

**HALIFAX SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND CIO
CHARITY NO. 1197353**

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

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

HALIFAX SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND CIO

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**HALIFAX SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND
CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION**

Management Committee Chair	Sue Mort
Management Committee Vice-Chair	Mark Owen (Resigned October 2023)
Treasurer	Peter Benson
Trustees/Committee	Colin Hutchinson Mark Owen Peter Benson Sue Mort Duncan Mitchell (Resigned August 2023) Suzanne Mitchell Sidra Kauser Hilary Newton Tegan Darby (Appointed August 2023)
Chief Officer	Kenneth Sanderson (Resigned September 2023) Faye Herbert (Appointed September 2023)
Registered Charity Number	1197353
Address	7 Southgate Halifax HX1 1DL
Independent Examiners	B.M. Howarth Ltd., West House, King Cross Road, Halifax HX1 1EB.

HALIFAX SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND CIO

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Structure, Governance and Management

The Halifax Society for the Blind is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered by the Charity Commission on 5 January 2022. It commenced operations on 1 April 2022 taking over from the former charity.

It has a Trustee Board which is ultimately accountable for the conduct of the organisation.

Trustees are unpaid volunteers, who are selected by reference to the skills and experience, which they possess, which could be useful to the operations of the Society.

The CIO is organised as a membership, and the initial members are those recorded as members of the former charity when the CIO began to operate.

Membership of the CIO is open to any individual who states they are willing to support the objects of the charity, indicates their agreement to accept the duties of a member as laid out in the constitution of the CIO and resides in the benefit area.

Objectives and Activities

Our mission is to "Provide practical and emotional support to those affected by sight loss" in the Calderdale Metropolitan Borough and surrounding areas.

We aim to:

Promote independence, through offering advice and guidance about the equipment and services available to support individual needs.

Increase confidence by supporting people along their sight loss journey, whether this is through learning new skills or providing a listening ear.

Reduce isolation by providing members with the opportunity to socialise with peers through our groups and activities or our Friends on the Phone service.

Educate and support external organisations by increasing awareness of sight loss in the wider community.
Advocate for members.

HALIFAX SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND CIO

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Public Benefit

The Trustees have regard for the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the aims and objectives and in planning the future activities of the charity.

Organisational structure

The Trustees are responsible for the overall governance of the charity and hold meetings on a quarterly basis.

At the first annual general meeting of the members of the CIO all the charity trustees shall retire from office.

At every subsequent annual general meeting of the members of the CIO, one-third of the elected charity trustees shall retire from office by rotation.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Achievement and Performance

The charity has 399 Registered Members and operates social support groups and a Sight Centre service. The charity reviews its services regularly based on evidence – including input from people who use its services.

Financial Review

The income for the year was £108,338 (2023 £163,024) including legacies of £Nil. The expenditure for the year was £128,675 (2023 £201,873) leaving a deficit of £20,337.

Reserves

The reserves policy enables the management of general reserves to ensure an appropriate level of accessible funds is held to provide against identified financial risks, and to provide cover for unexpected changes in income and expenditure.

General reserves are matched by highly liquid investments so that these can be drawn upon quickly if necessary.

The Charity aims to hold Restricted Funds of £382,000 in reserves for approximately 12 months average expenditure. This is to allow for normal operating costs, including staffing costs, redundancy and unexpected maintenance costs.

HALIFAX SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND CIO

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Investment Policy

The Management Committee has adopted a balanced investment policy to give income and long-term growth. Social, environmental, and ethical considerations are considered when settling the investment policy. The Brokers Brewin Dolphin have been engaged to actively manage the Investment Portfolio on behalf of the Trustees.

Dividends and Interest Received were £28,972 (2023 £41,397).

The Market Values of the Investments were: General Fund £1,276,724

Plans for the Future

It is imperative that the longer-term vision for HSB reflects the needs and aspirations of its members, employees and volunteers.

Our future plans include raising awareness of our accessible town centre location, highlighting the wide range of daily living aids and equipment available in the Sight Centre as well as the many opportunities on offer to engage with peers and build social networks.

In 3-5 years', time HSB wants to: -

- Be a well organised, efficient organisation with a knowledgeable, professional team providing high quality services to a strong, expanding membership.
- Continue to honour the Queens Award by providing a fulfilling volunteering scheme to volunteers from all backgrounds
- Raise awareness of our services and as a result, awareness of sight loss.
- Have greater engagement with wider communities, including offering services to young people.

HALIFAX SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND CIO

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (including FRS 102)

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to;

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in existence.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This Report was approved by the Trustees on 4 September 2024 and signed on their behalf:

P. BENSON

Treasurer

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF HALIFAX SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND CIO

I report to the charity on my examination of the Accounts and Notes of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As the Charity's Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the Accounts, in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'), you consider that the audit requirement of Section 144 (2) of the Act does not apply and that an Independent Examination is required. It is my responsibility to examine the Accounts under section 145 of the Act and to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145 (5) (b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. 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 consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the Accounts, and seeking explanations from the charity, concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which give cause to believe that in any material respect.

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable 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 confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**J D Turner FCA
B. M. Howarth Ltd
West House,
King Cross Road
HALIFAX.**

4 September 2024

Halifax Society for the Blind CIO
Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Unrestricted Fund</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>Incoming Resources</u>					
<u>Ordinary Income</u>					
Annual Subscriptions & Donations		7,999		7,999	16,670
Receipts from Visitors & Guides		149		149	603
Sale of Blind Aids		32,575		32,575	2,675
Grants	7	38,644		38,644	101,679
		79,366		79,366	121,627
<u>Investment Income</u>					
Dividends & Interest		28,972		28,972	41,397
Legacies	8	-		-	-
<u>Total Incoming Resources</u>		108,338		108,338	163,024
<u>Resources Expended</u>					
Outings		1,005		1,005	1,893
Purchase of Blind Aids (incl stock adj)		30,985		30,985	6,352
Salaries	9	107,376		107,376	120,131
Accountancy	11	3,060		3,060	2,880
Postage, Stationery & Advertising		10,845		10,845	5,005
Telephone		1,325		1,325	1,141
Rates, Light, Heat & Insurance		21,587		21,587	22,660
Repairs & Renewals		8,065		8,065	2,014
Investment Management Fees		8,038		8,038	9,987
Sundry Trade Expenses		14,022		14,022	8,869
Profit on disposal of property		(98,069)		(98,069)	-
Depreciation of Equipment & Fixtures		4,363		4,363	3,223
Depreciation of Freehold Property		15,672		15,672	16,294
		128,275		128,275	200,449
<u>Allowances to Blind and Services for their Benefit</u>					
Grants and Social Services		400		400	1,424
<u>Total Resources Expended</u>		128,675		128,675	201,873
<u>Net Income / (Expenditure for the Year)</u>					
		(20,337)		(20,337)	(38,849)
Surplus (Deficit) on Sale and Revaluation of Investments		82,649		82,649	(125,648)
Transfer of Funds		(382,000)	382,000	-	2,062,979
<u>Net Movement of Funds</u>		-319,688	382,000	62,312	1,898,482
<u>Funds Balances Brought Forward</u>		1,888,121	10,361	1,898,482	-
<u>Funds Balances Carried Forward</u>		1,568,433	392,361	1,960,794	1,898,482

Halifax Society for the Blind CIO
Balance Sheet at 31 March 2024

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>			
Tangible Assets	2	617,553	619,535
investments at Market Value	3	1,276,724	1,157,727
		<u>1,894,277</u>	<u>1,777,262</u>
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>			
Prepayments	4	6,270	7,119
Stock at Resource Centre		13,577	10,634
Cash at Barclays Bank		34,255	96,600
Brewin Dolphin		16,024	16,535
Cash in Hand		256	463
		<u>70,382</u>	<u>131,351</u>
<u>LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>			
Sundry Creditors & Accruals		<u>3,865</u>	<u>10,131</u>
		66,517	121,220
<u>NET ASSETS</u>			
		<u>1,960,794</u>	<u>1,898,482</u>
<u>Funds of the Charity</u>			
Unrestricted		1,568,433	1,888,121
Restricted: Children's Fund	5	10,361	10,361
General	6	382,000	-
		<u>1,960,794</u>	<u>1,898,482</u>

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 4 September 2024 and signed on their behalf.

P BENSON

Treasurer

Halifax Society for the Blind CIO
Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year to 31 March 2024

1. Accounting Policies

a) Basis of preparation of accounts

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with the exception of investments which are included at market value.

b) Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

The Trustees have opted not to use the standard breakdown of income as prescribed by the SORP and have opted to use alternative headings under the concession for smaller charities.

c) Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accrual basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the resources.

The Trustees have opted not to use the standard breakdown of expenditure as prescribed by the SORP and have opted to use alternative headings under the concession for smaller charities.

d) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at net book value brought forward less depreciation. Depreciation rates are calculated. Depreciation rates are calculated to spread the cost of each asset, less its estimated residual value, over its expected useful life as follows :

Freehold Property	2.5% straight line
Office Equipment	15% reducing balance

e) Legacies and Donations

Legacies and donations received by the Blind Society are accounted for on a cash basis and brought into the accounts in the year in which they are received. Details of the legacies are listed at Note 7 to the accounts.

f) Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value .

g) Investments

Investments are shown at market value.

Halifax Society for the Blind CIO
Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year to 31 March 2024

2. Tangible Fixed Assets

	<u>Freehold Property</u>	<u>Equipment and Fixtures</u>	<u>Total</u>
Cost 01.04.2023	651,790	31,629	683,418
Additions at Cost	140,673	10,817	151,490
Sales at cost	-165,601		-165,601
	<hr/> 626,861	<hr/> 42,446	<hr/> 669,307
Accumulated Depreciation 01.04.2023	50,522	13,362	63,883
Depreciation for Year	15,672	4,363	20,035
Eliminated re disposals	-32,164		-32,164
	<hr/> 592,832	<hr/> 24,721	<hr/> 617,553

3. Investments

The Investments have been included at Market Value.

Analysis of change in Investments during the year :

Market Value at 1 April 2023	1,157,727
Add acquisitions at cost	228,083
Less disposals at carrying value	(191,735)
Net change on revaluation	82,649
Market Value at the end of the year	<hr/> 1,276,724 <hr/>
Historic Cost at the end of the year	<hr/> 1,109,733 <hr/>

Investments are held primarily to provide an investment return for the Charity.

4. Debtors

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Prepayments	<hr/> 6,270	<hr/> 7,119

Halifax Society for the Blind
Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year to 31 March 2024

5. Children's Fund

Funds held within the Children's Fund exist specifically to improve services for children and young people.

6. Restricted General Funds

The Charity aims to hold Restricted Funds of £382,000 in reserves for approximately 12 months average expenditure. This is to allow for normal operating costs, including staffing costs, redundancy and unexpected maintenance costs.

7. Grants

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Big Lottery Fund	31,718	52,181
Calderdale Community Foundation	4,946	49,498
North Halifax Partnership	1,980	-
	<u>38,644</u>	<u>101,679</u>

8. Legacies

Legacies received during the year	<u>£Nil</u>	<u>£Nil</u>
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9. Staff Cost

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Salaries	102,408	114,014
Employers National Insurance	2,693	2,505
Employers Pension Contributions	2,275	3,612
	<u>107,376</u>	<u>120,131</u>

Average number of employees	<u>5</u>
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During the year no member of staff was paid more than £60,000.

10. Trustees Expenses and Remuneration

During the year there were no payments of expenses and remuneration to the Trustee, and no transactions with connected persons.

11. Independent Examiners Remuneration

The amount shown for accountancy in the Statement of Financial Activities is the amount paid for the independent examination of the records.

12. Transfer of Affairs

From 1 April 2022 the Charity operates as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and the assets, liabilities and funds of the old Charity were transferred to the new body on that date.