

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

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND**

**UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

## **HALIFAX SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND CIO**

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

<b>Management Committee Chair</b>	Sue Mort
<b>Management Committee Vice-Chair</b>	Hilary Newton
<b>Treasurer</b>	Peter Benson
<b>Trustees/Committee</b>	Colin Hutchinson Mark Owen (Resigned October 2024) Peter Benson Sue Mort Suzanne
<b>Mitchell</b>	Sidra Kauser Hilary Newton Tegan Darby Owen Pedder (Appointed January 2025) Nigel Dean (Appointed January 25, Resigned July 25)
<b>Chief Officer</b>	Faye Herbert
<b>Registered Charity Number</b>	1197353
<b>Address</b>	7 Southgate Halifax West Yorkshire HX1 1DL
<b>Independent Examiners</b>	BM 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 2025**

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. 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 2025**

#### **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 421 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 £119,105 (2024 £108,338) including legacies of £50,000 (2024 £Nil). The expenditure for the year was £215,898 (2024 £128,675) leaving a deficit of £70,793 (2024 £62,312 Profit)

#### **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 2025**

#### **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 £27,800 (2024 £28,972).

The Market Values of the Investments were: General Fund £1,209,433 (2024 £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 2025**

#### **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 24 September 2025 and signed on their behalf:

**P. BENSON**

**Treasurer**

#### **4 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 2025.

##### **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  
HX1 1EB**

**24 September 2025**



**Halifax Society for the Blind CIO**  
**Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Unrestricted Fund</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b><u>Incoming Resources</u></b>					
<b><u>Ordinary Income</u></b>					
Annual Subscriptions & Donations		17,111		17,111	7,999
Receipts from Visitors & Guides		-		-	149
Sale of Blind Equipment		16,455		16,455	11,074
Aviator Sales		-		-	21,501
Room Hire		120		120	-
Grants	<b>7</b>	7,619		7,619	38,644
		41,305	-	41,305	79,367
<b><u>Investment Income</u></b>					
Dividends & Interest		27,800		27,800	28,972
Legacies	<b>8</b>	50,000		50,000	-
<b><u>Total Incoming Resources</u></b>		<b>119,105</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>119,105</b>	<b>108,339</b>
<b><u>Resources Expended</u></b>					
Outings		401		401	1,005
Purchase of Blind Aids (incl stock adj)		16,243		16,243	30,985
Salaries	<b>9</b>	129,185		129,185	107,376
Accountancy	<b>11</b>	3,000		3,000	3,060
Office Services & Supplies		9,545		9,545	10,845
Telephone		840		840	1,325
Rates, Light, Heat & Insurance		19,490		19,490	21,587
Repairs & Renewals		7,721		7,721	8,065
Investment Management Fees		8,686		8,686	8,038
Sundry Trade Expenses		10,268		10,268	14,022
Childrens Fund		(10,361)		(10,361)	-
Profit on Disposal of Property		-		-	(98,069)
Depreciation of Equipment & Fixtures		3,708		3,708	4,363
Depreciation of Freehold Property		15,672		15,672	15,672
		214,398	-	214,398	128,275
<b><u>Allowances to Blind and Services for their Benefit</u></b>					
Grants and Social Services		1,500	-	1,500	400
<b><u>Total Resources Expended</u></b>		<b>215,898</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>215,898</b>	<b>128,675</b>
<b><u>Net Income / (Expenditure for the Year</u></b>					
		(96,793)	-	(96,793)	(20,337)
Surplus (Deficit) on Sale and Revaluation of Investments		26,000	-	26,000	82,649
Transfer of Funds		(382,000)	382,000	-	-
<b><u>Net Movement of Funds</u></b>		<b>(452,793)</b>	<b>382,000</b>	<b>(70,793)</b>	<b>62,312</b>
<b><u>Funds Balances Brought Forward</u></b>		<b>1,950,433</b>	<b>10,361</b>	<b>1,960,794</b>	<b>1,898,482</b>
<b><u>Funds Balances Carried Forward</u></b>		<b>1,497,640</b>	<b>392,361</b>	<b>1,890,001</b>	<b>1,960,794</b>

**Halifax Society for the Blind CIO**  
**Balance Sheet at 31 March 2025**

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
<b><u>FIXED ASSETS</u></b>			
Tangible Assets	<b>2</b>	598,173	617,553
Investments at Market Value	<b>3</b>	1,209,433	1,276,724
		<u>1,807,606</u>	<u>1,894,277</u>
<b><u>CURRENT ASSETS</u></b>			
Prepayments	<b>4</b>	4,089	6,270
Stock at Resource Centre		13,577	13,577
Cash at Barclays Bank		29,395	34,255
Brewin Dolphin		28,429	16,024
Cash in Hand		501	256
		<u>75,990</u>	<u>70,382</u>
<b><u>LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</u></b>			
Sundry Creditors & Accruals		<u>3,956</u>	<u>3,865</u>
		72,034	66,517
<b><u>NET ASSETS</u></b>		<u>1,879,640</u>	<u>1,960,794</u>
<b><u>Funds of the Charity</u></b>			
Unrestricted		1,497,640	1,568,433
Restricted: Children's Fund	<b>5</b>	-	10,361
General	<b>6</b>	382,000	382,000
		<u>1,879,640</u>	<u>1,960,794</u>

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 24 September 2025 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 2025**

**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 8 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 2025**

**2. Tangible Fixed Assets**

	<b><u>Freehold</u></b> <b><u>Property</u></b>	<b><u>Equipment</u></b> <b><u>and</u></b> <b><u>Fixtures</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
Cost at 1 April 2024	626,861	42,446	669,307
Additions at Cost	-	-	-
Disposals at cost	-	-	-
Cost at 31 March 2025	626,861	42,446	669,307
Accumulated Depreciation 1 April 2024	34,029	17,725	51,754
Depreciation for Year	15,672	3,708	19,380
Eliminated on disposals	-	-	-
	577,160	21,013	598,173

**3. Investments**

The Investments have been included at Market Value.

Analysis of change in Investments during the year :

Market Value at 1 April 2024	1,276,724
Add Acquisitions at cost	553,767
Less disposals at carrying value	(647,058)
Net change on revaluation	26,000
Market Value at the end of the year	1,209,433
Historic Cost at the end of the year	1,167,522

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

**4. Debtors**

	<b><u>2025</u></b>	<b><u>2024</u></b>
Prepayments	4,089	6,270

**Halifax Society for the Blind**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year to 31 March 2025**

**5. Children's Fund**

The Funds held within the Children's Fund have been expensed and used 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.

<b>7. Grants</b>	<b><u>2025</u></b>	<b><u>2024</u></b>
Big Lottery Fund	-	31,718
Calderdale Community Foundation	4,946	4,946
North Halifax Partnership	-	1,980
	<u>4,946</u>	<u>38,644</u>

**8. Legacies**

Legacies received during the year	<u>50,000</u>	<u>£Nil</u>
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**9. Staff Cost**

Salaries	121,922	102,408
Employers National Insurance	4,281	2,693
Employers Pension Contributions	2,982	2,275
	<u>129,185</u>	<u>107,376</u>

Average number of employees	<u>8</u>	<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.