

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE VISION IMPAIRMENT
EDUCATION WORKFORCE**

(WORKING TITLE VIEW)

**ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE VISION IMPAIRMENT
EDUCATION WORKFORCE
(WORKING TITLE VIEW)
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

Trustees

R Cobb
K Walls (Vice chair)
S Keil
M McLinden
S A Borsada (Appointed 13 March 2025)
L Graham (Appointed 13 March 2025)

Charity number (England and Wales)

277864

Independent examiner

Kirk Rice LLP
The Courtyard
High Street
Ascot
Berkshire
SL5 7HP

Bankers

Barclays Bank plc
Whitchurch Branch
PO Box 522
Cardiff
CF4 5ZY

2018 Financial Statements at 31 January 2019 at 11:00:00

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE VISION IMPAIRMENT EDUCATION WORKFORCE (WORKING TITLE VIEW) CONTENTS

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Charity financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE VISION IMPAIRMENT EDUCATION WORKFORCE (WORKING TITLE VIEW) TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, 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 Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

The Charity's objectives are to advance the education and development of children and young people with vision impairment.

The vision of VIEW is to be recognised as the leading UK authority in supporting specialist educators and other professionals who work with children and young people with vision impairment.

VIEW represents the specialist education workforce which supports children and young people with vision impairment across the United Kingdom. VIEW is a membership association open to professionals and others with an interest in the field of vision impairment education.

Our members are at the heart of our organisation, informing the design and delivery of VIEW's activities so we can work together to create a more inclusive educational system in which children and young people with vision impairment

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE VISION IMPAIRMENT
EDUCATION WORKFORCE
(WORKING TITLE VIEW)
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Achievements and performance

Activities: what we have done in this period (including contributions to the National Agenda)

- **Support of the workforce through VIEW membership:** At the end of the reporting period, we had a membership base of 395 members
- **VIEW website and member resources:** VIEW continued to develop content on the website, and to actively use social media campaigns to engage with and support the sector and promote our services.
- **Autumn assistive technology update:** VIEW again reached out to the sector to source new content for the technology section of the website as part of our free assistive technology member offer.
- **Social media activity remained strong:** At the end of the reporting period, VIEW had 937 followers on X (formerly Twitter), a decrease of 18 compared to the previous year. This decline may reflect a broader reduction in platform usage. In contrast, VIEW's Facebook following grew by 29, reaching a total of 751 followers.
- **Enquiry handling:** VIEW responded to a wide range of enquiries from the public, members, organisations, and researchers, providing direct responses, signposting, assisting with information sharing related to research projects, and referring to appropriate organisations and contacts.
- **Working with other Organisations:**
 - NatSIP: VIEW continued to be a member of the NatSIP steering group. VIEW supported NatSIP through annual subscription fees during the period 2024/2025, and provided sponsorship to NatSIP for the period of 2024/2025 of £1,200.
 - VIEW provided supporting quotes and cases for the RNIB Freedom of Information Requests of England's VI services which again highlighted the concerning trend of increasing caseload, fluctuating budgets, and diminishing numbers of QTVIs.
 - VIEW gave advice and feedback to the Thomas Pocklington Trust research team for their 'Safe Stats' report, containing data on learners with VI in education (Safe Stats: Data on Blind and Partially Sighted Students in Education - Thomas Pocklington Trust).
- **Overseas links:** VIEW continues to develop links with VI education professionals in Australia and New Zealand, two countries with whom we share many areas of common interest. VIEW continues to maintain links with Dr Melissa Fanshawe in Australia who has developed nationally recognised qualifications that provide formal recognition of VI students' workload in learning specialist curriculum knowledge and skills, to better prepare the young people for employment. Meetings are conducted remotely.

Continual Professional Development activities provided for the sector:

- **VIEW Conference 2025:** The face-to-face conference took place on **13th and 14th March** and was fully booked. It covered a wide range of topics to support the professional development of the workforce. The event had 150 registrations attending over two days. Delegate feedback was positive. Feedback, both positive and advisory, is used to frame future work by the Trustees on behalf of VIEW and the conference agenda for 2026.
- **VIEW's online training courses** for education professionals were again popular with 176 people signing up for courses in the last year. VIEW continues to invest in these successful courses and has an ongoing development programme to keep them up to date. VIEW's portfolio of courses comprises:
 - an advanced one-year certificate online course for teaching assistants.
 - a shorter awareness course for education professionals and parents.
 - a course for QTVIs and teachers of VI to support their teaching of braille literacy.
 - a course in vision impairment and complex needs.
 - braille literacy short, focused training – single units drawn from material used in VIEW and RNIB's full course: "The Effective Teaching of Literacy through Braille." Available on a variety of subjects.

Draft Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025
**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE VISION IMPAIRMENT
 EDUCATION WORKFORCE
 (WORKING TITLE VIEW)
 TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

- **Recent training developments**

- In September 2024, in partnership with RNIB, and in response to demand from the sector, VIEW launched a Braille edition of the Prepare for Success online modification course to develop skills in producing modified classroom materials to prepare braillists for external exams. This is a sister course to VIEW's Modified Large Print: exam modification and production online training course which equips staff adapting class tests with the necessary knowledge and skills to prepare them to a similar standard as external exams.

- **Other CPD activities**

- **CPD webinars:** As part of online events for VIEW members:
 - In November 2024 and March 2025, working in partnership with our sponsor Dolphin and co facilitated by a representative from VIEW, we ran free webinars for VIEW members: Accessibility for the Digital Classroom: Using Google Classroom and Microsoft Education (in two parts). Most members requested the VIEW/Dolphin CPD certificate of attendance available afterwards.
 - In November, in partnership with RNIB we delivered a webinar focusing on music: Making music resources accessible for large print users – Modified Stave Notation.

- **E newsletters and electronic mailings:** VIEW's MailChimp e-newsletter and email communications ensured members were kept up to date with developments and news to support their day-to-day work. The bulletins were well received – on average opened by 44% of recipients (which is higher than the Mailchimp benchmarking data for similar industries: 40%).

- **Publication for Members:** VIEW published the fifth edition of its online publication: VIEW Teach in 2024. This digital publication is aimed at supporting the work of those in the field of education of children and young people with vision impairment. VIEW Teach supports the work of those in the field of education of children and young people with vision impairment. The 2024 edition focused on Cerebral Vision Impairment.

- **Curriculum Framework for Children and Young People with Vision Impairment (CFVI).** VIEW is a key project partner in the joint RNIB/VIEW/VICTAR/UOB/TPT project to develop a nationally recognized Curriculum Framework for Children and Young People with Vision Impairment (CFVI), and to support the framework's use in practice within the sector.

Led by VIEW in conjunction with RNIB and an independent consultant we continued work on Outcome 1 of the implementation phase of the project, which focuses on Specialist Training & Development, this included:

- the delivery of online training events for the sector of the development of a resource summarising the ideas and experiences from the field shared during these events.
- the development of a series of training resources in the form of a series of short guides to CFVI for nonspecialists as requested by the field.

VIEW also continued to work on the CFVI resource hub to identify a wide range of resources and strategies within all CFVI outcome areas to support the easy, efficient and effective sharing across the UK.

- **Policy work**

- **Consultation - responses from VIEW:** VIEW responded to DfE's Curriculum and Assessment Review (November 2024) VIEW responded to the Education Selection Committee Inquiry Solving the SEND Crisis (February 2025).
- **Working in partnership:** VIEW added its name to letters sent by SeeAbility to the Minister for Care at the Dept for Health and Social Care, supporting the Special Schools Eyecare Service.

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE VISION IMPAIRMENT
EDUCATION WORKFORCE
(WORKING TITLE VIEW)
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

- **Representation of VIEW:**

- During this year, John Milligan represented VIEW on the NatSIP Steering Group.
- Sue Keil represents VIEW at Mary Kitzinger Trust multi-disciplinary workshops for professionals and researchers working with children and young people with VI.
- Caireen Sutherland represents VIEW at Ofqual meetings.
- During this year, John Milligan represented VIEW at UK wide Guide Dogs CYP-VI meetings, on the Office for the Independent Adjudicator for HE Disability Experts Panel, and on webinars for families, VI children and young people and professionals with RNIB and LOOK.

- **Sustainability strategy:** VIEW is dependent on voluntary input with limited resources to achieve both our aims and to sustain the organisation in the long term. VIEW Trustees have been developing a five-year Strategic Plan in consultation with VIEW Associates, to support VIEW's move to a long-term, sustainable footing.

- **Voluntary support:** VIEW's trustees have successfully increased the capacity of the VIEW committee. Associates were involved in a wide range of activities to support the work of VIEW including VIEW's annual technology event, raising awareness of VIEW's work in the UK nations and support with VIEW policy responses.

- **Sponsorship:** VIEW's sponsorship programme offers organisations the opportunity to promote their services and products to professionals working in the field of vision impairment education. Sponsors benefit from year-round visibility through the VIEW website, social media promotion, optional newsletter inserts, and discounted exhibition space at the VIEW conference. This partnership supports both increased awareness for the sponsor and the ongoing work of VIEW. The following organisations participated: NCW (New College Worcester), Positive Eye, RNIB, TPT (Thomas Pocklington Trust), Dolphin, Associated Optical, HumanWare, and Terra Consultancy.

Financial review

The statement of financial activities shows a net surplus for the year of £14,956 (2024: 8,543).

The reserves at 31 March 2025 were £168,227 (2024: £153,271).

Free reserves available for use by the charity are deemed to be those that are readily realisable. The charity's reserves amounted to £168,227 (2024: £153,271) as stated on the balance sheet. The trustees maintain reserves in the event of an unexpected fall in income and/or significant additional unforeseen expenditure. The trustees believe that reserves should be maintained around the level of one year's expenditure.

As a matter of policy, each year the trustees review the value of the reserves required to be held in investments, cash and cash equivalents not restricted to any particular purpose. The board considers the charity's exposure to the risk of any significant loss of income and to the risk of unforeseen expenditure, which cannot be mitigated by executive action, and the degree of the risk ascribed to each such event is assessed.

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE VISION IMPAIRMENT
EDUCATION WORKFORCE
(WORKING TITLE VIEW)
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

The key controls used by the charity includes:

- formal agendas for all committee and board activities;
- strategic planning and budgeting;
- established organisational structure;
- formal written policies;
- clear authorisation and approval levels.

Through the risk management processes established for the trust, the trustees are satisfied that the major risks identified have been adequately mitigated where necessary. It is recognised that systems can only provide reasonable but not absolute assurance that major risks have been adequately managed.

Structure, governance and management

The Professional Association for the Vision Impairment Education Workforce is a charity registered in England and Wales (no. 277864).

The charity was registered 5 July 1979 and is governed by its constitution, last amended 16 March 2023. The charity was previously known as Visual Impairment Education and Welfare and The Association for the Education and Welfare of the Visually Handicapped.

The charity's principal address is 26 Britannia Square, Worcester, WR1 3DH.

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

R Cobb

J R Milligan (Chair)

(Resigned 1 June 2025)

K Walls (Vice chair)

S Keil

M McLinden

S A Borsada

(Appointed 13 March 2025)

L Graham

(Appointed 13 March 2025)

The charity's trustees and committee members are appointed by the Board of Trustees after due consideration given to eligibility, personal competence, specialist skills and local availability. New trustees and committee members are inducted into the workings of the charity by the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees and Executive committee is responsible for the overall governance of the charity.

R Cobb acts as secretary in support of the trustees (K Walls acted as secretary until her appointment to Vice Chair).

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE VISION IMPAIRMENT
EDUCATION WORKFORCE
(WORKING TITLE VIEW)
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Katharina A. Walls

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K Walls (Vice chair)
Trustee

Date: 26/01/2026

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE VISION IMPAIRMENT
EDUCATION WORKFORCE
(WORKING TITLE VIEW)
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

**TO THE TRUSTEES OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE VISION
IMPAIRMENT EDUCATION WORKFORCE**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Professional Association for the Vision Impairment Education Workforce (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

Independent examiner's statement

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared the financial statements in accordance with the relevant version of the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn. I understand that this has been done in order for the financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 charity as required by section 130 of the Charities Act 2011.
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of financial statements set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.

Andrew Beet FCA *Andrew Beet*
Kirk Rice LLP

The Courtyard
High Street
Ascot
Berkshire
SL5 7HP

26/01/2026
Dated:

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE VISION IMPAIRMENT
EDUCATION WORKFORCE
(WORKING TITLE VIEW)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Income and endowments from:			
Charitable activities	3	104,984	111,821
Investments	4	236	189
Other income	5	15,505	4,050
Total income		120,725	116,060
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	6	105,769	107,517
Total expenditure		105,769	107,517
Net income and movement in funds		14,956	8,543
Reconciliation of funds:			
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		153,271	144,728
Fund balances at 31 March 2025		168,227	153,271

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE VISION IMPAIRMENT
EDUCATION WORKFORCE
(WORKING TITLE VIEW)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025**

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Current assets					
Trade and other receivables	10	8,985		9,220	
Cash at bank and in hand		169,706		146,451	
		<u>178,691</u>		<u>155,671</u>	
Current liabilities	11	(10,464)		(2,400)	
Net current assets			<u>168,227</u>		<u>153,271</u>
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds	12		<u>168,227</u>		<u>153,271</u>
			<u>168,227</u>		<u>153,271</u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 26/01/2026

Rory Cobb

.....
R Cobb
Trustee

Katharina A. Walls

.....
K Walls (Vice chair)
Trustee