

STAFFORDSHIRE SIGHT LOSS ASSOCIATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1176919

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2018-01-31

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Staffordshire Sight Loss Association
Suite 6 The Forecourt
12 Albion Street
Hanley

Phone 07931327018

Email hello@ssla.org.uk

Website www.ssla.org.uk

Activities

Objects: FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT TO PROMOTE THE RELIEF OF BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED PEOPLE, THEIR FRIENDS, FAMILIES AND CARERS WHO PRIMARILY (BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY) LIVE IN STAFFORDSHIRE, INCLUDING THOSE WHO MAY NOT BE REGISTERED AS BLIND/ SEVERELY SIGHT IMPAIRED OR PARTIALLY SIGHTED/ SIGHT IMPAIRED, BY SUCH MEANS AS THE TRUSTEES THINK FIT INCLUDING: PROVIDING SERVICES, ADVICE AND INFORMATION, SOCIAL ACTIVITIES/OPPORTUNITIES AND PEER SUPPORT;INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE NEEDS OF BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED PEOPLE.

Activities: Community-led services that aim to support blind and partially sighted people in North Staffordshire to increase independence, build confidence and reduce isolation. We do this through the provision of advice and information, support with applications and forms, equipment and technology demonstrations, accessible social activities and peer support opportunities.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities

Geography

- Staffordshire
- Stoke-on-trent City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£225,868	£189,881	-	-
2023-12-31	£195,878	£170,737	-	-
2022-12-31	£148,281	£135,627	-	-
2021-12-31	£83,702	£111,524	-	-
2020-12-31	£95,266	£47,021	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ANDREA LOUISE SCOTT		2017-10-18
IAN ALAN WILTSHAW		2017-10-18
Ian Knowles		2024-09-10
LINDA ANN DUNN		2017-10-18
Lisa Jayne Trickett		2024-09-10
SANDRA MICHELLE GREEN		2017-10-18

STAFFORDSHIRE SIGHT LOSS ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1176919

Accounts

Staffordshire Sight Loss Association
(Registered charity, number 1176919)
Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

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11	Notes to the Accounts

**Staffordshire Sight Loss Association
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

Full name Staffordshire Sight Loss Association

Registered charity number 1176919

Principal address

1 Ketton Close
Stoke-on-Trent
ST6 6UE

Trustees

Andrea Louise Scott (Chair)

Linda Ann Dunn (Treasurer)

Sandra Michelle Barlow (Secretary)

Ian Alan Wiltshaw

Ian Knowles

(appointed 10/09/2024)

Lisa Jayne Trickett

(appointed 10/09/2024)

Bankers

Natwest

Independent examiner

Daryl Denson ACMA

VAST

The Dudson Centre

Hope Street

Hanley

Stoke on Trent

ST1 5DD

Charity Objectives

For the public benefit to promote the relief of blind and partially sighted people, their friends, families, and carers who primarily (but not exclusively) live in Staffordshire, including those who may not be registered as Blind/ Severely Sight Impaired or Partially Sighted/ Sight Impaired, by such means as the trustees think fit including:

- Providing services, advice and information, social activities/opportunities, and peer support.
- Increasing public awareness of the needs of blind and partially sighted people.

Governance and management

The Charity is governed by a Charitable Incorporated Organisation Constitution (Foundation Model), adopted on 31st January 2018.

The methods adopted for the recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The trustees of the charity must be appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

Related Parties

Staffordshire Sight Loss operates independently and has no related party transactions.

Staffordshire Sight Loss Association Trustees' Annual Report (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2024

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit

- Advice, information, and support around living independently with sight loss, including welfare rights, concessions, advice about equipment, support with forms, grant applications, and housing issues. Our Independent Living Coordinators provide this service through office appointments and home visits.
- Resource Centre: We have a Resource Centre based on Albion Street in Hanley that is open every Tuesday from 10 am till 4 pm. Here we display a wide range of daily living equipment for the community to try, for example, magnifiers, talking kitchen equipment, lighting, mobility aids, and assistive technology. Beneficiaries can also attend our Resource Centre for advice and information, to find out about our other services and those of other organisations, and for a coffee and chat.
- Community Hubs in Leek and Biddulph: These are community-based social groups and advice drop-ins that take place from 10.30 am till 2 pm. We use a community room at the Salvation Army in Leek on the second Friday of each month and the Town Hall in Biddulph on the third Friday of each month for these services. At both locations, we offer a social group from 10.30 am until 12 pm, and from 10.30 am until 2 pm we provide an advice drop-in with a range of equipment that people can try.
- We have struggled to find a suitable venue to deliver a Community Hub in Newcastle-under-Lyme and decided at the start of the year to deliver several one-off advice drop-ins across the Borough. Over the course of the year we delivered drop-ins in Madeley, Chesterton, Kidsgrove and Wolstanton.
- Peer support/ social groups: In addition to the social groups that take place monthly in Leek and Biddulph we offer monthly groups in Hanley and Newcastle. Our Hanley group takes place at our offices on Albion Street, and our Newcastle group takes place at the Community Junction Cafe at Andrew Place.
- Weekly braille class every Monday in Hanley.
- Activity groups and excursions: Towards the end of 2023 we were awarded a 'Know Your Neighbourhood' grant from the Community Foundation for Staffordshire. This has enabled us to deliver a wide range of activities and outings throughout 2024. Activities have included ten-pin bowling, Steel Drumming, a Mindfulness session, a textile workshop, and Alpaca Walk. We also visited the theatre, the Black Country Living Museum, the World of Wedgewood, the Beatles Museum, and Liverpool Cathedral.
- Group celebrations: In May 2024 we held a 1940's themed Afternoon Tea party at The new Vic Theatre in Newcastle, and in December we organised a Christmas celebration at a local venue with food and live music.
- Technology Support Service: to support people in using technology for independence, including phones, tablets, computers, and smart speakers. We provide this service through office appointments and home visits.
- Living Well with Sight Loss Courses: In 2024 we held three Living Well with Sight Loss Courses. These courses are designed using the RNIB Quality Framework; they aim to ensure that people experiencing sight loss are well-informed, connected to others, and have the information and support that they need to live full and independent lives.
- We held two Goalball Taster Sessions at Stoke-on-Trent College in partnership with Goalball UK
- Community Radio Show: Throughout the year, three of our volunteers produced a weekly Community Radio show aired by local Community Radio Station Rainbow FM. The show includes music, topical conversations, guest speakers and lots of information about our charity.
- Awareness Work: In July, we held a Community Awareness Event at Burslem Park. The event aimed to raise awareness and increase the local community's understanding of sight loss, break down barriers, and dispel myths and stereotypes. To achieve this, we delivered a range of awareness-raising activities alongside other more mainstream activities to attract as wide an audience as possible. We have also delivered several Awareness sessions with local businesses and organisations this year.

Staffordshire Sight Loss Association Trustees' Annual Report (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2024

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit (continued)

- Accessible Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers have supported all areas of our work this year including administration tasks such as answering the phone, updating databases, and conducting feedback questionnaires. They have helped with running and supporting our groups and drop-ins, giving advice, guiding at events and outings, supporting people with technology, fundraising activities, and much more.

Public Benefit

In planning our activities our trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The trustees are committed to being a community-led charity that carries out continuous engagement with our beneficiaries in order to stay relevant to the needs of the community that we serve.

Achievements and Performance

Staffordshire Sight Loss Association was set up in 2018 to provide in-person support services for blind and partially sighted people living in North Staffordshire. We are a community-led charity, and our services have been designed and developed in consultation with our local community. Over the last 7 years, our organisation has grown from a small group of volunteers to a team of 6 staff, 6 trustees, and 23 regular volunteers. This is thanks to the wonderful support of our funders, our volunteers, and our community.

During 2024, we delivered:

- 63 Community Advice drop-ins,
- 90 peer support / social groups,
- 26 five-hour sessions that combined a peer support group with a Community Advice drop-in.

In total, this amounted to 179 community-based sessions.

We also delivered:

- 3 Living Well with Sight Loss Courses
- 10 Outings,
- 10 Activity groups
- 2 Goalball taster sessions,
- 2 Celebration events, and
- 1 Awareness event.

When we combine attendance for the above activities with the number of people who have accessed our Independent Living Advice service and Technology Support Service, this year over 800 people have engaged with our services with many people engaging on multiple occasions.

In addition to this, approximately 570 people have engaged with our Awareness activities and events this year, including our Awareness Event at Burslem Park in July.

A big part of the work we do is to bring people together for peer support and many of our services aim to reduce isolation and feelings of loneliness. This year we have expanded our range of groups, activities, and outings, thanks to the 'Know Your Neighbourhood' grant that we received in late 2023 from The Community Foundation for Staffordshire. We have been able to visit many wonderful places with our beneficiaries as a result and have seen how valuable sharing experiences with peers can be for building confidence and increasing independence. Our activities have provided opportunities for attendees to have fun together, make memories, and in many instances, build lasting friendships.

Following on from the success of our 2023 Community Awareness events we delivered another event at Burslem Park in July 2024. We took learning from our previous events to make this year's event bigger and better than before and were extremely pleased with attendance and feedback from the event.

Staffordshire Sight Loss Association Trustees' Annual Report (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2024

Throughout the year we have seen increased demand for our services as awareness of our organisation grows. We are very proud of what we have achieved this year and feedback has shown that our services have led to many positive outcomes for our beneficiaries. Moving into 2025 we are looking forward to developing our services further using beneficiary and partner feedback to continue to improve in a community-led way.

At the end of 2024 we have 6 staff members (2 full-time and 4 part-time) and we would like to thank them for their hard work and dedication over the last 12 months. We have also welcomed two new trustees to our team this year, both bring a wealth of experience and skills to our board.

Thank yous

We would like to thank all partner organisations that we have worked with and who have helped to promote our services this year. We would like to thank the staff at the Royal Stoke University Hospital Eye Clinic Helpdesk, our local Sensory Teams in Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire, local Social Prescribers, and Primary Care Network staff for their support in helping to promote our services and for inviting us to their community events. We would also like to thank the RNIB, The Macular Society, Update, and The Staffordshire Moorlands Talking Newspapers, Rainbow FM, Goalball UK, The Mitchell Arts Centre, Frontline Dance, and Appetite.

We would like to thank everyone who supported our Burslem Park Awareness Event, including the Port Vale FC Foundation, Staffordshire Fire and Rescue, local schools and nurseries, and businesses who helped us to promote the event. We would like to thank Stoke-on-Trent City Council, as well as all of our wonderful volunteers who came to help on the day.

We would like to thank our many funders and supporters including The National Lottery Community Fund, The Community Foundation for Staffordshire, Postcode Local Trust, KCCF small grants, Barclays Bank, and the Etruscan Lodge. We would like to thank our wonderful Potters 'arf Marathon team which was bigger this year than it's ever been. Thank you also to everyone who has supported our other fundraising efforts across the year, including businesses who have donated raffle prizes, members of the community who have bought raffle and tombola tickets, and the many people who have supported us at community events such as Stoke-on-Trent Pride and Longton Pig Walk and Carnival, as well as the organisations and communities that have invited us to their events, for example Endon Village Hall, Stoke Minster and Urban Wilderness.

Volunteers have played a huge part in all areas of the charity's work in 2024 including supporting our services (for example with administration tasks, technology support, and hosting social groups), attending Steering Group meetings, helping at events, assisting and guiding at outings, and helping with social media and fundraising. We would like to extend a special thank you to the Hanley Economic Building Society, many of their staff have used their employee volunteer hours to help our charity this year, guiding at outings and helping at events. This year our charity has been supported by 47 volunteers who have donated an amazing 5941 hours of their time. 29 of these are regular volunteers and the remainder are people who have given up their time to support one-off events and activities (including volunteers from local businesses). We cannot thank our volunteers enough for the difference that they have made for our community and our organisation.

Financial Review

Staffordshire Sight Loss Association had an income of £225,868 in the financial year 2024.

We rent an office space on Albion Street in Hanley and our assets consist of our office furniture and equipment (for example our printer, laptops, phones etc.), daily living equipment and technology purchased for demonstration purposes at our Community Hubs, and stock for our resource centre.

At year end the charity has a balance of £99,555. £42,198 of this is unrestricted funds. Our expenditure for the year was £189,881.

**Staffordshire Sight Loss Association
Trustees' Annual Report (continued)
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

Reserves Policy

The charity has a reserves policy. Staffordshire Sight Loss Association has been operating for just under 7 years, we have been gradually building our reserves during that time and reserves have increased year on year. Building our reserves was initially challenging because any money raised was needed for operational costs, our fundraising plans were later impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

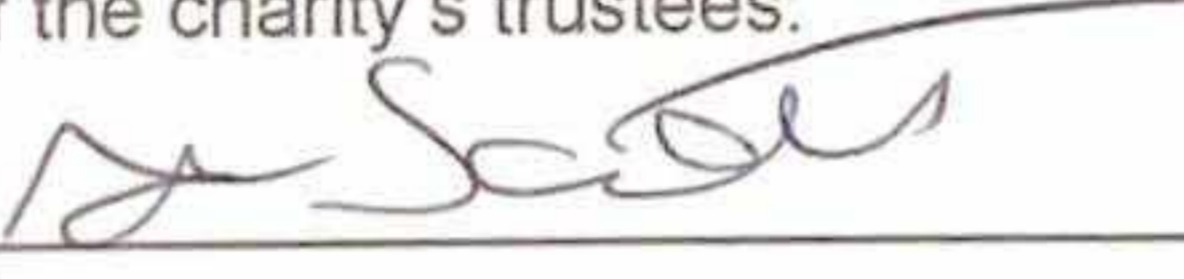
We have a Sustainability Plan in place which is regularly reviewed and this year we have worked hard to diversify our income and try different fundraising approaches. We have also found that as the reach of our services has grown, support for our charity has grown leading to an increase in individual donations from our beneficiaries for which we are extremely grateful.

As a result of this work we have increased our reserves by over 37% this year and at year end they are £42,198. It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should ideally be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six months non-project expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will cover continuity, restructuring to cover essential activities where it's necessary to source further income and a Dissolution Fund to provide for dissolution should the charity be unable to continue.

£42,198 equates to just over two and a half months of our 2024 expenditure. Our reserves are therefore not yet where we need them to be but we are very pleased with our progress this year. We will continue to work towards our goal and we aim to increase our reserves to an adequate level over the next 18-24 months.

Due to the nature of our organisation and the regular review of our budget our Reserves Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that it reflects what is needed for continuity, that the restructuring element matches the requirements of our activities and that the dissolution element matches the requirements of staffing levels.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed  Date 30/10/25
Andrea Scott Chair

Signed  Date 30/10/25
Linda Dunn Treasurer

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of
Staffordshire Sight Loss Association
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on pages 7 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees of Staffordshire Sight Loss Association, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

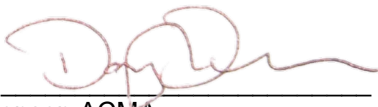
I report in respect of my examination of Staffordshire Sight Loss Association accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of Staffordshire Sight Loss Association as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed  Date 31/10/2025
Daryl Denson ACMA
VAST

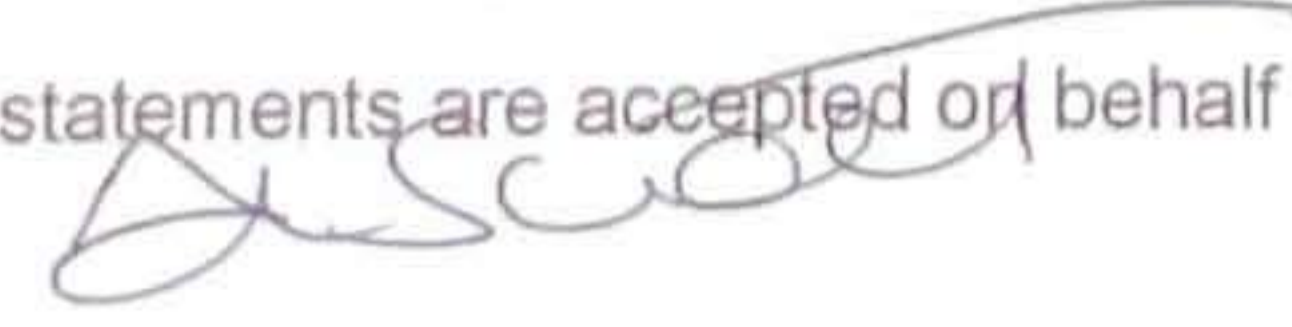
**Staffordshire Sight Loss Association
Receipts & Payments Account
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Receipts				
Grants	-	179,957	179,957	154,116
Donation	8,346	10	8,356	3,848
Events	3,144	-	3,144	9,377
Sales	13,179	-	13,179	14,045
Fundraising	7,130	-	7,130	5,687
Miscellaneous income	14,102	-	14,102	8,805
Total receipts	45,901	179,967	225,868	195,878
Payments				
Equipment	8,443	12,552	20,995	29,637
Other Purchases	-	-	-	3,304
Salaries plus expenses	5,911	105,388	111,299	85,394
Volunteer Expenses	2,145	-	2,145	1,288
Rent and Storage	-	24,260	24,260	24,165
Room Hire	1,750	-	1,750	3,056
Resource Centre Stock	-	-	-	-
Database	330	-	330	267
Staff Training	1,404	-	1,404	1,659
Miscellaneous expenditure	3,324	-	3,324	-
Fundraising	2,755	-	2,755	3,273
Accountancy	-	-	-	1,016
Phone and Internet	2,651	-	2,651	2,279
Stationary and Postage	1,465	-	1,465	1,956
Refreshments	600	-	600	4,799
Insurance	1,249	-	1,249	1,099
Activities and Events	-	13,287	13,287	3,524
Rates	-	-	-	81
Subscriptions & Memberships	910	-	910	436
Transcripts	-	-	-	2,263
Repairs & Decorations	488	-	488	319
Professional Services	246	-	246	-
Marketing	723	-	723	922
Total payments	34,394	155,487	189,881	170,737
Net receipts/(payments)	11,507	24,480	35,987	25,141
Cash funds at start of this period	30,691	32,877	63,568	38,427
Cash funds at end of this period	42,198	57,357	99,555	63,568

**Staffordshire Sight Loss Association
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
at 31 December 2024**

	2024	2023
Cash assets	£	£
Bank Current Account	99,555	63,568
	<u>99,555</u>	<u>63,568</u>
 Liabilities due		
Accountancy Fees	694	660
	<u>694</u>	<u>660</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed 
Andrea Scott Chair

Dated 30/10/25

Signed L. Dunn.
Linda Dunn Treasurer

Dated 30/10/25

Staffordshire Sight Loss Association
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2024

1. Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts are statements that summarise the movement of cash into and out of the charity during the financial year. In this context "cash" includes cash equivalents, for example, bank accounts where cash can be readily withdrawn to pay for debts as they become due. For the purposes of understanding a statement of assets and liabilities at the year-end has been included.

2. Trustees' remuneration

Trustees received no expenses, remuneration or benefits in this year.

3. Funds

	Opening balance	Receipts	Payments	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds				
National Lottery - CF Project 2	19,619	100,672	(104,332)	15,959
King Charles Tech Grant	-	2,500	(2,186)	314
Postcode Local Giving	-	25,000		25,000
Stoke-on-Trent City Council	1,882	-	-	1,882
VCSE Supportive				
Communities & Better Health	-	7,671	(1,917)	5,754
George Earl Fund	-	-	(70)	(70)
RNBI Funding	(3,098)	6,095	(2,997)	-
Staffs Found KYN (Social)	3,842	16,844	(21,051)	(365)
KYN NLCF (Volunteering)	8,904	21,185	(22,835)	7,254
BBS	742	-	(216)	526
Designated Funds	986	14,332	(14,215)	1,103
	<u>32,877</u>	<u>194,299</u>	<u>(169,819)</u>	<u>57,357</u>
Unrestricted Funds				
General Funds	30,691	37,384	(25,877)	42,198
	<u>30,691</u>	<u>37,384</u>	<u>(25,877)</u>	<u>42,198</u>
Total	<u>63,568</u>	<u>231,683</u>	<u>(195,696)</u>	<u>99,555</u>

STAFFORDSHIRE SIGHT LOSS ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1176919

Accounts

Staffordshire Sight Loss Association
(Registered charity, number 1176919)
Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023

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Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

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Registered charity number 1176919

Principal address

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Trustees

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Linda Dunn (Treasurer)
Sandra Barlow (Secretary)
Ian Wiltshaw

Bankers

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Daryl Denson ACMA
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Charity Objectives

For the public benefit to promote the relief of blind and partially sighted people, their friends, families, and carers who primarily (but not exclusively) live in Staffordshire, including those who may not be registered as Blind/ Severely Sight Impaired or Partially Sighted/ Sight Impaired, by such means as the trustees think fit including:

- Providing services, advice and information, social activities/opportunities, and peer support.
- Increasing public awareness of the needs of blind and partially sighted people.

Governance and management

The Charity is governed by a Charitable Incorporated Organisation Constitution (Foundation Model), adopted on 31st January 2018.

The methods adopted for the recruitment and appointment of new trustees

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Related Parties

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Staffordshire Sight Loss Association Trustees' Annual Report (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2023

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit

- Advice, information, and support around living independently with sight loss, including welfare rights, concessions, advice about equipment, support with forms, grant applications, and housing issues. Our Independent Living Coordinators provide this service through office appointments and home visits.
- Resource Centre: We have a Resource Centre based on Albion Street in Hanley that is open every Tuesday from 10 am till 4 pm. Here we display a wide range of daily living equipment for the community to try, for example, magnifiers, talking kitchen equipment, lighting, mobility aids, and assistive technology. Beneficiaries can also attend our Resource Centre for advice and information, to find out about our other services and those of other organisations, and for a coffee and chat.
- Community Hubs in Leek and Biddulph: These are community-based social groups and advice drop-ins that take place from 10.30 am till 2 pm. We use a community room at the Salvation Army in Leek on the second Friday of each month and the Town Hall in Biddulph on the third Friday of each month for these services. At both locations, we offer a social group from 10.30 am until 12 pm, and from 10.30 am until 2 pm we provide an advice drop-in with a range of equipment that people can try. At the start of 2023 we were delivering an advice drop-in in Newcastle-under-Lyme but due to the availability of suitable venues, we had to end this in May. We are currently looking for an alternative venue to re-launch this service.
- Peer support/ social groups: In addition to the social groups that take place monthly in Leek and Biddulph we offer monthly groups in Hanley and Newcastle. Our Hanley group takes place at our offices on Albion Street and during 2023 our Newcastle group relocated to the Community Junction Cafe at Andrew Place.
- Weekly braille class every Monday in Hanley.
- Group excursions: During 2023 we arranged several group outings and excursions. In July we visited the Brampton Museum for an object handling session and an audio-described tour of their visiting Matisse Exhibition. We also visited Weston Park for a tour of their house and gardens, we took part in a Tile Making session at All Saints Church to celebrate the British Ceramics Biennial, we visited Sight Village which is an exhibition event in Birmingham and The Big Feast which is a local art event that takes place across Hanley delivered by local organisation Appetite.
- Group celebrations: In May 2023 we arranged a party to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III, this brought the community together for an afternoon tea with entertainment and dancing. In December we arranged a Christmas celebration at a local venue.
- Technology Support Service: to support people to use technology for independence, including phones, tablets, computers, and smart speakers. We provide this service through office appointments and home visits.
- Living Well with Sight Loss Courses: these are four-day courses designed using the RNIB Quality Framework which aim to ensure that people experiencing sight loss are well-informed, connected to others, and have the information and support that they need to live full and independent lives.
- In 2023, thanks to a grant provided by British Blind Sports we delivered 3 Goalball Taster Sessions at Staffordshire University in partnership with Goalball UK.
- Community Radio Show: In February our volunteers began to host a weekly Community Radio show aired by local Community Radio Station Rainbow FM, the show airs weekly and is repeated each weekend and includes music, topical conversations, guest speakers and lots of information about our charity.

Staffordshire Sight Loss Association Trustees' Annual Report (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2023

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit (continued)

- **SSLA Information Day:** this is a partnership event bringing together local, regional, and national organisations for the community to find out about a wide range of services, equipment, technology, and support in one place. This year's event was held in the Catalyst Building at Staffordshire University, 25 organisations exhibited at the event including the RNIB, Guide Dogs, Staffordshire Cricket, Goalball UK, Appetite, and Healthwatch as well as a range of Assistive Technology companies.
- **Awareness Work:** this year we held two Community Awareness Events, one in July at Burslem Park and one in December at The Floral Hall in Tunstall. These events aimed to raise awareness of and increase the local community's understanding of sight loss, break down barriers, and dispel myths and stereotypes. To achieve this, we delivered a range of awareness-raising activities alongside other more mainstream activities to attract as wide an audience as possible. We have also delivered several Awareness sessions with local businesses and organisations this year.
- **Accessible Volunteer Opportunities:** this year we received Know Your Neighbourhood Funding which enabled us to hire a part-time Volunteer Coordinator to work with and support our team of volunteers.

Public Benefit

In planning our activities our trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The trustees are committed to being a community-led charity that carries out continuous engagement with our beneficiaries in order to stay relevant to the needs of the community that we serve.

Achievements and Performance

Staffordshire Sight Loss Association was set up in 2018 to provide in-person support services for blind and partially sighted people living in North Staffordshire. Our consultation within the local community helped us to design a range of services that we were confident would make a positive difference to the lives of many and in the first 2 years we were gradually building and developing these services on a small scale as a group of volunteers.

In 2020 we were thrilled to be awarded a substantial 2-year grant from the National Lottery Community Fund which would enable us to develop and expand upon these services, hire our first staff members, and rent an office space. This success was quickly followed by the COVID-19 pandemic and we, like other charities, navigated the challenges that this presented by adapting our services to meet the needs of our local community. In 2021 we began our transition back to in-person services and in 2022 we were thrilled to be awarded a further National Lottery Community Fund grant for our 3-year Independent and Connected Communities Project. This grant alongside support from our other funders enabled us to build upon our service offer further and by the end of 2022, we were delivering a range of in-person community-led services able to meet the varying needs of our community.

During 2023 we delivered:

- 62 Community Advice drop-ins,
 - 73 peer support / social groups,
 - 24 five-hour sessions that combined a peer support group with a Community Advice drop-in.
- In total, this amounted to 159 community-based sessions.

We also delivered:

- 5 Living Well with Sight Loss Courses (3 in Hanley and 2 in the Staffordshire Moorlands),
- 6 outings,
- 3 Goalball taster sessions,
- 2 celebration events, and
- 1 Partnership event.

Staffordshire Sight Loss Association Trustees' Annual Report (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2023

Achievements and Performance

When we combine attendance for the above activities with the number of people who have accessed our Independent Living Advice service and Technology Support Service, this year over 700 people have engaged with our services with many people engaging on multiple occasions.

In addition to this, approximately 580 people have engaged with our Awareness activities and events this year including approximately 350 people attending our Burslem Park event and approximately 200 attending our Christmas-themed event at the Floral Hall.

A big part of the work we do is to bring people together for peer support and many of our services aim to reduce isolation and feelings of loneliness. This year we have provided a range of groups, activities, and outings, all of which have been well attended. We have seen how valuable sharing experiences and information with peers can be for building confidence and increasing independence. Our activities have provided opportunities for attendees to have fun together, make memories, and in many instances build lasting friendships. In October we were thrilled to be awarded Know Your Neighbourhood funding through the Community Foundation for Staffordshire which will enable us to expand and develop our work around social inclusion. This funding has enabled us to hire a part-time Events and Activities Coordinator, by the end of 2023 she has delivered several activities and is planning an exciting programme of activities and outings for our beneficiaries in 2024. These will be delivered in addition to our existing groups.

This year we delivered our first-ever Community Awareness event, and we were extremely pleased with attendance and feedback from the event. We promoted the event with the help of local schools and businesses, through social media and banners at the park. We designed a free Scavenger hunt-style trail for families to follow around the park. We provided a map of the park with various points marked out, participants had to find each point on the map, and at each point they could learn something about sight loss. Once the trail was complete, they could return to our Welcome tent to collect a small prize. 102 people completed the trail.

We also provided simulation glasses for people to try on, these give an idea of how different eye conditions can affect people's vision. We provided everyday activities for people to try whilst wearing the glasses as well as a variety of aids and equipment available for people with sight loss to help manage day-to-day tasks (e.g. magnifiers, talking scales, and labelling equipment). In addition to our awareness activities, we also offered a range of more traditional community fun day activities, for example, stalls, a bouncy castle, penalty shoot-out, face painter, and Disney Princess.

Throughout the year we have seen increased demand for our services as awareness of our organisation grows. We are very proud of what we have achieved this year, and feedback has shown that our services have led to many positive outcomes for our beneficiaries. Moving into 2024 we are looking forward to developing our services further using beneficiary and partner feedback to continue to improve in a community-led way.

Funding received during 2023 meant that we have been able to grow our team of staff and volunteers. In June we welcomed a part-time Volunteer Coordinator to our team and in October our new Events and Activities Coordinator joined the team. This means that we have been able to extend our reach as an organisation and provide support for more people. At the end of 2023 we have 7 staff members (2 full-time and 5 part-time)

Thank yous

We would like to thank all partner organisations that we have worked with and who have helped to promote our services this year. We would like to thank the staff at the Royal Stoke University Hospital Eye Clinic Helpdesk, our local Sensory Teams in Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire, local Social Prescribers, and Primary Care Network staff for their support in helping to promote our services and for inviting us to their community events. We would also like to thank the RNIB, The Macular Society, Update Talking Newspaper, Rainbow FM, Goalball UK, and Appetite.

Staffordshire Sight Loss Association Trustees' Annual Report (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2023

Thank yous (continued)

We would like to thank everyone who supported our Burslem Park Awareness Event including the Port Vale FC Foundation, Staffordshire Fire and Rescue, Beat the Cold, Endon Storm Troopers, local schools and nurseries including Jackfield Infant School and Moorpark Junior School, the North Staffs Pensioners Convention, Frontline Dance, Stoke-on-Trent City Council, and all of our wonderful volunteers who came to help on the day.

Due to the success of this event we decided to deliver a further Christmas-themed event at the Floral Hall, and we would like to thank the staff at the Floral Hall as well as everyone who supported that event including Wrights Food Group, Wayne Walkers and Stafford Superbowl.

We would also like to thank the many organisations who supported our Information Day in October by exhibiting at the event and helping to promote the event. We would like to thank Staffordshire University and Newcastle Community Transport who provided a shuttle bus on the day.

We would like to thank our many funders and supporters including The National Lottery Community Fund, British Blind Sports, The Community Foundation for Staffordshire, VAST, The Edgar Lawley Foundation, and Former Mayor of Biddulph, Councillor Sylvia Rushton. We would like to thank our wonderful Potters 'arf Marathon Relay team, Lauren Horler who bravely took on a 10,000 foot skydive for us, and the 23 people who walked for almost 15 miles across Stoke-on-Trent in our September North Staffordshire Big Walk, in total a fabulous £7,399 was raised through sponsored events this year. Thank you also to everyone who has supported our other fundraising efforts across the year including businesses who have donated raffle prizes, members of the community who have bought raffle and tombola tickets and the many people who have supported us at community events such as Stoke-on-Trent Pride and Longton Pig Walk and Carnival.

Volunteers have played a huge part in all areas of the charity's work in 2023 including supporting services (for example with administration tasks, technology support, and hosting social groups), attending Steering Group meetings, helping at events, assisting and guiding at outings, and helping with social media and fundraising. This year our charity has been supported by 48 volunteers who have donated an amazing 4324 hours of their time, and we cannot thank them enough for the difference that they have made for our community and our organisation.

Financial Review

Staffordshire Sight Loss Association had an income of £195,878 in the financial year 2023.

We rent an office space on Albion Street in Hanley and our assets consist of our office furniture and equipment (for example our printer, laptops, phones etc.), daily living equipment and technology purchased for demonstration purposes at our Community Hubs, and stock for our resource centre.

At year end the charity has a funds of £63,568. £30,691 of this is unrestricted funds. Our expenditure for the year was £170,737.

Reserves Policy

The charity has a reserves policy. Staffordshire Sight Loss Association has been operating for just under 6 years, we have been gradually building our reserves during that time and reserves have increased year on year. Building our reserves was initially challenging because any money raised was needed for operational costs, our fundraising plans were later impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have a Sustainability Plan in place which is regularly reviewed and this year we have worked hard to diversify our income and try different fundraising approaches. We have also found over the last 12 months that as the reach of our services has grown, support for our charity has grown leading to an increase in individual donations from our beneficiaries for which we are extremely grateful.

**Staffordshire Sight Loss Association
Trustees' Annual Report (continued)
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

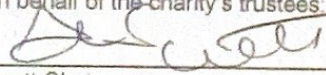
Reserves Policy (continued)

As a result of this work, we have more than tripled our unrestricted reserves in 2023 and at year end they are £30,691. It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should ideally be maintained at a level equivalent to between three- and six-months non-project expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will cover continuity, restructuring to cover essential activities where it's necessary to source further income and a Dissolution Fund to provide for dissolution should the charity be unable to continue.

£30,690 equates to approximately 2.16 months of our 2023 expenditure and our reserves are therefore not yet where we need them to be, but we are very pleased with our progress this year. We will continue to work towards our goal, and we aim to increase our reserves to an adequate level over the next 18-24 months.

Due to the nature of our organisation and the regular review of our budget our Reserves Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that it reflects what is needed for continuity, that the restructuring element matches the requirements of our activities, and that the dissolution element matches the requirements of staffing levels.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signed 
Andrea Scott Chair

Date 30/10/24

Signed L. Dunn
Linda Dunn Treasurer

Date 30/10/24

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of
Staffordshire Sight Loss Association
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on pages 7 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees of Staffordshire Sight Loss Association, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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


Independent examiner's statement

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

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of Staffordshire Sight Loss Association as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed


Daryl Denson ACMA
VAST

Date 30/10/2024

**Staffordshire Sight Loss Association
Receipts & Payments Account
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Receipts				
Social Groups	-	-	-	136
Grants	2,250	151,866	154,116	128,269
Donation	3,848	-	3,848	1,799
Events	9,377	-	9,377	1,586
Sales	14,045	-	14,045	13,720
Fundraising	5,687	-	5,687	2,771
Miscellaneous income	8,805	-	8,805	-
Total receipts	44,012	151,866	195,878	148,281
Payments				
Equipment	5,331	13,083	18,414	8,062
Other Purchases	3,104	200	3,304	293
Salaries plus expenses	137	85,257	85,394	73,110
Volunteer Expenses	720	568	1,288	808
Rent and Storage	-	24,165	24,165	19,821
Room Hire	-	3,056	3,056	2,430
Resource Centre Stock	11,223	-	11,223	14,753
Database	-	267	267	171
Staff Training	-	1,659	1,659	701
Miscellaneous expenditure	-	-	-	48
Fundraising	3,273	-	3,273	1,212
Accountancy	-	1,016	1,016	1,170
Phone and Internet	-	2,279	2,279	1,776
Stationary and Postage	-	1,956	1,956	1,358
Refreshments	780	4,019	4,799	458
Insurance	-	1,099	1,099	946
Activities and Events	-	3,524	3,524	4,504
Rates	-	81	81	448
Subscriptions & Memberships	-	436	436	472
Transcripts	-	2,263	2,263	2,369
Repairs & Decorations	-	319	319	136
Marketing	-	922	922	581
Total payments	24,568	146,169	170,737	135,627
Net receipts/(payments)	19,444	5,697	25,141	12,654
Cash funds at start of this period	11,247	27,180	38,427	25,773
Cash funds at end of this period	30,691	32,877	63,568	38,427

**Staffordshire Sight Loss Association
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
at 31 December 2023**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash assets		
Bank Current Account	63,568	38,427
	63,568	38,427
 Liabilities due		
Accountancy Fees	660	630
	660	630

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed 
Andrea Scott Chair

Dated 30/10/24

Signed L. Dunn
Linda Dunn Treasurer

Dated 30/10/24

Staffordshire Sight Loss Association
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2023

1. Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts are statements that summarise the movement of cash into and out of the charity during the financial year. In this context "cash" includes cash equivalents, for example, bank accounts where cash can be readily withdrawn to pay for debts as they become due. For the purposes of understanding a statement of assets and liabilities at the year-end has been included.

2. Trustees' remuneration

Trustees received no expenses, remuneration or benefits in this year.

3. Funds

	Opening balance £	Receipts £	Payments £	Closing balance £
Restricted Funds				
National Lottery - CF Project 2	24,250	99,950	(104,581)	19,619
National Lottery - Awards for All	218	-	(218)	-
Local Giving Fund - Yoga	275	-	(275)	-
Stoke-on-Trent City Council	1,882	-	-	1,882
Long Term Condition Fund	1,050	-	(1,050)	-
RNBI Funding	(759)	20,000	(22,339)	(3,098)
Staffs Found KYN (Social)	-	7,584	(3,741)	3,843
KYN NLCF (Volunteering)	-	21,985	(13,081)	8,904
BBS	-	2,348	(1,606)	742
Designated Funds	1,300	7,811	(8,126)	985
	<u>28,216</u>	<u>159,678</u>	<u>(155,017)</u>	<u>32,877</u>
Unrestricted Funds				
General Funds	10,211	36,200	(15,720)	30,691
	<u>10,211</u>	<u>36,200</u>	<u>(15,720)</u>	<u>30,691</u>
Total	<u>38,427</u>	<u>195,878</u>	<u>(170,737)</u>	<u>63,568</u>

STAFFORDSHIRE SIGHT LOSS ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1176919

Accounts

Staffordshire Sight Loss Association
(Registered charity, number 1176919)
Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2022

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7	Independent examiner's report
8	Receipts & Payments Account
9	Statement of Assets & Liabilities
10	Notes to the Accounts

**Staffordshire Sight Loss Association
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

Full name Staffordshire Sight Loss Association

Registered charity number 1176919

Principal address

Unit 6, the Forecourt,
12 Albion Street,
Hanley
Stoke on Trent
ST1 5DD

Trustees

Andrea Scott (Chair)
Linda Dunn (Treasurer)
Sandra Barlow (Secretary)
Ian Wiltshaw

Bankers

Natwest

Independent examiner

Daryl Denson ACMA
VAST
The Dudson Centre
Hope Street

Charity Objectives

For the public benefit to promote the relief of blind and partially sighted people, their friends, families, and carers who primarily (but not exclusively) live in Staffordshire, including those who may not be registered as Blind/ Severely Sight Impaired or Partially Sighted/ Sight Impaired, by such means as the trustees think fit including:

- Providing services, advice and information, social activities/opportunities, and peer support.
- Increasing public awareness of the needs of blind and partially sighted people.

Governance and management

The Charity is governed by a Charitable Incorporated Organisation Constitution (Foundation Model), adopted on 31st January 2018.

The methods adopted for the recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The trustees of the charity must be appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

Related Parties

Staffordshire Sight Loss operates independently and has no related party transactions.

Staffordshire Sight Loss Association Trustees' Annual Report (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2022

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit

- Advice, information, and support around living independently with sight loss, including welfare rights, concessions, advice about equipment, support with forms, grant applications and housing issues.
- Community Hubs which include a pop-up Resource Centre that provides opportunities for members of the community to come and try a wide range of daily living equipment. Beneficiaries can also attend our Community Hubs for advice and information, support with forms and a coffee and chat. This service became available as a weekly service in Hanley from June 2021 and a monthly service in Biddulph from August 2021 with plans to expand to other areas in 2022.
- Peer support/ social groups, for the first part of 2021 these were delivered as online groups with in-person groups being reintroduced from August in Hanley, Leek and Newcastle. At the end of the year, we offer a blend of online and in-person social groups with plans to expand our in-person groups to other locations in 2022.
- Weekly Hanley braille class which began in August 2021.
- Weekly online yoga class and monthly online book club
- Group excursions: In October we arranged a group visit to the British Ceramics Biennial Festival for plate making and ceramics handling. In December we arranged a group visit to a local Art event presented by local Arts organisation Appetite, held at Staffordshire University called 'Lookout'. We plan to organise further outings in 2022.
- Technology Support Service to support people to use technology for independence, including phones, tablets, computers, and smart speakers.
- Telephone peer support/ befriending service: a weekly or fortnightly call from someone with lived experience of sight loss
- Regular newsletter produced in a range of formats to maximise accessibility.
- Social media pages including a closed Facebook group for information sharing and peer support and the delivery of Interactive Facebook live videos for sharing information, asking questions, and engaging with others.
- Accessible volunteer opportunities

Public Benefit

The trustees of the Charity are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and have had regard to it in their administration of the Charity.

Achievements and Performance

Staffordshire Sight Loss Association was set up in 2018 to provide in-person support services for blind and partially sighted people living in North Staffordshire. Our consultation within the local community helped us to design a range of services that we were confident would make a positive difference to the lives of many and in the first 2 years we were gradually building and developing these services on a small scale as a group of volunteers.

In 2020 we were thrilled to be awarded a substantial 2-year grant from the National Lottery Community Fund which would enable us to develop and expand upon these services. This success was quickly followed by the COVID-19 pandemic and we, like other charities have navigated the challenges that this has presented over the last 2 years, being unable for a long period to deliver the face-to-face services that we know are so important and needed within our community and adapting our services accordingly. In 2021 we began our transition back to in-person services and by the end of that year we were successfully delivering a combination of remote and face-to-face services to meet the varying needs of our community.

We feel that 2022 has been a success, it has been the year that we have been able to execute plans that we made prior to the pandemic and by the end of the year we are delivering a range of in-person community-led services that we know are making a positive impact within our community each day.

Staffordshire Sight Loss Association Trustees' Annual Report (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2022

Achievements and Performance (continued)

In February 2022 our National Lottery funded Independence and Wellbeing Project came to an end and we were thrilled to be awarded a further National Lottery Community Fund grant for our 3-year Independent and Connected Communities Project. This project combined with a grant from the Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Groups Long Term Condition Support Fund and a further National Lottery Awards for All grant has enabled us to expand our range of Community Hub drop-ins, social opportunities and the number of people that we could reach through our Independent Living Service.

In 2022 we have delivered 92 Community Hub drop-ins, attended by 283 people. We have delivered 126 peer support and activity groups, 93 of these groups were face to face and 33 were online. Groups were delivered in Hanley, Leek, Newcastle, Biddulph and Cheadle. Groups and activities were attended by 63 people. We supported 181 people through our Independent Living and Technology Services.

A big part of the work we do is to bring people together for peer support and many of our services aim to reduce isolation and feelings of loneliness. This year we have been able to increase the number of peer support groups that we offer as well as providing various group outings and activities. We have seen how valuable sharing experiences and information with peers can be for building confidence and increasing independence. Increased work in this area has also provided opportunities for attendees to have fun together, make memories and in many instances to build lasting friendships.

Throughout the year we have seen increased demand for our services, we feel that this is in part due to increased awareness of our services but also because of current national issues. Issues currently impacting our beneficiaries include the lasting impact of the pandemic, the cost-of-living crisis, and the global energy crisis. This is resulting in increased requests for support from people who have complex issues and needs, including financial crisis, mental health, addiction, and homelessness. We are therefore working with partners to ensure the best possible outcomes for our beneficiaries and to manage demand. It is also important that our staff are trained and feel supported and well equipped to deal with complex issues as they arise including confidence in lone working and safeguarding policies and practices. We will continue to monitor demand for our services so that we can respond appropriately.

During 2022 we have delivered Awareness Sessions to local organisations including Frontline Dance, Appetite and Door to Door Community Transport as well as for a local Cubs group to help them to achieve their Disability Awareness Activity Badge. We reached approximately 90 people through these sessions.

Our Information Day held at the Best Western Stoke City Centre Hotel on the 13th of October was a success. This is the first time that we have been able to hold this event since 2019 due to the pandemic. The event aimed to bring together local, regional and national organisations for the community to find out about a wide range of services, equipment, technology and support in one place.

28 organisations attended to provide information, advice and equipment demonstrations, these included national charities such as the RNIB, Guide Dogs, Sightline, the Macular Society and Blind Veterans as well as local charities such as VAST, Changes, Appetite and the North Staffordshire Pensioner's Convention. Statutory and sports organisations also attended a wide range of Assistive technology companies as well such as Optelec, Vision Aid, Dolphin and Humanware. Sighted Guides were available throughout the day as well as a BSL interpreter. There was a schedule of talks provided in a separate room, talks were provided by the local sensory team, The Royal Association for Deaf People, Staffordshire Cricket as well as some Employability Workshops delivered by Severn Trent.

Staffordshire Sight Loss Association Trustees' Annual Report (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2022

Achievements and Performance (continued)

115 members of the community attended the event and feedback from attendees and exhibitors was excellent. The event was supported by 14 of our volunteers who helped with tasks such as setting up, welcoming and counting guests, providing information about our services and asking guests for feedback.

Funding received during 2022 meant that we have also been able to grow our team of staff and volunteers. In May 2022 we hired a new part time Administration and Customer Service Assistant to provide administration support to the team and to work within the weekly Hanley Community Hub drop-in. We also hired a part time Independent Living Coordinator who supports our community-based drop-ins and social groups as well as providing advice, information and support through our Independent Living Service, this includes form filling and support with welfare rights issues amongst other things. In October we hired our first part time Assistive Technology Coordinator who provides support with technology issues including phones, tablets, smart speakers and computers. At the end of 2022 we have five staff members (3 part-time and 2 full-time).

Feedback has shown us that our services this year have led to many positive outcomes for our beneficiaries. We could not have delivered these services without the support of our volunteers, funders, partners, and supporters.

Volunteers have played a huge part in all areas of the charity's work in 2022 including supporting services (for example with administration tasks, technology support, telephone peer support and hosting social groups), attending Steering Group meetings, helping with social media and fundraising. Our charity has been supported by 21 volunteers during 2022. We were also very proud that one of our wonderful volunteers was recognised at the BBC Radio Stoke Make a Difference Awards where he was nominated for an award in the Volunteer Category and received a trophy for being highly commended in the category.

We would also like to thank our partners who have helped us to spread the word about the services that we offer. Our partners include the Eye Clinic Liaison Officers at the Royal Stoke University Hospital, the local Sensory Teams at Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire County Council, local Social Prescribers, The Macular Society, East Cheshire Eye Society, the RNIB, Guide Dogs, Blind Veterans, Appetite and our local Talking Newspapers.

Moving into 2023 we are looking forward to developing our services further using beneficiary and partner feedback to continue to improve in a community-led way. We are also looking forward to planning and delivering our first ever Community Awareness Event over the summer, the aim of which is to increase people's understanding of sight loss, dispel myths and stereotypes, and to break down barriers making North Staffordshire a more inclusive place to live.

**Staffordshire Sight Loss Association
Trustees' Annual Report (continued)
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

Financial Review

Staffordshire Sight Loss Association had an income of £148,281 in the financial year 2022. Most of this funding (£99,311) came from the National Lottery Community Fund for our 3-year Independent and Connected Communities project which began in February 2022. During 2022 we received a further £27,458 in restricted grants from other funders including:

- The Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group's Long Term Condition Support Fund for our Independence, Health and Wellbeing Project. This enabled us to scale up and enhance existing services.
- Stoke-on-Trent City Council's Community Investment Fund for our Digital Skills Project, this provided us with equipment necessary to demonstrate and support local people with using Assistive Technology.
- Local Giving for accessible yoga classes; and
- A further grant from the National Lottery from their Awards for All funding stream to increase local peer support opportunities.

The remainder of our income has come from an unrestricted grant from the Sir Jules Thom Charitable Trust (£1000), as well as individual donations, in memory donations, fundraising activities, and sale of daily living equipment. We would also like to thank our Potter's Arf Relay team who ran the local hilly half marathon for sponsorship and raised £1161.

We rent an office space on Albion Street in Hanley and our assets consist of our office furniture and equipment (for example our printer, laptops, phones etc.), daily living equipment and technology purchased for demonstration purposes at our Community Hubs and stock for our resource centre.

At year end the charity has a balance of £38,427. £10,488 of this is unrestricted funds and the remaining £27,939 is restricted.

Reserves Policy

The charity has a reserves policy. As a relatively new charity that has been operating for just under 5 years, we have been gradually building our reserves during that time and reserves have increased year on year. Unrestricted reserves are currently £10,488. Building up reserves has been challenging over the last couple of years as fundraising activities have been impacted by the pandemic however, we have a Sustainability Plan in place which is regularly reviewed and aims to diversify our income and build reserves to an adequate level.

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should ideally be maintained at a level equivalent to between three- and six-months non-project expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will cover continuity, restructuring to cover essential activities where it's necessary to source further income and a Dissolution Fund to provide for dissolution should the charity be unable to continue. We are working towards this goal and aim to increase our reserves to an adequate level over the next 24 months. Due to the nature of the organisation and the regular review of the budget our Reserves Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that it reflects what is needed for continuity, that the restructuring element matches the requirements of our activities, and that the dissolution element matches the requirements of staffing levels.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed 
Andrea Scott Chair

Date 31/10/23

Signed 
Linda Dunn Treasurer

Date 31/10/23

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of
Staffordshire Sight Loss Association
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31 March 2022 which are set out on pages 7 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees of Staffordshire Sight Loss Association, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').


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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of Staffordshire Sight Loss Association as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed  Date 31/10/2023
Daryl Denson ACMA
VAST

**Staffordshire Sight Loss Association
Receipts & Payments Account
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Receipts				
Social Groups	136	-	136	78
Grants	1,500	126,769	128,269	76,981
Donation	1,799	-	1,799	210
Events	1,586	-	1,586	217
Sales	13,720	-	13,720	2,797
Fundraising	2,771	-	2,771	650
Miscellaneous income	-	-	-	2,769
Total receipts	<u>21,512</u>	<u>126,769</u>	<u>148,281</u>	<u>83,702</u>
Payments				
Equipment	2,774	5,288	8,062	28,488
Other Purchases	293	-	293	2,349
Salaries plus expenses	-	73,110	73,110	33,031
Administrator	-	-	-	12,427
Social Groups	-	-	-	1,819
Volunteer Expenses	808	-	808	875
Rent and Storage	-	19,821	19,821	13,242
Room Hire	2,430	-	2,430	714
Resource Centre Stock	-	14,753	14,753	-
Database	-	171	171	-
Staff Training	-	701	701	816
Miscellaneous expenditure	48	-	48	462
Yoga	-	-	-	264
Fundraising	1,212	-	1,212	522
Accountancy	-	1,170	1,170	-
Phone and Internet	-	1,776	1,776	1,345
Stationary and Postage	1,358	-	1,358	947
Refreshments	458	-	458	-
Insurance	946	-	946	774
Activities and Events	4,504	-	4,504	-
Rates	448	-	448	160
Subscriptions & Memberships	472	-	472	295
Monitoring & Evaluation	-	-	-	6,000
Project Management Support	-	-	-	5,100
Transcripts	-	2,369	2,369	433
Repairs & Decorations	136	-	136	552
Marketing	581	-	581	909
Total payments	<u>16,468</u>	<u>119,159</u>	<u>135,627</u>	<u>111,524</u>
Net receipts/(payments)	<u>5,044</u>	<u>7,610</u>	<u>12,654</u>	<u>(27,822)</u>
Cash funds at start of this period	<u>6,203</u>	<u>19,570</u>	<u>25,773</u>	<u>53,595</u>
Cash funds at end of this period	<u>11,247</u>	<u>27,180</u>	<u>38,427</u>	<u>25,773</u>

**Staffordshire Sight Loss Association
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
at 31 December 2022**

	2022	2021
	£	£
Cash assets		
Bank Current Account	<u>38,427</u>	<u>25,773</u>
	<u>38,427</u>	<u>25,773</u>
Liabilities due		
Accountancy Fees	<u>630</u>	<u>600</u>
	<u>630</u>	<u>600</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed 
Andrea Scott Chair

Dated 31/10/23

Signed L. Dunn
Linda Dunn Treasurer

Dated 31/10/23

Staffordshire Sight Loss Association
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2022

1. Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts are statements that summarise the movement of cash into and out of the charity during the financial year. In this context "cash" includes cash equivalents, for example, bank accounts where cash can be readily withdrawn to pay for debts as they become due. For the purposes of understanding a statement of assets and liabilities at the year-end has been included.

2. Trustees' remuneration

Trustees received no expenses, remuneration or benefits in this year.

3. Funds

	Opening balance	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds					
National Lottery - CF Project 1	16,781	-	(11,681)	(5,100)	-
National Lottery - CF Project 2	-	99,311	(80,161)	5,100	24,250
National Lottery - Awards for All	-	9,950	(9,732)	-	218
Community Foundation Staffordshire	2,525	-	(2,525)	-	-
Local Giving Fund - Yoga	-	500	(225)	-	275
Stoke-on-Trent City Council	-	5,500	(3618)	-	1,882
Tackling Inequalities Fund	264	-	-	-	264
Long Term Condition Fund	-	6,508	(5458)	-	1,050
Restricted Funding	-	5,000	(5,759)	759	-
	<u>19,570</u>	<u>126,769</u>	<u>(119,159)</u>	<u>759</u>	<u>27,939</u>
Unrestricted Funds					
General Funds	6,203	21,512	(16,468)	(759)	10,488
	<u>6,203</u>	<u>21,512</u>	<u>(16,468)</u>	<u>(759)</u>	<u>10,488</u>
Total	<u>25,773</u>	<u>148,281</u>	<u>(135,627)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>38,427</u>

STAFFORDSHIRE SIGHT LOSS ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1176919

Accounts

Staffordshire Sight Loss Association
(Registered charity, number 1176919)
Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2021

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8	Receipts & Payments Account
9	Statement of Assets & Liabilities
10	Notes to the Accounts

**Staffordshire Sight Loss Association
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31 December 2021**

Full name Staffordshire Sight Loss Association

Registered charity number 1176919

Principal address

1 Ketton Close
Stoke-on-Trent
ST6 6UE

Trustees

Andrea Scott (Chair)
Linda Dunn (Treasurer)
Sandra Barlow (Secretary)
Ian Wiltshaw

Bankers

Natwest

Independent examiner

Daryl Denson ACMA
VAST
The Dudson Centre
Hope Street
Hanley
Stoke on Trent
ST1 5DD

Charity Objectives

For the public benefit to promote the relief of blind and partially sighted people, their friends, families and carers who primarily (but not exclusively) live in Staffordshire, including those who may not be registered as Blind/ Severely Sight Impaired or Partially Sighted/ Sight Impaired, by such means as the trustees think fit including:

- Providing services, advice and information, social activities/opportunities and peer support;
- Increasing public awareness of the needs of blind and partially sighted people

Governance and management

The Charity is governed by a Charitable Incorporated Organisation Constitution (Foundation Model), adopted on 31st January 2018.

The methods adopted for the recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The trustees of the charity must be appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees

Related Parties

Staffordshire Sight Loss operates independently and has no related party transactions.

Staffordshire Sight Loss Association Trustees' Annual Report (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2021

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit

- Advice, information, and support around living independently with sight loss, including welfare rights, concessions, advice about equipment, support with forms, grant applications and housing issues.
- Community Hubs which include a pop-up Resource Centre that provides opportunities for members of the community to come and try a wide range of daily living equipment. Beneficiaries can also attend our Community Hubs for advice and information, support with forms and a coffee and chat. This service became available as a weekly service in Hanley from June 2021 and a monthly service in Biddulph from August 2021 with plans to expand to other areas in 2022.
- Peer support/ social groups, for the first part of 2021 these were delivered as online groups with in-person groups being reintroduced from August in Hanley, Leek and Newcastle. At the end of the year, we offer a blend of online and in-person social groups with plans to expand our in-person groups to other locations in 2022.
- Weekly Hanley braille class which began in August 2021.
- Weekly online yoga class and monthly online book club
- Group excursions: In October we arranged a group visit to the British Ceramics Biennial Festival for plate making and ceramics handling. In December we arranged a group visit to a local Art event presented by local Arts organisation Appetite, held at Staffordshire University called 'Lookout'. We plan to organise further outings in 2022.
- Technology Support Service to support people to use technology for independence, including phones, tablets, computers and smart speakers.
- Telephone peer support/ befriending service: a weekly or fortnightly call from someone with lived experience of sight loss
- Regular newsletter produced in a range of formats to maximise accessibility
- Social media pages including a closed Facebook group for information sharing and peer support and the delivery of Interactive Facebook live videos for sharing information, asking questions and engaging with others.
- Accessible volunteer opportunities

Public Benefit

The trustees of the Charity are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and have had regard to it in their administration of the Charity.

Achievements and Performance

Staffordshire Sight Loss Association was set up in 2018 to provide in-person support services for blind and partially sighted people living in North Staffordshire. In 2020 like many other charities, we had to adapt the way that we were delivering services due to the COVID19 pandemic. Face to face services were not possible and we adapted by providing a variety of online and telephone-based services.

On the 4th January 2021 the country's third national lockdown began and in February 2021 the Prime Minister announced the Government's planned 'Roadmap out of lockdown', a 4-step approach involving the gradual easing of restrictions with the hope that all legal limits on social contact would be removed by the end of June 2021.

From January until June we continued to provide online and telephone-based services including advice and information, support with welfare rights issues, online groups and telephone peer support. Staff and volunteers worked from home and trustee meetings were conducted online.

Staffordshire Sight Loss Association Trustees' Annual Report (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2021

Achievements and Performance (continued)

In April 2021 non-essential shops reopened as well as hospitality venues. After careful consideration, a thorough risk assessment, consultation with our community and taking into account government guidance we decided to open our Hanley Community Hub in a restricted format on the 1st June 2021. This would include a Resource Centre and would be a place where the community could come to find out about and try a wide range of equipment that can help with living independently. They could also get specialist advice and information, find out about services, get help with forms and claims. We held a small opening event that was attended by the Lord Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent, Dr Chandra Kanneganti, local MP Jo Gideon and staff and volunteers. We initially delivered this service weekly on an appointment only basis but later in the year we were able to deliver this as a drop-in.

In June we also began to offer advice and support through home visits which made this service more accessible and practical for many people. On the 19th July all restrictions on social contact were lifted by the Government. By this point volunteers were able to work from the office, helping with administration tasks. Many people in our community told us that they wanted in-person social groups to become available while others understandably did not feel ready at that point. Community venues were also reopening which would allow us to launch community-based social groups and Community Hub drop-ins.

We continued to provide our online groups and in August we launched in-person social groups in Hanley, Leek and Newcastle, a monthly Community-Hub drop-in at Biddulph Town Hall and a weekly braille class in Hanley. In the Autumn we also planned some group outings including a trip to the British Ceramics Biennial Festival.

At the end of the year, we continue to deliver a blend of in-person and remote services. Feedback shows us that this is meeting current needs. Despite the lifting of restrictions not everyone is ready to mix publicly, the pandemic and staying at home for long periods has affected people's confidence to go out and many people fear the risk of transmission while using public transport.

We are proud that we have been able to adapt quickly to the needs of our community over what has been a very challenging time for all charities. We know that in-person services are valued by our beneficiaries as it is very difficult to know if a piece of daily living equipment will help without trying it out in person or to learn how to use a smartphone without someone physically being there to show you.

We feel that we have been able to re-introduce face to face services in a safe way at the right pace for our community. We have launched services that are new for our charity this year including our Resource Centre, Community Hubs, and braille class. Our remote and in-person services have achieved many positive outcomes for the local people that we have supported, and we have received lots of very positive feedback from the community. We could not have delivered these services without the support of our volunteers, funders, partners, and supporters.

Volunteers have played a huge part in all areas of the charity's work in 2021 including supporting services (for example with administration tasks, technology support, telephone peer support and hosting online social groups), attending Steering Group meetings, helping with social media and fundraising. We would also like to thank our partners who have helped us to spread the word about the services that we offer. This year we have developed existing relationships and forged new ones. Our partners include the Eye Clinic Liaison Officers at the Royal Stoke Hospital, the local Sensory Teams at Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire County Council, local Social Prescribers, The Macular Society, East Cheshire Eye Society, Disability Solutions, the RNIB, Guide Dogs, Blind Veterans, Appetite and our local Talking Newspapers.

This year we have also welcomed a new Independent Living Coordinator to our team who is supporting our social groups, drop-ins, and advice service. At the end of the year our team is made up of 4 trustees, 3 staff members and 16 volunteers.

Staffordshire Sight Loss Association Trustees' Annual Report (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2021

Financial Review

Staffordshire Sight Loss Association had an income of £83,702.93 in the financial year 2021. Most of this funding (£54,956) came from a 2-year National Lottery Community Fund grant. The grant was provided to deliver our Independence and Wellbeing Project, and this has made up much of our service delivery for 2021. The total grant is for £140,477.08, and its aim was to re-introduce face to face services for blind and partially sighted people who live in North Staffordshire.

The project began in February 2020 shortly before the first national lockdown which started in March 2020 and as a result, we could not deliver this project in the way that we originally intended. The National Lottery has been very supportive in allowing us to adapt our project through this challenging time to meet the immediate needs of our community and it has supported a range of online and telephone-based services.

We are approaching the end of our Independence and Wellbeing Project, and we feel that we have taken big steps to move the project back towards its intended activities as restrictions have eased over the last 6 months. This has not however left us time to fully execute all of our plans which included community-based services across North Staffordshire.

We are however pleased that at the end of 2021 we are at the final application stage for a new 3-year grant from the National Lottery Community Fund which if successful will allow us to continue and develop the work of our current project.

During 2021 we have also received a final payment of £819 from the Staffordshire Community Foundation; this payment was part of a COVID support grant totalling £2279. We received a grant from the National Lottery's Awards for All funding stream to support us to meet an increased demand for our Independent Living Service. We also received a grant for £5837 from the Bishop Stamer Fund through the Staffordshire Foundation, this grant has enabled us to furnish our Community Room.

The remainder of our income has come from an unrestricted grant from the Edgar Lawley Foundation (£1500), a £2500 donation from the Etruscan Lodge, a grant to enable us to take part in VAST's Community Health Champion Project (£2250 with a remaining £750 to be paid at the end of the project) as well as voluntary donations, fundraising activities, and sale of daily living equipment.

We rent an office space on Albion Street in Hanley and our assets consist of our office furniture and equipment (for example our printer, laptops, phones etc.), daily living equipment and technology purchased for demonstration purposes at our Community Hubs and stock for our resource centre.

At year end the charity has a balance of £25,773. £6,203 of this is unrestricted funds and the remaining £19,569 is restricted.

Our expenditure for the year has been £111,525. Our expenditure is more than our income for the year and this is largely due to restricted grants received in 2020 for capital items (e.g., equipment for demonstration and furniture) that were purchased in 2021. We were unable to use this grant money in the previous year due to lockdowns, working from home and restrictions on services.

We are very grateful to the National Lottery Community Fund for their support this year and to all our other funders and supporters.

**Staffordshire Sight Loss Association
Trustees' Annual Report (continued)
for the year ended 31 December 2021**

Reserves Policy

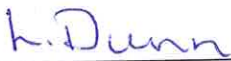
The charity has a reserves policy. As a relatively new charity that has been operating for just under 4 years, we have been gradually building our reserves during that time and reserves have increased year on year. Unrestricted reserves are currently £6,203 which equates to just over 1 month's running costs for current activity levels. Building up reserves has been challenging over the last 18 months as fundraising activities have been impacted by the pandemic.

Our Reserves policy identifies that we need to increase our reserves to a level that will cover continuity, restructuring to cover essential activities where necessary to source further income and a Dissolution Fund to provide for dissolution should the charity be unable to continue. At this point we aim to increase our Reserves to £20,000 and we have developed a Sustainability Plan that will help us to achieve this goal over the next 3 years.

Due to the nature of the organisation and the regular review of the budget our Reserves Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that it reflects what is needed for continuity, that the restructuring element matches the requirements of our activities, and that the dissolution element matches the requirements of staffing levels.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed _____ Date 24/10/22
Andrea Scott Chair 

Signed _____ Date 24/10/22
Linda Dunn Treasurer 

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Staffordshire Sight Loss Association for the year ended 31 December 2021

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31 March 2021 which are set out on pages 7 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees of Staffordshire Sight Loss Association, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of Staffordshire Sight Loss Association as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed  Date 25/10/2022
Daryl Denson ACMA
VAST

**Staffordshire Sight Loss Association
Receipts & Payments Account
for the year ended 31 December 2021**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Receipts				
Social Groups	78	-	78	43
Grants	6,250	70,731	76,981	93,333
Donation	210	-	210	546
Events	217	-	217	402
Sales	2,797	-	2,797	238
Fundraising	650	-	650	-
Miscellaneous income	2,769	-	2,769	704
Total receipts	12,971	70,731	83,702	95,266
Payments				
Equipment	4,946	23,542	28,488	3,086
Other Purchases	2,349	-	2,349	-
Salaries plus expenses	-	33,031	33,031	19,794
Administrator	-	12,427	12,427	6,534
Social Groups	43	1,776	1,819	425
Volunteer Expenses	88	787	875	493
Rent and Storage	887	12,355	13,242	6,247
Room Hire	-	714	714	-
Office Set Up	-	-	-	3,007
Database	-	-	-	1,900
Staff Training	-	816	816	369
Miscellaneous expenditure	13	449	462	704
Yoga	264	-	264	308
Fundraising	522	-	522	344
Accountancy	-	-	-	95
Phone and Internet	34	1,311	1,345	551
Stationary and Postage	210	737	947	708
Insurance	50	724	774	469
Professional Services	-	-	-	665
Rates	-	160	160	-
Subscriptions & Memberships	133	162	295	-
Monitoring & Evaluation	-	6,000	6,000	-
Project Management Support	-	5,100	5,100	-
Transcripts	189	244	433	-
Repairs & Decorations	241	311	552	-
Marketing	374	535	909	1,322
Total payments	10,343	101,181	111,524	47,021
Net receipts/(payments)	2,628	(30,450)	(27,822)	48,245
Cash funds at start of this period	3,575	50,020	53,595	5,350
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Cash funds at end of this period	6,203	19,570	25,773	53,595

**Staffordshire Sight Loss Association
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
at 31 December 2021**

	2021	2020
Cash assets	£	£
Bank Current Account	<u>25,773</u>	<u>53,595</u>
	<u>25,773</u>	<u>53,595</u>
 Liabilites due		
Accountancy Fees	<u>600</u>	<u>570</u>
	<u>600</u>	<u>570</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed 
Andrea Scott Chair

Dated 24/10/22

Signed L.A. Dunn
Linda Dunn Treasurer

Dated 24/10/22

Staffordshire Sight Loss Association
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2021

1. Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts are statements that summarise the movement of cash into and out of the charity during the financial year. In this context "cash" includes cash equivalents, for example, bank accounts where cash can be readily withdrawn to pay for debts as they become due. For the purposes of understanding a statement of assets and liabilities at the year-end has been included.

2. Trustees' remuneration

Trustees received no expenses, remuneration or benefits in this year.

3. Funds

	Opening balance	Receipts	Payments	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds				
National Lottery - CF	43,903	54,956	(82,078)	16,781
National Lottery - Awards for All	-	9,119	(9,119)	-
Community Foundation Staffordshire	3	6,656	(4,134)	2,525
Stoke-on-Trent City Council	850	-	(850)	-
Tackling Inequalities Fund	264	-	-	264
One Family Foundation	5,000	-	(5,000)	-
	<u>50,020</u>	<u>70,731</u>	<u>(101,181)</u>	<u>19,570</u>
Unrestricted Funds				
General Funds	3,575	12,971	(10,343)	6,203
	<u>3,575</u>	<u>12,971</u>	<u>(10,343)</u>	<u>6,203</u>
Total	<u>53,595</u>	<u>83,702</u>	<u>(111,524)</u>	<u>25,773</u>

STAFFORDSHIRE SIGHT LOSS ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1176919

Accounts

Staffordshire Sight Loss Association
(Registered charity, number 1176919)
Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2020

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**Staffordshire Sight Loss Association
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31 December 2020**

Full name Staffordshire Sight Loss Association

Registered charity number 1176919

Principal address

1 Ketton Close
Stoke-on-Trent
ST6 6UE

Trustees

Andrea Scott (Chair)
Linda Dunn (Treasurer)
Sandra Barlow (Secretary)
Ian Wiltshaw

Bankers

Natwest

Independent examiner

Daryl Denson ACMA
VAST
The Dudson Centre
Hope Street
Hanley
Stoke on Trent
ST1 5DD

Charity Objectives

For the public benefit to promote the relief of blind and partially sighted people, their friends, families and carers who primarily (but not exclusively) live in Staffordshire, including those who may not be registered as Blind/ Severely Sight Impaired or Partially Sighted/ Sight Impaired, by such means as the trustees think fit including:

- Providing services, advice and information, social activities/opportunities and peer support;
- Increasing public awareness of the needs of blind and partially sighted people

Governance and management

The Charity is governed by a Charitable Incorporated Organisation Constitution (Foundation Model), adopted on 31st January 2018.

The methods adopted for the recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The trustees of the charity must be appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees

Related Parties

Staffordshire Sight Loss operates independently and has no related party transactions.

Staffordshire Sight Loss Association Trustees' Annual Report (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2020

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit

- One to one advice, information and support around living independently with sight loss, including welfare rights, concessions, advice about equipment, support with forms, grant applications and housing issues.
- Peer support groups with activities and speakers that range from informational speakers, group discussions and activities such as crafts, drumming and gentle exercise. In 2020 these were delivered as face-to-face groups up until March and then online groups thereafter due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Weekly online yoga class and monthly online book club
- Other groups and activities in partnership with other organisations including Sighted Guiding sessions in partnership with the Guide Dogs organisation.
- Technology Support Service to support people to use technology for independence, including phones, tablets, computers and smart speakers.
- Telephone peer support/ befriending service: a weekly or fortnightly call from someone with lived experience of sight loss
- Awareness Event bringing together local and national organisations to demonstrate equipment and technology and to provide information and advice to members of the public. (postponed for 2020 due to COVID19)
- Regular newsletter produced in a range of formats to maximise accessibility
- Social media pages including a closed facebook group for information sharing and peer support and the delivery of Interactive Facebook live videos for sharing information, asking questions and engaging with others.
- Accessible volunteer opportunities

Public Benefit

The trustees of the Charity are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and have had regard to it in their administration of the Charity.

Achievements and Performance

At the start of the year, we were very pleased to be awarded a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund to deliver our two-year Independence and Wellbeing project. This funding has enabled us to expand our reach and our service offer as well as recruiting our first staff members; in March 2020 we hired a Service Manager and in May 2020, an Administration Assistant. It has also enabled us to hire and set up a fully accessible office space for staff and volunteers to work from on Albion Street in Hanley.

The project's focus was to provide face-to-face services to support people with sight loss to increase their independence and confidence and to reduce feelings of isolation. The project involves Advice and information, Community drop-ins, Technology Support and Peer Support groups.

Staffordshire Sight Loss Association Trustees' Annual Report (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2020

Achievements and Performance (continued)

We received our Funding in February and in March the country went into lockdown due to the COVID19 pandemic. It quickly became clear that we wouldn't be able to follow our proposed activity plan, and we had to quickly reassess our delivery methods for the safety of our beneficiaries, volunteers and staff. We consulted with our community about the challenges that they were facing and the services that were needed at that time.

Our community told us that they still needed specialist advice and information around living independently with sight loss but that the pandemic had created additional challenges. Many people told us that they felt isolated, lonely or bored and that they were struggling to find ways to fill the time or to stay connected with others. People also told us that the pandemic had impacted their support networks, their emotional well-being and their confidence to go out independently.

In response to this feedback and with the support of the National Lottery we adapted our project and in 2020 we were able to deliver:

- Weekly Facebook live videos where we would share useful information, and people could engage with each other or the video in real-time by asking questions or making comments that would be read out. We would give updates on what services were available from ourselves and other organisations so that people had the information they needed to make informed decisions about what would help them. We involved guest speakers from other organisations. Between 25th March 2020 and December 2020 we streamed 24 videos and there were over 10,500 views during that time.
- Prior to Lockdown we were able to deliver 9 face to face social groups and from the beginning of April we started to provide weekly online social groups using the Zoom platform. We provided 38 Zoom social groups in 2020. Through our online and face-to-face groups we reached 38 people in 2020. The groups were mainly a place to chat and share information, experiences and tips but we also held quizzes and had guest speakers.
- Following feedback from our service users about what they had been doing during lockdown, it was clear that a lot of people had been listening to audio books and through consultation with our beneficiaries, in May we set up a Zoom book club, in 2020 we held 8 book club meetings and we were lucky enough to be joined by the author of one of our chosen books, Dr Amit Patel.
- Further feedback revealed that people were interested in engaging in some physical activity and mindfulness but had previously found it difficult to engage in such classes due to accessibility issues. We trialled some tai chi and yoga sessions and from the feedback received we began to deliver a weekly Zoom Yoga class in August. Attendees reported benefits such as feeling calm and relaxed, enjoyment from trying a new activity and sleeping better. We launched this service with funding from the Tackling Inequalities fund and have since developed it through our Independence and Wellbeing project.
- Throughout the year we have provided specialist advice and support around living independently with sight loss. During the year we have been at various states of lockdown and we have had to be flexible and adapt the way that we have delivered the service as things have changed. For the safety of everyone we have provided support and advice over the phone unless this has not been possible for practical reasons and where absolutely necessary we have visited people, following all government guidelines and fully risk assessing on a case by case basis.
- In May we set up a Telephone Peer support service in response to feedback from our service users. This involves a volunteer with lived experience providing a weekly or fortnightly phone call for peer support.
- We kept in touch with our members through our quarterly newsletter that is available in a range of accessible formats.

Staffordshire Sight Loss Association Trustees' Annual Report (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2020

Achievements and Performance (continued)

- We developed our online presence further with the support of our volunteers. We launched our new website with the help of a bursary from VAST. We also grew our social media following by regularly posting on our Facebook and Twitter pages and we also launched an Instagram page.

Despite being unable to deliver our services and our Independence and Wellbeing Project as originally planned we are very pleased with what we have been able to achieve by adapting our delivery methods. Our services have achieved many positive outcomes for the local people that we have supported and we have received lots of very positive feedback from the community.

We could not have delivered these services without the immense support of our volunteers, funders, partners, and supporters.

Volunteers have played a huge part in all areas of the charity's work in 2020 including supporting services (for example, hosting online social groups and providing telephone peer support calls), attending Steering Group meetings, helping with social media and fundraising.

We would also like to thank our partners who have shared useful information with us to help us to develop our organisation, as well as helping us to spread the word about the services that we offer. This year we have developed existing relationships and forged new ones. Our partners include the Eye Clinic Liaison Officers at the Royal Stoke Hospital, the local Sensory Teams at Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire County Council, local Social Prescribers, The Macular Society, East Cheshire Eye Society, Disability Solutions, the RNIB, Guide Dogs, Blind Veterans, and our local Talking Newspapers. Many of our partners have also attended our social groups and spoken on our Facebook live videos.

Financial Review

Staffordshire Sight Loss Association had an income of £95,265 in the financial year 2020. The majority of this funding (£85,522) came from the National Lottery Community Fund. The grant was provided to deliver a 2 year Independence and Wellbeing Project and this has made up the majority of our service delivery for 2020. The total grant is for £140,477, the remainder is to be paid in 2021.

We also received grants from Stoke-on-Trent City Council's Financial Support Programme and the Staffordshire Community Foundation. This funding was provided as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic. The total amount awarded was £2279 from Stoke on Trent City Council and £1,460 from the Staffordshire Community Foundation with a further £819 to be paid in 2021.

We received a further £571.95 from the Tackling Inequalities Fund to pilot a series of accessible online Yoga sessions which we have then been able to continue and develop through our Independence and Wellbeing Project.

The remainder of our income has come from an unrestricted grant from the Edgar Lawley Foundation (£1,500) and a £2,000 donation from the Severn Trent Community Fund as well as voluntary donations, fundraising activities (including a Poetry evening), sale of second hand donated goods, and the Potto Lotto.

We rent an office space on Albion Street in Hanley and our assets consist of our office furniture and equipment (for example our printer, laptops, phones etc.) and some equipment that we use for demonstration purposes, for example lighting and kitchen equipment.

At year end the charity has a balance of £52,595. £3,575 of this is unrestricted funds and the remaining £50,020 is restricted.

Our expenditure for the year has been £47,020.

We are very grateful to the National Lottery Community Fund for their support this year and to all of our other funders and supporters.

**Staffordshire Sight Loss Association
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31 December 2020**

Reserves Policy

The charity does not have a reserve policy. At the period end free reserves stood at £3,575 (2019: £349)

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed L.A. Dunn Date 27/10/21

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of
Staffordshire Sight Loss Association
for the year ended 31 December 2020**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31 March 2020 which are set out on pages 7 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees of Staffordshire Sight Loss Association, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').


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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of Staffordshire Sight Loss Association as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed  Date 28/10/2021
Daryl Denson ACMA
VAST

**Staffordshire Sight Loss Association
Receipts & Payments Account
for the year ended 31 December 2020**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Receipts				
Social Groups	43	-	43	245
Grants	3,500	89,833	93,333	7,715
Donation	546	-	546	599
Events	402	-	402	941
Sales	238	-	238	105
Miscellaneous income	704	-	704	-
Total receipts	5,433	89,833	95,266	9,605
Payments				
Equipment	-	3,086	3,086	4,743
Service Manager	18	19,776	19,794	-
Administrator	-	6,534	6,534	-
Social Groups	98	327	425	410
Volunteer Expenses	296	197	493	752
Rent and Storage	413	5,834	6,247	51
Office Set Up	-	3,007	3,007	-
Database	-	1,900	1,900	1,043
Staff Training	-	369	369	-
Miscellaneous expenditure	704	-	704	-
Yoga	-	308	308	-
Fundraising	344	-	344	-
Accountancy	95	-	95	45
Phone and Internet	-	551	551	217
Stationary and Postage	-	708	708	232
Insurance	-	469	469	418
Professional Services	240	425	665	142
Event Costs	-	-	-	1,302
Marketing	-	1,322	1,322	354
Total payments	2,208	44,813	47,021	9,709
Net receipts/(payments)	3,225	45,020	48,245	(104)
Cash funds at start of this period	350	5,000	5,350	5,454
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Cash funds at end of this period	3,575	50,020	53,595	5,350

**Staffordshire Sight Loss Association
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
at 31 December 2020**

	2020	2019
Cash assets	£	£
Bank Current Account	53,595	5,350
	<u>53,595</u>	<u>5,350</u>
Liabilites due		
Accountancy Fees	570	95
	<u>570</u>	<u>95</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed
Trustee

L.A. Dunn

Dated 27/10/21

Staffordshire Sight Loss Association
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2020

1. Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts are statements that summarise the movement of cash into and out of the charity during the financial year. In this context "cash" includes cash equivalents, for example, bank accounts where cash can be readily withdrawn to pay for debts as they become due. For the purposes of understanding a statement of assets and liabilities at the year-end has been included.

2. Trustees' remuneration

Trustees received no expenses, remuneration or benefits in this year.

3. Funds

	Opening balance	Receipts	(Payments)	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds				
National Lottery	-	85,522	(41,619)	43,903
Community Foundation of Staffordshire	-	1,460	(1,457)	3
Stoke-on-Trent City Council	-	2,279	(1,429)	850
Tackling Inequalities Fund	-	572	(308)	264
One Family Foundation	5,000	-	-	5,000
	<u>5,000</u>	<u>89,833</u>	<u>(44,813)</u>	<u>50,020</u>
Unrestricted funds				
General funds	350	5,433	(2,208)	3,575
	<u>350</u>	<u>5,433</u>	<u>(2,208)</u>	<u>3,575</u>
Total	<u>5,350</u>	<u>95,266</u>	<u>(47,021)</u>	<u>53,595</u>