

# CARLISLE SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

England & Wales · Charity number 1203340

## Details

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Other names	CARLISLE SIGHT SUPPORT
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2023-05-31
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

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Address	Carlisle Society For The Blind 9 Brunswick Street Carlisle CA1 1PB
Phone	01228593104
Email	<a href="mailto:carlisleblindsociety@gmail.com">carlisleblindsociety@gmail.com</a>
Website	<a href="https://www.carlisleblindsociety.org.uk/">https://www.carlisleblindsociety.org.uk/</a>

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE NEEDS AND POTENTIAL OF VISUALLY IMPAIRED PEOPLE AND TO RELIEVE THE NEEDS OF SUCH PERSONS IN SUCH WAYS AS THE TRUSTEES SHALL FROM TIME TO TIME IN THEIR DISCRETION DECIDE.

**Activities:** Provide a resource centre, social activities and support to visually impaired people in the Carlisle district and surrounding areas.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities

## Geography

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- Cumbria

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£64,022	£55,829	-	-
2024-03-31	£28,233	£54,895	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
COLIN GLOVER		2023-02-16
Dawn Rafferty		2023-02-16
Louise Townson		2023-02-16
Sheree Clark		2024-11-20
Tim Linford		2023-10-22

**CARLISLE SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND**

England & Wales - Charity number 1203340

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# Accounts

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# **CARLISLE SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND**

CIO Charity Number:1203340

## **Trustees Report 2024/25**

The registered address is 9 Brunswick Street, Carlisle CA1 1PB.

During the year, the Society continued to make progress in achieving its objects.

These are, to advance the education of the public in the needs and potential of visually impaired people and to relieve the needs of such persons in such ways as the Trustees shall from time to time in their discretion decide.

The Society has no Liabilities and no debts.

The reserves policy for the charity has set the figure of £25,000 (6 months running costs)

### **Carlisle Sight Support Trustees 01/04/2024 - 31/03/2025**

Louise Towson (Chair)

Colin Glover

Dawn Rafferty

Tim Linfood

Sheree Clark appointed November 20<sup>th</sup> 2024)

### **Carlisle Sight Support Staff 01/04/2024 - 31/03/2025**

Brenda Bell

Angie Robson

Mark Costello

**Bank:** VirginmoneyCarlisle Sight Support Annual General meeting  
For the period April 2024 to March 2025

## Annual Report

Overall the year has been a successful one. Services continued to be delivered with additional social activity and support opportunities provided. Financially, budget forecasts were met and at the end of the year, a modest surplus was achieved.

A new 3 year vision support project began in October 2024. This is a partnership with the other 4 sight loss charities in Cumbria and is funded through the National Lottery - Reaching Communities. The project will run until September 2027, with 50 individuals per year supported in Carlisle.

Angie and Brenda remained employed for 12 hours per week carrying out secretarial services, home visiting and office accounts.

Mark remained employed as vision support officer - 16 hours and charity manager - 15 hours.

Services provided:

- Resource centre drop in. (Wednesday and Thursday between 10am & 3pm)
- Home visiting
- Vision support
- Low Vision Clinic. In partnership with North Cumbria Integrated Care.

Additional activity:

- Monthly tea and chat group in Brampton
- Monthly tea and chat group in Dalston
- Monthly coffee morning in Carlisle
- Monthly Gourmet Gossip Lunch Club in Carlisle
- Monthly goalball session at Denton Holme
- Bi-monthly Glaucoma support group
- Twice weekly Tech for Life advice surgery run in partnership with Lakes Vision Services (refunded in February 2025 for 2 further years)

From November 2024 to March 2025, the Brunswick Street resource centre was designated as a warm spot, with coffee mornings and socials funded by Cumbria Community Foundation.

Over the year, 6 sessions of Living Well with Sight Loss training was provided, in partnership with the RNIB.

In the summer of 2024 a number of members attended 3 weekly creative writing sessions with writer in residence at Gosling Sike - Cumbria Wildlife Trust, producing a poetry booklet.

From November 2024 to March 2025, Travel Actively (Cumberland Council) funded members to take part in a walk with a purpose group. 12 walks took place in and around Carlisle. There were 8 regular attendees.

One off and irregular events included:

- An afternoon with Chris and his bag pipes at the Old Town Hall
- Music session with Ukes Akimbo, ukulele band at Botcherby Community Centre
- Christmas highlights session at Botcherby Community centre
- Burns party with music from Chris
- Optelec electronic devise surgery

## **Finance and Funding/ Budget and Forecasting**

Last year a budget forecast for 2024/5 was presented. The projected aim for the year was to achieve a small profit. The charity started 2024 with a balance of £61,230 and ended the year with a balance of £69,423.

Income generated for the period totalled £64,000. Trustees are pleased to confirm that over the course of the year a profit of £8,193 was achieved. This was largely made up from grants from the Postcode Lottery and the National Lottery as well as room hire payments.

The expenditure bill for last year was more than had been anticipated, and stood at almost £55,000. This was due in part for the need to replace all fire extinguishers, plus annual price rises for insurance and energy.

## **Funding partners this year included:**

- Arnold Clark
- Cumberland Council
- Cumbria Community Foundation
- Dalston Parish Council

- Glaucoma UK
- National Lottery - Community Fund
- National Lottery - Reaching Communities
- People's Postcode Lottery
- Will Charitable Trust

**Carlisle Sight Support Trustees 01/04/2024 - 31/03/2025**

Lou Towson (Chair)

Colin Glover

Dawn Rafferty

Tim Linford

Sheree Clark (appointed November 20<sup>th</sup> 2024)

**Carlisle Sight Support Staff 01/04/2024 - 31/03/2025**

Brenda Bell

Angela Robson

Mark Costello

**Volunteers 01/04/2024 - 31/03/2025**

Gemma

Steven

Simon

Jonathan

**Accounts 01/04/2024 - 31/03/2025**

Barbara Mawson

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE**  
**YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2025**

<b><u>Income</u></b>		<b><u>2024</u></b>
Donations	159.89	214
Fund Raising Boxes	18.19	17
Legacies & Grants	52563.10	15078
Interest	71.32	37
Equipment Sales	761.16	54
Low Vision Clinic	5358.00	7332
Miscellaneous	891.33	1539
Room Hire	4200.00	3960
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	64,022.99	

<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>		
Wages	44898.98	43091
Telephone and Water	1006.05	881
Gas & Electricity	2169.04	948
Equipment	411.78	92
Miscellaneous & Repair	5164.40	3943
Cleaner	715.00	624
Armstrong Watson	693.78	716
Expenses	770.81	951
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	55,829.84	

Balances as at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	61,230.76
<b>Profit for year</b>	<b>8,193.15</b>
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	<b>69,423.91</b>

Balances as at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025	
Royal Bank of Scotland	263.96
Cumberland Building Society	1,779.43
Virgin Money	67,160.12
Cash In Hand	220.40
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	<b>69,423.91</b>

**Independent Examiner's Report**

Charity: **Carlisle Society for the Blind**

Year ended: 31/03/2025

I, the undersigned, independently examined the accounts of the

Above charity for the year ended. My examination was conducted in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

**Summary of Findings:**

The Charity's gross income does not exceed £250,000

The accounts have been prepared using Receipts and Payments.

**Scope of Examination:**

My examination included a review of the following:

Financial statements

Accounting records


Trustees annual report.

**Conclusion:**

Based on my examination, I am satisfied that the accounts present

Are a true and fair view of the charity's financial position and activities during the year.

Signed:

  
5/6/2025  
Retired Bank Manager.

**CARLISLE SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND**

England & Wales - Charity number 1203340

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# Accounts

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# **CARLISLE SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND**

CIO Charity Number:1203340

## **Trustees Report 2023/24**

This is the first reporting year for Carlisle Society for the Blind CIO transferred into Carlisle Society for the Blind CIO, registered 31 May 2023 with a Charity commission Foundation model constitution

The registered address is 9 Brunswick Street, Carlisle CA1 1PB.

During the year, the Society continued to make progress in achieving its objects.

These are, to advance the education of the public in the needs and potential of visually impaired people and to relieve the needs of such persons in such ways as the Trustees shall from time to time in their discretion decide.

The Society has no Liabilities and no debts.

The reserves policy for the charity has set the figure of £25,000 (6 months running costs)

### **Carlisle Sight Support Trustees 31/05/2023 - 31/03/2024**

Louise Towson (Chair)  
Colin Glover  
Dawn Rafferty  
Tim Linford (appointed November 2023)

### **Carlisle Sight Support Staff 31/05/2023 - 31/03/2024**

Brenda Bell  
Angie Robson  
Mark Costello

**Bank:** Virginmoney

## Annual Report

2023/4 marked the completion of the final year of the Vision Support Officer post, a project funded by the National Lottery - Reaching Communities Fund in partnership with the other 4 sight loss charities in Cumbria, which was due to end in September 2024.

**35 people** were supported locally through the project in the year with **100** people supported over the three years.

Angie and Brenda remained employed for 12 hours per week carrying out secretarial services, home visiting and office accounts.

The usual services continued to run, such as the resource centre drop in (now open Wednesday and Thursday between 10am & 3pm), home visiting and the bi-monthly Low Vision Clinic. The latter run in partnership with North Cumbria Integrated Care where we engage with approximately **150 people per year**.

In addition Carlisle Sight Support organised or participated in the following:

- Monthly tea and chat group in Brampton
- Monthly tea and chat group in Dalston
- Monthly coffee morning in Carlisle
- Monthly Gourmet Gossip Lunch Club in Carlisle
- Monthly goalball session at Denton Holme (started February 2024)
- Bi-monthly Glaucoma support group (started January 2024)
- Bi-monthly Charles Bonnet Syndrome group (started September 2023)
- Twice weekly Tech for All advice surgery run in partnership with Lakes Vision Services (started November 2023)

From December 2023 to the end of March 2024, our resource centre was designated as a warm spot and funded by Cumbria Community Foundation.

Over the year we also provided 6 sessions of Living Well with Sight Loss training in partnership with the RNIB.

In the summer of 2023 a number of members attended 4 weekly bouldering (climbing) sessions at Eden Rock and a cycle wise session at Harraby both funded by Active Cumbria.

Also in summer 2023 a group of members went on a Scottish Borders day trip with Irvings Coaches.

At the end of 2023 and through to February 2024 we worked in collaboration with the Fellfoot Forward Project, a partnership with The National Landscape Association of the North Pennines, where VIPs worked alongside community artists.

3 sound collages were created and a team of VIPs attended a live radio broadcast in Penrith between November 2023 and February 2024.

[https://soundcloud.com/d-s\\_s-d/sight-support-radio-show-show-3?utm\\_source=clipboard&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=social\\_sharing](https://soundcloud.com/d-s_s-d/sight-support-radio-show-show-3?utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing)

One off and irregular events included:

- Hosting Optelec electronic device surgery
- History sessions
- Local walks
- Music sessions with Ukes Akimbo, ukulele band.

In February, members launched a campaign to highlight the lack of ECLO services in North Cumbria. Correspondence was had with the CEO and Chair of North Cumbria Integrated Care Trust. Whether by happy coincidence or not, news to employ an ECLO was released a month after the campaign began.

**Funding partners this year included:**

- Active Cumbria
- Cumberland Council
- Cumbria Community Foundation
- Durham Council
- Home Instead Charities
- National Lottery - Reaching Communities



Colin Glover - Vice Chair - Trustee. December 2024

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE**  
**YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2024**

<b><u>Income</u></b>		<b><u>2023</u></b>
Donations	214.50	561
Fund Raising Boxes	17.63	78
Legacies & Grants	15078.90	41470
Interest	37.12	15
Equipment Sales	54.00	27
Low Vision Clinic	7332.00	1974
Miscellaneous	1539.30	1550
Room Hire	3960.00	3700
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	28233.45	

<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>		
Wages	43091.73	40035
Telephone and Water	881.35	725
Gas & Electricity	948.70	1012
Equipment	92.52	701
Miscellaneous	2536.82	3741
Cleaner	624.00	650
Armstrong Watson	716.40	658
Repairs	1406.74	767
Grants	3645.91	4950
Expenses	951.41	693
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	54895.58	

Balances as at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	87892.89
<b>Loss for year</b>	<b>26662.13</b>
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	<b>61230.76</b>

Balances as at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	
Royal Bank of Scotland	4372.28
Cumberland Building Society	56437.68
Virgin Money	386.00
Cash In Hand	34.80
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	<b>61230.76</b>

## **Independent Examiner's Report**

Charity: **Carlisle Society for the Blind**

Year Ended: **31/03/2024**

I, the undersigned, independently examined the accounts of the above charity for the year ended. My examination was conducted in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

### **Summary of Findings:**

- The charity's gross income does not exceed £250,000.
- The accounts have been prepared using Receipts and Payments.


### **Scope of Examination:**

My examination included a review of the following:

- Financial statements
- Accounting records
- Trustees' annual report

### **Conclusion:**

Based on my examination, I am satisfied that the accounts present a true and fair view of the charity's financial position and activities during the year.

Signed:   
Retired Bank Manager  
6/1/2025.