

# **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 Linford

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 device 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

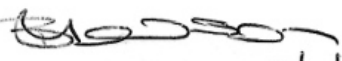
Trustees annual report.

**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.