

Annual Report

**Beacon Centre
for the Blind**

2024–2025

**CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF
SIGHT LOSS SUPPORT**



Contents

1	About Beacon	25-28	Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements
2	Beacon's Vision		
3-4	Our Team	29	Statement of Financial Activities
5-6	Chair Message	30-31	Consolidated Balance Sheet
7-8	Our Services	32-33	Charity Balance Sheet
9-10	Building Independence	34	Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows
11	Building Awareness	35-60	Notes to the Financial Statement
12	Building Resilience		
13	Thank you		
14	Building Resilience		
15-16	Building Partnerships		
17	Strategic Aims		
18	150th Birthday		
19-23	Strategic and Structural Governance		
24	Trustee Statement of Responsibilities		

About Beacon

Who we are

Beacon's mission is to create a more inclusive society for visually impaired people by empowering individuals with sight loss and breaking down barriers through innovation and collaboration. From helping people build independent living skills and providing employment support, to offering digital training and social activities, we are here to help people live life to the fullest. We're also helping to shape a world that's more inclusive and accessible for everyone through our strategic work with key organisations to improve the health and social care sector, as well as access to employment and skills opportunities.

Company information

Company number: 00710129

Charity number: 216092

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E: enquiries@beaconvision.org

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Company secretary: Debbie Fox

Auditors: Crowe UK LLP

Bankers: Natwest

Investment Managers:

JM Finn & Co Ltd

You can keep up to date with our latest news, events, and stories by following Beacon on social media.

Facebook: @BeaconCentre

Instagram: @BeaconVision

LinkedIn: @Beacon Centre for the Blind

This report is available in a range of alternative formats to ensure accessibility for all.

Beacon in numbers

177,000 pre-loved items sold
108,500 customers in our shops
45,000 listens to our Talking News
3,328 hours of befriending calls
1,540 attendances at our health and wellbeing activities
1,169 training courses completed
541 referrals
198 volunteers
89 staff
One national award

OUR VALUES:

WE ARE

APPROACHABLE

Our staff are available through drop-ins, community events, and digital platforms to ensure no one feels alone.

WE ARE

COMPASSIONATE

We provide tailored support recognising each individual's challenges and goals.

WE ARE

INNOVATIVE

We develop new services to better meet the changing needs of our community.

WE ARE

PROFESSIONAL

We uphold high standards in all interactions, ensuring reliability, integrity, and respect in every service we provide.



Our Vision

A society where individuals value and protect their sight and where visual impairment does not limit or determine opportunity.

Our Mission

Our mission is to support visually impaired people and promote eye health.

We inspire, support, and provide appropriate care that nurtures people's independence, ambitions, and achievement. We educate all about the importance of looking after their eyes and highlight the impact of sight loss.



Our Senior Leadership Team during the 2024/2025 financial year consisted of:

Chief Executive Lisa Cowley

Lisa oversees Beacon's services, championing new approaches and building partnerships to strengthen the charity. With a focus on delivering high-quality support, she drives strategic initiatives that improve outcomes for the communities we serve. Lisa is passionate about fostering collaboration, inspiring staff, and ensuring that Beacon remains responsive, inclusive, and forward-thinking in all its work.



Head of Health and Wellbeing: Becky Green

With a career devoted to the charity sector, Becky has focused on providing care, support, and wellbeing to our beneficiaries.

Head of Systems and Infrastructure: Victoria Wilcox

Victoria's leadership ensures the charity operates efficiently and that its resources are used to their fullest to support people living with sight loss.

Head of Impact and External Income: Helen Brown

Overseeing fundraising, marketing, grants, legacies, trusts, and contracts, Helen ensures Beacon measures and monitors its impact.

Head of People and Governance: Debbie Fox

Beacon depends on Debbie to manage HR for its staff and also to oversee volunteer management, fostering a supportive and positive workplace for all.

Head of Finance: Alexandria Smith-Edwards

Alexandria is responsible for the charity's finances, ensuring smooth processing of invoices and effective oversight of all budgets.

Health and Wellbeing Director: Jan Burns MBE. Jan left her position in March 2025 after 10 years of service to the charity. We thank her for her dedication.



Each year, we ask our staff to share their views through our wellbeing survey, helping us understand what we're doing well and where we can improve. The latest results reflect the passion, pride, and commitment that runs through our team, with overwhelmingly positive feedback. We use these insights to shape initiatives that support our people, foster a positive workplace culture, and ensure everyone feels valued and heard.

Staff Survey Results

100% would recommend Beacon as a good place to work.

100% felt that Beacon is successfully supporting people.

100% are proud to work for Beacon.

97% feel comfortable contributing ideas about how our services could improve.

Our Trustees and Volunteers

At the heart of Beacon's leadership are our trustees. Our Chair, **Kathy Roper**, uses her lived experience of sight loss to lead with clarity, passion, and determination to improve the lives of those impacted by visual impairment.

Also serving on our trustee board during this period were **Phil Turner**, **Ian Bowers** (resigned February 2025), **Jeanette Suwe**, **Sharon Phillips**, **Karen Scott**, **Beth Wynn-Williams**, **Richard Ennis**, and **Clive Small**.

During this year, 49 new volunteers joined us, bringing our total number of volunteers to 198. Whether driving and guiding, chatting and cheering, or lending their skills across 15 different roles in multiple locations, they bring energy, compassion, and commitment in abundance. Quite simply, we couldn't do what we do without them.

Chair message



This year has marked an extraordinary milestone for Beacon as we launched our 150th anniversary. Since 1875, we have stood alongside people impacted by sight loss, helping them to build skills, confidence, and independence.

Today, we honour that legacy while looking firmly to the future. A defining achievement of 2024/25 has been the development and launch of our five-year strategy, **Bigger, Bolder, Brighter**.

Created in partnership with staff, volunteers, members, and stakeholders, it sets out four clear priorities: making eye health a priority for all, ensuring accessible health pathways, promoting inclusivity, and building strong, collaborative systems for our communities. These goals are now embedded in our Annual Operating Plan, guiding everything we do and holding us accountable for our impact.

Partnership working has been at the heart of our progress. This year, we have strengthened relationships with a range of organisations, while leading system-wide initiatives that deliver real change. Our national award-winning **Sharing the Vision** project has united NHS, social care, and voluntary sector partners to improve services, from job shadowing programmes to practical hospital improvements such as colour contrasting crockery for visually impaired patients.

Our leadership in the voluntary sector has led to better outcomes for thousands of people in our region. As lead facilitator for Dudley Talking Therapies Plus and Wider Determinants of Health programmes, both of which launched during this year, we have now helped support more than 4,000 people respectively. We have also delivered employment, training, and skills opportunities for 174 people, befriending and wellbeing support for 202 people, provided vital updates for up to 45,000 people through our weekly Talking News service, dealt with 541 referrals for advice, information, or support, and provided hundreds of lifestyle activities for 111 people.

Chair Message



Each number represents a person whose life has been touched by our work, and each is a reminder of why we exist.

Innovation has been a theme of the year. We launched a new accessible website to make it easier for people to find support, provided external charity finance services, and developed a bespoke leadership programme for the health and social care sector. These initiatives not only strengthen Beacon but also build the capacity of our partner charities, securing hundreds of thousands of pounds in inward investment.

It has also enabled us to diversify our income streams to strengthen resilience in a challenging market, a reflection of our careful management and proactive approach.

We would like to thank everyone who has helped to make this year a success: our funders, supporters, volunteers, and partners, including the many people who have shopped in our stores, donated items, or contributed financially. Your generosity and commitment enable us to deliver vital services, innovate for the future, and ensure that people living with sight loss can lead fuller, more independent lives. We would like to pay special thanks to the Mayor of Wolverhampton during this year, Councillor Linda Leach, who chose Beacon as one of her charities of the year and has proved a tireless fundraiser for our cause.

As we celebrate 150 years, we do so with gratitude for all who make our work possible, our staff, volunteers, and of course our amazing beneficiaries, and with a renewed determination to be bigger in our ambition, bolder in our actions, and brighter in our impact.

The next chapter of Beacon's story is already being written and together, we will ensure it changes lives for the better.

Kathy Roper

Beacon Chair of Trustees



This year, Beacon has delivered a wide range of services that empower people with sight loss to live well, stay connected, and feel confident. From centre-based activities to community outreach, care, transport, and befriending, every service is shaped by those who use it and supported by our dedicated staff and volunteers.

Lifestyle Activities

Our Lifestyle Day Centre and community activities offer safe, welcoming spaces for friendship, fun, and skill-building. We ran 170 day centre sessions and 299 community sessions, with over 1,500 attendances. Our gym hosted 190 sessions, supporting members to stay active and independent. Feedback tells us these services boost confidence and self-esteem. One member told us her days at our Lifestyle Centre have “benefited from making new friends.”

Engagement and Referrals

The 541 new referrals received this year included self-referrals and those from NHS and local authority partners. Our engagement team made 272 onward referrals within our charity and externally to ensure people access the right support at the right time. A key focus of the Engagement Team’s work is helping people access low vision aids and adaptations.

Learning Team

Our Learning Team provides the only specialist support of its kind in the region to help people gain new skills and access volunteering, employment and training opportunities. The team helps those looking for education, training, or volunteer opportunities or to get into or stay in work.

One beneficiary told us: “The support given made a huge difference to what I was able to do and I returned to work, using the adjustments shown to me. Being able to return to work had such a positive impact on my mental health, and I am so grateful for the help of Beacon.”



Our Services

Talking News

Each week, 120 audio CDs go to some of the most isolated people in our community, keeping them informed and connected, and over the year, it received around 45,000 digital listens.

Care and Transport

We delivered over 18,199 hours of care and drove 19,610 miles to help members get to appointments, activities, and social events.

Befriending support

With 3,328 hours of calls and 1,352 hours of home visits, our volunteers reduce loneliness and bring companionship to members aged 37 to 100.

Strategic work

Alongside our direct services, Beacon plays a leading role in shaping the wider health and care system. As lead provider on the Wider Determinants of Health project, we have enabled voluntary sector partners to support more than 3,800 people to date.

We also deliver the Dudley Talking Therapies counselling service, which has handled almost 300 referrals over the course of the project, ensuring timely emotional support.

Our impact

In our most recent survey of beneficiaries of our Lifestyle Service, **100%** of respondents told us they enjoy being part of Beacon, felt empowered to be more independent and confident, that they had a person-centred support plan, and that they are provided with a service that meets their needs and goals.

“We go out for meals, which is fun. I really enjoy the socialising in the lounge and I'm starting to get into my cooking.”



Building independence is at the heart of everything we do. Our services are designed to help people with sight loss gain the skills, confidence, and opportunities they need to live life on their own terms.

Through our learning programmes, we support people to develop employment skills, build digital confidence and take steps into work or training. During this year, the team helped 124 people improve their digital skills and 54 people into employment, education, or training.

Our Engagement Team carries out detailed assessments so individuals better understand their own needs and how to meet them, whether that means accessing low vision equipment, or taking part in health and wellbeing activities that support independence. They delivered sight loss awareness training to a range of organisations, from a local Chamber of Commerce to voluntary sector groups. They raise awareness of how others can enable independence through school workshops, and assemblies and at community occasions including Vaisakhi celebrations, sight loss drop-in sessions, roadshows, craft fairs, and business networking sessions. The team attended more than 20 such events during the year.

Case Study

When S came to Beacon, they wanted part-time work to improve their finances but faced several barriers — worries about benefits, limited digital skills, and concerns about commuting with sight loss.

We offered tailored support, creating a CV, providing IT training so S could apply for jobs online, and helping them secure Access to Work funding for taxis.

With these supports in place, S secured a part-time hospitality role.

With Beacon's guidance and support, S not only secured employment but also gained the confidence to navigate the workforce despite their visual impairment. They now have an additional source of income, providing them with greater financial security and independence.



Building Independence

Transport is another key enabler, helping people overcome one of the biggest barriers to participation by getting them safely into their community. During the year, our transport team received 1,245 passenger bookings and completed 19,610 miles connecting people with sight loss to their local community across the Black Country and South Staffordshire.

Our Social Care services provide tailored support that allows people to remain in their own homes for longer.

**The staff are cheerful, friendly,
and helpful. There is a great
atmosphere, people to talk to
and activities to enjoy.**

Independence also shines through our health and wellbeing sessions, from swimming to practical life skills such as our sight-friendly cookery classes. With the launch of our hub and spoke model, we are reaching deeper into communities, creating new groups across the Dudley borough so people can access support closer to home. Those who are housebound are able to stay connected through our Talking News Service, which is sent out to 120 of the most vulnerable homes on CD each week and receives around 50,000 digital listens a year.

Every service, whether it's advice and guidance, digital training, or simply enabling someone to travel independently, is part of the same goal: giving people the tools, confidence, and support they need to live as independently as possible.



This year, we made significant strides in achieving our aim of building awareness about the needs and potential of people with sight loss. A major milestone was the launch of our new website, designed with accessibility at the forefront, ensuring that everyone, regardless of visual ability, can easily access our services and information.

We also proudly hosted our first event as part of the West Midlands Business Festival, focused on making businesses more accessible for disabled people. Our work reached a wider audience through extensive media coverage, spanning national platforms such as the BBC App as well as local newspapers and radio, helping to shine a spotlight on our activities and advocacy work. We welcomed our first Communications team member with sight loss through the Thomas Pocklington Trust paid internship scheme. During the year, he shadowed external organisations, including the City of Wolverhampton Council, and received valuable support from local PR company Osborn Communications, gaining hands-on experience and insight into advocacy and sector communications.

We also extended our reach through the wider sight loss sector by delivering two workshops at Visionary Conference, sharing best practice and inspiring others to champion accessibility in their organisations.

We had a record-breaking year for our annual Bright For Sight campaign, which highlights the importance of bright colours and good contrast to help you make the most of your sight. It raised over £1,300 and reached 3,000+ people through schools and community groups.

Our charity shops have been transformed into hubs for eye health information, with more than 25 staff and volunteers trained in sight loss awareness and accessibility, and the launch of our first-ever eye health awareness campaign through our retail division, which included eye health messages being printed on our clothing tags.

We've also expanded our reach online through an eye health social media campaign on topics like screen strain, nutrition, and lighting, which engaged more than 15,000 people and directly led to support enquiries.



At Beacon, we continue to strengthen our financial stability, grow our capabilities, and adapt to changing needs, ensuring we can deliver vital services now and in the future.

Colour Run 2024

Over 230 runners took part, raising over £3,000 net, while engaging new supporters in a community awareness event.

Forget Me Not Service

Our most successful yet, raising over £2,600 through a heartfelt remembrance campaign.

Santa Run 2024

Despite storm disruption leading us to postpone our original event in early December, our rearranged January run was a triumph: £4,972 net raised, over 160 runners (plus dogs!), and a fantastic community atmosphere to kick off the new year in festive style.

Grants & Community Support

Ongoing investment from the National Lottery Community Fund is supporting our engagement team to reach new groups in need of support. We have successfully completed year two of our project, and in the coming year, we will expand our programme to support more children and young people. Shared Prosperity Fund grants from local councils enabled us to continue supporting people into work, training, and skills development across three local authority areas.

We were delighted to receive funding from Fight for Sight this year to provide a project to tackle loneliness and isolation through physical health interventions in partnership with the Wolves Foundation. Funding from the Thomas Pocklington Trust enabled us to continue supporting blind and partially sighted people in the workplace through their paid internship programme.

National Lottery Community Fund

Black Country ICB

Thomas Pocklington Trust

City of Wolverhampton Council

Dudley Council

Black Country Healthcare NHS Trust

Anthony and
Gwendoline
Wylde
Memorial
Charity

Tipton and Coseley
Building Society

HubBubs

thank
★ you ★

to our 2024/2025
grant funders

One Stop Shop

Fight for Sight

National Grid

Wolverhampton Community Voluntary Action

Baron Davenport Trust

Good Things Foundation

Sandwell Council

British Science Association

Thomas Dudley



Our retail operations remain a cornerstone of Beacon's sustainability, generating vital income, reducing waste, and strengthening our presence in local communities.

£692,514

generated through donated goods.

177,000+

items found new homes, saving 176,941 items from landfill.

8.5 tons

of scrap metal recycled by our stores, raising funds while supporting sustainability.

108,500

customers welcomed across our shops across the region.

This year saw exciting developments across our retail portfolio. We opened two new shops, each with a unique concept:

Wednesfield Clearance Shop: A treasure trove of bargains, offering up to 50% off donated stock.

Pattingham Boutique: A curated haven for high-quality, handpicked donations, designed to offer something special for discerning shoppers. This concept store is already setting itself apart and demonstrating how Beacon can adapt to changing shopping trends while showcasing the best of donated goods.

Beyond retail, our facilities generated £4,837 through 62 conference bookings, with repeat customers including Cygnet Health Care, Dudley Voices for Choices, Octopus Energy, The What Centre, and BCAP. We also installed one of the region's largest solar panel installations. The amount of energy we have produced from their installation has reduced deforestation by more than 7,000 trees.

Building Partnerships

Partnership working is central to everything we do at Beacon. It enables us to extend our reach, strengthen referral pathways, and ensure people with sight loss are better supported across all areas of life. Over the past year, we have continued to build strong collaborations with health, social care, voluntary sector, and community partners.

A highlight of this work has been our **Sharing the Vision** project, which achieved national recognition and now operates across all areas of the Black Country. Our Wider Determinants of Health Project, which is a pioneering initiative funded by Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, brings together a diverse network of local organisations to improve the health and wellbeing of the Dudley community. During this year, the project ran almost 500 groups and delivered more than 6,500 interventions. We also delivered a self-care event at Beacon, where our voluntary sector partners were able to showcase their services to the community.



Sharing the Vision – 2024 Visionary Award Winner

Our Sharing the Vision Project brings together professionals from across the sight loss sector to ensure the best outcomes for everyone with a visual impairment. As part of this programme, we established shadowing opportunities between our staff and Dudley ROVI services, creating space for shared learning and closer collaboration. Building on this success, plans are underway to develop a blueprint for the project to be rolled out on a national basis.



Our commitment to partnership extends across many areas of community life. Working with Chadd, we have continued to make domestic abuse support more accessible for people with sight loss, ensuring inclusive pathways to safety and care.

In partnership with our local Integrated Care Board (ICB), we have delivered specialist training to 25 GP surgeries, equipping primary care teams with the skills and understanding needed to support patients living with sight loss. We regularly host Occupational Therapy (OT) students on placement, giving them practical experience while strengthening our links with local services. The students work with our Lifestyle and Care teams, supporting activities and carrying out assessments to suggest ways of improving mobility and independence, giving them direct experience of engaging with people in need of support. Thanks to our partnerships, we also offer broader opportunities to our students, including the chance to spend time with local Rehabilitation Officers (ROVIs).

This collaborative approach enriched the students' learning while bringing added benefits to the people who use our services, showing how Beacon's partnerships create value for all involved.

Our Healthy Communities Together programme has brought together VCSE, Local Authorities, and NHS to explore new ways to collaborate and increase health equity.

Through the programme, we have facilitated over £100,000 worth of pilot health equity programmes across the borough, supporting a range of organisations to expand their reach and impact. We have increased health equity and community engagement for specific conditions, including cancer treatment and screening, eye health, and stroke. We have also acted as a strategic partner in relation to digital accessibility, increasing access to the NHS App. The project has also enabled us to deliver leadership programmes for the health and social care leaders of tomorrow. Through this work, we have improved services, influenced the health and social care system, and secured funding to ensure support is accessible and joined-up.



This year, as Beacon celebrated 150 years of supporting people with sight loss, we took the opportunity to look ahead and set our course for the next chapter. The result is our new five-year strategy, **Bigger, Bolder, Brighter**, a plan that builds on our proud history while driving fresh ambition for the future.

Our strategy is more than a list of goals. It's a framework for action that keeps us focused on our mission. It sets out what we want to achieve, how we'll get there, and how we'll measure our success.

We have listened closely to people with lived experience, including many of our own staff, beneficiaries, and volunteers, to ensure the voices of those we serve are at the heart of every decision for our charity.

This collaborative approach has shaped our priorities for 2025–2030:

Eye Health as a Priority for All

Accessible Health Pathways

Inclusivity for All

A System for Our Communities

These priorities align with our four aims from our outgoing strategy, **Building Independence, Building Resilience, Building Partnerships, and Raising Awareness**, which have guided our work in recent years.

We will monitor our progress against them through our Annual Operating Plan, which is regularly reviewed by our Senior Leadership Team and Board of Trustees. This ensures we remain accountable and can adapt our approach as needs and opportunities evolve, and ensures we stay focused on delivering real impact for the 40,000 plus people living with sight loss across the Black Country and South Staffordshire.



In 2025, Beacon has celebrated a remarkable milestone, 150 years of supporting people with sight loss. From our beginnings in 1875, when braille classes were first offered to local people, to our role today as an innovator in health and social care, we have always placed the needs of blind and partially sighted people at the heart of all we do.

Braille remains one of our most popular services, and over the past year, we have delivered 16 sessions, continuing the tradition of empowering people through access to information and learning.

We are also proud to have been pioneers in retail. In 1899, Beacon opened one of the UK's first charity shops, helping to generate income while engaging the local community in new ways. That same spirit of innovation runs through everything we do today, from creating accessible pathways into employment to leading collaborative projects that improve the health and wellbeing of thousands across the Black Country.

The need for our work has never been greater. Currently, around 37,000 people in the Black Country are living with sight loss, a number expected to rise to 42,000 by 2032. In South Staffordshire, there are 4,790 people living with sight loss, a number set to rise to 5,740 by 2032. This growing demand underscores the importance of Beacon's services and partnerships as we look to the future. We are proud to receive recognition from across the country for our anniversary. Labour Party politician and the first blind cabinet minister, Lord David Blunkett, shared his congratulations:

"Congratulations to the Beacon Centre for the Blind on 150 years of support and outreach to thousands of blind and partially sighted men and women. I was very pleased, some years ago, to be able to visit and learn more about the work at the centre. The late, and much lamented, Dennis Turner – who was one of Wolverhampton's Members of Parliament – was a great advocate for Beacon and for those with sight loss. His legacy, and the legacy of Beacon, continues to shine brightly."

As we mark this milestone, we also look forward with determination, building on our proud history to meet the growing challenges ahead.

Strategic Governance

Governing documentation

Beacon Centre for the Blind is a charitable company limited by guarantee. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £5.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The charity is administered by the Board of Trustees, which may comprise of up to 15 members. The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law. The first term for a trustee is one year; they can then serve two consecutive three-year terms. The charity's work focuses upon blind and partially sighted people first and foremost, but also work with people with other disabilities where appropriate. The Board of Trustees seeks to ensure that the needs of the visually impaired are appropriately reflected through the diversity of the trustee body. Beacon's articles recommend that as far as possible a minimum of 20% of the trustees should be visually impaired. The more traditional business skills are well represented on the board and, in the event of particular skills being lost through retirement, individuals who fit into the trustees' skills matrix are approached to offer themselves for election to the board.

Trustee induction and training

New trustees undergo an induction process to brief them on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Articles of Association, the committee and decision-making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance of the charity. During this process they meet key employees and other trustees. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Strategic Governance

Structure and management

The board meets at least four times a year and there are sub-committees chaired by various trustees and including the relevant directors. They cover finance and general purposes and charity operations, which meet regularly and submit reports to the main trustee body. The remuneration committee meets annually and additionally as required, and reports to the board through the finance and general purposes committee. The sub-committee structure has forged stronger links between trustees and managers and enables a greater understanding of the day-to-day work of the charity by the trustees. A Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") is appointed by the trustees to manage the operations of the charity. To facilitate effective operations, the CEO is responsible for ensuring that the charity delivers the services specified and that financial targets are met. The remuneration committee, on which only trustees have voting powers, recommends the remuneration of the CEO, key management personnel and the whole staff of the charity which is agreed by the Trustee Board.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

Company law 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 surplus or deficit of the charity for that year.

In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed and give details of any departures.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

In line with its Articles of Association, the Beacon Centre provides trustees with 'Trustees and Individual Liability' insurance cover up to £1million. The trustees are responsible for ensuring that Beacon Centre has appropriate systems of controls, financial and otherwise. They are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

Strategic Governance

Responsibilities of the Trustees continued

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, and to provide reasonable assurance that:

- The charity is operating efficiently and effectively.
- Its assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition.
- Proper records are maintained and financial information used within the charity or for its publication is reliable.
- The charity complies with relevant laws and regulations.

Financial Information

In the year to 31 March 2025, the charity operated a deficit of £492,000 before investment gains/losses (2024: £291k deficit). After investment losses, the net deficit is £565,000 (2024: £181k deficit). Investment income in the year is in line with the prior year. Income was £80,000 higher than the previous year, there was movement in income strands with strong performance in grants and trusts and new sources of contractual income.

The charity has one wholly owned subsidiaries Beacon Enterprise Ltd, which carries out all other non-charitable trading in order to generate income to support the parent charity.

Risk Management

The Trustees have a formal risk management process to assess risks to the charity and its subsidiaries and implement risk management strategies. This involves identifying the type of risks the charity faces, prioritising them in terms of potential impact and likelihood of occurrence and identifying means of mitigating the risks.

As part of this process the trustees have reviewed the adequacy of the charity's internal control systems and consider that they conform to guidelines issued by the Charity Commission.

A risk register is maintained on an ongoing basis and is reviewed at least annually. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the charity faces. Particular attention has been focused on both financial and non-financial risks arising from fire, health, safety, care, and wellbeing of vulnerable of residents and service users.

Strategic Governance

Risk Management continued

A key element in the management of financial risk is the setting of the reserves policy and its regular review by trustees.

The principal risks identified were workforce capacity and availability, consequent inability to deliver services and the operating model not being appropriate, also failure to meet budgeted performance.

To mitigate against the workforce capacity risks the management have developed and monitored training matrices to ensure availability of skills and introduced a reward scheme for employees successfully introducing applicants for available positions. The charity has engaged with new groups of visually impaired people to ensure our services are relevant and effective. The board plans has reviewed the charity's compliance with the Charity Commission's Governance Code throughout the year.

Investment policy

Funds that are surplus to immediate needs have been invested in accordance with the powers available to the trustees.

The current Investment Policy is to invest, via professional managers, in funds which are specifically tailored to the needs of a charity, to produce a sustainable income flow to support Beacon Centre's charitable activities whilst limiting the risk to capital values.

The charity does not invest directly in alcohol or tobacco related products due to the potential impact of these products on sight loss. During the year, the portfolio returned an income, net of fees, of 2.5%. Total return, including gain/loss of revaluation and net of fees, was a £4,000 deficit which was 0.1% of average portfolio value. The investment manager works towards a target income return of 3% agreed with the Board of Trustees. During the year, the portfolio depreciated by 2.5% during the year. Total return, including gain/loss of revaluation and net of fees, was £29,000.

The charity held a programme related investment of £5,000 (net of impairment) in Conigital Ltd, which was developing accessible systems for autonomous vehicles, this was dissolved during the year.

Structural Governance

Reserves policy

The Beacon Centre for the Blind's reserves policy is reviewed by the Board of Trustees at least once a year. Each reserve is addressed individually, taking into account the current risks and strategic objectives of the organisation.

The trustees approach each review of reserves acutely aware of the fluctuations in income which can happen annually, especially around donations and legacies and local authority contracts.

The Beacon Centre's current reserves have been put into place with due consideration given around these areas by the board.

The Beacon Centre's general unrestricted general fund enables medium term investments (which generate income for the organisation) and also enables the organisation to maintain a workable level of cash to effectively run the services delivered by Beacon.

In formulating the organisation's reserves policy the Board of Trustees have determined that it is appropriate for the Beacon Centre to hold free reserves that are equivalent to between six and 12 months of budgeted expenditure.

The Beacon Centre's free reserves which totalled £2,133,000 at 31 March 2025, represents eight months of the organisation's expenditure (£3,121,000 budgeted expenditure).

In view of the need to maintain services for our beneficiaries who are deemed vulnerable as a result of factors such as their sight loss, other health conditions or age, the Beacon Centre's Board of Trustees have determined that it is reasonable to carry this level of reserves as an organisation.

The Beacon Centre for the Blind's free reserves are calculated after deducting the organisation's restricted funds and designated capital funds, which are set out in note 13 to the accounts.

BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the Charity for the purposes of company law) 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).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group and the Charity and of their incoming resources and application of resources, including their income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Group will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Group and the Charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Group and the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Group and the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditor is unaware, and
- that Trustees have taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:



K Roper

(Chair of Trustees)

Date: 22 December 2025

BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Beacon Centre for the Blind (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Consolidated statement of financial activities, the Consolidated balance sheet, the Charity balance sheet, the Consolidated statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Group's and of the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of the Group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Group's or the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND (CONTINUED)

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report including the Strategic Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' Report and the Strategic Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report including the Strategic Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the parent charitable company has not kept adequate and sufficient accounting records, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND (CONTINUED)

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Group's and the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Group or the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks within which the company operates, focusing on those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The laws and regulations we considered in this context were the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 together with the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which might be fundamental to the charitable company's and the group's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. We also considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the charitable company and the group for fraud. The laws and regulations we considered in this context for the charitable company's and the group's operations were General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Health and safety legislation, employment law, and Anti-fraud, bribery and corruption legislation.

Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the Trustees and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

We identified the greatest risk of material impact on the financial statements from irregularities, including fraud, to be the override of controls by management and the timing of recognition of certain income streams. Our audit procedures to respond to these risks included enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, sample testing on the posting of journals and reviewing accounting estimates for biases, designing audit procedures to test the timing of income recognition and reviewing regulatory correspondence with the Charity Commission, and reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.

BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND (CONTINUED)

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Helen Blundell LLB FCA FCIE DChA (Senior statutory auditor)

for and on behalf of

Crowe U.K. LLP

Statutory Auditor

Black Country House

Rounds Green Road

Oldbury

West Midlands

B69 2DG

Date: 23 December 2025

BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND
EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2024 £000
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	318	-	318	470
Charitable activities	4	1,444	117	1,561	1,258
Other trading activities	5	683	-	683	765
Investments	6	100	2	102	91
Total income		2,545	119	2,664	2,584
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds:	7,8				
Fundraising activities		1,218	-	1,218	1,197
Investment management		33	-	33	22
Other raising funds		1	-	1	-
Charitable activities	9	1,837	67	1,904	1,656
Total expenditure		3,089	67	3,156	2,875
Net (expenditure)/income before net (losses)/gains on investments		(544)	52	(492)	(291)
Net (losses)/gains on investments		(71)	(2)	(73)	110
Net (expenditure)/income		(615)	50	(565)	(181)
Transfers between funds	22	10	(10)	-	-
Net movement in funds		(605)	40	(565)	(181)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		5,388	939	6,327	6,508
Net movement in funds		(605)	40	(565)	(181)
Total funds carried forward		4,783	979	5,762	6,327

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 35 to 60 form part of these financial statements.

BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND
REGISTERED NUMBER: 710129

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	2025 £000	2024 £000
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	3,254	3,379
Investments	14	2,563	2,860
Social investments	15	-	5
		<u>5,817</u>	<u>6,244</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	16	15	17
Debtors	17	414	442
Cash at bank and in hand		519	538
		<u>948</u>	<u>997</u>
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	(577)	(484)
		<u>371</u>	<u>513</u>
Net current assets			
		<u>6,188</u>	<u>6,757</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	19	(426)	(430)
Total net assets		<u><u>5,762</u></u>	<u><u>6,327</u></u>

BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND
REGISTERED NUMBER: 710129

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	2025 £000	2024 £000
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	22	979	939
Unrestricted funds			
Designated funds	22	3,047	3,447
General funds	22	1,736	1,941
Total unrestricted funds	22	4,783	5,388
Total funds		5,762	6,327

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



P Turner

Trustee

Date: 22/12/2025

The notes on pages 35 to 60 form part of these financial statements.

BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND
REGISTERED NUMBER: 710129

CHARITY BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	2025 £000	2024 £000
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	3,254	3,379
Investments	14	2,563	2,860
Social investments	15	-	5
		<u>5,817</u>	<u>6,244</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	16	15	15
Debtors	17	430	460
Cash at bank and in hand		503	520
		<u>948</u>	<u>995</u>
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	(577)	(483)
Net current assets		<u>371</u>	<u>512</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>6,188</u>	<u>6,756</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	19	(426)	(430)
Total net assets		<u><u>5,762</u></u>	<u><u>6,326</u></u>

BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND
REGISTERED NUMBER: 710129

CHARITY BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	2025 £000	2024 £000
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	22	979	939
Unrestricted funds			
Designated funds	22	3,047	3,447
General funds	22	1,736	1,940
Total unrestricted funds	22	4,783	5,387
Total funds		5,762	6,326

The Charity's net movement in funds for the year was a loss of £565,000 (2024 - £183,000).

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



P Turner

Trustees

Date: 22/12/2025

The notes on pages 35 to 60 form part of these financial statements.

BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	Note	2025 £000	2024 £000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash used in operating activities	25	(344)	(14)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends, interests and rents from investments		102	91
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		-	(116)
Proceeds from sale of investments		223	278
Purchase of investments		-	(3)
Net cash provided by investing activities		325	250
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(19)	236
Bank and cash balances		538	302
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	26	519	538

The notes on pages 35 to 60 form part of these financial statements

BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND

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

1. General information

Beacon Centre for the Blind is a company limited by guarantee, (registered number 710129), which is incorporated and registered in England and Wales. Its charity registration number is 216092. The registered office is Wolverhampton Road East, Wolverhampton, WV4 6AZ.

The members of the Company are the Board of Trustees named on page 1. In the event of the Company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £5 per member of the Company.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements 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), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Beacon Centre for the Blind 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.

The Consolidated statement of financial activities (SOFA) and Consolidated balance sheet consolidate the financial statements of the Charity and its subsidiary undertakings. The results of the subsidiaries are consolidated on a line by line basis.

The Charity has taken advantage of the exemption allowed under section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and has not presented its own Statement of financial activities in these financial statements.

2.2 Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis. Trustees have reviewed and considered going concern projections to March 2027, which included prudent estimates of income and expenditure, which indicated that reserves would still remain sufficient at the end of that period. They are, therefore, of the view that Beacon Centre for the Blind will continue to operate on this basis for the foreseeable future.

Judgements and estimates have been used in the preparation of these financial statements, but the trustees do not consider that they would be likely to lead to a material misstatement.

BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND

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

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.3 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Group and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Group for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

2.4 Income

All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the Charity has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the Charity, can be reliably measured.

Donated services or facilities are recognised when the company has control, any conditions associated with the donations have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the company of the item is probable and the economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102), general volunteer time is not recognised but refer to the Board of Trustees' report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated professional services and facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the Charity which is the amount it 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.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND

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

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, 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 classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Group to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Group's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

Fund raising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities. Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the company and include project management carried out at Headquarters. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the company and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

2.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £500 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Freehold property	-	2%
Plant and machinery	-	15%
Motor vehicles	-	20%
Computer equipment	-	25%

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing the proceeds with the carrying amount and are recognised in the Consolidated statement of financial activities.

BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND

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

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.7 Investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance sheet date, unless the value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as 'Gains/(Losses) on investments' in the Consolidated statement of financial activities.

Investments in subsidiaries are valued at cost less provision for impairment.

Programme related investments are shown at cost less provision for impairment.

2.8 Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Consolidated statement of financial activities on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

2.9 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

2.10 Financial instruments

The Group 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 with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

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 discounts 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.

BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND

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

2. Accounting policies (continued)

Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Consolidated statement of financial activities as a finance cost.

2.11 Pensions

The Group operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Group to the fund in respect of the year.

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000
Donations	106	106
Legacies	212	212
Total 2025	318	318

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2024 £000
Donations	76	76
Legacies	394	394
Total 2024	470	470

BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND

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

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000
Helping the visually impaired	957	-	957
Grants	487	117	604
Total 2025	<u>1,444</u>	<u>117</u>	<u>1,561</u>
	<i>Unrestricted funds 2024 £000</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2024 £000</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £000</i>
Helping the visually impaired	633	-	633
Grants	447	178	625
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>1,080</u>	<u>178</u>	<u>1,258</u>

5. Income from trading activities

Income from non charitable trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000
Helping the Visually Impaired	17	17
Hospitality	33	33
Other trading income	633	633
Total 2025	<u>683</u>	<u>683</u>

BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND

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

5. Income from trading activities (continued)

Income from non charitable trading activities (continued)

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2024 £000</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £000</i>
Helping the Visually Impaired	31	31
Hospitality	43	43
Other trading income	691	691
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>765</u>	<u>765</u>

6. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000
Managed investments	<u>100</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>102</u>

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2024 £000</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2024 £000</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £000</i>
Managed investments	<u>89</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>91</u>

BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND

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

7. Expenditure on raising funds

Fundraising activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000
Fundraising activities	524	524
Fundraising wages and salaries	646	646
Fundraising depreciation	48	48
Total 2025	1,218	1,218

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2024 £000
Fundraising activities	450	450
Fundraising wages and salaries	697	697
Fundraising depreciation	50	50
<i>Total 2024</i>	<i>1,197</i>	<i>1,197</i>

Expenditure on fundraising includes retail activities.

8. Investment management fees

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000
Investment management fees	33	33

BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND

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

8. Investment management fees (continued)

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2024 £000</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £000</i>
Investment management fees	22	22

9. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted funds 2025 £000	Total 2025 £000
Helping the visually impaired	1,820	67	1,887
Governance costs	17	-	17
Total 2025	1,837	67	1,904

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2024 £000</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2024 £000</i>	<i>Total 2024 £000</i>
Helping the visually impaired	1,553	87	1,640
Governance costs	16	-	16
<i>Total 2024</i>	<i>1,569</i>	<i>87</i>	<i>1,656</i>

BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND

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

9. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities (continued)

Summary by expenditure type

	Staff costs 2025 £000	Depreciation 2025 £000	Other costs 2025 £000	Total 2025 £000
Helping the visually impaired	1,245	77	565	1,887
Governance costs	-	-	17	17
Total 2025	1,245	77	582	1,904
	Staff costs 2024 £000	Depreciation 2024 £000	Other costs 2024 £000	Total 2024 £000
Helping the visually impaired	1,208	72	360	1,640
Governance costs	-	-	16	16
Total 2024	1,208	72	376	1,656

10. Auditor's remuneration

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Fees payable to the Charity's auditor for the audit of the Charity's annual accounts	16	15
Fees payable to the Charity's auditor in respect of:		
Statutory accounts preparation	3	3

BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND

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

11. Staff costs

	Group 2025 £000	<i>Group 2024 £000</i>	Charity 2025 £000	<i>Charity 2024 £000</i>
Wages and salaries	1,663	1,676	1,663	1,643
Social security costs	128	122	128	122
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	100	107	100	107
	<u>1,891</u>	<u>1,905</u>	<u>1,891</u>	<u>1,872</u>

During the year a redundancy settlement of £4,400 (2024 - £3,700) was paid. At the year end there was £Nil (2024 - £Nil) outstanding.

The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the year was as follows:

	Group 2025 No.	<i>Group 2024 No.</i>
Beacon Care+	25	29
Charitable services	21	20
Fundraising & charity shops	25	26
Hospitality & facilities	8	10
Management & administration	10	10
	<u>89</u>	<u>95</u>

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	Group 2025 No.	<i>Group 2024 No.</i>
Beacon Care+	14	17
Charitable services	17	16
Fundraising & charity shops	18	18
Hospitality & facilities	3	5
Management & administration	8	7
	<u>60</u>	<u>63</u>

BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND

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

11. Staff costs (continued)

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	Group 2025 No.	<i>Group 2024 No.</i>
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	1	<i>1</i>

The key management personnel of the Charity comprise the Chief Executive Officer and the Executive Leadership Team. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Charity during the period were £349,000 (2024 - £218,000).

The increase in Key Management Personnel is a result of an alteration in structure consolidating some management and leadership roles, increasing KMP from 4.6 to 6 FTE. The consolidation has overall reduced the total leadership and management costs to the charity.

12. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2024 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 March 2025, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2024 - £NIL).

Trustee indemnity insurance is provided to £1,000,000 under the company's combined insurance programme.

BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND

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

13. Tangible fixed assets

Group and Charity

	Freehold property £000	Plant and machinery £000	Motor vehicles £000	Computer equipment £000	Total £000
Cost or valuation					
At 1 April 2024	4,681	387	165	312	5,545
Disposals	-	-	(29)	-	(29)
At 31 March 2025	<u>4,681</u>	<u>387</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>312</u>	<u>5,516</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2024	1,332	371	165	298	2,166
Charge for the year	110	5	-	10	125
On disposals	-	-	(29)	-	(29)
At 31 March 2025	<u>1,442</u>	<u>376</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>308</u>	<u>2,262</u>
Net book value					
At 31 March 2025	<u>3,239</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3,254</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>3,349</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>3,379</u>

BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND

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

14. Fixed asset investments

Group and Charity	Listed investments £000	Minority investment £000	Total £000
Cost or valuation			
At 1 April 2024	2,859	1	2,860
Disposals	(224)	-	(224)
Revaluations	(73)	-	(73)
At 31 March 2025	<u>2,562</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2,563</u>

Minority investment relates to an investment in The Combined Partnership LLP.

Principal subsidiaries

The following was a subsidiary undertaking of the Charity:

Name	Company number	Registered office or principal place of business	Principal activity	Class of shares	Holding
Beacon Enterprise Ltd	11589900	Wolverhampton Road East Wolverhampton WV4 6AZ	Hospitality and other trading activity	Ordinary	100%

The financial results of the subsidiary for the year were:

Name	Expenditure £000	Profit/(Loss) / Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year £000	Net assets £000
Beacon Enterprise Ltd	3	(3)	(490)

During the year expenses of £Nil (2024 - £43,000) were recharged by the Charity to Beacon Enterprise Ltd. At the year end Beacon Enterprise Ltd owed £21,000 after a provision of £487,000 (2024 - £67,000 after a provision of £436,000).

Beacon4Life Community Interest Company was dissolved during the year.

BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND

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

15. Social investments

Group and Charity

	Programme related investments £000	Total £000
Cost or valuation		
At 1 April 2024	153	153
Disposals	(153)	(153)
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>
Impairment provision		
At 1 April 2024	148	148
Impairment charge	(148)	(148)
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>
Net book value		
At 31 March 2025	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u><u>5</u></u>	<u><u>5</u></u>

The programme related investments is in Conigital Ltd, which was developing systems for autonomous vehicles. This furthers the strategic aim to promote independence for people living with sight loss, and is a collaboration to ensure that new technologies take account of their needs.

The company has now been dissolved and the investment written off.

16. Stocks

	Group 2025 £000	Group 2024 £000	Charity 2025 £000	Charity 2024 £000
Finished goods and goods for resale	<u>15</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>

BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND

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

17. Debtors

	Group 2025 £000	Group 2024 £000	Charity 2025 £000	Charity 2024 £000
Due after more than one year				
Prepayments and accrued income	149	158	149	158
	<u>149</u>	<u>158</u>	<u>149</u>	<u>158</u>
Due within one year				
Trade debtors	138	125	137	122
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	-	16	21
Other debtors	11	29	11	29
Prepayments and accrued income	116	130	117	130
	<u>414</u>	<u>442</u>	<u>430</u>	<u>460</u>

18. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2025 £000	Group 2024 £000	Charity 2025 £000	Charity 2024 £000
Trade creditors	227	181	227	180
Other taxation and social security	30	30	30	30
Accruals and deferred income	320	273	320	273
	<u>577</u>	<u>484</u>	<u>577</u>	<u>483</u>

19. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	Group 2025 £000	Group 2024 £000	Charity 2025 £000	Charity 2024 £000
Accruals and deferred income	426	430	426	430

BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND

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

20. Accruals and deferred income

Deferred income due over one year is lease capital received, amortised over the life of the lease.

	Group 2025 £000	<i>Group 2024 £000</i>	Charity 2025 £000	<i>Charity 2024 £000</i>
Deferred income at 1 April 2024	430	434	430	434
Amortisation	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
Deferred income at 31 March 2025	426	430	426	430

Deferred income due under one year of £197,000 is in respect of income received but not entitled to at year end.

21. Financial instruments

	Group 2025 £000	<i>Group 2024 £000</i>	Charity 2025 £000	<i>Charity 2024 £000</i>
Financial assets				
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure	2,636	2,859	2,636	2,859

Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure comprise listed investments.

BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND

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

22. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers in/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 March 2025 £000
Unrestricted funds						
Designated funds						
Capital reserve	2,641	-	(113)	122	-	2,650
Technology	125	-	-	25	-	150
Gym refurbishment	25	-	-	-	-	25
Property renewal	56	-	(7)	23	-	72
COVID resilience	500	-	-	(500)	-	-
Vehicle renewal	100	-	-	50	-	150
	<u>3,447</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(120)</u>	<u>(280)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,047</u>
General funds						
General Funds - all funds	<u>1,941</u>	<u>2,544</u>	<u>(2,968)</u>	<u>290</u>	<u>(71)</u>	<u>1,736</u>
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>5,388</u>	<u>2,544</u>	<u>(3,088)</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>(71)</u>	<u>4,783</u>

BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND

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

22. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers in/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 March 2025 £000
Restricted funds						
Capital Project	601	-	(4)	(8)	-	589
Willets Trust	71	2	-	(3)	(2)	68
Beacon Butler	3	-	(3)	-	-	-
Youth Recreation & Development	36	-	-	-	-	36
Healthy Communities Together	142	117	(60)	-	-	199
Health & Wellbeing	29	-	-	-	-	29
Workshops for the Visually Impaired	57	-	-	1	-	58
	<u>939</u>	<u>119</u>	<u>(67)</u>	<u>(10)</u>	<u>(2)</u>	<u>979</u>
Total of funds	<u><u>6,327</u></u>	<u><u>2,663</u></u>	<u><u>(3,155)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>(73)</u></u>	<u><u>5,762</u></u>

BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND

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

22. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers in/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 March 2024 £000
Unrestricted funds						
Designated funds						
Capital reserve	2,766	-	(151)	26	-	2,641
Technology	125	-	-	-	-	125
Gym refurbishment	25	-	-	-	-	25
Property renewal	62	-	(6)	-	-	56
COVID resilience	500	-	-	-	-	500
Vehicle renewal	100	-	-	-	-	100
	<u>3,578</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(157)</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,447</u>
General funds						
Unrestricted general funds	<u>2,073</u>	<u>2,404</u>	<u>(2,631)</u>	<u>(12)</u>	<u>107</u>	<u>1,941</u>
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>5,651</u>	<u>2,404</u>	<u>(2,788)</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>107</u>	<u>5,388</u>

BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND

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

22. Statement of funds (continued)

	<i>Balance at 1 April 2023 £000</i>	<i>Income £000</i>	<i>Expenditure £000</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £000</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses) £000</i>	<i>Balance at 31 March 2024 £000</i>
Restricted funds						
Capital Project	618	-	(17)	-	-	601
Willets Trust	80	2	-	(14)	3	71
Beacon Butler	4	-	(1)	-	-	3
Youth Recreation & Development	36	-	-	-	-	36
Healthy Communities Together	56	145	(59)	-	-	142
Health & Wellbeing	4	25	-	-	-	29
Workshops for the Visually Impaired	59	8	(10)	-	-	57
	<u>857</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>(87)</u>	<u>(14)</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>939</u>
Total of funds	<u><u>6,508</u></u>	<u><u>2,584</u></u>	<u><u>(2,875)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>110</u></u>	<u><u>6,327</u></u>

BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND

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

22. Statement of funds (continued)

Designated Funds

The Capital Reserve Fund represents the net book value of the group's tangible fixed assets, principally land and buildings, currently held for use in the furtherance of the organisation's objectives and the funds are therefore unavailable for other use.

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The Technology Fund has been agreed to bring in technology in line with strategic objectives, including providing technology for the benefit of the visually impaired.

The Gym Refurbishment Fund is established to cover updated facilities in the gym, which is primarily used for rehabilitation.

The Property Renewal fund is established to cover the cost of repairing and improving the charity's buildings.

The COVID Resilience Fund was established to meet additional costs, including infection control, arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Vehicle renewal fund was established to cover any costs to upgrade, replace or adapt our minibuss fleet.

Restricted Funds

The Capital Project is a fund was established to upgrade the site infrastructure and user facilities at the Beacon Centre. Income received was from donations and grants, and the expenditure to date comprises depreciation of the new facilities.

The Willets Trust is a permanent endowment fund that was established in 1965 from a legacy. The primary objective is to use the annual income for the benefit of blind persons resident in Old Hall and Rowley Regis, or other areas if the income is not needed in these areas.

Youth Recreation and Development Equipment Fund was created by a legacy, and is to provide recreational development for visually impaired young people.

Healthy Communities Together is a collaborative project funded by National Lottery Community Fund and lead by Beacon on behalf of the Combined Partnership. The project aims to increase engagement and collaboration across health and social care and VCSE to address health inequalities in the Black Country

The Health and Wellbeing Fund covers various funders for our lifestyle activities to improve the wellbeing and fitness of visually impaired people.

The Workshops for Visually Impaired Fund is to provide work and craft activities for visually impaired people.

BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND

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

23. Summary of funds

Summary of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers in/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 March 2025 £000
Designated funds	3,447	-	(120)	(280)	-	3,047
General funds	1,941	2,544	(2,968)	290	(71)	1,736
Restricted funds	939	119	(67)	(10)	(2)	979
	<u>6,327</u>	<u>2,663</u>	<u>(3,155)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(73)</u>	<u>5,762</u>

Summary of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers in/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 March 2024 £000
Designated funds	3,578	-	(157)	26	-	3,447
General funds	2,073	2,404	(2,631)	(12)	107	1,941
Restricted funds	857	180	(87)	(14)	3	939
	<u>6,508</u>	<u>2,584</u>	<u>(2,875)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>6,327</u>

24. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000
Analysis of net assets between funds - current period			
Tangible fixed assets	2,665	589	3,254
Fixed asset investments	2,495	68	2,563
Social investments	-	-	-
Debtors due after more than one year	149	-	149
Current assets	477	322	799
Creditors due within one year	(577)	-	(577)
Creditors due in more than one year	(426)	-	(426)
Total 2025	<u>4,783</u>	<u>979</u>	<u>5,762</u>

BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND

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

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2024 £000</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2024 £000</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £000</i>
Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period			
Tangible fixed assets	2,778	601	3,379
Fixed asset investments	2,789	71	2,860
Social investments	5	-	5
Debtors due after more than one year	158	-	158
Current assets	572	267	839
Creditors due within one year	(484)	-	(484)
Creditors due within one year	(430)	-	(430)
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>5,388</u>	<u>939</u>	<u>6,327</u>

25. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	Group 2025 £000	<i>Group 2024 £000</i>
Net expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	<u>(565)</u>	<u>(181)</u>
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	125	121
Amortisation charges	-	1
Loss/(gain) on investments	73	(110)
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	(102)	(91)
Decrease in stocks	2	1
Decrease in debtors	29	101
Increase in creditors	89	144
Impairment of investments	5	-
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>(344)</u>	<u>(14)</u>

BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND

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

26. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	Group 2025 £000	<i>Group 2024 £000</i>
Cash in hand	<u>519</u>	<u>538</u>

27. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 April 2024 £000	Cash flows £000	At 31 March 2025 £000
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>538</u>	<u>(19)</u>	<u>519</u>

28. Pension commitments

The Group operates a defined contribution pension scheme operated by Standard Life. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Group in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the group to the fund and amounted to £100,000 (2024 - £107,000). Contributions totalling £12,000 (2024 - £12,000) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date.

29. Operating lease commitments

At 31 March 2025 the Group and the Charity had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Group 2025 £000	<i>Group 2024 £000</i>	Charity 2025 £000	<i>Charity 2024 £000</i>
Not later than 1 year	32	58	32	58
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	86	90	86	90
	<u>118</u>	<u>148</u>	<u>118</u>	<u>148</u>

The following lease payments have been recognised as an expense in the Statement of financial activities:

	Group 2025 £000	<i>Group 2024 £000</i>	Charity 2025 £000	<i>Charity 2024 £000</i>
Operating lease rentals	<u>58</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>55</u>

BEACON CENTRE FOR THE BLIND

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

30. Related party transactions

The Charity has not entered into any related party transaction during the year, nor are there any outstanding balances owing between related parties and the Charity at 31 March 2025 other than those noted in note 12 and note 15.