visually impaired people;
- provide a safe supporting approach to keeping active and healthier for longer;
- offer practical support to enable visually impaired people and their families to access support as and when they need it;
- encourage blind and visually impaired people to play an active role in the community;
- support families, friends and associates of people living with sight loss;
- work with service providers to inform and educate.

All our activities and campaigns are organised and led by visually impaired people with the assistance of our committed staff and volunteers.

We take a holistic approach, looking at all elements of the mental, physical and emotional wellbeing of the people who use our services. SVI seeks to help remove the fears associated with sight loss and encourages people to explore other ways of doing things which they might think is no longer possible.

We provide support in a range of areas, all of which are interlinked.

Supporting independence

A diagnosis of sight loss can be extremely traumatic. Even those who have been visually impaired but whose sight is changing can become very anxious and fearful. With an estimated 45.2% of blind and visually impaired people experiencing depression, SVI has taken steps to try to remove some of the fears around sight loss and help people to explore a range of coping strategies. This became

SANDWELL VISUALLY IMPAIRED CIO

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT *(continued)*

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

particularly important at a time when many support services had stopped due to the pandemic and people felt even more isolated and alone.

Our daisy chain telephone befriending scheme offered a weekly welfare call to isolated and vulnerable people. Our Mind Body Moving Forward programme helped blind and visually impaired people to develop internal mechanisms and emotional support strategies to help them cope through difficult times. Particularly supporting people to reconnect with others post Covid.

Social support

Meeting others and getting out and about is extremely important to people. Our 'Park Walks Programme', was our first step to restoring SVI group activities. A weekly group of blind and visually impaired walkers assisted by a team of sighted guide volunteers, provided valuable practical and emotional support to enable people to return to a 'normal' way of life. Our one-to-one and group volunteers, have supported people to do the things that sighted people take for granted, something that was extremely important as we moved out of Covid restrictions.

We introduced virtual activities in 2020, supporting people to meet in virtual groups to help them to keep in touch. These online and virtual activities continue to be popular and our weekly virtual Coffee and Conversation' support group extends a hand of friendship to those who still don't feel able to venture out of their homes.

Health and wellbeing

SVI has developed proactive partnerships with Sandwell Leisure Trust, the Portway Lifestyle Centre and Places for People, taking positive steps towards addressing barriers visually impaired people face in accessing fitness facilities. We recruit and train volunteer buddies to enable visually impaired people to take part in a range of activities on an equal basis. As this year has progressed and with the help of an Active Black Country and Sports England Tackling Inequality Fund Grant we have gradually introduced gym sessions, swimming, Aquafit and line dancing to our healthy living offer. As confidence builds, we will extend these activities further.

Arts Project

The arts have often been seen as something that blind and visually impaired people cannot take part in. SVI seek to break down these beliefs and encourage people with sight loss to enjoy arts and culture in a different way.

Working in partnership with Multistory and visually impaired photographer Karren Visser, we have been working on an exciting project that reflects the lived experiences, hopes and fears of blind and visually impaired people in Sandwell. The digital stories of some of our SVI members were launched this year. These were audio described by the members themselves. They highlight the skills demonstrated by visually impaired people during lockdown who produced amazing digital stories. They give a fascinating insight into their varied lives through the videos. Two further international virtual events have also taken place.

This year SVI also worked in partnership with Black Country Touring on 'A Word in your Ear', a virtual poetry project with poet Adrian Earl, who created a new poem 'Congregation' which was stimulated by his experience of meeting blind and visually impaired people over the phone during lockdown.

SANDWELL VISUALLY IMPAIRED CIO

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT *(continued)*

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Access to new Technology

The ability to use new technology has become almost essential for everyday life. In this fast-moving area, blind and visually impaired people are increasingly likely to be left behind. SVI helped some of our visually impaired members to develop the confidence and skills to use new technology such as Zoom and Teams during their prolonged stay at home. With many of our members being older people, most have lost their sight in later life. The skills base or even willingness/confidence to even try out technology was often a barrier.

As part of our support to members, we hold virtual 'Appy Hour' peer support groups to help visually impaired people to access mobile phones, smart devices and tablets.

Information and communication

One of the largest barriers faced by people living with sight loss is accessing information. SVI works with statutory and community organisations to highlight the importance of accessible information in all formats. We circulate safeguarding alerts, police notices and neighbourhood information via email and text message. We work in partnership with Sandwell Talking News to offer a postal and online weekly audio newspaper to blind and visually impaired people throughout Sandwell.

Fundraising and awareness events

We have not yet re-established our usual programme of fund raising and promotional events. We have put our membership fund raising on hold until such a time we feel it is appropriate to resume these activities.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves Policy

The Statement of Financial Activities shows a gross income of £55,020 and expenditure of £57,162. The reserves are primarily to cover the development and future running expenses of all aspects of the organisation.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

Our Trustees' overall aim is to establish SVI as a sustainable, user-led organisation with a reputation for delivering quality services. The majority of our Trustees are visually impaired themselves and are experts by experience. They are passionate about providing a service that fully meets the needs of their peers in Sandwell. We have two part-time staff seconded from the Council. We benefit from a central office location within the Borough at a peppercorn rent thanks to the Council's commitment to our service. This year we have also directly employed two part-time staff on short-term, grant-funded programmes. Trustees and staff recognise the need for longer term funding to enable us to grow and develop. To this end, our plans for the next year include the following aims and objectives:

SANDWELL VISUALLY IMPAIRED CIO

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT *(continued)*

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1. Volunteering and befriending scheme. To continue and develop our befriending phone support to our lonelier, isolated and vulnerable members. We want to extend this provision to include face-to-face befriending support.
2. Gain funding to employ a Volunteers Coordinator in order to expand our volunteer base, providing opportunities for both VI and sighted volunteers. This will enable us to formalise our volunteer service, offer training and support and improve the service that we offer to our members.
3. With our adaptive technology and VI knowledge, we are in a position to offer unique volunteering opportunities for visually impaired people who might otherwise be excluded from the labour market. We further aim to offer work experience placements which will draw in further skills and raise awareness of blind and visually impaired people's ability to operate in the workplace.
4. Expand our digital offer by working in partnership with local training providers and specialist services to increase the skills' base of blind and visually impaired people. To commission low vision technical expertise in order to ensure that people not only get the equipment they need but get the necessary and essential training to use it efficiently.
5. Increase our one-to-one information and guidance support and trial further counselling and listening support programmes. A diagnosis of sight loss can be extremely traumatic. Even those who have been visually impaired but whose sight is changing can become very anxious and fearful. An estimated 44% of blind and visually impaired people experience depression. In the past, the local Council had a designated sight loss counsellor, however this service was cut. A trial of our own counselling service showed that there was still a need for this provision. We are seeking funding.
6. Develop activities and recruit an Activities Coordinator. Pre Covid Our activities had been very popular and well-attended with high retention rates. We want to restore this and further develop our social support programmes through the employment of an Activities Coordinator to take over running current activities and develop new ones. Organising events and trips out is time-consuming for our existing staff and precludes other developmental activities. Again, we are seeking funding.
7. More enablement support. Enablement and buddy support is fundamental to the work we do. No matter how confident and able a VI person is, there are times when sighted support is essential. The enabling/buddy model is very effective and empowering, making mainstream activities more appealing and accessible to people living with sight loss. We are seeking funding to maintain this aspect of our work and to develop our enablement service further.

SANDWELL VISUALLY IMPAIRED CIO

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT *(continued)*

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The sight loss journey is long and the sense of bereavement is a natural process that needs help and support to overcome, our peer support model offers people a powerful example of what can be achieved following sight loss.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

J S Pye FCCA has been re-appointed as independent examiner for the ensuing year.

Principal address:

SVI Office
West Bromwich Town Hall
Lodge Road
West Bromwich
B70 8DY

Signed by order of the Trustees



A D Averis

17 October 2022

SANDWELL VISUALLY IMPAIRED CIO

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SANDWELL VISUALLY IMPAIRED

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022 which are set out on pages 9 to 15.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of 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 confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



J S Pye FCCA
Independent examiner

23 Carline Crescent
Shrewsbury
Shropshire
SY3 7EU

17 October 2022

SANDWELL VISUALLY IMPAIRED CIO

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generating funds:					
Investment income	3	1	–	1	2
Incoming resources from charitable activities - grants receivable					
	4	0	53,534	53,534	65,835
Other incoming resources	5	905	580	1,485	295
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		906	54,114	55,020	65,835
Less: RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Charitable activities	6	(750)	(56,412)	(57,162)	(54,544)
Governance costs	7	–	–	–	–
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		(750)	(56,412)	(57,162)	(54,544)
NET INCOMING / (OUTGOING) RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR		156	(2,298)	(2,142)	11,291
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		23,868	26,043	49,911	38,620
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		24,024	23,745	47,769	49,911

The notes on pages 11 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

SANDWELL VISUALLY IMPAIRED CIO**BALANCE SHEET****31 MARCH 2022**

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets		-	-
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>47,769</u>	<u>49,911</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>47,769</u>	<u>49,911</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>47,769</u>	<u>49,911</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>47,769</u>	<u>49,911</u>
FUNDS			
Restricted income funds	9	23,745	26,043
Unrestricted income funds	10	<u>24,024</u>	<u>23,868</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>47,769</u>	<u>49,911</u>

These financial statements were approved by the members of the committee and authorised for issue on the 17 October 2022 and are signed on their behalf by:



A D Averis
Trustee

The notes on pages 11 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

SANDWELL VISUALLY IMPAIRED CIO**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022****1. STATUTORY INFORMATION**

Sandwell Visually Impaired CIO is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered in England. The charity's registered number, principal address and nature of operations can be found in the Report of the Trustees.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**Basis of accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102 (effective 1 January 2015), Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Cash flow statement

The trustees have taken advantage of the exemption in Financial Reporting Standard No 102 from including a cash flow statement in the financial statements.

Fund accounting

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

Designated funds comprise of unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes.

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

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Resources expended

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred. Resources expended include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.

Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income and the cost of trading for fundraising purposes.

SANDWELL VISUALLY IMPAIRED CIO

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(continued)*

Charitable expenditure comprises those 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 those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include accountancy fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the statement of financial activities on the basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned on an appropriate basis.

Fixed assets

The charity currently holds no fixed assets.

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds	Total funds 2022	Total funds 2021
	£	£	£
Interest received	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>

4. INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - GRANTS RECEIVABLE

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds 2022	Total funds 2021
	£	£	£	£
Sandwell MBC staff funding	-	31,567	31,567	31,567
Sandwell MBC core funding	-	6,400	6,400	6,400
Other grants	-	15,567	15,567	25,905
Donations	478	510	988	1,666
	<u>478</u>	<u>54,044</u>	<u>54,522</u>	<u>65,538</u>

5. OTHER INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds 2022	Total funds 2021
	£	£	£	£
Miscellaneous income	<u>427</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>497</u>	<u>295</u>

SANDWELL VISUALLY IMPAIRED CIO

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

6. COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES BY FUND TYPE

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Travel expenses	-	632	632	353
Postage	-	-	-	28
Stationery	-	306	306	69
Transcription	85	80	165	192
Personal Assistance and Volunteers expenses	-	100	100	-
Printing	-	674	674	-
Insurance	-	411	411	400
Room Hire	-	-	-	-
Website	-	540	540	540
Equipment	-	1,038	1,038	1,403
Marketing	-	-	-	-
General expenses	163	104	267	26
Services	39	5,023	5,062	1,531
Rent	-	4,667	4,667	4,667
Staff costs	5,683	10,717	16,400	18,435
Seconded staff costs	-	26,900	26,900	26,900
Movement between funds	(5,220)	5,220	-	-
	<u>750</u>	<u>56,412</u>	<u>57,162</u>	<u>54,544</u>

7. GOVERNANCE COSTS

The charity has no governance costs as all trustees are volunteers and the financial statements are prepared by J S Pye FCCA pro bono.

8. STAFF COSTS AND EMOLUMENTS

Total staff costs were as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	16,400	18,435
Social security costs	-	-
Other pension costs	-	-
	<u>16,400</u>	<u>18,435</u>

Particulars of employees:

The average number of employees during the year, was as follows:

	2022 No.	2021 No.
Administrative staff	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

No employee received remuneration of more than £60,000 during the year (2020 - Nil).

SANDWELL VISUALLY IMPAIRED CIO

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

9. RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Apr 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Movement between funds £	Balance at 31 Mar 2022 £
SMBC Grant – seconded staff	-	31,567	31,567	-	-
Transport fund	89	-	-	-	89
Active at 60	1,060	490	112	-	1,438
Core fund	7,358	6,400	6,685	-	7,073
Housing service group	92	-	-	-	92
Tipton tree of lights	922	740	532	-	1,130
Family support group	100	-	-	-	100
Young person's fund	400	-	-	-	400
Epic Grant	716	-	752	36	-
Healthy Sandwell Women's group	318	-	-	(318)	-
Healthy Sandwell Men's group	414	-	-	(414)	-
Harry Payne Touchy Feely Arts project	333	-	-	-	333
Wesleyan Foundation – Helping Hand	573	-	668	95	-
SCVO Vision 2030	5,000	-	526	(2,850)	1,624
Heart of England – Doing Things Differently Fund	3,778	-	2,333	(1,445)	-
Sandwell MBC Community Partnership Innovation	4,890	-	3,674	-	1,216
SCVO Vision 2030 Vaccine Support	-	4,945	1,688	(324)	2,933
Community Grant Active Black Country Tackling Inequalities Fund	-	9,972	2,655	-	7,317
	<u>26,042</u>	<u>54,114</u>	<u>51,192</u>	<u>(5,220)</u>	<u>23,745</u>

SANDWELL VISUALLY IMPAIRED CIO

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

10. UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Apr 2021	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Movement between funds	Balance at 31 Mar 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	3,925	596	162	-	4,359
Annual Forum	1,639	-	85	-	1,554
Eye health Promotion	980	-	-	-	980
Visual Impairment					
Training	950	-	-	100	1,050
Community Involvement					
Fund	500	-	-	-	500
IT Tech	740	-	-	-	740
Exit strategy	3,200	-	-	-	3,200
Health and Wellbeing					
projects	1,354	-	-	-	1,354
Funeral donations	1,872	-	-	1	1,873
CENTRO Transcription					
fund	875	-	-	-	875
Marketing	400	-	-	-	400
Salary contingency fund	4,397	-	5,683	4,387	3,101
Cassies three peak					
challenge	1,023	-	-	-	1,023
Men's group	-	-	-	414	414
Demonstration					
Equipment Fund	590	-	-	-	590
SocialEyes Fund	1,348	310	-	-	1,658
Virtual Raffle	75	-	-	-	75
Women's group	-	-	40	318	278
	<u>23,868</u>	<u>906</u>	<u>5,970</u>	<u>5,220</u>	<u>24,024</u>