

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE

England & Wales · Charity number 215137

Details

Other names	SVAB, THE SHROPSHIRE VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1963-04-25
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Vichy House 264A Monkmoor Road Shrewsbury SY2 5ST
Phone	07778 956096
Email	admin@sightlossshropshire.org.uk
Website	www.sightlossshropshire.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION ARE:• TO HELP BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED PERSONS RESIDENT IN SHROPSHIRE,TELFORD & WREKIN.• TO DO ALL SUCH OTHER CHARITABLE THINGS AS ARE INCIDENTAL TO OR CONDUCIVE TO THE ATTAINMENT OF THE ABOVE OBJECT.

Activities: SLS's aim is to improve the quality of life of visually impaired people of all ages who live in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin by helping visually impaired people to cope with their sight loss and the difficulties this imposes on their daily lives, raising awareness of sight loss and acting as a local champion for visually impaired people.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Disability
- **Who:** People With Disabilities

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** CONSTITUTION ADOPTED 20 JULY 1977
- Shropshire
- Telford & Wrekin

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£83,349	£93,943	-	-
2024-03-31	£92,703	£92,681	-	-
2023-03-31	£32,005	£53,693	-	-
2022-03-31	£26,514	£22,857	-	-
2021-03-31	£24,173	£25,842	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Arwyn Elis Jones		2023-11-08
Diana Rosemary Flint DL		2019-07-10
HAYLEY KATHERINE DYSON		2015-07-08
Jennifer Beatrice Wynn OBE , DL		2022-07-21
Lindsey Catherine Rowlands		2022-07-21
Rebecca Anne Cumblidge		2025-07-16
Robert Brian Dapling		2024-07-10

Linked charities

- ALDERMAN LEGGE FUND (215137-1)
- WILLIAM BROWN HEXTALL TRUST FUND (215137-2)

Accounts



Sight Loss Shropshire

**The Lantern
Meadow Farm Drive
Shrewsbury
SY1 4NG**

www.sightlossshropshire.org.uk

admin@sightlossshropshire.org.uk

07778 956096

Registered Charity No. 215137



Sight Loss Shropshire

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SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

An Introduction to SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE

Sight Loss Shropshire (SLS) was founded in 1922. It is a registered charity that helps and supports visually impaired people of all ages who live in Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin.

SLS is one of the national network of local charities for visually impaired people that serve many parts of the country. We are a member of Visionary, a national umbrella body for local sight loss organisations.

During the autumn of 2024 SLS has developed a 3-year strategic plan that supports our aim of improving the quality of life of visually impaired people of all ages who live in Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin. Broadly our objectives are:

- to help visually impaired people to cope with their sight loss and the difficulties this imposes on their daily lives
- to reduce social isolation for visually impaired people and provide access to a range of social, physical and creative activities that contribute to people's physical and mental wellbeing
- to enable visually impaired people to make informed choices about the services and support that they access
- to enable visually impaired people to access equipment and services that they cannot afford to self-fund, and which are not available from statutory services, but which have a significant impact on their level of independence
- to improve or maintain visually impaired people's confidence and mental wellbeing which are often adversely affected by a diagnosis of sight loss
- to raise awareness of sight loss issues and improve the provision of local sight loss services
- to work in partnership with statutory, private and third sector organisations to support visually impaired people in the community

- to act as a local champion of visually impaired people who live in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin by facilitating national and local organisations' fuller understanding of the specific issues and circumstances faced by visually impaired people in our area

Our work includes the following:

- providing free 'Living Well with Sight Loss' courses to visually impaired people, their friends, family members or carers
- providing free digital tech training to visually impaired people in their communities and homes
- providing grants to help visually impaired people to acquire specialist aids and equipment to enable them to maintain and/or regain their independence
- organising and providing major social events, sensory loss support events and supporting a network of local peer support groups for visually impaired people that meet in every part of the county
- providing information and signposting about support and services to visually impaired people; their families, carers and friends; and to professionals working with visually impaired people
- working with our partners to ensure that visually impaired people have a voice

Our consultative Committee is drawn from across Shropshire, and Telford and Wrekin. At least 8 members of the Trustee Board and Committee are themselves either blind or partially sighted, and therefore have real first-hand understanding of the challenges of living with visual impairment.

SLS's work is dependent on the support of local volunteers.

TRUSTEES FOR 2024-25

Mrs J. Wynn OBE, Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire – President
Cllr. Mrs. R. Houghton – Vice President (resigned 10/07/2024)

Mr A. Jones – Chair

*Mrs H. Dyson – Vice Chair

Mr D. Clark – Honorary Treasurer

Mrs D. Flint DL

*Mrs L. Rowlands

Mr R. Dapling (appointed 10/07/2024)

COMMITTEE FOR 2024-25

*Mrs. L. Clark

*Mr R. Cookson

Miss G. Dorricott

Mr T. Downes

*Mr. J. Feehan

*Mrs. K. Hill

*Ms M-C. Barker

Ms S. Mitchell

Mrs Y. Ostermeyer

*Mrs. A. Read

*Mrs B. Shingler

Mr J. Thatcher

*Mr K. Whitcombe

Mrs A. Woodward

Mrs K. Tunbridge

Charity Manager

Mrs S. Staar-Slogrove

*Denotes a visually impaired person

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	TCA (Shrewsbury) LLP Third Floor 21 St Mary's Street Shrewsbury Shropshire SY1 1ED
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BANKERS	Barclays Bank 44-46 Castle Street Shrewsbury SY1 1BU
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INVESTMENT MANAGERS	EFG Harris Allday Church Mews Ombersley Worcestershire WR9 0EW
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MEETINGS

The SLS Committee held four meetings during the year.

The AGM was held on 10th July 2024. The main business of the AGM was to approve the Annual Report for 2023/24, including the Annual Accounts. All papers were circulated in advance of the AGM date to enable any queries to be raised and answered.

CHAIR'S REPORT 2024/25

The period of 2024 – 2025 has continued with the pace and energy of the preceding year. We have made great strides in building on our existing programmes, securing new funding, developing new partnerships and reviving highly valued events such as the See & Hear Shropshire exhibition.

The Operational Report expands in more detail on these and is a testament to the commitment, hard work and energy of the staff and volunteer team.

We have again hosted a very joyous social event, the Winter's Day Out, at Shrewsbury Town Football Club where around 180 guests from support groups around the county were joined by special guests who have supported us during the year, along with the High Sheriff of Shropshire.

Other valued events included the re-establishment of the See and Hear exhibition, which was paused during Covid. A key innovation in its revival was the strategic partnership formed with Community Resource to co-host the event. The feedback was very encouraging, and we very much look forward to further evolving this important exhibition in 2025.

Another fresh initiative was hosting our first fundraiser and awareness event - a summer's evening garden party - at Hodnet Hall Gardens, with the generous support of Sir Algernon and Lady Jane Heber-Percy.

A key activity amongst the Trustee Board during the autumn period was the development of a 3-year strategy to frame and guide our work during 2025 to 2028, creating a narrative and summary of this strategy, fully endorsed by the Committee in February. From this we developed our business plan for 2025-2026.

Critical to the new strategy is the expansion of our reach and impact. In support of that we have recognised the need to re-align some staff team roles, with Mel Fullerton now our new Operations and Marketing Officer to provide greater support in this area. The e-newsletters and social media posts are gradually building our presence, to be further supported by a new website launched in early 2025.

The Digital Tech Training service in Telford is busy and popular, and has been extended into Shropshire. The Living Well with Sight Loss (LWWSL) courses continue to be in demand, and we are grateful for the funding support received by the Local Eye Health Network (LEHN). During the latter part of 2024 and early 2025 we engaged in discussions with Telford & Wrekin Council (TWC) about creating more dedicated support for Children

& Young People (CYP). From these discussions emerged an agreement between SLS and TWC to establish an innovative new partnership for SLS to employ a CYP Activities Co-ordinator to be embedded within TWC Sensory Team and work closely with SLS and TWC to create specific events and improve support to visually impaired children and young people and their families. A key part of this innovation is securing third-party funding for the post, which we aim to have operational by the beginning of the 2025-2026 academic year. There is significant potential to evolve this approach, and we have ambitions to do so.

The finance report details the funding we have secured to support these initiatives.

SLS continues to offer grants to help purchase sight-loss specific equipment. This assistance is now more accessible than ever as individuals can apply directly without a referral, a service we hope to increase upon.

Most importantly, I would like to thank our loyal volunteers, without whose help we would not be able to achieve our aims. Many are also members of the Committee and Board of Trustees, all of whom so generously give their time and expertise.

We've wrapped up another busy year and remain committed to achieving even more in the year ahead. Doing so requires teamwork, and I would like to thank the staff team, Swan, Mel and Vicki, for their commitment and energy in making the year a success, along with the valued advice and support of the Committee.

Lastly, our Trustee Board has also been very active, welcoming new members and showing continued ambition, dedication, and support to help grow SLS's presence and impact. A special thank you goes to Mrs Diana Flint, who stepped down as Chair last autumn but continues to serve as a valued Trustee.

We move forward into 2025-2026 with renewed purpose, with a new strategy, growing presence and profile and a determined ambition to make a positive difference to the visually impaired community by being the go-to sight loss organisation in Shropshire, championing equal opportunities for all visually impaired people.

Arwyn Jones
Chair of Trustees, Sight Loss Shropshire
10 June 2025

OPERATIONAL REPORT 2024/25

This year has been fundamental for building strategic partnerships and making the most of networking opportunities. These connections have helped us expand on our existing services and respond flexibly with new support services where they're most needed. We're proud of the impact our work has, and the continued support from our funders demonstrates their belief in the difference we're making.

Internally, we're becoming a much more streamlined organisation, utilising better technology, systems and external resources to boost efficiency and free up more time for what matters most: supporting people.

Our volunteers continue to play a vital role, and it's been refreshing to see these teams grow. Together with our dedicated staff, they provide a feet-on-the-ground service that reaches visually impaired people from all walks of life.

I'd like to thank our committed Board of Trustees for their strong leadership and encouragement. Their work is empowering the charity to aim high and giving our staff and volunteers the confidence to turn bold goals and visions into reality.

SERVICES 2024/25

'Living Well with Sight Loss' Courses

Over 12 months, Sight Loss Shropshire delivered:

- 6 phone courses with 36 participants. Each phone course consists of 4 sessions, which last up to 90 minutes each.
- 6 face-to-face courses held across Telford, Shrewsbury, Ludlow and Oswestry, with 104 participants. Each face-to-face course consists of 2 sessions that last 5 hours each.

This year, our 'Living Well with Sight Loss' courses welcomed participants ranging in age from 20s to 90s. We've seen a growing number of attendees without a Certificate of Vision Impairment (CVI), highlighting the increasing importance of providing early access to information, support, and informed choices.

Notably, more people of working age are now engaging with our courses, reflecting a broader awareness and need across different life stages.

The delivery of these courses was supported by six dedicated volunteers with lived experience of sight loss. Their personal insights, emotional understanding, and gentle encouragement to share challenges and successes continue to be invaluable.

Participant quotes:

“This is the first thing that has helped me since losing my sight a few months back.”

“We now recognise how important a CVI is and will follow this up.”

“I’m still at the early stages of sight loss, but I appreciate all the little tips for the future. It’s really good to hear about options for exercise like swimming, tennis and pickleball.”

Digital Tech Training

In 2024/25 ‘In Touch Telford – Tech Training for Visually Impaired People’ continued to be delivered centrally in Southwater, Telford. A group of dedicated volunteers from the Telford community delivered 40 appointments with visually impaired clients, their family members, friends and carers, helping them to make the most of smartphones, tablets and iPads.

This year also marked an important development in our digital support work. Delivered by our Tech Coordinator, the Shropshire Digital Skills Service shifted from community hubs to home-based visits, making support more accessible and tailored to individual needs. It’s the first time our charity has delivered a home-based service, and the demand has been high.

We’ve recorded 40 successful outcomes with clients improving their digital skills, often also including an increased understanding of sight loss issues and solutions by partners or family members. Additional one-off support was provided to many more. Free provision, setup and training for smart speakers have become a key part of the service, helping people with sight loss build confidence and independence through the use of technology. The introduction to sight loss apps has made a big difference to the lives of many of our beneficiaries:

“I now don’t have to eat out of date food anymore!” (Beneficiary after being introduced to Seeing AI)

Information, Advice & Signposting

Sight Loss Shropshire continues to be a trusted point of contact for those seeking support with sight loss, an impact that has grown thanks to our increasing positive reputation and the improved marketing and enhanced online presence driven by the excellent work of our Operations & Marketing Officer.

Our advice covers a wide range of topics, from guidance at the early stages of sight loss to practical tips on social support, leisure activities, and assistive technology. In 2024/25, we responded to enquiries from over 150 individuals. Many were not only signposted to external services but also actively enrolled in our own courses, training sessions, and events, enabling us to provide meaningful, hands-on support well beyond initial advice.

Peer Support Groups

Sight Loss Shropshire continues to support a vibrant network of peer support groups, reaching over 150 members across the county. We work closely with other charities and place particular emphasis on supporting groups that are independently led by volunteers. Our support includes financial assistance, help with venue hire, speaker and activity recommendations, guidance on compliance matters, and assistance in recruiting new members.

This year, we were proud to support the launch of a new independent group, the *Shropshire Hills Sight Loss Support Group*.

Grants to Individuals & Equipment Rehoming

Sight Loss Shropshire offers contributory grants to visually impaired people, in cases where their needs cannot be met by statutory services with the aim of enhancing their quality of life or ability to live more independently. Two grants towards digital equipment have been awarded to visually impaired people in 2024/25.

As demand for financial help towards new equipment has decreased, we've embraced the opportunity to rehome donated sight loss equipment. Items such as manual magnifiers, audiobooks, talking clocks, video magnifiers, and document readers have found new homes through our informal rehoming opportunities, offered at our courses and events. More than 30 items have been saved from landfill and passed on to individuals who are now putting them to valuable use.

Sight Loss Awareness

Sight Loss Shropshire continues to work collaboratively with both statutory and voluntary organisations to raise awareness of sight loss and enhance the delivery of local services. In 2024/25, we provided sight loss awareness training to 20 staff at Taylor Support, a specialist provider supporting children, young people, and adults with disabilities in Telford, and to 32 team members from the Shropshire Domestic Abuse Service. These sessions help frontline professionals better understand the challenges faced by people with visual impairments and ensure more inclusive, informed support across the county.

Events

In partnership with charity Community Resource, we successfully reintroduced the much-loved *See and Hear Shropshire* exhibition in 2024, bringing together 38 exhibitors offering equipment, technology, and services for people with sight and/or hearing loss. Held at Shrewsbury Town Football Club, the event drew more than 250 visitors, many from outside the Shropshire borders. Its success has paved the way for an extended partnership and an even larger event in 2025.

In January 2025, Sight Loss Shropshire hosted its annual *Winter's Day Out*. The event welcomed nearly 200 visually impaired people and their partners for a day of celebration, connection, and inspiration. This special gathering not only recognised the achievements of individuals living with sight loss but also highlighted the wide range of services available to support independent and fulfilling lives.

Noticeable were also our collaborative events for visually impaired children and young adults: Our supercar driving event, enabling 20 visually impaired children who will never hold a driving licence to experience the thrill of driving a high-powered car around a racetrack, marked the charity's debut to social inclusion services for a younger age group. In partnership with The Hive in Shrewsbury and Shropshire's Sensory Inclusion Service, we also took part in a Japanese Taiko drumming session, enjoyed by 10 children with sight or hearing impairments.

Total numbers of people supported through our activities:

969

Looking ahead

In the year ahead, Sight Loss Shropshire is committed to expanding our reach and deepening our impact through continued collaboration with statutory, voluntary, and commercial partners. Our focus remains on identifying the areas of greatest need and delivering support where we can achieve the most meaningful difference and impact.

A key priority for 2025/26 will be the launch of a new programme of opportunities for children and young adults living with sight loss. This marks an exciting step in broadening our support across all age groups and ensuring that younger people have access to inclusive, empowering experiences that enhance their independence and confidence.

Swantje Staar-Slogrove
Charity Manager
8 June 2025

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE
TRUSTEES' REPORT
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).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The objects of the charity are defined in the constitution as:

- To help blind and partially sighted persons resident in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin.
- To do all such other charitable things as are incidental to or conducive to the attainment of the above object.

Significant activities

The main activities of the charity are:

- Supporting a network of peer support groups for visually impaired people;
- Providing information and signposting about support and services available for people with sight loss;
- Providing grants to help visually impaired people to acquire specialist aids and equipment;
- Organising and providing major social events for visually impaired people;
- Providing digital technology training for visually impaired people;
- Providing 'Living Well with Sight Loss' courses;
- Acting as a local champion of visually impaired people who live in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

Details of the activities have been set out in the attached Chairmans' report.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The charity's performance for the year and that of its funds is laid out in the financial statement on pages 5 to 15. The Charity had a net expenditure before gains and losses on investment assets of £10,594 (2024: net income of £22). This is due to investment in expanded staffing and operations during the year, which the Trustees believe is a good use of funds to further the Charity's objectives. We also seek external funding for projects whenever feasible.

The Charity's investments saw an increase in value during the year of £2,036 (2024: increase of £8,341) resulting in an overall net decrease in funds of £8,558 (2024: net increase of £8,363). Our investments are held on a long-term basis and the Trustees remain confident in our investment strategy, which they will keep under review.

Investment policy and objectives

The Association's portfolio is designed to provide an opportunity for capital growth together with the provision of a regular income, meeting both short and medium term needs. The charity has appointed a Fund Manager to manage the investment on their behalf. The Trustees discuss and review investment strategy with the fund manager on a regular basis.

Reserves policy

The charity aims to keep liquid reserves equivalent to 3 months running cost which equates to £10,000.

At the year end, the charity had free reserves of £33,084 (2024: £48,491), representing unrestricted funds, less designated funds and fixed assets held.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Charity constitution

The charity was formed by a constitution in 1922, revised July 2008 as an unincorporated association. Its constitution was most recently revised in February 2013 to change the name of the charity to Sight Loss Shropshire, and to allow the election of the management committee every 3 years. The constitution was revised in July 2016 to incorporate a mechanism for the removal of members of the Committee. It was revised again in July 2022 to reflect a change in services since the Covid pandemic.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The appointment of Trustees is determined as laid out in the constitution. Trustees are appointed by virtue of the office they hold, and each is eligible to stand for re-election every 3 years. The Board of Trustees shall comprise up to 8 members drawn from the Committee. The Committee shall comprise up to 24 members including at least 8 who shall be persons diagnosed with sight loss and/or who are registered blind or partially sighted. The Trustees are those elected at the Annual General Meeting as Chairman, Vice Chairman, President, Vice President, the Honorary Treasurer and additional Trustees. The constitution allows additional members to be co-opted to the committee and board of Trustees.

Organisational structure

The charity's Director, Manager and Administrative Assistant carry out the day-to-day running of the charity.

The management committee, which includes the Trustees, meets quarterly. A separate Trustee meeting following the committee meeting.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

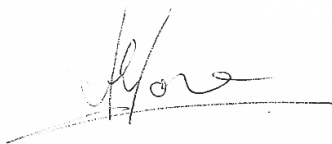
The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

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 then 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 business.

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.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 16th July 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Mr A E Jones - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Sight Loss Shropshire

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Sight Loss Shropshire (the Trust) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust 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 have no concerns and 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.

C Moelwyn-Williams

C Moelwyn-Williams, BSc FCA

TCA (Shrewsbury) LLP
Third Floor
21 St Mary's Street
Shrewsbury
Shropshire
SY1 1ED

Date: 28th July 2025

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	19,999	22,970	42,969	67,718
Charitable activities					
General		4,280	4,122	8,402	100
Other trading activities	3	1,665	-	1,665	1,377
Investment income	4	23,040	-	23,040	23,508
Other income		<u>7,273</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,273</u>	<u>-</u>
Total		<u>56,257</u>	<u>27,092</u>	<u>83,349</u>	<u>92,703</u>
 EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		10,248	50	10,298	6,420
Charitable activities					
General		<u>68,452</u>	<u>15,193</u>	<u>83,645</u>	<u>86,261</u>
Total		<u>78,700</u>	<u>15,243</u>	<u>93,943</u>	<u>92,681</u>
 Net gains on investments		<u>2,036</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,036</u>	<u>8,341</u>
 NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)					
Transfers between funds	12	(20,407) <u>777</u>	11,849 <u>(777)</u>	(8,558) <u>-</u>	8,363 <u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		(19,630)	11,072	(8,558)	8,363
 RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		<u>565,900</u>	<u>20,146</u>	<u>586,046</u>	<u>577,683</u>
 TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>546,270</u>	<u>31,218</u>	<u>577,488</u>	<u>586,046</u>

CONTINUING OPERATIONS

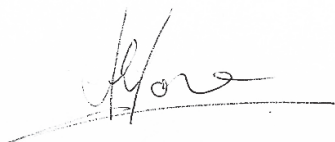
All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities.

The notes form part of these financial statements

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	8	2,399	-	2,399	3,293
Investments	9	<u>510,787</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>510,787</u>	<u>514,632</u>
		513,186	-	513,186	517,925
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	2,509	19,450	21,959	2,500
Cash at bank		<u>32,217</u>	<u>30,571</u>	<u>62,788</u>	<u>72,904</u>
		34,726	50,021	84,747	75,404
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	11	(1,642)	(18,803)	(20,445)	(7,283)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>33,084</u>	<u>31,218</u>	<u>64,302</u>	<u>68,121</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>546,270</u>	<u>31,218</u>	<u>577,488</u>	<u>586,046</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>546,270</u>	<u>31,218</u>	<u>577,488</u>	<u>586,046</u>
FUNDS	12				
Unrestricted funds				546,270	565,900
Restricted funds				<u>31,218</u>	<u>20,146</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>577,488</u>	<u>586,046</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 16th July 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:



.....
Mr A E Jones - Trustee



.....
Mr D Clark - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

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, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

Financial reporting standard 102 - reduced disclosure exemptions

The charity has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemptions in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':

- the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows;
- the requirement of paragraph 3.17(d);
- the requirements of paragraphs 11.42, 11.44, 11.45, 11.47, 11.48(a)(iii), 11.48(a)(iv), 11.48(b) and 11.48(c);
- the requirements of paragraphs 12.26, 12.27, 12.29(a), 12.29(b) and 12.29A;
- the requirement of paragraph 33.7.

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.

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Statement of Financial Position. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Grants from the government and other agencies have been included as 'Grants' in furtherance of the charity's objects.

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 accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost 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 use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

- Equipment - 3 years straight line

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Fund accounting

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discount due.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Donations	15,480	48,298
Grants receivable	<u>27,489</u>	<u>19,420</u>
	<u>42,969</u>	<u>67,718</u>

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Shropshire LEHN Grant	7,210	3,670
Other Grant Income	10,529	13,880
Shropshire Council Digital Skills Programme	<u>9,750</u>	<u>1,870</u>
	<u>27,489</u>	<u>19,420</u>

Included within grant income shown above is funding received from Shropshire Council, a grant received from the Local Authorities during the financial year.

During the year, the charity has also received £7,273 as part of the DWP Access to work scheme. (2024: £nil). This has been shown in Other Income.

Apart from the annual Employment Allowance credit against Employers National Insurance, the charity has received no other financial assistance from the Government in this financial period.

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Social lotteries	4	59
Christmas Card	<u>1,661</u>	<u>1,318</u>
	<u>1,665</u>	<u>1,377</u>

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2025	2024
	£	£
Deposit account interest	405	354
Harris Allday Income	<u>22,635</u>	<u>23,154</u>
	<u>23,040</u>	<u>23,508</u>

5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Trustees' expenses

Trustee expenses of £71 were reimbursed for the year ended 31 March 2025. (2024: £17).

6. STAFF COSTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	42,068	34,636
Other pension costs	<u>627</u>	<u>544</u>
	<u>42,695</u>	<u>35,180</u>

The total remuneration and benefits paid to the key management personnel, to whom the Trustees delegate the day-to-day running of the charity was £22,000 (2024: £21,750).

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2025	2024
Staff employed	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

7. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	61,348	6,370	67,718
Charitable activities			
General	-	100	100
Other trading activities	1,377	-	1,377
Investment income	<u>23,276</u>	<u>232</u>	<u>23,508</u>
Total	<u>86,001</u>	<u>6,702</u>	<u>92,703</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	6,420	-	6,420
Charitable activities			
General	<u>73,684</u>	<u>12,577</u>	<u>86,261</u>
Total	<u>80,104</u>	<u>12,577</u>	<u>92,681</u>
Net gains on investments	<u>8,341</u>	-	<u>8,341</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	14,238	(5,875)	8,363
Transfers between funds	<u>(5,606)</u>	<u>5,606</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds	8,632	(269)	8,363
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	<u>557,268</u>	<u>20,415</u>	<u>577,683</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>565,900</u>	<u>20,146</u>	<u>586,046</u>

8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Equipment £
COST	
At 1 April 2024	6,838
Additions	<u>922</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>7,760</u>
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 April 2024	3,545
Charge for year	<u>1,816</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>5,361</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2025	<u>2,399</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>3,293</u>

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

9. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Listed investments £
MARKET VALUE	
At 1 April 2024	514,632
Additions	33,452
Disposals	(39,333)
Revaluations	<u>2,036</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>510,787</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2025	<u>510,787</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>514,632</u>

65.28% (2024: 91.04%) of the investment value is held within the UK. The remainder is held in overseas investments.

Cost or valuation at 31 March 2025 is represented by:

	Listed investments £
Valuation in 2025	47,748
Cost	<u>463,039</u>
	<u>510,787</u>

10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	18,700	-
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>3,259</u>	<u>2,500</u>
	<u>21,959</u>	<u>2,500</u>

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Social security and other taxes	-	223
Other creditors	132	120
Accruals and deferred income	<u>20,313</u>	<u>6,940</u>
	<u>20,445</u>	<u>7,283</u>

Included in deferred income is £18,700, in respect of grant funding received during this financial year for projects to be undertaken in the year ended 31 March 2026. This income will be released in full in the financial year ended 31 March 2026, as and when the performance-related conditions attached to the grant funding are met.

The year ended 31 March 2024 included deferred income of £5,500, which has been released in full in the year ended 31 March 2025.

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.24 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.25 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	565,119	(20,407)	1,558	546,270
Designated - Sheila Whitley Fund	<u>781</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(781)</u>	<u>-</u>
	565,900	(20,407)	777	546,270
Restricted funds				
Living Well with Sight Loss Fund	-	5,430	-	5,430
See Hear Exhibition Fund	18,849	938	-	19,787
In Touch Telford Group	1,297	(623)	(43)	631
Shropshire Digital Skills programme	<u>-</u>	<u>6,104</u>	<u>(734)</u>	<u>5,370</u>
	<u>20,146</u>	<u>11,849</u>	<u>(777)</u>	<u>31,218</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>586,046</u>	<u>(8,558)</u>	=	<u>577,488</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	56,257	(78,700)	2,036	(20,407)
Restricted funds				
Living Well with Sight Loss Fund	7,210	(1,780)	-	5,430
See Hear Exhibition Fund	4,132	(3,194)	-	938
In Touch Telford Group	500	(1,123)	-	(623)
Shropshire Digital Skills programme	<u>15,250</u>	<u>(9,146)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,104</u>
	<u>27,092</u>	<u>(15,243)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,849</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>83,349</u>	<u>(93,943)</u>	<u>2,036</u>	<u>(8,558)</u>

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.24 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	557,268	13,781	(5,930)	565,119
Designated - Sheila Whitley Fund	<u>-</u>	<u>457</u>	<u>324</u>	<u>781</u>
	557,268	14,238	(5,606)	565,900
Restricted funds				
Living Well with Sight Loss Fund	600	(3,950)	3,350	-
See Hear Exhibition Fund	19,491	(642)	-	18,849
Sheila Whitley Fund	324	-	(324)	-
In Touch Telford Group	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,283)</u>	<u>2,580</u>	<u>1,297</u>
	<u>20,415</u>	<u>(5,875)</u>	<u>5,606</u>	<u>20,146</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>577,683</u>	<u>8,363</u>	=	<u>586,046</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	85,293	(79,853)	8,341	13,781
Designated - Sheila Whitley Fund	<u>708</u>	<u>(251)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>457</u>
	86,001	(80,104)	8,341	14,238
Restricted funds				
Living Well with Sight Loss Fund	1,500	(5,450)	-	(3,950)
See Hear Exhibition Fund	332	(974)	-	(642)
In Touch Telford Group	<u>4,870</u>	<u>(6,153)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,283)</u>
	<u>6,702</u>	<u>(12,577)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(5,875)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>92,703</u>	<u>(92,681)</u>	<u>8,341</u>	<u>8,363</u>

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.25 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	557,268	(6,626)	(4,372)	546,270
Designated - Sheila Whitley Fund	<u>-</u>	<u>457</u>	<u>(457)</u>	<u>-</u>
	557,268	(6,169)	(4,829)	546,270
Restricted funds				
Living Well with Sight Loss Fund	600	1,480	3,350	5,430
See Hear Exhibition Fund	19,491	296	-	19,787
Sheila Whitley Fund	324	-	(324)	-
In Touch Telford Group	-	(1,906)	2,537	631
Shropshire Digital Skills programme	<u>-</u>	<u>6,104</u>	<u>(734)</u>	<u>5,370</u>
	<u>20,415</u>	<u>5,974</u>	<u>4,829</u>	<u>31,218</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>577,683</u>	<u>(195)</u>	<u>=</u>	<u>577,488</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	141,550	(158,553)	10,377	(6,626)
Designated - Sheila Whitley Fund	<u>708</u>	<u>(251)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>457</u>
	142,258	(158,804)	10,377	(6,169)
Restricted funds				
Living Well with Sight Loss Fund	8,710	(7,230)	-	1,480
See Hear Exhibition Fund	4,464	(4,168)	-	296
In Touch Telford Group	5,370	(7,276)	-	(1,906)
Shropshire Digital Skills programme	<u>15,250</u>	<u>(9,146)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,104</u>
	<u>33,794</u>	<u>(27,820)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,974</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>176,052</u>	<u>(186,624)</u>	<u>10,377</u>	<u>(195)</u>

Designated Funds

The Sheila Whitley Fund is used to provide grants to purchase specialist IT equipment for people in need in the Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin areas. During the year ended 31 March 2025, the board felt it appropriate to release these funds for general use.

Restricted Funds

The Living Well with Sight Loss Fund provided by the local eye health network and the Spectacle Makers Charity enables visually impaired people to access information about all areas impacted by Sight Loss.

The See Hear Exhibition Fund are funds held on behalf of the exhibition to fund future events.

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

The In Touch Telford Group provides visually impaired people with training opportunities to make best use of digital devices focussing on accessibility.

The Shropshire Digital Skills programme aims to enhance capabilities and boost confidence with navigating digital technology of those visually impaired through tailored one-to-one sessions in community hubs across Shropshire, or at home.

13. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the charity to the fund and amounted to £666 (2024: £544). Contributions totalling £132 (2024: £120) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date.

14. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

During the year, the charity received donations from Trustees totalling £210. (2024: £60).

During the year a grant was received from the Wynn Foundation Limited of £3,000 for website funding. Mrs J Wynn, a Trustee of Sight Loss Shropshire, is a Trustee and Director of Wynn Foundation Limited.

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE

England & Wales - Charity number 215137

Accounts



Sight Loss Shropshire

**The Lantern
Meadow Farm Drive
Shrewsbury
SY1 4NG**

**Trustees' Report and Unaudited Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 March 2024**

www.sightlossshropshire.org.uk

admin@sightlossshropshire.org.uk

07778 956096

Registered Charity No. 215137



Sight Loss Shropshire

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SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

An Introduction to SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE

Sight Loss Shropshire (SLS) was founded in 1922. It is a registered charity that helps and supports visually impaired people of all ages who live in Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin.

SLS is one of the national network of local charities for blind and visually impaired people that serve every part of the country. We are a member of Visionary and also Midlands Societies for the Blind.

SLS's aim is to improve the quality of life of visually impaired people of all ages who live in Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin. Our objectives are:

- to help visually impaired people to cope with their sight loss and the difficulties this imposes on their daily lives
- to reduce social isolation for visually impaired people and provide access to a range of social, physical and creative activities that contribute to people's physical and mental wellbeing
- to enable visually impaired people to make informed choices about the services and support that they access
- to enable visually impaired people to access equipment and services that they cannot afford to self-fund, and which are not available from statutory services, but which have a significant impact on their level of independence
- to improve or maintain visually impaired people's confidence and mental wellbeing which are often adversely affected by a diagnosis of sight loss
- to raise awareness of sight loss issues and improve the provision of local sight loss services
- to work in partnership with statutory, private and third sector organisations to support visually impaired people in the community

- to act as a local champion of visually impaired people who live in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin by facilitating national and local organisations' fuller understanding of the specific issues and circumstances faced by visually impaired people in our area

Our work includes the following:

- providing free 'Living Well with Sight Loss' courses to visually impaired people, their friends, family members or carers
- providing digital tech training to visually impaired people
- providing grants to help visually impaired people to acquire specialist aids and equipment to enable them to maintain and/or regain their independence
- organising and providing major social events, and also supporting a network of local peer support groups for visually impaired people that meet in every part of our area
- providing information and signposting about support and services to visually impaired people; their families, carers and friends; and to professionals working with visually impaired people
- working with our partners to ensure that visually impaired people have a voice

Our consultative Committee is drawn from all over Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin. Half of the Committee are themselves either blind or partially sighted, and therefore have real first-hand understanding of the challenges of living with visual impairment.

SLS's work is dependent on the services of local volunteers.

COMMITTEE FOR 2023-24

President

Mrs J. Wynn, Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire – Trustee

Vice-President

Cllr. Mrs. R. Houghton – Trustee

Chair

Mrs D. Flint DL – Trustee

Vice Chair

*Mrs H. Dyson – Trustee

Honorary Treasurer

Mr D. Clark – Trustee

Members

*Mrs. L. Clark

*Mr R. Cookson

Miss G. Dorricott

Mr T. Downes

*Mr. J. Feehan

*Mrs. K. Hill

Ms S. Mitchell

Mrs Y. Ostermeyer

*Mrs A. Read

*Mrs L. Rowlands – Trustee

Mrs B. Shingler

Mr J. Thatcher

*Mr K. Whitcombe

Mrs A. Woodward

Mrs K. Tunbridge

Charity Director

Mr A. Jones

Charity Manager

Mrs S. Staar-Slogrove

*Denotes a visually impaired person

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

TRUSTEES	Ms D R Flint Mr D Clark Ms J Wynn Ms R Houghton Ms H Dyson Ms L Rowlands Mr A E Jones (appointed 8.11.23)
PRINCIPAL ADDRESS	Sight Loss Shropshire The Lantern Meadow Farm Drive Shrewsbury SY1 4NG
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER	215137
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	TCA (Shrewsbury) LLP Third Floor 21 St Mary's Street Shrewsbury Shropshire SY1 1ED
BANKERS	Barclays Bank 44-46 Castle Street Shrewsbury SY1 1BU
INVESTMENT MANAGERS	EFG Harris Allday Church Mews Ombersley Worcestershire WR9 0EW

MEETINGS

The SLS Committee held four meetings during the year.

The AGM was held on 12th July 2023. The main business of the AGM was to approve the Annual Report for 2022/23, including the Annual Accounts. All papers were circulated two weeks in advance of the AGM date to enable any queries to be raised and answered.

CHAIR'S REPORT 2023/24

The new structures put in place during 2022-2023 have been instrumental in allowing the charity to make significant progress and development during this year. The operational report from the Charity Manager gives details of the many initiatives taken by the charity this year to support those living with sight loss in Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin.

We have again run a very happy and successful party, The Winter's Day Out, at the Shrewsbury Football Ground where around 180 guests from support groups around the county were joined by special guests who have sponsored us during the year, as well as the High Sheriff of Shropshire, Mrs Mandy Thorn. Other events include exhibitions such as See and Hear which was run again after the Covid interval, but this time in partnership with Community Resource. Another fresh initiative is our first fundraiser and awareness event – a summers evening garden party at Hodnet Hall.

Life in the office has been exceptionally busy. On behalf of the Trustees, I would like to thank Charity Manager, Swantje Staar-Slogrove, and Administrative Assistant Mel Fullerton for the hard work they continue to put in to carry out the initiatives we set. We are set to develop the website and with Mel's help and expertise, are expanding our marketing reach into social media and beyond. Noteworthy is the regular e-newsletter that we deliver. The Digital Tech Training in Telford is busy and popular, and we have extended this now into Shropshire. The Living Well with Sight Loss (LWWSL) courses continue to be very popular and our work has also broadened to support children and young people. The operational report details these and many more services we now offer, and an ambitious programme of partnerships is under way.

The finance report details the funding that we have been successful in attracting to support these initiatives. A highlight is the donation of £35K from the Liz and Jo Fullwood Trust for the Elderly Blind, and we are hugely grateful to their Trustees for choosing to donate this to Sight Loss Shropshire.

SLS continues to give grants to those who apply for funding to help purchase equipment. This assistance is now more accessible since the Trustees agreed that individuals could apply direct. It is our hope that we will be able to increase our grant giving in the future.

Most importantly, I would like to thank the loyal volunteers without whose help we would not be able to achieve our aims. Many are also members of the Committee and the Trustees who so generously give of their time and expertise. The committees are a dynamic body and it is both healthy and encouraging that we have new members joining both the Committee and the Board of Trustees. I heartily thank everybody, but would like to record our best wishes and gratitude to retiring Trustee, Cllr Ruth Houghton. Special thanks go to our hardworking Treasurer who continues to steer us innovatively in managing our resources, and to Arwyn Jones who was welcomed as a Trustee earlier this year on finishing his role of guiding and mentoring the Charity Manager for the start of her role.

We have completed a busy year and have ambitions to deliver more in the coming year. A new website, popular newsletter, public events, partnerships and courses have all been part of the achievement, and thanks to the efforts of our staff, volunteers, Committee and Trustees, it really feels as though people can now reach, see and hear more clearly about the work we do.

Diana Flint
Chair of Trustees, Sight Loss Shropshire
20 June 2024

OPERATIONAL REPORT 2023/24

During my second year as Manager for Sight Loss Shropshire, I have seen the charity grow and become more diverse.

Our Living Well with Sight Loss courses are now delivered face-to-face across the county and with support from Shropshire Council we have added digital tech training to our list of services. The team has grown again by one part-time staff member, we have gained 12 more dedicated volunteers, we have developed strategic partnerships and delivered through effective collaborations.

Our beneficiaries have become more diverse in age, our reach has become wider and we successfully addressed gaps that local sight loss services suffered during the and post-pandemic through our Living Well with Sight Loss courses, which many visually impaired people attend before receiving statutory support. Our marketing channels and activities have expanded vastly, and our funding has become more diverse.

I would like to thank our volunteers, without whom we couldn't deliver our work, the staff team who have transformed the charity and the board of trustees of who lead with their passion and expertise.

SERVICES 2023/24

'Living Well with Sight Loss' Courses

Over 12 months Sight Loss Shropshire delivered:

- 6 phone courses with 46 participants. Each phone course consists of 4 sessions, which last up to 90 minutes each.
- 3 face-to-face courses in Telford, Shrewsbury and Oswestry, with 40 participants. Each face-to-face course consists of 2 sessions that last 5 hours each.

Our participants' age ranged from 18 to 94 years and included newly diagnosed people as well as participants who had lived with sight loss for decades. Some beneficiaries cherished the opportunity to share advice and tips from their wealth of experience, whereas others were at the start of their sight loss journey, preparing for future years of degenerative eye conditions and diminished sight. Five volunteers with lived experience of sight loss supported the delivery of 'Living Well with Sight Loss' courses. Their input of

experience, emotional empathy and gentle encouragement to share concerns, successes and solutions are invaluable to this service.

Participant quotes:

“So much of what I’ve learned today is going to help me.”

“I was downloading the sight loss apps as we spoke on the course.”

“I don’t feel so isolated now, I feel part of something. I find it inspiring that a blind person can pick up boxing. Amazing!”

Digital Tech Training

‘In Touch Telford – Tech Training for Visually Impaired People’ is a service initiated by the Telford community and the project’s passionate visually impaired lead volunteer. As a small local charity, Sight Loss Shropshire was delighted to harness the enthusiasm and motivation for this service and work towards facilitating this now well-established offer. During times when recruiting volunteers becomes more and more difficult for charitable organisations, we were fortunate to receive support from Wellington Rotary who supplied the initial group of committed volunteers and were delighted to subsequently recruit employee volunteers from CapGemini and Telford & Wrekin Council.

‘In Touch Telford’ offers a warm and friendly welcome to anyone who benefits from learning about accessible digital technology. Over 20 sessions, the volunteers had appointments with 103 visually impaired clients, their family members, friends and carers.

After only six months of learning and encouraged by the positive impact from the Telford-based service, the charity decided to roll the Tech Training project out into wider Shropshire. This led to employing the charity’s first visually impaired staff member, who now travels across the county and supports clients on a bookable one-to-one basis. Initially based in Shrewsbury, this service delivered ten bespoke training courses with multiple sessions to people adapting to their sight loss.

Information, Advice & Signposting

Sight Loss Shropshire receives enquiries directly from visually impaired people, but also more increasingly from family members, carers, social



**Sight Loss
Shropshire**

prescribers or care professionals. Advice can range from orientation of where to turn to at the early stages of sight loss to tips about social support, leisure facilities or technical advice, by people living in Shropshire or those planning to move here. 114 people received information upon enquiry from

Sight Loss Shropshire during this period, and many were referred to our charity's own services afterwards. Signposting is still an important part of our offer, however we are increasingly more able to provide direct help through our own courses, training and events.

Peer Support Groups

Twelve active peer support groups with 176 members of visually impaired people currently meet in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin. Sight Loss Shropshire does not lead these groups, but supports where numbers are dwindling and helps to revive or establish new groups, together with national charities like Macular Society. The Sight Loss Shropshire Manager attends some of the group meetings, gives talks and advice, receives feedback and uses the groups as a sounding board. Sight Loss Shropshire advertises all group activities across the county, signposts new members to the groups and supports them financially and in some cases organisationally with room hire and transport fees, thus contributing to a resilient and thriving community of sight loss groups, where its members exchange experience and daily living tips.

Grants to Individuals

Sight Loss Shropshire offers contributory grants to visually impaired people, in cases where their needs cannot be met by statutory services with the aim to enhance their quality of life or their ability to live more independently. Applications previously had to be submitted by a health professional, but can now be made by individuals directly. Six grants at a total value of £1,467 have been awarded to visually impaired people. Full details can be obtained here: <https://www.sightlossshropshire.org.uk/can-we-help-you/>

Sight Loss Awareness

Sight Loss Shropshire works in partnership with a range of statutory and voluntary services to raise awareness of sight loss issues and improve the provision of local sight loss services. As a new initiative in 2023/24 we delivered sight loss training to 97 police officers in Telford, in partnership with West Mercia Police. Through developing and strengthening strategic alliances, we attended staff training days for 20 high street opticians and 17 cataract surgery staff. We attended the Local Optical Committee CPD



**Sight Loss
Shropshire**

training day (ca. 70 professionals) and hosted an NHS Hospital Transformation feedback session for visually impaired people, as well as delivering sight loss awareness talks to multiple social groups. As a member of the Local Eye Health Network we continue to promote awareness of sight loss and understanding in making services and places more accessible.

Events

Sight Loss Shropshire held a 'Spring Day Out' at Shrewsbury Town Football Club in May 2023, attended by 200 visually impaired people and their partners, and its popular 'Winter's Day Out' in January 2024, attended by 180 people. These social celebrations highlight the remarkable achievements of some visually impaired individuals, as well as bringing people together and showcasing the range of services available to support people living with sight loss in leading fulfilling lives.

We also collaborated with Optelec to facilitate VisionZone 2023, the first local sight and hearing loss exhibition since See & Hear Shropshire ceased before the pandemic. The event, showcasing some assistive technology and services for people with sensory impairment, attracted 100 visitors.

Total numbers of people supported through our activities:
933 (excluding peer support group members)

Looking ahead

In 2024/25 Sight Loss Shropshire will work in partnership with Community Resource to revive the See & Hear exhibition, a much larger event dedicated to focussing on providing support and resources for individuals experiencing hearing and/or sight loss challenges. We will continue our project with West Mercia to improve police services for people living with a sensory loss and will build on our growing experience of sight loss awareness training, with the aim to roll training out to commercial businesses and wider organisations. We aim to expand our reach to visually impaired individuals across the county by delivering bookable tech training sessions at Shropshire based community hubs.

Swantje Staar-Slogrove
Charity Manager, Sight Loss Shropshire
June 2024

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE
TRUSTEES' REPORT
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).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The objects of the charity are defined in the constitution as:

- To help blind and partially sighted persons resident in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin.
To do all such other charitable things as are incidental to or conducive to the attainment of the above
- object.

Significant activities

The main activities of the charity are:

- Supporting a network of peer support groups for visually impaired people;
- Providing information and signposting about support and services available for people with sight loss;
- Providing grants to help visually impaired people to acquire specialist aids and equipment;
- Organising and providing major social events for visually impaired people;
- Providing digital technology training for visually impaired people;
- Providing 'Living Well with Sight Loss' courses;
- Acting as a local champion of visually impaired people who live in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

Details of the activities have been set out in the attached Chairmans' report.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The charity's performance for the year and that of its funds is laid out in the financial statement on pages 15 to 24. The Charity had a net income before gains and losses on investment assets of £22 (2023: net expenditure of £21,688). This is due to investment in expanded staffing and operations during the year, which the Trustees believe is a good use of funds to further the Charity's objectives. We also seek external funding for projects whenever feasible.

The Charity's investments saw an increase in value in the year of £8,341 (2023: decrease of £41,331) resulting in a net increase in funds of £8,363 (2023: net decrease of £63,019). Our investments are held on a long-term basis and the Trustees remain confident in our investment strategy, which they will keep under review.

Investment policy and objectives

The Association's portfolio is designed to provide an opportunity for capital growth together with the provision of a regular income, meeting both short and medium term needs. The charity has appointed a Fund Manager to manage the investment on their behalf. The Trustees discuss and review investment strategy with the fund manager on a regular basis.

Reserves policy

The charity aims to keep liquid reserves equivalent to 3 months running cost which equates to £10,000.

At the year end, the charity had free reserves of £48,491 (2023: £20,133), representing unrestricted funds, less designated funds and fixed assets held.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Charity constitution

The charity was formed by a constitution in 1922, revised July 2008 as an unincorporated association. Its constitution was most recently revised in February 2013 to change the name of the charity to Sight Loss Shropshire, and to allow the election of the management committee every 3 years. The constitution was revised in July 2016 to incorporate a mechanism for the removal of members of the Committee. It was revised again in July 2022 to reflect a change in services since the Covid pandemic.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The appointment of Trustees is determined as laid out in the constitution. Trustees are appointed by virtue of the office they hold, and each is eligible to stand for re-election every 3 years. The Board of Trustees shall comprise up to 8 members drawn from the Committee. The Committee shall comprise up to 24 members including at least 8 who shall be persons diagnosed with sight loss and/or who are registered blind or partially sighted. The Trustees are those elected at the Annual General Meeting as Chairman, Vice Chairman, President, Vice President, the Honorary Treasurer and additional Trustees. The constitution allows additional members to be co-opted to the committee and board of Trustees.

Organisational structure

The charity's Director, Manager and Administrative Assistant carry out the day-to-day running of the charity.

The management committee, which includes the Trustees, meets quarterly. A separate Trustee meeting following the committee meeting.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

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 then 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 business.

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.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 10th July 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Mrs D R Flint - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Sight Loss Shropshire

I report to the charity trustees of the Trust on my examination of the accounts of Sight Loss Shropshire (the Trust) for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

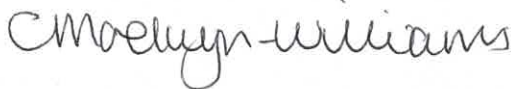
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust 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 have no concerns and 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.



C Moelwyn-Williams, BSc FCA

TCA (Shrewsbury) LLP
Third Floor
21 St Mary's Street
Shrewsbury
Shropshire
SY1 1ED

Date: 29th July 2024

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		61,348	6,370	67,718	7,096
Charitable activities					
General		-	100	100	-
Other trading activities	2	1,377	-	1,377	1,006
Investment income	3	<u>23,276</u>	<u>232</u>	<u>23,508</u>	<u>23,903</u>
Total		<u>86,001</u>	<u>6,702</u>	<u>92,703</u>	<u>32,005</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		6,420	-	6,420	6,183
Charitable activities					
General		<u>73,684</u>	<u>12,577</u>	<u>86,261</u>	<u>47,510</u>
Total		<u>80,104</u>	<u>12,577</u>	<u>92,681</u>	<u>53,693</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments		<u>8,341</u>	-	<u>8,341</u>	<u>(41,331)</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		14,238	(5,875)	8,363	(63,019)
Transfers between funds	11	<u>(5,606)</u>	<u>5,606</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		8,632	(269)	8,363	(63,019)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		<u>557,268</u>	<u>20,415</u>	<u>577,683</u>	<u>640,702</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>565,900</u>	<u>20,146</u>	<u>586,046</u>	<u>577,683</u>

CONTINUING OPERATIONS

All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities.

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**
31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7	1,996	1,297	3,293	-
Investments	8	<u>514,632</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>514,632</u>	<u>537,135</u>
		516,628	1,297	517,925	537,135
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	9	2,500	-	2,500	300
Cash at bank		<u>54,055</u>	<u>18,849</u>	<u>72,904</u>	<u>44,748</u>
		56,555	18,849	75,404	45,048
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	10	(7,283)	-	(7,283)	(4,500)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>49,272</u>	<u>18,849</u>	<u>68,121</u>	<u>40,548</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>565,900</u>	<u>20,146</u>	<u>586,046</u>	<u>577,683</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>565,900</u>	<u>20,146</u>	<u>586,046</u>	<u>577,683</u>
FUNDS	11				
Unrestricted funds				565,900	557,268
Restricted funds				<u>20,146</u>	<u>20,415</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>586,046</u>	<u>577,683</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 10th July 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:



.....
Mrs D R Flint - Trustee



.....
Mr D Clark - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

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, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

Financial reporting standard 102 - reduced disclosure exemptions

The charity has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemptions in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':

- the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows;
- the requirement of paragraph 3.17(d);
- the requirements of paragraphs 11.42, 11.44, 11.45, 11.47, 11.48(a)(iii), 11.48(a)(iv), 11.48(b) and 11.48(c);
- the requirements of paragraphs 12.26, 12.27, 12.29(a), 12.29(b) and 12.29A;
- the requirement of paragraph 33.7.

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.

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 accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost 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 use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

- Equipment - 3 years straight line

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discount due.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Social lotteries	59	93
Christmas Card	<u>1,318</u>	<u>913</u>
	<u>1,377</u>	<u>1,006</u>

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2024	2023
	£	£
Deposit account interest	354	71
Harris Allday Income	<u>23,154</u>	<u>23,832</u>
	<u>23,508</u>	<u>23,903</u>

4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Trustees' expenses

Trustee expenses of £17 were reimbursed for the year ended 31 March 2024. (2023: £nil).

5. STAFF COSTS

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2024	2023
Staff employed	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

6. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	6,546	550	7,096
Other trading activities	1,006	-	1,006
Investment income	<u>23,860</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>23,903</u>
Total	<u>31,412</u>	<u>593</u>	<u>32,005</u>
 EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	6,183	-	6,183
Charitable activities			
General	<u>47,510</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>47,510</u>
Total	<u>53,693</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>53,693</u>
 Net gains/(losses) on investments	<u>(41,331)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(41,331)</u>
 NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(63,612)	593	(63,019)
Transfers between funds	<u>550</u>	<u>(550)</u>	<u>-</u>
 Net movement in funds	(63,062)	43	(63,019)
 RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	620,330	20,372	640,702
 TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>557,268</u>	<u>20,415</u>	<u>577,683</u>

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Equipment £
COST	
At 1 April 2023	1,898
Additions	<u>4,940</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>6,838</u>
 DEPRECIATION	
At 1 April 2023	1,898
Charge for year	<u>1,647</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>3,545</u>
 NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2024	<u>3,293</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>-</u>

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

8. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Listed investments £
MARKET VALUE	
At 1 April 2023	537,135
Additions	240,941
Disposals	(271,784)
Revaluations	<u>8,340</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>514,632</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2024	<u>514,632</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>537,135</u>

91.04% of the investment value is held within the UK. The remainder is held in overseas investments.

Cost or valuation at 31 March 2024 is represented by:

	Listed investments £
Valuation in 2024	44,090
Cost	<u>470,542</u>
	<u>514,632</u>

9. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>2,500</u>	<u>300</u>

10. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£	£
Taxation and social security	223	-
Other creditors	<u>7,060</u>	<u>4,500</u>
	<u>7,283</u>	<u>4,500</u>

Included within other creditors is deferred income of £5,500, in respect of grant funding received during this financial year for projects to be undertaken in the year ended 31 March 2025. This income will be released in full in the financial year ended 31 March 2025.

In the year ended 31 March 2023, other creditors included deferred income of £4,500, which has been released in full in the year ended 31 March 2024.

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

11. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.24 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	557,268	13,781	(5,930)	565,119
Designated - Sheila Whitley Fund	-	457	324	781
	557,268	14,238	(5,606)	565,900
Restricted funds				
Living Well with Sight Loss Fund	600	(3,950)	3,350	-
See Hear Exhibition Fund	19,491	(642)	-	18,849
Sheila Whitley Fund	324	-	(324)	-
Tech Service	-	(1,283)	2,580	1,297
	20,415	(5,875)	5,606	20,146
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>577,683</u>	<u>8,363</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>586,046</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	85,293	(79,853)	8,341	13,781
Designated - Sheila Whitley Fund	708	(251)	-	457
	86,001	(80,104)	8,341	14,238
Restricted funds				
Living Well with Sight Loss Fund	1,500	(5,450)	-	(3,950)
See Hear Exhibition Fund	332	(974)	-	(642)
Tech Service	4,870	(6,153)	-	(1,283)
	6,702	(12,577)	-	(5,875)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>92,703</u>	<u>(92,681)</u>	<u>8,341</u>	<u>8,363</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.23 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	620,330	(63,612)	550	557,268
Restricted funds				
Living Well with Sight Loss Fund	600	-	-	600
See Hear Exhibition Fund	19,449	42	-	19,491
Sheila Whitley Fund	323	551	(550)	324
	20,372	593	(550)	20,415
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>640,702</u>	<u>(63,019)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>577,683</u>

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

11. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	31,412	(53,693)	(41,331)	(63,612)
Restricted funds				
See Hear Exhibition Fund	42	-	-	42
Sheila Whitley Fund	<u>551</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>551</u>
	<u>593</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>593</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>32,005</u>	<u>(53,693)</u>	<u>(41,331)</u>	<u>(63,019)</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.24 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	620,330	(49,831)	(5,380)	565,119
Designated - Sheila Whitley Fund	<u>-</u>	<u>457</u>	<u>324</u>	<u>781</u>
	620,330	(49,374)	(5,056)	565,900
Restricted funds				
Living Well with Sight Loss Fund	600	(3,950)	3,350	-
See Hear Exhibition Fund	19,449	(600)	-	18,849
Sheila Whitley Fund	323	551	(874)	-
Tech Service	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,283)</u>	<u>2,580</u>	<u>1,297</u>
	<u>20,372</u>	<u>(5,282)</u>	<u>5,056</u>	<u>20,146</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>640,702</u>	<u>(54,656)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>586,046</u>

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

11. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	116,705	(133,546)	(32,990)	(49,831)
Designated - Sheila Whitley Fund	<u>708</u>	<u>(251)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>457</u>
	117,413	(133,797)	(32,990)	(49,374)
Restricted funds				
Living Well with Sight Loss Fund	1,500	(5,450)	-	(3,950)
See Hear Exhibition Fund	374	(974)	-	(600)
Sheila Whitley Fund	551	-	-	551
Tech Service	<u>4,870</u>	<u>(6,153)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,283)</u>
	<u>7,295</u>	<u>(12,577)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(5,282)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>124,708</u>	<u>(146,374)</u>	<u>(32,990)</u>	<u>(54,656)</u>

Designated Funds

The Sheila Whitley Fund is used to provide grants to purchase specialist IT equipment for people in need in the Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin areas. In 2023, this fund was treated as a restricted fund, however the board have confirmed that this amount is unrestricted and should be designated for use as noted.

Restricted Funds

The Living Well with Sight Loss Fund provided by the local eye health network and the Spectacle Makers Charity enables visually impaired people to access information about all areas impacted by Sight Loss.

The See Hear Exhibition Fund are funds held on behalf of the exhibition to fund future events.

The Tech Service provides visually impaired people with training opportunities to make best use of digital devices focussing on accessibility.

12. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the charity to the fund and amounted to £544 (2023: £321) Contributions totalling £120 (2023: £nil) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date.

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

13. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

During the year, the charity received donations from Trustees totalling £60. (2023: £nil).

During the year, payments of £3,750 were made to Arwyn Jones for his role as Charity Director. Arwyn resigned as Director in October 2023 and was appointed as a Trustee of Sight Loss Shropshire on 8th November 2023.

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations and legacies	48,298	2,096
Grants	<u>19,420</u>	<u>5,000</u>
	67,718	7,096
Other trading activities		
Social lotteries	59	93
Christmas Card	<u>1,318</u>	<u>913</u>
	1,377	1,006
Investment income		
Deposit account interest	354	71
Harris Allday Income	<u>23,154</u>	<u>23,832</u>
	23,508	23,903
Charitable activities		
See Hear Exhibition Income	<u>100</u>	<u>-</u>
Total incoming resources	92,703	32,005
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Wages	4,350	5,952
Pensions	93	-
Subcontractors and other staff costs	997	-
Postage and stationery	44	47
Christmas Cards	<u>936</u>	<u>184</u>
	6,420	6,183
Charitable activities		
Wages	30,286	23,812
Pensions	451	321
Subcontractors and other staff costs	18,945	-
Postage and stationery	832	896
Provision of Equipment	4	1,249
Social Groups	1,154	1,062
Winters Day Out	9,522	3,467
Travel	1,169	158
Other Services	3,577	1,030
Website	-	120
Recruitment & HR	-	5,783
Accountancy	-	216
Grants for Visually Impaired	1,939	1,629
Carried forward	67,879	39,743

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Charitable activities		
Brought forward	67,879	39,743
Living Well with Sight Loss expenses	1,320	-
Volunteer costs	984	-
See Hear Exhibition costs	200	-
Marketing	275	-
Equipment depreciation	<u>1,647</u>	<u>-</u>
	72,305	39,743
Support costs		
Finance		
Investment charges	6,442	4,876
Other		
Insurance	426	375
Website, IT and Telecomms	4,297	1,298
Other Services	-	358
Rent of Rooms	486	380
Accountancy fees	660	480
Independent Examiners fees	780	-
Professional fees	<u>865</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>7,514</u>	<u>2,891</u>
Total resources expended	<u>92,681</u>	<u>53,693</u>
Net income/(expenditure) before gains and losses	22	(21,688)
Realised recognised gains and losses		
Realised gains/(losses) on fixed asset investments	<u>8,341</u>	<u>(41,331)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)	<u>8,363</u>	<u>(63,019)</u>

Accounts



Sight Loss Shropshire

**The Lantern
Meadow Farm Drive
Shrewsbury
SY1 4NG**

www.sightlossshropshire.org.uk

Email: admin@sightlossshropshire.org.uk

Tel 07778 956096

Registered Charity No. 215137

**SLS gratefully acknowledges financial support from
Shropshire Council**

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

An Introduction to SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE

Sight Loss Shropshire (SLS) – formerly the Shropshire Voluntary Association for the Blind – was founded in 1922. It is a registered charity that helps and supports blind and visually impaired people of all ages who live in Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin.

SLS is one of the national network of local charities for blind and visually impaired people that serve every part of the country. We are a member of Visionary (formerly the National Association of Local Societies for the Visionary Impaired) and also Midlands Societies for the Blind.

SLS's aim is to improve the quality of life of visually impaired people of all ages who live in Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin. Our objectives are:

- to help visually impaired people to cope with their sight loss and the difficulties this imposes on their daily lives
- to reduce social isolation for visually impaired people and provide access to a range of social, physical and creative activities that contribute to people's physical and mental wellbeing
- to enable visually impaired people to make informed choices about the services and support that they access
- to enable visually impaired people to access equipment and services that they cannot afford to self-fund, and which are not available from statutory services, but which have a significant impact on their level of independence
- to improve or maintain visually impaired people's confidence and mental wellbeing which are often adversely affected by a diagnosis of sight loss
- to raise awareness of sight loss issues and improve the provision of local sight loss services
- to work in partnership with statutory, private and third sector organisations to support visually impaired people in the community

- to act as a local champion of visually impaired people who live in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin by facilitating national and local organisations' fuller understanding of the specific issues and circumstances faced by visually impaired people in our area

Our work includes the following:

- providing free 'Living Well with Sight Loss' courses to visually impaired people, their friends, family members or carers
- providing grants to help visually impaired people to acquire specialist aids and equipment to enable them to maintain and/or regain their independence
- organising and providing major social events, and also supporting a network of local peer support groups for visually impaired people that meet in every part of our area
- providing information and signposting about support and services to visually impaired people; their families, carers and friends; and to professionals working with visually impaired people
- working with our partners to ensure that visually impaired people have a voice

Our Management Committee is drawn from all over Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin. Half of the Committee are themselves either blind or partially sighted, and therefore have real first-hand understanding of the challenges of living with visual impairment.

SLS's work is heavily dependent on donations from local people and the services of local volunteers.

COMMITTEE FOR 2022-23

President

Mrs J. Wynn, Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire – Trustee

Vice-President

Cllr. Mrs. R. Houghton

Chairman

Mrs D. Flint DL – Trustee

Vice Chairman

*Mrs H. Dyson – Trustee

Honorary Treasurer

Mr Daniel Clark – Trustee

Members

*Mrs. L. Clark

* Mr R. Cookson

Miss Gill Dorricott

Mr Tom Downes

*Mr. J. Feehan

*Mrs. K. Hill

Mrs A. Lawton

Ms S. Mitchell

Mrs Yvette Ostermeyer

*Mrs. A. Read

* Mrs L. Rowlands – Trustee

Mrs B. Shingler

Mr J. Thatcher

* Mr K. Whitcombe

Secretary

Mr R.E. Durham JP

Charity Director

Mr Arwyn Jones

Charity Manager
Mrs Swantje Staar-Slogrove

Administrator
Mrs C. Humphreys

Honorary Independent Examiner
James, Holyoak & Parker, 1 Knights Court, Archers Way,
Battlefield Enterprise Park, Shrewsbury, SY1 3GA

*Denotes a visually impaired person

USEFUL CONTACTS

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL SENSORY SUPPORT SERVICES

Adult Social Care

PO Box 4826

SHREWSBURY

SY1 9LJ

Tel: 01743 250529

Email: cs.sensoryimpairment@shropshire.gov.uk

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

To speak to the Rehabilitation Officer for the Visually Impaired,
Tel: 07976 426483 between 10am and 2pm on Wednesdays

Contact the Wellbeing Independence Partnership

Tel: 01952 385385 (select option 2 when prompted)

E-mail: wip@tandwcvcs.org.uk

EYE CLINIC LIAISON OFFICER

Mobile: 07808 736449

Tel: 01743 261000 ext. 3616

Email: e.chaplin2@nhs.net

ROYAL SHREWSBURY & TELFORD HOSPITALS TRUST LOW VISION CLINIC

01743 261000 Ext 3324

SHREWSBURY MOBILITY TEAM – GUIDE DOGS

0345 143 0226

RNIB HELPLINE

0303 123 9999

MACULAR SOCIETY HELPLINE

0300 3030 111

MEETINGS

The SLS Committee held four meetings during the year.

The AGM was held on 22nd July 2022. The main business of the AGM was to approve the Annual Report for 2021/22, including the Annual Accounts. The AGM also included the adoption of the revised constitution and election of the new President, Honorary Treasurer and an additional member of the Board of Trustees. All papers were circulated four weeks in advance of the AGM date to enable any queries to be raised and answered.

CHAIR'S REPORT 2022/23

2022 – 2023 has been an eventful and active year for the Charity. We are strategically poised to continue and develop our support of people living with sight loss and sight impairment over the geographic area of Shropshire having seen some management and operational changes in our personnel structure.

Last year, our 100th Anniversary was celebrated and we said farewell to several long standing members of the SLS team. Our President, Vice President, Treasurer and administrator all retired. We are immensely grateful to Mrs Penny Whitley and Mrs Gill Halliday for their volunteer support and dedication over very many years. Administrator, Mrs Clare Humphreys, and Treasurer Mrs Wendy Robert have been the efficient backbone of the office administration and we owe them grateful thanks as they move on to retirement and job re-location. At the end of April 2023 we said farewell and thankyou to our Secretary, Mr Robin Durham whose knowledge and loyalty has been exemplary over nearly two decades.

In 2023 the Charity continues to flourish and thrive under a new management structure. Change has been invigorating. In October 2022, Mrs Swantje Staar-Slogrove joined as Charity Manager, and since May 2023 she has been assisted by Mrs Mel Fullerton as Administrative Assistant. Mr Arwyn Jones, Charity Director, supports the team with his experienced and steady hand on the tiller.

The committee and the Trustees have met quarterly. We have welcomed new members to the Committee, and the varied interests and skills of all members enable us to act and re-act appropriately. The Board of Trustees work tirelessly to achieve the goals set, and I would like to thank everyone for their generosity, skill and time in volunteering to help Sight Loss Shropshire make a difference. A special mention goes to our Treasurer, Mr Daniel Clark, who has been an invaluable support at this time of transition.

I also thank wholeheartedly the executive team who have not only swiftly picked up knowledge and skills from the outgoing team, but are embracing the challenges ahead. They are reaching out to increase our support of people living with sight loss through the whole county. We have been successful in finding funding to run courses and to support local groups, and details are given in the Operational Report. As well as continuing to run the popular Living Well With Sight Loss Courses, an exciting new area is in delivery of Tech Training firstly in the Telford and Wrekin area (special thanks to committee member Mr Ken Whitcombe for the initiative) and, later

in the year, also in the Shropshire area. Our annual party, held in May this year, was a resounding success and thanks are due to the Charity Manager for her efficiency in making this big party such a happy event. We were fortunate in gaining some sponsorship, and special thanks are due to the Shropshire Masons, our major sponsor, as well as the Oswestry and Gnosall & Newport Lions Clubs. Thanks also to the guests who generously gave donations on the day. This event is an important day out for so many, and with financial help, we hope to continue the tradition in future years.

Mrs Diana Flint
Chair
June 2023

OPERATIONAL REPORT 2022/23

As the new Manager for Sight Loss Shropshire I have seen the charity go through a time of change and am proud to be part of its fresh approach and new ways of working. Following on from retirements, the organisation has doubled its staffing resources, growing from 0.7 full-time-equivalent to 1.4. Due to the departure from Shropshire Council systems and operations, the Trustees have made the decision to invest in Sight Loss Shropshire's infrastructure to deliver more services and reach more visually impaired people. The team are also focusing on improved marketing, wider reach, meaningful networking and working in partnership and collaborations. Our financial model is moving from the reliance of Council funding to a diversified approach of grant funding, donations and fundraising activities to supplement income from investments.

I would like to thank the growing numbers of volunteers involved with delivering our services and also thank Clare and Robin, who have handed the running of the charity over in such impeccable condition.

SERVICES 2022/23

Information, Advice & Signposting

Enquiries come through to Sight Loss Shropshire via phone, email, Facebook messages or occasionally in person or post. SLS receives enquiries directly from visually impaired people, but also more increasingly from family members, carers, social prescribers or care professionals. Advice given can range from early orientation of where to go at the early stages of sight loss to enquiries for social support, leisure facilities or technical advice.

220 people received information upon enquiry from Sight Loss Shropshire during this period. The advice given to vulnerable adults, their next of kin or carers often provided early support and prevention before situations became a crisis. From practical help (for example sourcing a white cane on short notice before a beneficiary went on a holiday abroad) to making introductions into social groups, Sight Loss Shropshire's advisory and signposting function supports visually impaired people with their physical and mental wellbeing.

Peer Support Groups

Twelve active peer support groups with 140 members of visually impaired people currently meet in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin. Sight Loss Shropshire supports groups where numbers are dwindling and helps to revive or establish new groups, together with national charities like Macular Society or the RNIB. The Sight Loss Shropshire Manager attends some of the group meetings, gives talks and advice, receives feedback and uses the groups as a sounding board. Sight Loss Shropshire advertises all group activities across the county, signposts new members to the groups and supports them financially and in some cases organisationally with room hire and transport fees, thus contributing to a resilient and thriving community of sight loss groups, where its members exchange experience and daily living tips.

Grants to Individuals

Sight Loss Shropshire offers grants to visually impaired individuals of any age, who are resident in the county, in cases where their needs cannot be met by statutory services. Generally, grants are made toward the cost of items of equipment, or to enable individuals to take part in activities or to obtain a service which would enhance their quality of life or enhance their ability to live more independently. Applications for grants must be supported by a qualified health, social care, educational or other professional working with people with sight loss who knows the applicant's personal circumstances and are in most cases being made by a Rehabilitation Officer for Visual Impairment or a member of the Sensory Inclusion Team.

Four grants at a total value of £2,521 have been awarded to visually impaired people, contributing towards independence and enabling communication. The amount of grants awarded to visually impaired individuals has declined over the years, however the monetary value per grant has increased.

Sight Loss Awareness

Sight Loss Shropshire works in partnership with a range of statutory and voluntary services to raise awareness of sight loss issues and improve the provision of local sight loss services. Our employees and volunteers were actively involved in the Transformation of Ophthalmology services at Shrewsbury & Telford Hospitals Trust and the Local Eye Health Network for Shropshire and Telford (steering and monitoring the transformation of Ophthalmology services and also considering the impact of sight loss on individuals and how local services could be improved). As part of the Local Eye Health Network, Sight Loss Shropshire staff and volunteers were

involved in creating an online training module for health and care professionals to improve sight loss awareness, including short films that promote local services.

The impact of our sight loss awareness work is a long term one. The online learning module that Sight Loss Shropshire supported and helped to create will potentially reach hundreds of health and care professionals and thus have an impact on thousands of visually impaired people in Shropshire. Sight Loss Shropshire reached out to its volunteers and network of visually impaired beneficiaries to help provide feedback on local health care services. Fifteen volunteers in total have been involved with this on a variety of levels. Sight Loss Shropshire also helped making some feedback sessions accessible to visually impaired people who are not tech savvy, by hosting group phone calls through its IT systems.

‘Living Well with Sight Loss’ Courses

‘Living Well with Sight Loss’ courses are informal, community-based sessions delivered over the phone or face-to-face, developed by the RNIB. They provide information, advice, support and practical solutions for people adjusting to sight loss and those close to them. ‘Living Well with Sight Loss’ courses are for adults of all ages, including friends and family members of those experiencing sight loss. These free courses aim to boost service users’ confidence and help connect with others to share experience and offer peer support. From daily living tips to newly emerging technology; all our participants take information on board that supports them on their way to independence and quality of life. Our courses are supported by four volunteers with lived experience of sight loss and have received great feedback.

In 2022/23 Sight Loss Shropshire delivered five free phone courses (with four 90 minute sessions per course) to 41 participants. Most referrals for these courses have come from the Eye Care Liaison Officer at Shrewsbury Hospital. The courses are a great example of delivering value for money and working in collaboration with the NHS and national charities. The courses have also proven to be a good interim tool for visually impaired people on the waiting list to receive their assessment through local authority services.

Participant quotes:

“I’m at the start of my sight loss journey. It amazed me how positive the Living Well with Sight Loss courses are and the help that is available. I feel much more positive going forward now.”

“I’m new to sight loss. You’re all telling me things I didn’t have a clue about!”

Social Events

Sight Loss Shropshire held a social event at Shrewsbury Town Football Club in May 2022 to celebrate its 100-year anniversary. It was attended by around 150 people, with the High Sherriff of Shropshire as the guest of honour. The event included refreshments, speeches and entertainment and was greatly enjoyed by all who attended. The day served as a celebration, highlighting the remarkable achievements of some visually impaired individuals, as well as bringing people together and showcasing the range of services available to support people living with sight loss in leading fulfilling lives. Attending events and looking forward towards a special day in the annual calendar is something most people without sensory impairment appreciate and benefit from, but can be very difficult for many people living with sight loss. Providing an annual event that caters toward the needs of large groups of blind and partially sighted people gives our beneficiaries something to look forward to and ultimately contributes towards their mental wellbeing.

Total numbers of people supported through our activities:

555 (excluding people reached through sight loss awareness activities)

Looking ahead

In 2023/24 Sight Loss Shropshire has added Tech Training for Visually Impaired People to the list of its services. A real community effort has gone into the setup of the volunteer-lead Tech Training service 'In Touch Telford', which already proves to be a valuable asset to Telford's sight loss community. Learning from lessons, we will swiftly roll a digital training service out into wider Shropshire from autumn 2023.

Looking even further ahead Sight Loss Shropshire plans to offer sight loss awareness courses for emergency services.

Swantje Staar-Slogrove
Charity Manager
June 2023

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE
FORMERLY SHROPSHIRE VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION
FOR THE BLIND

ACCOUNTS & TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

Registered Charity No. 215137

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR
TO 31 MARCH 2023

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2023. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Charities Act 2011 and 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 Ireland published on 16 July 2014.

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity:

Trustee name	Office
Diana Rosemary Flint DL	Chairman
Hayley Dyson	Vice - Chairman
Jenny Wynn	President
Ruth Houghton	Vice- President
Daniel Clark	Honorary Treasurer
Lindsey Rowlands	Trustee

Administrative Information

Principal Office

The Lantern, Meadow Farm Drive, Harlescott, Shrewsbury, SY1 4NG

Independent Examiner

Jonathan Rimmer FCA, James, Holyoak & Parker Limited, 1 Knights Court, Archers Way, Battlefield Enterprise Park, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY1 3GA

Bankers

Barclays Bank, 44-46 Castle Street, Shrewsbury, SY1 2BU

Investment Managers

EFG Harris Allday, Church Mews, Ombersley, Worcestershire, WR9 0EW

Structure, governance and management:

The charity was formed by a constitution in 1922, revised July 2008 as an unincorporated association. Its constitution was most recently revised in February 2013 to change the name of the charity to Sight Loss Shropshire, and to allow the election of the management committee every 3 years. The constitution was revised in July 2016 to incorporate a mechanism for the removal of members of the Committee. It was revised again in July 2022 to reflect a change in services since the Covid pandemic.

The charity's Director, Manager and Administrative Assistant carry out the day-to-day running of the charity.

The management committee, which includes the Trustees, meets quarterly. A separate Trustee meeting following the committee meeting.

The appointment of Trustees is determined as laid out in the constitution. Trustees are appointed by virtue of the office they hold, and each is eligible to stand for re-election every 3 years. The Board of Trustees shall comprise up to 8 members drawn from the Committee. The Committee shall comprise up to 24 members including at least 8 who shall be persons diagnosed with sight loss and/or who are registered blind or partially sighted. The Trustees are those elected at the Annual General Meeting as Chairman, Vice Chairman, President, Vice President, the Honorary Treasurer and additional Trustees. The constitution allows additional members to be co-opted to the committee and board of Trustees.

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR
TO 31 MARCH 2023 (Continued)

Objectives and activities for the public benefit

The objects of the charity are defined in the constitution as:

- To help blind and partially sighted persons resident in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin.
- To do all such other charitable things as are incidental to or conducive to the attainment of the above object.

Main Activities of the charity are:

- Supporting a network of peer support groups for visually impaired people;
- Providing information and signposting about support and services available for people with sight loss;
- Providing grants to help visually impaired people to acquire specialist aids and equipment;
- Organising and providing major social events for visually impaired people;
- Providing digital technology training for visually impaired people;
- Providing 'Living Well with Sight Loss' courses
- Acting as a local champion of visually impaired people who live in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin.

Financial Review

The charity's performance for the year and that of its funds is laid out in the financial statement on pages 4 to 13. The Charity had a net loss before gains and losses on investment assets of £21,688. This is due to investment in expanded staffing and operations during the year, which the Trustees believe is a good use of funds to further the Charity's objectives. We also seek external funding for projects whenever feasible.

The Charity's investments saw a decrease in value in the year of £41,331 resulting in a net decrease in funds of £63,019. The decline in investments is primarily due to general economic turbulence. Our investments are held on a long-term basis and the Trustees remain confident in our investment strategy, which they will keep under review.

Achievements and Performance

Due to retirements the charity invested in a new, improved staffing structure and operational systems, incurring higher costs. Some services that had ceased during the pandemic (SeeHear Exhibition) have been replaced by new services (Living Well with Sight Loss Courses). The charity held its annual celebration event, continued to support local groups and issued equipment grants to help visually impaired people improve their everyday life. The Trustees believe that charity continues to make a difference to the lives of blind and partially sighted residents of Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin. The charity expects its activity levels will increase further in the future.

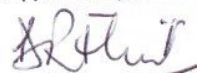
Reserves Policy

The charity aims to keep liquid reserves equivalent to 3 months running cost which equates to £10,000. At the year end the charity had £20,133 (2022: £40,910) of net current assets in its unrestricted general purposes fund.

Investment Policy

The Association's portfolio is designed to provide an opportunity for capital growth together with the provision of a regular income, meeting both short and medium term needs. The charity has appointed a Fund Manager to manage the investment on their behalf. The Trustees discuss and review investment strategy with the fund manager on a regular basis.

Approved by the trustees on 6th July 2023 and signed on their behalf by



D Flint
Chair of Trustees

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE
Registered Charity No. 215137

I report on the accounts of the Association for the year ended 31st March 2023, which are set out on pages 4 to 13.

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 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:-

- examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- to state 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 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 consideration 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' 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:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
2. to which in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

 6/7/2023
Jonathan Rimmer
Chartered Accountant
James, Holyoak & Parker Ltd
1 Knights Court, Archers Way,
Battlefield Enterprise Park,
Shrewsbury, SY1 3GA

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE
Registered Charity No. 215137

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income					
Donations, Legacies and Grants	2	6,546	550	7,096	6,318
Income from Charitable activities	3	-	-	-	-
Income from other trading activities	4	1,006	-	1,006	998
Investment Income	4	23,860	43	23,903	19,198
Total Income		31,412	593	32,005	26,514
Expenditure					
Cost of Raising Funds:					
<i>Costs of generating voluntary income</i>	5	5,999	-	5,999	912
<i>Fundraising costs</i>	5	184	-	184	677
<i>Investment Management Costs</i>		4,876	-	4,876	-
<i>Costs of Charitable activities</i>	5	39,743	-	39,743	20,827
<i>Other Governance Costs</i>	5	2,891	-	2,891	441
Total Expenditure		53,693	-	53,693	22,857
Net Income (expenditure)		(22,281)	593	(21,688)	3,657
Gross transfers between funds		550	(550)	-	-
Net Income (expenditure) before other recognised gains		(21,731)	43	(21,688)	3,657
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Profit or (loss) on disposal of fixed assets		-	-	-	-
Gains and (losses) on investment assets	9	(41,331)	-	(41,331)	30,406
Net Movement in Funds		(63,062)	43	(63,019)	34,063
Reconciliation of Funds:					
Total Funds brought forward		620,330	20,372	640,702	606,639
Total Funds carried forward	13,14	557,268	20,415	577,683	640,702

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE
Registered Charity No. 215137

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Fixed assets						
Tangible assets	8	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	9	537,135	-	-	537,135	578,466
		537,135	-	-	537,135	578,466
Current assets						
Debtors	10	300	-	-	300	2,092
Cash at bank and in hand	11	24,333	20,415	-	44,748	60,174
		24,633	20,415	-	45,048	62,266
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(4,500)	-	-	(4,500)	(30)
Net Current Assets		20,133	20,415	-	40,548	62,236
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year		-	-	-	-	-
Net Assets		557,268	20,415	-	577,683	640,702
Funds of the charity						
Unrestricted funds	14,15	557,268	-	-	557,268	620,330
Restricted funds	13,15	-	20,415	-	20,415	20,372
Endowment funds		-	-	-	-	-
Total funds		557,268	20,415	-	577,683	640,702

Approved by the Trustees on 6th July 2023 and signed on their behalf


.....
Daniel Clark (Treasurer)


.....
Diana Flint (Chair)

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE
Registered Charity No. 215137

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1. Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of preparation of accounts

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and applicable regulations.

Sight Loss Shropshire meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

(b) Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, there is sufficient certainty that receipt of the income is considered probable and the amount can be measured reliably. The income from fundraising ventures is shown gross, with the associated costs included in fundraising costs. Donated services and facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt. Donations and Legacies are recognised when they have been communicated in writing and the amount and settlement date is known. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

(c) Value Added Tax

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

(d) Fundraising costs

Fundraising expenditure comprises costs incurred in inducing people and organisations to contribute financially to the Charity's work. This includes the costs of staging special fundraising events.

(e) Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE
Registered Charity No. 215137

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

(f)

Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Equipment 10% straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is credited or charged to income and expenditure.

(g) **Investments**

Investments are recognised initially at fair value which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at fair value with changes recognised in 'net gains / (losses) on investments' in the SoFA if the shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably. Other investments are measured at cost less impairment.

(h) **Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

(i) **Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Creditors and provisions

(j) Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Going concern

(k) The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE
Registered Charity No. 215137

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 (Continued)

2. Donations Legacies and Grants

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Midland Societies Grant	-	-	-	1,667
Shropshire Council	5,000	-	5,000	1,720
Telford & Wrekin Council Grant	-	-	-	-
Legacies & Donations	1,546	550	2,096	2,931
	6,546	550	7,096	6,318

3. Income from Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Beacon Care For The Blind	-	-	-	-
See Hear Exhibition	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-

4. Income from Other Trading Activities and Investment Income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Fundraising Activities				
TLC Lottery	93	-	93	94
Christmas Card	913	-	913	904
	1,006	-	1,006	998
Investment Income				
Bank Interest	28	43	71	7
Harris Allday Income	23,832	-	23,832	19,191
	23,860	43	23,903	19,198

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE
Registered Charity No. 215137

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 (Continued)

5. Expenditure

	Cost of generating voluntary income	Fundraising costs	Costs of Charitable Activities	Governance Costs	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted						
Salaries	5,952	-	23,812	-	29,764	18,076
Pension Contributions	-	-	321	-	321	-
Provision of Equipment	-	-	1,249	-	1,249	1,621
Printing, stationery and postage	47	-	896	-	943	176
Insurance	-	-	-	375	375	403
Christmas Cards	-	184	-	-	184	677
Social Groups	-	-	1,062	-	1,062	1,250
Winters Day Out	-	-	3,467	-	3,467	-
Travel	-	-	158	-	158	56
Rent of Rooms	-	-	-	380	380	38
Other Services	-	-	1,030	358	1,388	425
Website	-	-	120	-	120	-
Recruitment & HR	-	-	5,783	-	5,783	-
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-	135
Accountancy Services	-	-	216	480	696	-
Grants for Visually Impaired	-	-	1,629	-	1,629	-
Computer costs	-	-	-	1,298	1,298	-
	5,999	184	39,743	2,891	48,817	22,857
Restricted						
See Hear Exhibition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sheila Whitley Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
	5,999	184	39,743	2,891	48,817	22,857

6. Staff Costs and Numbers

	2023	2022
	£	£
Staff costs were as follows		
Salaries and Wages	29,764	18,076
	29,764	18,076

The average weekly number of staff employed, calculated as full time equivalents during the year was as follows:

	No.	No.
Fundraising Activities	0.25	0.05
Charitable Activities	0.75	0.72
	1.00	0.77

7. Taxation

The Charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE
Registered Charity No. 215137

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 (Continued)

8. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Equipment £	Total £
Cost		
As at 1 st April 2022	1,898	1,898
Disposals	-	-
As at 31st March 2023	1,898	1,898
Depreciation		
As at 1 st April 2022	1,898	1,898
Charge for the year	-	-
Elimination on disposal	-	-
As at 31st March 2023	1,898	1,898
NBV at 31st March 2023	-	-
NBV at 31st March 2022	-	-

9. Investments

	2023 £	2022 £
Market Value at 1st April 2022	578,466	498,999
Add: Additions at Cost	-	49,061
Less: Disposals at carrying value	(-)	(-)
Add: Gain/(Loss) on Revaluation	(41,331)	30,406
Less: Loss on Disposal	(-)	(-)
Market Value at 31st March 2023	537,135	578,466

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE
Registered Charity No. 215137

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 (Continued)

9. Investments (continued)

	Units	Cost	Value at 31 st March 2023	Value at 31 st March 2022	Change in Value
	No.	£	£	£	£
One Saving Bank 7.875 Perp	15,000	15,935	14,119	14,550	(431)
BlackRock Charities UK BD FD Inc	10,788	18,750	15,979	18,648	(2,669)
Murry Inc Trust PLC	2,160	13,240	18,425	19,138	(713)
Dunedin Inc Grwth Inv Trust	6,200	13,245	17,825	18,724	(899)
Schroder Char Charity Equity Income	28,968	68,990	130,212	132,819	(2,607)
BlackRock Charishare Comm Inv FD	20,578	56,138	146,051	147,608	(1,557)
M&G Charifund A Income	4,472	31,245	66,327	70,645	(4,318)
M&G Charibond Income Units	17,362	18,921	19,020	20,492	(1,472)
JP Morgan GBL Grown and Inc	5,335	16,127	24,354	25,235	(881)
Primary Health Properties GBP 0.125	11,840	13,238	11,982	17,559	(5,577)
Civitas Social Housing PLC REIT	14,805	16,212	7,950	12,940	(4,990)
Octopus Renewables Infra Trust	15,850	18,445	15,073	17,752	(2,679)
JP Morgan GLB Core Assets	16,450	18,460	14,147	15,200	(1,053)
RM Secured Direct Lending	17,000	16,317	13,430	15,765	(2,335)
RIT Capital Partners	610	16,360	11,712	15,555	(3,843)
LXI Reit PLC	10,700	16,384	10,529	15,836	(5,307)
		368,007	537,135	578,466	(41,331)

10. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Prepayments and Accrued Income	300	2,092
	300	2,092

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE
Registered Charity No. 215137

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 (Continued)

11. Cash at Bank and in Hand

	2023 £	2022 £
Barclays Current Account	12,090	13,366
Barclays Business Saver Account	12,856	22,828
Barclays Sheila Whitley Fund Account	324	323
Harris Allday Clearing Account	(13)	4,208
Barclays See & Hear Deposit Account	19,491	19,449
	44,748	60,174

12. Creditors

	2023 £	2022 £
Accruals and Deferred Income	4,500	30

13. Movement in Restricted Funds

	At 1 st April 2022 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfer between Funds £	At 31 st March 2023 £
Living Well with Sight Loss	600	-	-	-	600
See Hear Exhibition Fund	19,449	42	-	-	19,491
Sheila Whitley Fund	323	551	-	(550)	324
	20,372	593	-	(550)	20,415

The Living Well with Sight Loss Fund represents seed funding to support the provision of educational courses developed by Visionary, the RNIB and the Thomas Pocklington Trust, to help people in need live well with sight loss.

The See Hear Exhibition Fund are funds held on behalf of the exhibition to fund future events.

The Sheila Whitley Fund is used to provide grants to purchase specialist IT equipment for people in need in the Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin areas. It was previously treated as a designated fund.

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE
Registered Charity No. 215137

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 (Continued)

14. Movement in Unrestricted Fund

	At 1 st April 2022 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Recognised after Gains & Losses £	Transfers between funds	At 31 st March 2023 £
General Fund	620,330	31,412	(53,693)	(41,331)	550	557,268
	620,330	31,412	(53,693)	(41,331)	550	557,268

15. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 £
Tangible Fixed Assets	537,135	-	537,135
Current Assets	24,633	20,415	45,048
Current Liabilities	(4,500)	-	(4,500)
Net Assets at 31st March 2023	557,268	20,415	577,683

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE

England & Wales - Charity number 215137

Accounts

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE
(formerly Shropshire Voluntary Association for the Blind)

**The Lantern
Meadow Farm Drive
Shrewsbury
SY1 4NG**

Tel 01743 250808

Visit our website: www.sightlossshropshire.org.uk

Email: sightlossshropshire@shropshire.gov.uk

Registered Charity No. 215137

SLS gratefully acknowledges financial support from
Shropshire Council

SLS ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

An Introduction to SLS

SLS – formerly the Shropshire Voluntary Association for the Blind – was founded in 1922. It is a registered charity that helps and supports blind and visually impaired people of all ages who live in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin.

SLS is one of the national network of local charities for blind and visually impaired people that serve every part of the country. We are a member of Visionary (formerly the National Association of Local Societies for the Visionary Impaired) and also Midlands Societies for the Blind.

SLS's aim is to improve the quality of life of visually impaired people of all ages who live in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin. Our objectives are:

- to help visually impaired people to cope with their sight loss and the difficulties this imposes on their daily lives
- to reduce social isolation for visually impaired people and provide access to a range of social, physical and creative activities that contribute to people's physical and mental well-being.
- to enable visually impaired people to make informed choices about the services and support that they access
- to enable visually impaired people to access equipment and services that they cannot afford to self-fund, and which are not available from statutory services, but which have a significant impact on their level of independence
- to improve or maintain visually impaired people's confidence and mental well-being which are often adversely affected by a diagnosis of sight loss.
- to raise awareness of sight loss issues and improve the provision of local sight loss services
- to work in partnership with statutory, private and third sector organisations to support visually impaired people in the community

- to act as a local champion of visually impaired people who live in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin by facilitating national and local organisations' fuller understanding of the specific issues and circumstances faced by visually impaired people in our area

Our work includes the following:

- providing grants to help visually impaired people to acquire specialist aids and equipment to enable them to maintain and/or regain their independence;
- organising and providing major social events, and also supporting a network of local peer support groups for visually impaired people that meet in every part of our area;
- providing information and signposting about support and services to visually impaired people; their families, carers and friends; and to professionals working with visually impaired people
- working with our partners to ensure that visually impaired people have a voice

Our Management Committee is drawn from all over Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin. Half of the Committee are themselves either blind or partially sighted, and therefore have real first-hand understanding of the challenges of living with visual impairment.

SLS's work is heavily dependent on donations from local people and the services of local volunteers.

COMMITTEE FOR 2021-22

President

Mrs P. Whitley

Vice-Presidents

Mr P. Rao FRCS

Mrs G. Halliday – Trustee

Cllr. Mrs. R. Houghton

Chairman

Mrs D. Flint DL – Trustee

Vice Chairman

*Mrs H. Dyson – Trustee

Members

Ms S. Brazendale

*Mrs. L. Clark

* Mr R. Cookson

*Mr. J. Feehan

*Mrs. K. Hill

Mr. A. Jones

Mrs A. Lawton

Ms S. Mitchell

*Mrs. A. Read

* Mrs L. Rowlands

Mrs B. Shingler

Mr J. Thatcher

* Mr K. Whitcombe

Mrs J. Wynn

Shropshire Council

Cllr D. Carroll

Ms K. Garner

(Representing the Director of Adult Services)

Telford & Wrekin Council

Mrs H. Cottrell

(Representing the Director of Adult Services)

Secretary

Mr R.E. Durham JP

Honorary Treasurer

Mrs W. Robert – Trustee

Administrator

Mrs C. Humphreys

Honorary Independent Examiner

James, Holyoak & Parker, 1 Knights Court, Archers Way,
Battlefield Enterprise Park, Shrewsbury, SY1 3GA

*Denotes a visually impaired person

USEFUL CONTACTS

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL SENSORY SUPPORT SERVICES

Adult Social Care

PO Box 4826

SHREWSBURY

SY1 9LJ

Tel: 01743 250529

Email: cs.sensoryimpairment@shropshire.gov.uk

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

To speak to the Rehabilitation Officer for the Visually Impaired,

Tel: 07976 426483 between 10am and 2pm on Wednesdays

Contact the Wellbeing Independence Partnership

Tel: 01952 385385 (select option 2 when prompted)

E-mail: wip@tandwcvvs.org.uk

EYE CLINIC LIAISON OFFICER

Mobile: 07808 736449

Tel: 01743 261000 ext. 3616

Email: e.chaplin2@nhs.net

ROYAL SHREWSBURY & TELFORD HOSPITALS TRUST LOW VISION CLINIC

01743 261000 Ext 3324

SHREWSBURY MOBILITY TEAM – GUIDE DOGS

0345 143 0226

RNIB HELPLINE

0303 123 9999

MACULAR SOCIETY HELPLINE

0300 3030 111

MEETINGS

The SLS Committee held four online meetings during the year.

The AGM was held, via email, on 22nd July 2021. Members of the SLS Committee were consulted on proposals to hold the AGM via email and agreed unanimously. The main business of the AGM was to approve the Annual Report for 2020/21, including the Annual Accounts. All papers were circulated four weeks in advance of the AGM date to enable any queries to be raised and answered.

CHAIR'S REPORT 2021/22

This has been another busy year for the charity where we have continued to support people all over Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin against a backdrop of the challenges we have faced with the after effects of the Covid pandemic. The committee and county wide social groups are delighted to be able to meet once again in person, and the recent celebration of the Charity's 100th Birthday was a truly special day where happiness of getting together again after two years absence was palpable. We look forward to being able to support such vital social events and the local social groups in the future. The negative effects of isolation during the Covid lockdowns cannot be underestimated.

This year, the message is one of Gratitude and Hope for the future. We are delighted that the Living Well with Sight Loss (LWWSL) courses have started in a positive way, and most grateful to the volunteers who have engaged in running these courses under the leadership of the Administrator, Clare Humphreys. We look forward to continuing delivery of the courses in 2023. We will also continue to monitor the support given by Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin councils to those recently diagnosed with sight loss. The waiting lists for visits by the Rehabilitation Officer (ROVI) remain unacceptably long.

In 2022 we face changes that are both challenging and invigorating as we look to reshape the charity following the reduction in financial support from Shropshire council. We are fortunate that some funding is available, but this is very much reduced.

We are immensely grateful to our outgoing President, Mrs. Penny Whitley, our Vice-President, Mrs. Gill Halliday, our Treasurer Mrs. Wendy Robert who retire at the AGM in July after many years of dedication and service. We have hope that the opportunities that arise from change and new appointments will strengthen the charity in the coming year.

In addition to the thanks above, I would like to add very sincere thanks to the members of the committee who have met regularly, albeit on a screen, over the year. Special thanks are due also to members of the smaller Strategy Group who have dedicated so much time to considering the challenges and opportunities of change. My thanks in particular to Clare

Humphreys, our Administrator who has so efficiently run the office, the 100th Birthday Party, the LWWSL courses and much more. Finally, my thanks to our Secretary, Robin Durham, who, indefatigably, has kept his experienced and steady hand on the tiller of Sight Loss Shropshire through the year.

Mrs Diana Flint
Chair
June 2021

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

I write this, my 16th Annual Report, a few days before Sight Loss Shropshire is due to celebrate its 100th Birthday. Many Happy Returns SLS! It is a remarkable milestone, and it also marks a very significant watershed in the story of Sight Loss Shropshire.

2021/2022 saw, at last, the gradual loosening of the grip of the Covid pandemic, at least in the UK, but much like the previous year and in every aspect of life, for Sight Loss Shropshire it has been a year in which a return to some semblance of normality came only very slowly. We can nevertheless celebrate the fact that the charity has survived!

The largest proportion of the charity's revenue income derives from capital investments which are managed with the expertise of SLS's investment advisers and managers, EFG Harris Allday. The value of the charity's investments, thankfully, did not decline to any significant extent and for that there is a great deal to be thankful for.

After the trauma of Covid, at the end of 2021/2022 the charity faces another mountain to climb, with 2022/2023 setting the challenge of a watershed year in the long history of Sight Loss Shropshire.

As reported in previous years, in 2020/2021 the charity very sadly lost the small annual revenue grant from Telford and Wrekin Council, but nevertheless SLS has remained committed to offer its services in the Telford & Wrekin Council area.

In my report last year, I was able to report Shropshire Council had continued to provide its annual revenue grant to cover the 2021/2022 financial year. Sadly, the Council very significantly reduced its whole programme of revenue support grants to local charities. SLS was fortunate in being among relatively few that received something, but it was only half of what we have normally received tracking back over several decades. The grant that came was also with the warning that it was unlikely that the Council would provide a future programme of revenue support grants after the end of the 2022/2023 financial year.

The consequence of this has been that, during the latter part of this 2021/2022 year, there has been a great deal of discussion and consideration of radical changes to the charity's business model. Significant changes will be required to secure the Sight Loss Shropshire's future in the period from April 2023, and many of these changes will need to be made before then. Unless this work can be brought to a successful conclusion the charity's ability to continue to provide its services will be put in jeopardy.

At the time of writing, and while this work is on-going, it is not possible to outline what solutions might be found. The SLS Trustees very wisely established a Strategy Group comprising the Trustees and other members of the Committee with relevant expertise and experience to examine and evaluate all the available options. Although it would be premature at this point to go into detail, the Strategy Group is at this point reasonably confident that a new and viable business model is possible, although much work remains to be done.

See & Hear Exhibition

Sadly, but unavoidably, the See Hear Exhibition had to be cancelled for the third year in a row. Unfortunately, it also proved not possible to negotiate an agreement with Shropshire Council to establish the basis of a partnership with SLS that might, potentially, have set out the respective roles and responsibilities that each contribute to the organization and management of future Exhibitions. In the event these negotiations never took place, and the Council has withdrawn from its former role in mounting the Exhibition. The consequence is that there is no likelihood that another See Hear Exhibition will be possible for the foreseeable future, unless and until some alternative means of making this happen can be found.

Information Point Service in the Hospital Eye Clinic and Living Well With Sight Loss courses

The Information Point (IP) service, which was initially launched on a small scale in the summer of 2019 and designed in collaboration with RNIB to complement and support the ECLO service (see below) The ECLO service is now well established and provided at both local hospitals through a partnership between the Hospitals' Trust (SaTH) and RNIB.

During the ensuing months many patients expressed their appreciation of the IP service. Eventually a total of 11 volunteers were trained and were providing around 160 hours of support, contacting between 15 and 40 individuals per session. However, following the arrival of Covid, the IP service had to be withdrawn in March 2020.

One role that IP volunteers had had was to promote RNIB's "Living Well With Sight Loss" (LWWSL) courses in Shropshire; 4 such courses had run after the Information Point was launched and all these courses were oversubscribed.

It is very pleasing to report that following discussions with RNIB in late 2021, and after securing a small grant from RNIB/Visionary, SLS was licensed by RNIB under a memorandum of understanding to be its provider of LWWSL courses for Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin residents. Indeed, some of the IP volunteers who were recruited in 2019 are receiving training to contribute to LWWSL courses.

There is a strong expectation that this provision will grow significantly over time; the courses have proved to be in demand and to provide for an unmet need for enhanced support, most notably for those recently diagnosed with permanent sight loss.

Eye Clinic Liaison Officer

ECLO (Eye Clinic Liaison Officer) services operate in approximately half the hospital Eye Clinics in England. The aims of ECLO services are to help reduce the social isolation and distress caused by the onset of sight loss, to facilitate greater independence for those coming to terms with sight loss, and to promote the benefits of being formally registered with sight loss.

The ECLO service in Shropshire began in January 2019 after many years of determined campaigning by Sight Loss Shropshire. The service continues to flourish and does invaluable work in helping many eye patients, particularly those recently diagnosed with permanent sight loss.

Social Events and Social Groups

The charity continues to support and sponsor a network of affiliated local social groups for visually impaired people and intends this will continue to be an important component of the charity's work into the future. The groups themselves are self-managing and provide a vital network of mutual support and social contact located across Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin.

For their part the volunteer local organizers have set a wonderful example during the pandemic in the most testing circumstances by doing their best to keep in contact with their members, passing on information and, where appropriate, referring people for support.

SLS Grants

SLS has continued to be ready to provide grants to individuals with sight loss in cases where their needs could not be met by the statutory social care, health, education or other services. These grants allow individuals, who are referred to the charity by a professional worker in a statutory or authoritative service, to acquire a particular item of equipment they could not otherwise

obtain, or to be able to participate in activities that enhance their quality of life, that otherwise might not have been possible.

As mentioned in previous years, there has been a very significant reduction in referrals for grants being made to SLS from the local authorities' sensory impairment services, as compared to the numbers of people who were referred in years past. Inevitably the consequence of the pandemic has been to shrink the number of referrals that SLS has received even further.

It is hoped that as direct contact between referrers and their clients/patients returns to normal, so more referrals will be received by the charity.

It is also intended that this service should remain one that SLS offers into the future.

Local Authority Sensory Support provision

In my report last year, I indicated that the charity has, over the years of financial austerity, expressed its concerns over the impact there has been on sensory impairment services. In recent years these difficulties have been acute for the services provided by Shropshire Council.

The pandemic has caused further major frustration in addressing the problems the Council had already been struggling with and coupled with continuing staffing issues, has made the job of reducing the backlog of cases awaiting a full rehabilitation assessment problematic.

The resilience and effectiveness of Shropshire's ROVI service has therefore continued to remain a significant concern.

A Final Word

As I have every year, I must conclude with a very big thank you to all the SLS volunteers and for the voluntary effort that supports all that the charity does. I would also like to express a particular thank you to members of the SLS Committee, who have attended the meetings which have been held throughout the year, for their support and commitment to the charity.

In particular I would like to express thanks and gratitude to two very long serving senior members of Sight Loss Shropshire who have contributed their wisdom, time and help extending back to before the time I joined SLS in 2006. They are Penny Whitley, SLS's President and Gill Halliday, a former Chairman of SLS and now Senior Vice-President. Both are owed a great debt of gratitude for their many years of steadfast support and commitment to the charity's work.

I must also express heartfelt thanks to Wendy Robert, our Treasurer, who has handed over the reins of her role as she has gained promotion to a different post in public sector accountancy in the West Midlands. Her 16 years as SLS Treasurer were distinguished by complete dependability in keeping the Association's affairs and finances in good order. She departs with our every best wish in her new job, and with our thanks for her many years contributing to SLS's work.

I must also record once more my most sincere thanks and appreciation to Clare Humphreys, SLS's Administrator, for all her truly excellent work and great dedication to the charity and everything the charity aims to achieve. Finally, I would like to give heartfelt thanks to our Chairman Diana Flint, for her support both to me and to Clare and for her very strong commitment to the leadership of the charity.

Robin Durham

May 2022

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE AFFILIATED PEER SUPPORT GROUPS

There are 16 peer support groups that are supported by and affiliated to Sight Loss Shropshire; 12 in Shropshire and 4 in Telford & Wrekin. Groups are run by local volunteers who provide a programme of social, creative and physical activities based on the wishes and needs of their members.

During the first half of this year, the groups continued to hold meetings via telephone conference or using conferencing software such as Zoom or Teams. From September onwards, some groups started to hold face to face meetings again, with protocols in place to minimise the risk of Covid transmission. When Covid transmission rates were high, face to face meetings were cancelled to safeguard members and volunteers.

Groups encountered a number of barriers to re-starting face to face meetings. Previous venues were not always available or hire costs were prohibitive, resulting in some groups having to move to a new venue or change their meeting day. Many groups reported reduced numbers of members as former members were either no longer able, or unwilling, to attend groups.

Sight Loss Shropshire acknowledges the magnificent work undertaken by the volunteer Group Organisers who have kept in regular contact with their members, circulating information and providing support and a listening ear throughout the pandemic.

For information about any of the peer support groups, contact the SLS office - 01743 250808 or by email to [**sightlossshropshire@shropshire.gov.uk**](mailto:sightlossshropshire@shropshire.gov.uk) - and/or the SLS website – [**http://www.sightlossshropshire.org.uk**](http://www.sightlossshropshire.org.uk)

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE
FORMERLY SHROPSHIRE VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION
FOR THE BLIND
ACCOUNTS & TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

Registered Charity No. 215137

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR
TO 31 MARCH 2022

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2022. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Charities Act 2011 and 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 Ireland published on 16 July 2014.

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity:

Trustee name	Office
Diana Rosemary Flint DL	Chairman
Hayley Dyson	Vice - Chairman
Gillian Elizabeth Halliday	Vice - President
Wendy Robert	Honorary Treasurer

Administrative Information

Principal Office

The Lantern, Meadow Farm Drive, Harlescott, Shrewsbury, SY1 4NG

Independent Examiner

Jonathan Rimmer FCA, James, Holyoak & Parker Limited, 1 Knights Court, Archers Way, Battlefield Enterprise Park, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY1 3GA

Bankers

Barclays Bank, 44-46 Castle Street, Shrewsbury, SY1 2BU

Investment Managers

EFG Harris Allday, Church Mews, Ombersley, Worcestershire, WR9 0EW

Structure, governance and management:

The charity was formed by a constitution in 1922, revised July 2008 as an unincorporated association. Its constitution was most recently revised in February 2013 to change the name of the charity to Sight Loss Shropshire, and to allow the election of the management committee every 3 years. The constitution was revised in July 2016 to incorporate a mechanism for the removal of members of the Committee.

The Association's Secretary and its Administrator carry out the day-to-day running of the Association.

The management committee, which includes the Trustees, meets quarterly. A separate Trustee meeting is held annually.

The appointment of Trustees is determined as laid out in the constitution. Trustees are appointed by virtue of the office they hold, and each is eligible to stand for re-election every 3 years. The management committee consists of 7 officers and 14 members, 7 of which must be registered blind or partially sighted. The Trustees are those elected at the Annual General Meeting as Chairman, Vice Chairman, the longest servicing Vice President and the Honorary Treasurer. The constitution allows additional members to be co-opted to the management committee.

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR
TO 31 MARCH 2022 (Continued)

Objectives and activities for the public benefit

The objects of the Association are defined in the constitution as:

- To help blind and partially sighted persons resident in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin.
- To do all such other charitable things as are incidental to or conducive to the attainment of the above object.

Main Activities of the Association are:

- Supporting a network of peer support groups for visually impaired people;
- Providing information and signposting about support and services available for people with sight loss;
- Providing grants to help visually impaired people to acquire specialist aids and equipment;
- Supporting the work of the Eye Care Liaison Officer at the local hospital trust;
- Organising and providing major social events for visually impaired people;
- Contributing to the planning and running of the annual See & Hear Shropshire Exhibition;
- Acting as a local champion of visually impaired people who live in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin.

Financial Review

The Association's performance for the year and that of its funds is laid out in the financial statement on pages 4 to 13. The Charity had a net profit before gains and losses on investment assets of £3,657. The Charity's investments saw an increase in value in the year of £30,406 resulting in a net increase in funds of £79,467.

The trustees are satisfied with the results for the year given the current economic climate and the impact of Covid-19 on the nation. The Investment portfolio recovered the losses that were initially incurred at the start of the pandemic and the trustees are satisfied with the investment income for the year given the turbulence in the markets.

Achievements and Performance

The Charity's activities were curtailed during the year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Charity was unable to hold its annual 'Winter's Day Out' social event and also had to postpone the annual 'See Hear Exhibition'. However it was still able to support visually impaired people via continuing to support local groups and issuing 8 equipment grants to help visually impaired people improve their everyday life. The Trustees believe that charity continues to make a difference to the lives of the blind and partially sighted residents of Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin. The Charity expects its activity levels will return to normal as lockdown eases.

Reserves Policy

The Association aims to keep liquid reserves equivalent to 3 months running cost which equates to £6,000. At the year end the association had £40,910 (2021: £87,735) of net current assets in its unrestricted general purposes fund.

Investment Policy

The Association's portfolio is designed to provide an opportunity for capital growth together with the provision of a regular income, meeting both short and medium term needs. The Association has appointed a Fund Manager to manage the investment on their behalf. The Trustees discuss and review investment strategy with the fund manager on a regular basis.

Approved by the trustees on 28th June 2022 and signed on their behalf by

D. Flint

D Flint
Chair of Trustees

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE
Registered Charity No. 215137

I report on the accounts of the Association for the year ended 31st March 2022, which are set out on pages 4 to 13.

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 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:-

- examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- to state 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 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 consideration 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' 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:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
2. to which in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Jonathan Rimmer
Chartered Accountant
James, Holyoak & Parker Ltd
1 Knights Court, Archers Way,
Battlefield Enterprise Park,
Shrewsbury, SY1 3GA

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE
Registered Charity No. 215137

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Income					
Donations, Legacies and Grants	2	5,318	1,000	6,318	5,573
Income from Charitable activities	3	-	-	-	-
Income from other trading activities	4	998	-	998	1,274
Investment Income	4	19,196	2	19,198	17,326
Total Income		25,512	1,002	26,514	24,173
Expenditure					
Cost of Raising Funds:					
<i>Costs of generating voluntary income</i>	5	912	-	912	835
<i>Fundraising costs</i>	5	677	-	677	159
<i>Investment Management Costs</i>	5	-	-	-	-
<i>Costs of Charitable activities</i>	5	20,827	-	20,827	24,205
Other <i>Governance Costs</i>	5	441	-	441	643
Total Expenditure		22,857	-	22,857	25,842
Net Income (expenditure)		2,655	1,002	3,657	(1,669)
Gross transfers between funds		400	(400)	-	-
Net Income (expenditure) before other recognised gains		3,055	602	3,657	(1,669)
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Profit or (loss) on disposal of fixed assets		-	-	-	(18)
Gains and (losses) on investment assets	9	30,406	-	30,406	82,399
Net Movement in Funds		33,461	602	34,063	80,712
Reconciliation of Funds:					
Total Funds brought forward		586,869	19,770	606,639	525,927
Total Funds carried forward	13,14	620,330	20,372	640,702	606,639

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE
Registered Charity No. 215137

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Fixed assets						
Tangible assets	8	-	-	-	-	135
Investments	9	578,466	-	-	578,466	498,999
		578,466	-	-	578,466	499,134
Current assets						
Debtors	10	2,092	-	-	2,092	300
Cash at bank and in hand	11	39,802	20,372	-	60,174	107,205
		41,894	20,372	-	62,266	107,505
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(30)	-	-	(30)	-
Net Current Assets		41,864	20,372	-	62,236	107,505
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year		-	-	-	-	-
Net Assets		620,330	20,372	-	640,702	606,639
Funds of the charity						
Unrestricted funds	14,15	620,330	-	-	620,330	586,869
Restricted funds	13,15	-	20,372	-	20,372	19,770
Endowment funds		-	-	-	-	-
Total funds		620,330	20,372	-	640,702	606,639

Approved by the Trustees on 28th June 2022 and signed on their behalf

W. Robert

.....
Wendy Robert (Treasurer)

D. Flint

.....
Diana Flint (Chair)

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE
Registered Charity No. 215137

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1. Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of preparation of accounts

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and applicable regulations.

Sight Loss Shropshire meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

(b) Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, there is sufficient certainty that receipt of the income is considered probable and the amount can be measured reliably. The income from fundraising ventures is shown gross, with the associated costs included in fundraising costs. Donated services and facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt. Donations and Legacies are recognised when they have been communicated in writing and the amount and settlement date is known. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

(c) Value Added Tax

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

(d) Fundraising costs

Fundraising expenditure comprises costs incurred in inducing people and organisations to contribute financially to the Charity's work. This includes the costs of staging special fundraising events.

(e) Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE
Registered Charity No. 215137

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

(f)

Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Equipment 10% straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is credited or charged to income and expenditure.

(g) **Investments**

Investments are recognised initially at fair value which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at fair value with changes recognised in 'net gains / (losses) on investments' in the SoFA if the shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably. Other investments are measured at cost less impairment.

(h) **Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

(i) **Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Creditors and provisions

(j) Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Going concern

(k) The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE
Registered Charity No. 215137

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022 (Continued)

2. Donations Legacies and Grants

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Midland Societies Grant	1,667	-	1,667	418
Shropshire Council	1,720	-	1,720	1,900
Telford & Wrekin Council Grant	-	-	-	-
Legacies & Donations	1,931	1,000	2,931	3,255
	5,318	1,000	6,318	5,573

3. Income from Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Beacon Care For The Blind	-	-	-	-
See Hear Exhibition	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-

4. Income from Other Trading Activities and Investment Income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Fundraising Activities				
TLC Lottery	94	-	94	94
Christmas Card	904	-	904	1,180
	998	-	998	1,274
Investment Income				
Bank Interest	5	2	7	40
Harris Allday Income	19,191	-	19,191	17,286
	19,196	2	19,198	17,326

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE
Registered Charity No. 215137

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022 (Continued)

5. Expenditure

	Cost of generating voluntary income	Fundraising costs	Costs of Charitable Activities	Governance Costs	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted						
Salaries	904	-	17,172	-	18,076	16,565
Provision of Equipment	-	-	1,621	-	1,621	2,712
Printing, stationery and postage	8	-	168	-	176	142
Insurance	-	-	-	403	403	403
Christmas Cards	-	677	-	-	677	159
Social Groups	-	-	1,250	-	1,250	1,500
Grants for Visually Impaired	-	-	-	-	-	70
Winters Day Out	-	-	-	-	-	100
Travel	-	-	56	-	56	352
Rent of Rooms	-	-	-	38	38	-
Other Services	-	-	425	-	425	910
Christmas Gifts	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	135	-	135	189
Bank charges	-	-	-	-	-	-
Investment charges	-	-	-	-	-	240
	912	677	20,827	441	22,857	23,342
Restricted						
See Hear Exhibition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sheila Whitley Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
ECLO	-	-	-	-	-	2,500
	912	677	20,827	441	22,857	25,842

6. Staff Costs and Numbers

	2022 £	2021 £
Staff costs were as follows		
Salaries and Wages	18,076	16,565
Social Security Costs	-	-
	18,076	16,565

The average weekly number of staff employed, calculated as full time equivalents during the year was as follows:

	No.	No.
Fundraising Activities	0.05	0.05
Charitable Activities	0.72	0.72
	0.77	0.77

7. Taxation

The Charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE
Registered Charity No. 215137

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022 (Continued)

8. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Equipment £	Total £
Cost		
As at 1 st April 2021	1,898	1,898
Disposals	-	-
As at 31st March 2022	1,898	1,898
Depreciation		
As at 1 st April 2021	1,763	1,763
Charge for the year	135	135
Elimination on disposal	-	-
As at 31st March 2022	1,898	1,898
NBV at 31st March 2022	-	-
NBV at 31st March 2021	135	135

9. Investments

	2022 £	2021 £
Market Value at 1st April 2021	498,999	400,179
Add: Additions at Cost	49,061	36,905
Less: Disposals at carrying value	(-)	(20,484)
Add: Gain/(Loss) on Revaluation	30,406	82,417
Less: Loss on Disposal	(-)	(18)
Market Value at 31st March 2022	578,466	498,999

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE
Registered Charity No. 215137

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022 (Continued)

9. Investments (continued)

	Units	Cost	Value at 31 st March 2022	Value at 31 st March 2021	Change in Value
	No.	£	£	£	£
One Saving Bank 7.875 Perp	15,000	15,935	14,550	13,519	1,031
BlackRock Charities UK BD FD Inc	10,788	18,750	18,648	20,217	(1,569)
Murry Inc Trust PLC	2,160	13,240	19,138	18,446	692
Dunedin Inc Grwth Inv Trust	6,200	13,245	18,724	18,197	527
Schroder Char Charity Equity Income	28,968	68,990	132,819	114,859	17,960
BlackRock Charishare Comm Inv FD	20,578	56,138	147,608	137,134	10,474
M&G Charifund A Income	4,472	31,245	70,645	65,846	4,799
M&G Charibond Income Units	17,362	18,921	20,492	21,445	(953)
JP Morgan GBL Grown and Inc	5,335	16,127	25,235	21,820	3,415
Primary Health Properties GBP 0.125	11,840	13,238	17,559	17,547	12
Civitas Social Housing PLC REIT	14,805	16,212	12,940	16,108	(3,168)
Octopus Renewables Infra Trust	15,850	18,445	17,752	18,069	(317)
JP Morgan GLB Core Assets	16,450	18,460	15,200	15,792	(592)
RM Secured Direct Lending	17,000	16,317	15,765	-	(552)
RIT Capital Partners	610	16,360	15,555	-	(805)
LXI Reit PLC	10,700	16,384	15,836	-	(548)
		368,007	578,466	498,999	30,406

10. Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Prepayments and Accrued Income	2,092	300
	2,092	300

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE
Registered Charity No. 215137

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022 (Continued)

11. Cash at Bank and in Hand

	2022 £	2021 £
Barclays Current Account	13,366	17,523
Barclays Business Saver Account	22,828	67,271
Barclays Sheila Whitley Fund Account	323	323
Harris Allday Clearing Account	4,208	2,641
Barclays See & Hear Deposit Account	19,449	19,447
	60,174	107,205

12. Creditors

	2022 £	2021 £
Accruals and Deferred Income	30	-

13. Movement in Restricted Funds

	At 1 st April 2021 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfer between Funds £	At 31 st March 2022 £
Living Well with Sight Loss	-	600	-	-	600
ECLO Officer Fund	-	-	-	-	-
See Hear Exhibition Fund	19,447	2	-	-	19,449
Sheila Whitley Fund	323	400	-	(400)	323
	19,770	1,002	-	(400)	20,372

The Living Well with Sight Loss Fund represents seed funding to support the provision of educational courses developed by Visionary, the RNIB and the Thomas Pocklington Trust, to help people in need live well with sight loss.

The ELCO Fund is to support the work in recruiting an eye care liaison officer within the Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin eye clinics.

The See Hear Exhibition Fund are funds held on behalf of the exhibition to fund future events.

The Sheila Whitley Fund is used to provide grants to purchase specialist IT equipment for people in need in the Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin areas. It was previously treated as a designated fund.

SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE
Registered Charity No. 215137

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022 (Continued)

14. Movement in Unrestricted Fund

	At 1st April 2021 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Recognised after Gains & Losses £	Transfers between funds	At 31st March 2022 £
General Fund	586,869	25,512	(22,857)	30,406	400	620,330
	586,869	25,512	(22,857)	30,406	400	620,330

15. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 £
Tangible Fixed Assets	578,466	-	578,466
Current Assets	41,894	20,372	62,266
Current Liabilities	(30)	-	(30)
Net Assets at 31st March 2022	620,330	20,372	640,702