

**BLIND AND SIGHT IMPAIRED SOCIETY
(BASIS)**

Charity number 1188583

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2025**

BLIND AND SIGHT IMPAIRED SOCIETY (BASIS)

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BLIND AND SIGHT IMPAIRED SOCIETY (BASIS)

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Registration Number: 1188583

Trustees

J Maylin Chair
S Leftwich (resigned 08/04/2025)
A Howell (resigned 10/02/2025)
S Foggo
A Rogers
C Carter

Charity Offices:

Bradbury House
Witchards
Basildon
Essex
SS16 5BP

Bankers:

Lloyds Bank
9 Town Square
Basildon
Essex, SS14 1DU

Independent Examiners:

Community360
Winsley's House
High Street
Colchester
CO1 1UG

BLIND AND SIGHT IMPAIRED SOCIETY (BASIS)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

From 1st September 2024 to 31st August 2025

This is a legal requirement as Blind and Sight Impaired Society (BASIS) is a Registered Charity in England or Wales.

Along with our accounts, the report tells people:

- about our charity's work
- where our money comes from
- how we've spent our money in the past year

By law we must also report how we have carried out our charity's purposes for the public benefit. This helps people, including funders and beneficiaries, to understand why our charity does what it does.

Governance

The charity is governed in accordance with its constitution registered on 17th March 2020.

Summary of the purpose of the charity

To promote the welfare of, and to improve the independence and the quality of life, for all those who have a visual impairment, and their families and carers.

Activities carried out this year

- **Eye Clinic Liaison:** Sarah-Jane Piper, our Eye Clinic Liaison Officer, has continued to support the Low Vision clinic at Orsett hospital. She is currently seeing an average of 60 people each week there, both patients and professionals. This means we are delivering the support needed at the earliest possible point in someone's sight loss journey particularly at a time when wait times for rehabilitation services are long. We have faced some challenges due to the NHS Integrated Care Board taking the decision to fund an RNIB ECLO to cover the Mid and South Essex Trust. However we believe that having our ECLO at Orsett is a vital part of our referral pathway and therefore we are working well alongside each other and hoping to continue there.
- **Befriending:** There are currently 165 people benefitting from our befriending scheme, 49 of which were newly referred to us this year. We have 31 volunteers who have been fully trained and are dedicated to offering a multitude of activities including companionship, sighted guiding on everyday tasks, telephone befriending and shopping trips. Telephone befriending has continued on a larger scale this year due to a growing need and increased levels of loneliness and isolation. Over 150 calls are made each week.
- **Home Visits for Information, advice and guidance and emotional support:** We visited 273 people in their homes to provide information on assistive equipment, available benefits, support groups, social activities and low visual aids. Our Sensory Practitioner, Sally Dunster has worked tirelessly to support all of these people and we have had wonderful feedback on the positive impact her visits have. We supported over 900 people with information and guidance, covering all aspects of living with sight loss.

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- **Awareness raising talks:** Staff and Volunteers of BASIS have delivered talks, to a range of local community groups and attended places such as Basildon Hospital's stroke department to raise awareness of our services as well as representing visually impaired people at Disability and Inclusivity forums and local council meetings to raise awareness of what it is like to live with sight loss.
- **Social groups:** We have continued the running of our social groups this year and added two new ones in Thurrock which we hope has made a difference in reaching more isolated people in the area. These groups have been well attended by 117 people, and special thanks go to our volunteers without whom we would not be able to offer these sessions.
- **Website and Social Media:** Details of BASIS' services can be found on our website www.basissouthessex.org.uk which is fully accessible with the most up to date information. Our Facebook and X channels regularly feature posts with information on upcoming activities and articles of interest to the visually impaired.
- **Essex Vision:** Essex Vision is the strategic partnership formed of BASIS, Essex Sight, Support 4 Sight and Southend In sight. It was created to champion the implementation of a Vision Strategy in Essex and has evolved to work as a formal partnership from which to collaborate on funding bids and joint working.
- **Children's Services:** Thanks to an element of the National Lottery Community Funding, we have massively grown our reach and offer of services for children and young people. We have worked with 14 new families this year who have attended 3 activity sessions at the resource centre and a trip to Barleylands farm. The parents have all reported the benefits of meeting with other families who have similar lived experiences and the children enjoyed coming together for accessible play and learning.
- **Braille lessons:** Our Braille tutor June, has delivered 107 Braille lessons this year to 7 people, all who have completed Grade 1 and well on the way to Grade 2. This is a skill that is not being taught to adults anywhere else in the County, so we are proud to offer these lessons which have a lifelong impact.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have understood the guidance from the Charities Commission regarding public benefit and that all decisions taken this year relating to who can benefit from the charity's purposes and how, were made in accordance.

Contributions by volunteers

We have largely been very fortunate to have retained our volunteer base with notable contributions from the small team that have made over 3,500 telephone calls to those most isolated visually impaired people. Special mention to Stephen Foggo for his contribution to the running of Craft group and seated yoga.

Thanks to Joyce Taylor for running our Canvey Group so successfully, to Kayleigh Rogers, Kyla Skingle, Sarah Clark, Jason Reeves, Natasha Lawrence, Terry Murley, Mary Vince and Pauline Dolton for their support with social groups and to all those providing befriending.

BLIND AND SIGHT IMPAIRED SOCIETY (BASIS)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Funding

BASIS has continued to work within our commissioned contract with Essex County Council to deliver Information, advice and guidance and home visit assessments to the visually impaired.

In addition to this we raised money largely through successful bids to trusts and foundations including Essex Community Foundation, The National Lottery Awards for All fund and The Postcode Places Trust. We also received donations through the generosity of our members.

Chair's Report

It has been a time of growth for BASIS and I am delighted to report on a successful year for our service delivery and the positive impact we have had within the VI community. The board of Trustees has seen some changes with the resignations of Ann Howell and Samantha Leftwich who we would like to thank for the years of service they gave to BASIS. We have faced some challenges in recruiting new Trustees this year but we continue to promote the opportunities and are hopeful of strengthening the board again very soon.

This has been the second year of delivering Information Advice and Guidance and home visits under the Essex County Council Sensory contract. There is much change ahead for the Council due to devolution plans which have created some uncertainty around the continuation of the contract but we are consistently meeting our targets and have been reassured that the funding will continue beyond 2026. Through this contract, we have been able to help reduce the pressure on the rehabilitation teams, shortening wait times for things like long cane training.

The fundraising climate has been particularly challenging this year. With our current National Lottery funding coming to an end in April 2027, we have been working to diversify our income and strengthen our position.

Our children's services have gone from strength to strength this year and we have seen 14 new families join us for accessible activities and outings.

I would like to thank our staff, trustees and volunteers for their continued hard work this year. Also thanks go to all that have donated to the charity which has meant we have been able to continue providing the vital services our clients rely on. Myself and my team pledge to work hard in the coming year to ensure that the visually impaired people of South Essex feel supported.

June Maylin
Chair

BLIND AND SIGHT IMPAIRED SOCIETY (BASIS)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

CEO's Report

I am proud to report on some significant achievements this year. We have continued with our delivery of the sensory contract for Essex County Council in partnership with Essex Sight and Support for Sight with some fantastic outcomes. We have helped to redesign the pathway to ensure that people are receiving timely interventions which are making a positive impact on wait times for rehabilitation.

All of this has been largely thanks to the staff team at BASIS who I would like to personally thank for their tireless dedication.

Sally has worked tirelessly, delivering over 230 home visits to visually impaired people this year and received nothing but wonderful feedback on the difference she is making to people in the community.

Our resource centre has continued to be at the heart of our organisation with over 65 people visiting for information and demonstration of assistive equipment. They have been welcomed and supported by our Centre Coordinator, Jo Willis and June Maylin who have both continued to provide training in assistive technology and demonstrations of equipment such as magnifiers and lighting.

While this financial year has ended well with at least 18 months of funding secured from the local authority and the National Lottery, the fund raising climate is still very challenging for small charities like BASIS. We are very fortunate to have had the experience and support of our finance administrator Kim Barden throughout to manage our funding streams that we have to piece together to ensure the smooth running and sustainability of BASIS.

Many of you know Sarah-Jane Piper who is our eye clinic liaison officer and volunteer coordinator. Sarah-Jane has supported over 600 people in the eye clinic setting this year as well as overseeing the befriending project which has 146 people engaged currently. Her relationship with the patients and staff at Orsett hospital is a vital link between us and the NHS so special thanks go to her for her dedication to the patients.

Enormous thanks go to our team of volunteers who support the running of our social groups and our Befriending project. Your contributions are what make our services possible and make such a difference to the people you support.

Our priorities for the coming year are a continuation of this year's work and will include:

- Delivering a first rate service to visually impaired people via our local authority contract.
- Strengthening our partnership working within Essex Vision
- Campaigning for an improved sight loss pathway and reduced wait times for rehabilitation
- Development of our children and young people's support

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Our services are also made possible by the support from other organisations and special thanks go to: Essex Sight, Support 4 Sight, Southend In Sight, Hearing Help Essex, Essex Cares Ltd, Visionary, BBWCVS, Essex Community Foundation, Basildon, Billericay and Wickford Talking Newspaper, The National Lottery Community Fund, Rayleigh Town Council, Essex County Council, The Reading Rooms, Rayleigh Baptist Church, RAVS, CAVS, Community Agents, Canvey Royal British Legion, Jack Evans Court and to all those individuals that have donated or supported us in other ways.

Thank you.

Michelle Thomson
Chief Executive Officer



BLIND AND SIGHT IMPAIRED SOCIETY (BASIS)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

I report on the accounts of Blind and Sight Impaired Society (BASIS) for the year ended 31st August 2025 which are set out on pages 8 to 14.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (The Act)) but that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes considerations of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have 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.

David Courtier FMAAT AATQB for and on behalf of:

Community360
Winsley's House, High Street, Colchester, Essex



Date 18/12/2025

BLIND AND SIGHT IMPAIRED SOCIETY (BASIS)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Incoming resources					
Donations and legacies	2	30,080	-	30,080	17,966
Income from charitable activities	3	11,047	176,839	187,886	157,240
Fundraising income	4	434	-	434	10,529
Investment income		1,560	-	1,560	1,373
Total incoming resources		43,121	176,839	219,960	187,108
Resources expended					
Charitable activities	5	20,449	177,922	198,371	179,621
Cost of generating funds	6	161	-	161	3,929
Total resources expended		20,610	177,922	198,532	183,550
Net income/(expense)		22,511	(1,083)	21,428	3,558
Gain from disposal of assets		-	-	-	-
As at 1 September 2024		115,402	30,481	145,883	142,325
As at 31 August 2025		137,913	29,398	167,311	145,883

The notes on page 10 - 14 form part of these financial statements.

BLIND AND SIGHT IMPAIRED SOCIETY (BASIS)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	9	8,158	10,552
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		159,628	135,802
Prepayments	7	<u>64</u>	<u>69</u>
		159,692	135,871
Current Liabilities			
Creditors: Due within one year	8	<u>540</u>	<u>540</u>
Total current liabilities		540	540
Net current assets		<u>159,152</u>	<u>135,331</u>
Net assets		<u>167,311</u>	<u>145,883</u>
Unrestricted funds	13	137,913	115,402
Restricted funds	13	<u>29,398</u>	<u>30,481</u>
Total funds		<u>167,311</u>	<u>145,883</u>

These accounts have been approved by the Trustees on and signed on their behalf:

June Maylin

Signed: _____
J Maylin, Chair

Date: 11th December 2025

BLIND AND SIGHT IMPAIRED SOCIETY (BASIS)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of the preparation of the accounts

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items being recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note to these accounts.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement on Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Cash Flow

The financial statements do not include a cash flow statement because the charity, as a small reporting entity, is exempt from the requirement to prepare such a statement under Financial Reporting Standard 1 "Cash flow statements".

Value added tax

Value added tax is not recoverable by the charity, and as such is included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Association and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Association are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

- Office & Kitchen Equipment
- Special Equipment

Critical accounting estimates and judgements

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

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

There are no critical accounting estimates or judgements in the financial statements.

BLIND AND SIGHT IMPAIRED SOCIETY (BASIS)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

2. Donations and legacies	Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Donations	10,080	-	10,080	16,966
Coronavirus Retention Scheme	-	-	-	-
Sundry Grants	20,000	-	20,000	1,000
	30,080	-	30,080	17,966
3. Income from charitable activities	Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Grants Received:	-	176,839	176,839	147,183
Goods and services	11,047	-	11,047	10,057
	11,047	176,839	187,886	157,240
4. Income from Fundraising Activities	Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Fundraising Income	434	-	434	10,529
	434	-	434	10,529

BLIND AND SIGHT IMPAIRED SOCIETY (BASIS)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

5. Direct Charitable Expenditure	Unrestricted 2025	Restricted 2025	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Wages and salaries	7,317	126,413	133,730	122,119
Pensions	517	5,736	6,253	9,107
Coach hire	-	-	-	2,428
Training expenses	-	624	624	2,014
Travel expenses	95	6,647	6,742	2,474
Telephone & communication	-	2,855	2,855	2,033
Printing, postage and stationery	7	-	7	1,473
Refreshments	-	515	515	254
Goods Bought	10,821	-	10,821	4,850
Miscellaneous	1,017	8,574	9,590	5,892
Vehicle costs	-	1,471	1,471	2,670
Volunteer costs	-	830	830	-
Accommodation	-	8,836	8,836	5,835
Miscellaneous Equipment	-	2,195	2,195	4,302
Rent	3	2,418	2,421	4,022
Insurance	-	315	315	1,249
Accountancy	-	540	540	540
Project costs	-	8,233	8,233	4,671
Depreciation	673	1,721	2,394	3,689
	20,449	177,922	198,371	179,621
6. Cost of generating funds	Unrestricted 2025	Restricted 2025	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Fundraising costs	161	-	161	3,929
	161	-	161	3,929
7. Debtors			2025	2024
			£	£
Prepayments			64	69
			64	69
8. Creditors			2025	2024
			£	£
Accruals			540	540
Deferred Income			-	-
			540	540

BLIND AND SIGHT IMPAIRED SOCIETY (BASIS)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

9. Tangible fixed assets

	Restricted Vehicles £	Restricted Equipment £	Special Equipment £	Office & Kitchen Equipment £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 September 2024	10,495	10,335	32,325	29,860	83,015
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
Disposal	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2025	10,495	10,335	32,325	29,860	83,015
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2024	6,068	7,149	30,137	29,109	72,463
Charge for the year	1,107	614	485	188	2,394
At 31 August 2025	7,175	7,763	30,622	29,297	74,857
Net book values					
At 31 August 2025	<u>3,320</u>	<u>2,572</u>	<u>1,703</u>	<u>563</u>	<u>8,158</u>
At 31 August 2024	<u>4,427</u>	<u>3,186</u>	<u>2,188</u>	<u>751</u>	<u>10,552</u>

10. Staff costs

Staff costs were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and national insurance	133,730	122,119
Pensions	6,253	9,107
	<u>139,983</u>	<u>131,226</u>

The average weekly number of employees during the year was: 5 5

Key management personnel

For 2025, one member of staff was paid as key management personnel. They received less than £60,000 per annum.

11. Trustees remuneration

The trustees received remuneration for travel expenses only, incurred while undertaking their role of trustees.

12. Related party transactions

No person connected with the trustees has received or is due to receive any remuneration for the year directly or indirectly from the charity's funds.

BLIND AND SIGHT IMPAIRED SOCIETY (BASIS)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

13. Movement in funds	As at 01/09/2024 £	Incoming resources £	Expended resources £	As at 31/08/2025 £
Restricted funds:				
Social Service Fund	23	-	(6)	17
Big Lottery Fund	769	-	(709)	60
Visionary Grant	419	-	(105)	314
AFA	-	18,600	(14,379)	4,221
Independent Age	126	-	(126)	-
CAFRF	455	-	(114)	341
Clothworker Foundation	2,000	-	(862)	1,138
Essex Community Foundation	9,883	9,509	(9,874)	9,518
ECL Covid Fund	1,110	-	(220)	890
Vinci Foundation UK	7,209	-	(1,107)	6,102
RTCG	-	850	(331)	519
CSFCT	117	-	(117)	-
ECCIAG	(1,308)	37,142	(37,204)	(1,370)
ECCASS	771	68,266	(68,782)	255
TES	71	375	(446)	-
BLF	7,645	42,097	(42,349)	7,393
BCOF	1,192	-	(1,192)	-
	30,482	176,839	(177,922)	29,398
Unrestricted Funds	115,402	43,121	(20,610)	137,913
Total Funds	145,884	219,960	(198,532)	167,310
14. Analysis of net assets between funds	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	2,266	5,892	8,158	10,552
Current assets	135,647	24,046	159,692	135,871
Current liabilities	-	(540)	(540)	(540)
	137,913	29,398	167,311	145,883