

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 02143917 (England and Wales)  
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 327493

Trustees' Report and  
Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024  
for  
CHILDHOOD EYE CANCER TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

Knox Cropper LLP  
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors  
65 Leadenhall Street  
London  
EC3A2AD

CHILDHOOD EYE CANCER TRUST

**Contents of the Financial  
Statements for the Year Ended  
31 March 2024**

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## **CHILDHOOD EYE CANCER TRUST**

**Reference and Administrative Details  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

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### **TRUSTEES**

Ian Ellington - Chairman  
Gemma Boggs - Treasurer  
Lisa Brown (resigned 24.06.24)  
Elizabeth Coleman  
Alex Brebbia  
Andrea Bonzano  
Matthew Holt  
Rob Downes  
Damian Yeo  
Michelle Boothroyd  
Anya Ward (appointed 01.09.23)  
Patrick Tonks (appointed 19.12.23)

### **COMPANY SECRETARY**

Rose-Marie Sexton

### **REGISTERED OFFICE**

The Royal London Hospital,  
Whitechapel Road,  
London,  
E11BB

### **REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER**

02143917 (England and Wales)

### **REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER**

327493

### **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS**

Knox Cropper LLP,  
Chartered Accountants and Statutory  
Auditors,  
65 Leadenhall Street,  
London,  
EC3A2AD

**Report of the Trustees  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

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The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

## OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

### Objects of the Charity

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The Objects of the Charity are to promote the relief of children with Retinoblastoma and to provide ongoing support for those affected.

This means the Childhood Eye Cancer Trust is dedicated to helping anyone affected by retinoblastoma (Rb), a type of eye cancer that affects babies and young children, mainly under the age of six. We have been supporting families since 1987.

Around one child a week is diagnosed with Rb in the UK or 50 a year. It accounts for 3% of childhood cancers in the UK and 10% of cancers in babies under one. Around 45% of cases are heritable and this carries with it an increased risk of developing tumours in other parts of the body in later life.

The Charity was originally founded to provide support and information to those affected by Rb. In 1994 we merged with another charity that was funding research projects specifically related to Rb, and in 2004 we changed our name to the Childhood Eye Cancer Trust. As we grew, so did our aims and objectives and we began to run campaigns aimed at raising awareness among health professionals and the public in order to achieve the earliest possible diagnosis for children affected.

Our aims are to:

- Provide support and information to families and individuals affected by Rb.
- Raise funds to support research into issues concerned directly with Rb.
- Raise awareness of Rb among health professionals and others.
- Influence policy to improve service delivery for those affected by Rb.

### Objectives, Strategies for Achievement and Public Benefit

During the period of this report, we have continued to deliver against our three core goals of support, research, and awareness.

The Trustees annually review the core goals and have reaffirmed that these remain the charitable focus.

The Trustees are aware of the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission. We have considered the objectives of the Charity and have given regard to how these objectives and the associated activities meet the public benefit criteria of advancing health, saving lives and the relief of those in need by reason of ill health.

We are the only UK-wide charity providing support to people affected by Rb and we believe that they benefit from our services in the following ways:

### Main Objectives

**Support:** To ensure that everyone affected by Rb in the UK has access to support and information according to their need.

- Our Head of Support Services and two Support Workers offer support to all families and individuals affected by Rb.
- Support is provided on the wards and in clinics at the two specialist centres for Rb in the UK: Birmingham Women's and Children's Hospital and The Royal London Hospital. On non-clinic

days, support is provided via telephone, video call, email, and social media.

- Support is also provided through the delivery of a programme of regular face-to-face or virtual meetings for families, teens and young adults, and adults.

Our team provides signposting to organisations for financial grants, benefits advice, therapeutic and psychological support, visual impairment support, holidays, travel expenses, white goods, and other items.

Support Workers also assist with applications for Blue Badges, Disability Living Allowance and Carer's Allowance, as well as supporting families with housing applications.

The support team collaborates with the wider CHECT team with stories from members for CHECT publications, information leaflets and social media.

**Awareness - healthcare professionals:** To save lives and minimise the impact of visual impairment by ensuring healthcare professionals are aware and know about Rb and its symptoms, listen to concerned parents and make urgent referrals where necessary.

- Targeted activities to healthcare professionals associated with children aged six and under.
- Distribution of resources that help early diagnosis and referral.
- Media campaigns and articles for specialist healthcare professional journals and magazines.
- Working with healthcare professionals to develop and implement standard referral protocols for those with suspected Rb.

**Awareness - public:** To increase awareness of Rb and its signs and symptoms amongst parents, guardians and carers to promote the seeking of medical advice as soon as possible.

- Ensuring information for parents about the symptoms of Rb is available in all relevant NHS publications and on all NHS information websites.
- Media activity regarding the condition including the signs and symptoms and how / where to seek help.
- Developing relationships with organisations able to reach large sections of the public with a view to raising awareness.
- Regular and sustained social media activity with information and advice accessible on the charity's website.
- Promoting knowledge of the possible longer-term impact of having had Rb as a child with regard to genetics and other cancers.
- Information campaigns targeted towards people affected by Rb as a child.

**Research:** Proactively engaging in the advancement of knowledge of Rb, its treatment and its impact.

- Supporting and funding clinical, psychosocial, and scientific research relating to Rb.
- Working through the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) to identify and support suitable projects from a wide range of sources.
- Encouraging applications from the international research community.
- Supporting multi-centre and international collaboration including the sharing of experience, knowledge, and data.

**Influencing:** Working with other organisations to bring about improvements in the way in which services are funded and delivered in the UK.

- Working with the treatment centres in the UK, the NHS National Commissioning Group, National Artificial Eye Service, and other umbrella bodies who provide services to people affected by Rb.
- Proactively seeking partnerships with other charities and organisations.

**Research Grant Making:** We award grants to groups or individuals who wish to pursue research projects or audits to advance knowledge of Rb and related issues.

Applications go before the Scientific Advisory Committee which is made up of CHECT Trustee(s) and Chief Executive plus experts from research and Rb-related fields. We also have three lay members representing families and the adult Rb community within the SAC.

The committee evaluates the validity and appropriateness of the proposals using an agreed scoring matrix, seeking expert review for large projects and where necessary for other reasons, before making recommendations to the Board for funding.

Grant recipients are required to provide six-monthly progress reports and present a final report to the SAC and Board on the conclusion of the project before disseminating the findings and learning through presentations and publications.

### **Volunteers**

26 volunteers (including Trustees and SAC members) generously gave their time to support us throughout the year.

Whether it was one off or ongoing support, we would like to thank each and every one of our volunteers for their invaluable contribution to our work.

## ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

### Charitable activities

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#### Support

Whilst one of our core priorities is the delivery of support to the parents and carers of children affected by Rb, we have extended this to encompass anyone affected, including teenagers whose unique needs are very different to those of a young child or baby, and adults, many of whom are living with the late effects of the treatment they received for Rb as a child. Membership of CHECT is open to anyone affected by retinoblastoma (as well as their friends and family), supporters of CHECT and health professionals. We do not charge a membership fee.

In 2023/24, 100% of families were offered support following a diagnosis of Rb in the UK. As well as face to face, email, and telephone, we continue to use virtual platforms to support our members.

There has been an increase in the number of face-to-face sessions delivered with over 1,300 sessions delivered across both treatment hospitals at inpatient and outpatient clinics.

We record and monitor support interactions so that we ensure the service is meeting the needs of those affected by Rb as best it can.

#### Face to face and remote support

The main areas that people sought support from CHECT in 2023/24 included:

- Practical and emotional support.
- Direct financial support and assistance with welfare applications.
- Detailed information about Rb including genetics, screening, fertility, and late effects of Rb.
- Signposting to other specialist organisations.
- Work and employment support.
- Housing support\*

\*There is an increasing number of families with housing concerns and homelessness, including a rise in the numbers of those coming from abroad to seek treatment for their child. This often requires enhanced levels of support.

We also continue to receive a small number of enquiries from non-members. These mainly consist of international patients requesting advice as well as UK based parents, guardians or carers who have symptom concerns in their child.

#### Social media support

Social Media is a vital source of support resources and information, with both members and non-members contacting us. We also raise awareness utilising all social media channels, including Facebook, Instagram, X, LinkedIn and TikTok. As well as our main public-facing Facebook page, we have two closed groups for members which are for parents of children with Rb and adults who have had Rb, both of which have seen increases in membership in the period.

#### Financial Support

In 2023/24 we provided 63 CHECT support grants totaling £10,250 to families and individuals to help with the costs associated with an Rb diagnosis and ongoing treatment - for example travel to and from hospital as well as occasionally helping to buy some specialist equipment for those with a visual impairment.



The demand for support grants continues to increase in line with the cost-of-living crisis and our team continues to work in partnership with other organisations to offer as much financial support as possible.

In addition to the above we were fortunate to receive a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund's Community Cost of Living Fund. This allowed us to offer further emergency grants in the form of supermarket vouchers to member families who were in need. A total of 52 families received vouchers in March 2024.

### Support Events

In 2023/24, we organised 5 face-to-face support events:

- Family Days: 3 events in Stafford, Glasgow, and London - these included the presentation of our CHECT Champions award to some incredibly brave and deserving children.
- Teenage and Young Adult Day: 1 event in Watford.
- Adult Day: 1 event in Sheffield.

Hospital organised events were also attended by our support team.

The support service also delivered 7 online events:

- Teens and Young Adults: 3 events.
- Grandparents: 3 events.
- Ask the expert: 1 event on the topic of the genetics of Rb with guest speaker was Dr Ellie Hay from Great Ormond Street Hospital.

These virtual events provided opportunities for peer-to-peer support.

### Pip the Penguin

Pip (our enucleation support toy) continues to be very popular with 98 given to affected children. This support tool is used as a support tool for families and clinicians to normalise and explain the enucleation process.

### Teenage and Young Adult (TYA) Support

TYA who had Rb as children can face specific challenges around self-esteem. We provide specialist support to meet need and facilitate invaluable peer support.

We have a specific website and Instagram channel for TYAs, where they can contribute stories and information appropriate to their audience.

### Adults (Beyond Rb)

For some people, the effects of Rb are lifelong. We continue to respond to the needs of adults who were affected by Rb as children.

We have a specific Beyond Rb group, the membership of which has grown via Facebook into a dedicated WhatsApp Group.

### Partnerships

Collaboration and partnership development is a vital activity in the enhancement of our support provision.

Both support workers work very closely with the Guide Dogs Eye Clinic Liaison Officers (ECLOs) based in each specialist centre and who offer advice, information and resources for children living with a visual impairment.

Ongoing partnership continues with immense gratitude via organisations such as Family Fund, Young Lives vs Cancer, the Free Kicks Foundation, and the Gavin Glynn Foundation. We continue to offer

activities to children and young people indirectly through partners such as Barretstown, the Ellen MacArthur Trust, and VICTA.

New partnerships have enhanced support for people affected by Rb and include wish organisation Molly Ollys; and Box4Kids who gift our members experiences and free events tickets.

#### Feedback From Those Supported

"Your support means a lot to us, especially during this challenging time. As I am currently temporarily not working, this voucher (given to us via CHECT) will really make a difference in helping me provide for my little one. It will go a long way in ensuring we have enough for food, milk, and nappies. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are truly appreciated, and I am grateful to be a recipient of your support. Thank you once again for your kindness and for making a positive impact in our lives."

"We were put through to the Childhood Eye Cancer Trust on the day that we had the diagnosis, and their support worker was allocated to us – she's been a godsend. She helped us out with some grants."

"CHECT have always been there, calling or texting me. Our support worker has been great and always offered her support and checked in every time we have been at Royal London Hospital through the good and bad times. As I haven't been able to work or go back to work, she has helped me with contacting charities for financial support. CHECT are great and cannot recommend enough."

"Our support worker from CHECT is always so lovely and supportive in the clinic. She makes sure that she spends time with each family to see if there is anything they need and any way that CHECT can help. She put us in touch with a charity that provided a tablet for our daughter to watch her favourite programs on when she has to attend clinic appointments, which has been great. I know that if I needed any advice or support that I can contact CHECT."

"The Childhood Eye Cancer Trust (CHECT) has been with us from day one when we went to Birmingham Women's and Children's Hospital, offering advice when needed and making sure we are supported. I remember at the start when we found out about our daughter having cancer it was hard to process and we were overwhelmed, but it was good to know that CHECT is there, and we can contact them whenever we need to. They kept checking how we are doing mentally and financially, letting us know we are not alone in this situation. Reading other people's stories who went through retinoblastoma on the CHECT website was also helpful to have a better understanding of what we may go through and relate to some scenarios. Our support worker from CHECT is such a friendly, cheerful, and kind person, she kept in touch asking how we all are doing."

"Our support worker is at the hospital every time we visit, to offer us and the other families' support, put a smile on [our son's] face and help us with anything we need. She is a massive comfort to us, and this journey would be incredibly hard without her."

#### **Awareness**

Rb is a rare disease which means that most people are not aware of it. Sadly, this frequently leads to a delay in a diagnosis being made and, because Rb is a fast-growing cancer, quick access to treatment can be vital in order to save a child's eyes, sight and life.

Raising awareness of Rb among both healthcare professionals and the public is therefore important in helping to drive early diagnosis and as such remains a key part of our work.

#### Pathways to Diagnosis

In 2012, as part of its aim to reduce the delays in diagnosis of retinoblastoma experienced by some families in the UK CHECT began to collect information from parents called 'Pathways to Diagnosis'.

This information is gathered by support workers during the course of their conversations with families, and

focused on whether the families had any prior awareness of retinoblastoma; the signs they noticed in their child's eyes that prompted them to seek help; and the actions taken by the healthcare professionals they consulted.

It is apparent that the range of experience is huge: from families who were referred to one of the two specialist Rb centres in the UK within days of noticing their child's symptoms; to families who spent over six months and numerous visits to various healthcare professionals before anyone recognised the significance of what they were reporting or carried out the appropriate tests and made appropriate referrals.

Recording these experiences in a quantitative way allowed CHECT to refine messages and information to address those areas where it was most needed: not only to alert parents of young children, but also GPs, health visitors and opticians to the main signs and symptoms of Rb, and the need for urgent examination and onward referral.

In 2023 the total number of pathways collected was 33.

Unusually, this year less parents took their child to the GP in the first instance on noticing something unusual with their eyes than any year since this study started in 2012. And more than in any other year, they took their child to an optician in the first instance.

This may be either because families are struggling to get an appointment with their GP, or because GP surgeries are 'triaging' eye queries towards opticians. It is an interesting development, and potentially positive for those families concerned, as opticians have a much better track record at making appropriate referrals for children with retinoblastoma than GPs (69% vs 45% from 2014 – 2023).

Encouragingly, this year saw more children than ever, since 2012, following the appropriate referral route. 67% of children received urgent referrals after their first consultation with a healthcare professional to their local ophthalmology department (and then onto one of the specialist Rb centres). This is compared to the eleven-year average of 44%.

Unsurprisingly, this was reflected in the overall speed of referrals. 2012 to 2022 shows that 22% of children were diagnosed at one of the specialist Rb centres within a week of first going to a healthcare professional with signs of Rb. In 2023 this was 59%. Overall, 72% of children were diagnosed within the recommended two-week period, second only to 2022 when 73% of children were diagnosed within this time period.

Although Pathways to Diagnosis is designed to be a snapshot, or an indicator of trends in diagnosis in the UK, it is a key part of the resources we use to help CHECT achieve its aim of raising awareness of Rb in order to aid earlier diagnosis.

#### Public awareness

It's often parents or carers who spot the signs of Rb - whether that's a white eye seen in a family photo, a squint, or another symptom - public awareness is an important area of our work to help ensure a swift diagnosis. We use traditional and digital media to reach parents and other members of the public and raise awareness of Rb.

#### Media:

Previous research carried out by, or on behalf of, CHECT has shown that many people first hear about Rb after reading an article. We created press releases centering around prominent events of the year, including Rare Disease Day, World Retinoblastoma Awareness Week, Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and Christmas. We also have a freelance regional journalist who works throughout the UK to raise awareness of the stories of our CHECT Champions. During the reporting period we received over 130 mentions in the media, including 45 national pieces, giving 2.7 billion (+50% v previous year) people the opportunity to see or hear across all media outlets. Coverage included the BBC and ITV TV, radio, and digital, various national newspapers across the UK as well as coverage as far as America and Australia.

#### Digital:

We continue to adapt the CHECT website to ensure that it is easy to navigate and contains relevant and useful information to visitors. The most visited pages remain our white eye and signs and symptoms and 'what causes retinoblastoma' pages. Our website hits in the last reporting period are at a four-year high reaching over 153,000 people. New visitors and time spent on the website was at the highest ever levels—indicating that awareness of CHECT's work and website has increased.

#### Social Media:

Social media is a key tool to raise awareness of Rb. In the period our Instagram followers increased by 17% and our Facebook followers by 2%. We reached over 500k people on Facebook, 200k people on Instagram and over 70k people on Twitter. Our TikTok channel has over 220 followers, our Instagram channel for CHECT TYA has over 230 followers and a LinkedIn channel has over 500 followers.

#### Ongoing communication:

- We distribute monthly newsletters and emails filled with updates relating to support, awareness, research, fundraising, stories, and events. In 2023/24, the open rates averaged 42.6%.
- We produce two editions of our magazine - InFocus - a year. These are distributed both digitally and in-print. We offset the carbon footprint for printing.
- We maintain a blog with content, including news, events, real life stories, research, and support articles.

#### **Inclusivity**

We have an Inclusivity Working Group to ensure that the charity is fully accessible and represents all those we support.

#### In the period outputs include:

- We translated our signs and symptoms posters into Polish and Romanian.
- We reviewed our awareness material and have made this more inclusive.
- We add image descriptions where appropriate to our social media posts, to make our posts more accessible for those unable to view the pictures.
- We use case studies from a range of Rb experiences, including those who are blind, those who have lost an eye(s) to Rb and also those who haven't but have had Rb.

#### **Research**

CHECT continues to support three ongoing projects:

#### Laboratory / Basic science

Professor Shin-Ichi Ohnuma: Evaluation of PRELP function using retinoblastoma samples.

Previous research by Professor Ohnuma has found that whilst PRELP protein is highly expressed in normal retinal tissues, it is not expressed in retinoblastoma. Preliminary data from cell cultures indicate that administration of PRELP to the established laboratory retinoblastoma cell lines inhibited cancer progression. Now, this team wants to confirm that these results have clinical application, by applying PRELP protein to the human retinoblastoma tissues and examining the effect on retinoblastoma development. The advantage of such an approach over some current methods is that only affected cells will be impacted by the treatment, with no expected toxicity to surrounding normal, unaffected retinal cells, thereby preserving more of the child's vision.

*Professor Seigel: A retinal organoid platform for retinoblastoma drug development.*

One challenge in developing new treatments for retinoblastoma is to preserve vision by ensuring that Rb

tumour cells are killed without damaging surrounding normal retina. For this project, we have a new approach for testing promising retinoblastoma drugs. We can coax adult human stem cells to represent normal retinal tissue in a plastic dish (a “retina-in-a-dish”). If we add human Rb tumour cells to this same dish, we can disrupt the retina, like an Rb tumour might do in the human eye. This mixture of RB tumour cells with the retina-in-a-dish lets us use human cells to see whether our new drug treatments will kill Rb cells specifically without harming nearby retinal cells. This new method will be very useful for testing Rb treatments that we have developed with previous support from CHECT.

#### Clinical

*Dr Zerrin Onadim: Eloise Patterson Project: Study of records held at The Royal London Hospital and Childhood Cancer Research Group on retinoblastoma patients Phase II.*

This project was initially funded via a donation from the Greendale Foundation, inspired by a young adult who has previously had retinoblastoma, Eloise Patterson. Phase I (collection of clinical and mutation data and linking to Public Health England records) is now complete. This will provide complete information on type of Rb, type of mutation, treatment, follow-up data on second primary tumours and causes of any deaths.

We were delighted that the Greendale Foundation provided further support to allow for an additional phase to be delivered - Phase II (statistical analysis to estimate risks, which it is hoped could potentially lead to earlier diagnosis and treatment of these second cancers in current - and future - Rb populations), due to complete by the end of 2024.

#### Psychosocial

*Dr Bob Phillips: Developing an evidence-based psycho-educational intervention for teenagers and young adults who have had retinoblastoma.*

There is little guiding evidence about the specific challenges that teenagers who have had retinoblastoma face as they transition towards adulthood. Understanding the psycho-educational needs of teenagers and young adults as they transition is essential if we are to offer effective interventions to support them. This PhD studentship aims to develop an evidence-based intervention for teenagers and young adults with retinoblastoma that offers relevant, accessible, and effective psycho-educational support.

In 2023/24 we continued our objective of delivering an annual research award.

*Professor Yellapantula's 'Prognostic stratification and early detection of relapsed retinoblastoma using aqueous humor based cfDNA screening' will start in July 2024.*

Our thanks go to all members of our Scientific Advisory Committee, both lay and professional, who volunteer their time to make CHECT's research programme possible, and thus support our aim of improving the lives of everyone affected by retinoblastoma in the future.

## ACHIEVEMENT & PERFORMANCE

### Fundraising

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#### Fundraising Policy

CHECT does not use fundraising services or external professional fundraisers to undertake its fundraising activities. Additionally, no data is shared with or sold to any external agencies. The charity does not purchase external lists of potential individual donors or undertake direct mail appeals to such lists.

The charity issues a biannual newsletter and a monthly e-newsletter / blog (both of which can be easily unsubscribed from) that share information about the charitable work and fundraising activities undertaken.

The charity occasionally invites individuals to attend events but does not exert undue pressure to attend or to donate. It does not approach or pressure vulnerable people to support its work. A complaints policy is in place and is accessible on the charity's web site ([www.chect.org.uk](http://www.chect.org.uk)). The charity adheres to the Fundraising Code of Practice issued by the Fundraising Regulator.

Any fundraising events carried out on behalf of the charity that we are aware of are supported and monitored by the Fundraising Manager. Any marketing materials and approaches are checked to ensure that they comply with the Fundraising Code of Practice and details of income and expenditure are recorded by the Fundraising Manager. Income is acknowledged and grateful thanks are sent, typically with a letter and certificate.

#### Community and Events

We are incredibly grateful and always overwhelmed by the passion and dedication of our supporters, who go to such lengths to raise vital funds for us through the events and sponsored challenges they organise.

Highlights include:

- Phil Booth hosted a golf day in September 2023.
- Ashton Science Community undertook a Docks to Disney event.
- James Utting set a World Record for running the fastest Half Marathon in high heels for CHECT. He was featured in multiple press coverage and radio where he spoke about CHECT.
- Anthony Carroll and five friends completed the 3 Peaks Challenge in August.
- For the third year in a row, The Le De Spencer's Arms hosted their Brass Band & Carols and quiz night at Christmas to support CHECT.
- Roisin Lynch, along with her family and friends, braved the chilly seas of Lisfannon, Ireland for their 29<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Day Swim to support CHECT. To date, Roisin's annual Christmas Day Swim has raised over £48,700.
- In March 2024, Victora and Ian Bird hosted a charity quiz.
- On 23<sup>rd</sup> April, our 10 runners battled the rain to complete the London Marathon race.
- We had seven runners successfully complete the Great North Run for CHECT, as well as a child and their mum taking part in the Junior & Mini Great North Run.

#### Corporate Support

A huge thank you to the corporates who have supported us throughout the year.

Highlights include:

- Advanced Maintenance UK Ltd. A staff member at Advanced Maintenance UK Ltd had a child who was diagnosed with Rb at the start of 2023. The company hosted a fundraising day for CHECT.
- Andrew Davenport. Andrew sponsored a corporate charity ball in October 2023.
- Renato Lounge. A staff member nominated CHECT as their chosen charity for #LoungeAid month and hosted a quiz night.
- Enterprise RAC UK. Generously donated.
- Provide Community Interest Company. A gift was received as a result of a nomination from an employee.
- Twenty Essex. Supported CHECT as their charity of the year during 2023.
- Rawlings Opticians. Rawlings Opticians Purley donated funds following their annual event in August.
- Highline Contracts. We are very grateful to Highline Contracts for their continued support to CHECT. In July 2023, they held their third annual CHECT golf day.
- Sackers and Partners LLP. We are grateful to law firm Sackers and Partners LLP, who continue to make their meeting spaces available to us.

### **Individual Giving**

We are extremely grateful to all those who support us with a regular gift through a monthly pledge or Give As You Earn, as well as to those who so generously make a one-off donation to our charity.

We understand that the economic situation is difficult for many and are very grateful to all who donate to our charity.

### **Campaigns**

A new campaign "50km Your Way" was launched aimed at encouraging individuals to complete 50km in a month. The distance represented the approximate number of cases of Rb diagnosed each year. This took place during September's Childhood Cancer Awareness Month with £15,921 raised.

Over the Christmas period, our annual campaign raised over £12,000.

### **Trusts & Foundations**

2023/24 was a challenging year, due to this area of fundraising being particularly hard hit by the cost-of-living crisis immediately following the Covid-19 pandemic. Income from charitable trusts and foundations totaled just under £190k. We are extremely grateful to every trust and foundation which supported CHECT's work so generously during this period.

In particular we express our gratitude to the National Lottery Community Fund's Community Organisations Cost of Living Fund, which was financed by the UK Government. The Community Organisations Cost of Living Fund awarded CHECT a grant of £65,420 towards our work providing direct specialist support to families affected by retinoblastoma. This grant was urgently needed at a very challenging time, and we are very grateful to the National Lottery Community Fund.

We would also like to thank the Greendale Foundation, the Eveson Trust, the February Foundation and the Jessica Mathers Trust for many years of very generous support.

Some of CHECT's other funders included the Jan & Catherine Nasmyth Charitable Foundation; the Horners' Charity Fund; the Sandra Charitable Trust; the Lord Austin Trust and Baron Davenport's Charity.

We are enormously grateful to every one of the trusts and foundations that have so kindly and generously supported CHECT's work over the past year and send our thanks to them all.

### **In Memoriam**

Trustees and staff would like to thank and offer sincere condolences to families and friends who have given

in memory of a loved one during the year and are grateful to those who have kindly remembered us in their will.

**With Thanks**

Grandparents Ian and Heather demonstrated their generosity by donating £5,000 to CHECT following their grandson's diagnosis and treatment of unilateral retinoblastoma (Rb) at the Royal London Hospital. The impact of Ian and Heather's kindness provides a vital lifeline for families like theirs who are experiencing the challenges of Rb.

"We thank [CHECT] for the outstanding support you provided to our grandson and his family during the treatment of his retinoblastoma. Our grandson now has a special eye but continues to excel at sport and academically. We commend you for the superb work that you do." Ian & Heather.

We would like to express our gratitude to Ian and Heather for their support of CHECT. Their generous gift will play a pivotal role in ensuring we can continue to support every family in the UK who has been impacted by Rb.



## FINANCIAL REVIEW

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### Reserves Policy

CHECT maintains its reserves under two categories: (a) unrestricted (general) reserves, which are available for general use in pursuance of the charity's objectives, and (b) restricted reserves, which are for specifically earmarked purposes such as medical research or support to families belonging to a particular area.

The unrestricted funds of the Charity as of 31 March 2024 totalled £311,964. The Trustees have determined that the Charity should hold at least six months of running expenses in reserve. This figure represents the amount required to run the charity for six months excluding winding up costs and any special projects. Based on this calculation, the required value of reserves for the year 2024-25 is £247,947.

The reserves held as at 31 March 2024 represent 7.1 months of budgeted expenditure reducing to 6.1 months at the end of the coming financial year.

The Trustees review the Charity's reserves policy on a regular basis and no less than annually. The reserves position is reported at every board meeting.

### Investment Policy

Funds surplus to immediate requirements are to be invested in interest bearing accounts without risk to the capital. Such accounts are to be those offered by institutions covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). No more than the amount covered by the FSCS is to be invested in any one institution.

## FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

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At the end of 2020/23 CHECT had deliberately built up a high level of unrestricted reserves as it was assumed that a difficult economic and fundraising environment would exist for both the 2023/24 and the 2024/25 period.

The objective was to ensure the delivery of the charities three pillars of activity;

- The delivery of support to anyone affected by Rb in the UK
- The funding of research into the causes and outcomes of Rb
- The raising of awareness of the signs and symptoms of Rb

Income was budgeted to fall as Trusts & Foundations would not be able to sustain their level of support. Additionally, it was anticipated that the long-term corporate partnership with Vision Express would come to an end.

Expenditure was to be carefully managed to ensure that this was focused on the delivery of the three pillars of activity alongside the pennies in the pound spent on charitable activity being protected and the fundraising ratio's improving. Monthly expenditure (excluding research) was £46,600 in 2022/23, which reduced to £43,806 in 2023/2024 with the plan that this further reduces to £41,300 in 2024/25. This represents an 11% reduction in the period.

The charity planned a deficit budgeted 2023/24 knowing that the period was going to be a challenging financial climate.

The total incoming resources of the Charity were £449,484, which was a decrease of £197,110 on 2022-23's total income of £646,594. Total resources expended during the year decreased accordingly to £575,666 (2022-23: £604,841).

Overall, the Charity has recorded a deficit for the year of £126,182 compared to a surplus of £41,753 in 2022-23. As of 31 March 2024, this has resulted in net assets decreasing from £444,946, at the preceding year end to £318,764. This comprises restricted funds of £6,800 (2022-23: £nil) and unrestricted funds of £311,964 (2022-23: £444,946)

## **FUTURE PLANS**

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Our vision continues to be the leading charity in the United Kingdom dedicated to helping families and individuals affected by Rb.

Our mission is to lessen the impact of retinoblastoma by driving early diagnosis, funding research into prevention and treatment, and offering lifelong support now and for future generations.

Our focus over the coming period is to:

- Place those that we support at the centre of everything that we do.
- Increase our impact by delivering incremental improvements in the delivery of our Support, Research, Awareness, and Influence activity.
- Increase the levels of funds raised in an ethical and sustainable manner.
- Live within our financial means by being mindful of expenditure and protecting the pennies in the pound spent on charitable activity.
- Be digitally enabled, focussed and savvy.
- Proactively seek alliances and partnerships to allow us to widen our reach, outputs, and impact.
- Be a caring and inclusive employer with a happy and focussed team.

### **Support**

The delivery of lifelong levels of support is the key focus of the charity using a support pathway that follows the key stages of the Rb journey – research, pre-diagnosis, diagnosis, treatment, follow up, end of life.

We will provide our information, practical, social, financial, and emotional support at each of the above stages and continue the offer of both the direct and indirect (partnership) delivered services.

We will run events for the three main groups of members: families; teens and young adults; and older adults (Beyond Rb), across different regions of the UK.

We will work closely with partner organisations allowing more children and young people to experience events that can increase confidence and resilience.

We will continue to offer members memorable experiences through our special relationships with organisations such as the Free Kicks Foundation and Box4Kids.

We will carry out a Members' Survey in Autumn 2024 to monitor that we are meeting members' needs as best we can, and to get members' feedback on a range of organisational areas.

### **Research**

Research will continue to be a vital focus for us and our members. We were delighted to be able to make an award to Professor Venkata Yellapantula for his project " Prognostic stratification and early detection of relapsed retinoblastoma using aqueous humor based cfDNA screening" which commences in July 2024.

We will continue to manage and support the existing projects referenced earlier and continue our commitment to research via another call for projects and a further investment during 2024-25 and beyond.

### **Awareness**

The raising of awareness around the signs and symptoms of Rb with both the public and the medical profession remains a vital function.

Using the "Pathways to Diagnosis" as the guide we will be focusing on key areas and moments in the

diagnostic pathway to ensure that the right people have the right knowledge and information at the right time.

We are investing in digital media and are creating engaging content to aid in the raising of awareness.

### **Influence**

We will continue to liaise with the different organisations involved in a child and family's journey to make sure the voice of our membership is heard and helps influence all, to deliver the best and most effective experience to all families.

Through partnership and alliance working we will look to use our position to positively influence policy to improve the pathways and associated levels of support for all those affected by Rb.

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

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### **Governing document**

The Childhood Eye Cancer Trust (CHECT) ('the Charity') is a charitable company limited by guarantee ('the Company'), incorporated on 1 July 1987 and a registered charity. The Company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the Company and is governed under its Articles of Association. The directors of the Company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and are known as the board of trustees ('the Board'). The maximum number of trustees is 15.

The Company's Articles were amended in 2008 with regards to the number of terms Trustees may serve. In October 2022, the Articles were further amended to remove the requirement for Trustees to be re-elected periodically. This was because, noting the size and nature of the Charity, it is difficult to identify sufficient numbers of appropriately qualified and experienced candidates to fill such positions, with the process also being administratively cumbersome. Amendments to the Articles were also made to allow Society, General and Board of Trustee meetings to be held remotely.

### **Organisational structure**

The Board meets six times a year and at the beginning of each meeting, the trustees are requested to declare any conflicts of interest. No conflicts of interest were declared during this financial year. The Board's performance and trustees' skills are reviewed periodically and where possible new trustees are recruited to meet any needs or gaps identified. The Charity is a signatory to the NCVO's Good Governance Code for the voluntary and community sector.

To assist in the effectiveness and smooth running of the Charity the Board continues to resource two sub-committees to help oversee certain aspects of the Charity's work. Sub-committees are currently set up for: finance, risk and safeguarding and for research (Scientific Advisory Committee).

The day-to-day management of the Charity is delegated to the CEO, supported by the staff team. At the close of the year, staffing consisted of ten staff: a chief executive (four days per week); a head of finance & operations (four days per week); an operations manager (full time); two fundraising managers and one fundraising officer (two full time and one four days per week); a head of support services (four days per week) and two support workers - one in London (four days per week) and one in Birmingham (four days per week); and a communications manager (three days per week).

The Childhood Eye Cancer Trust is not affiliated with any other charitable organisation and has no related parties except as shown in the notes to the accounts. The Charity is a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities, the National Institute of Health Research, and other charities with similar aims to CHECT working within the field of eye health, childhood cancers, genetic disorders, and rare diseases.

### **Induction and training of new trustees**

New trustees are provided with information about their role and responsibilities as recommended by the Charity Commission and the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO). This includes: the trustee role description and person specification relevant to the role, the Charity's confidentiality policy, and the eligibility requirements for becoming a trustee. They are also supplied with a copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the strategic development plan and the chief executive's report and minutes from two previous board meetings.

Trustee roles are advertised on the CHECT website and on occasion, using external recruitment organisations. Enquiries are also occasionally received from members. A selection panel made up of the CEO, the Chair and another trustee or a member of the charity considers the application and the suitability of the applicant using agreed criteria identified on the person specification and the role description. The prospective trustee is then invited to observe a board meeting prior to appointment and standing for election which is voted on and approved by the Board.

Induction meetings covering the background to current matters take place with the chief executive and key members of the staff team. Training on matters relevant to the role and responsibilities of trustees is encouraged and the Board subscribes to literature pertinent to good governance. All trustees are required to sign: a contract setting out their responsibilities; a confidentiality agreement; the conflict-of-interest policy; and confirmation of their eligibility to serve as a director. They are also asked to undergo Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks. The majority of trustees have personal experience of retinoblastoma and its impact but individuals with other key skills are also recruited to the Board to ensure an appropriate balance to meet the needs of the Charity.

### **Risk management**

The trustees regularly assess the risks to the Charity and maintain a comprehensive risk register which includes plans to mitigate or manage the risks identified.

The risk register is reviewed by the Finance and Risk Committee at each of their meetings and in detail twice a year. Their discussions are reported at each Board Meeting, who in turn undertake a detailed annual review. The Chief Executive reviews on a monthly basis after which any concerns are discussed with the Chair of the Finance and Risk Committee.

In addition to the Treasurer and Finance and Risk Committee, there are nominated trustees with oversight and non-executive lead for Human Resources, Policies & Procedures, Safeguarding, Data Protection, Legal Matters, and Information Technology.

The trustees are satisfied that there are systems and arrangements in place to manage the risks identified as far as possible.

### **Safeguarding**

As a charity we are committed to safeguarding our employees and all those who receive and give support.

Safeguarding children, young people, and adults, with a focus on those who are vulnerable and may be at risk is a priority for the Childhood Eye Cancer Trust. Our safeguarding focus helps our trustees and employees to remove, reduce and manage safeguarding risks for those we support and work with.

We review our safeguarding policy on an annual basis, have clear reporting processes, and follow up of any safeguarding concerns. All staff and trustees undertake annual safeguarding training. The delivery of our safeguarding obligations is person-centered, and outcomes focused, ensuring we are timely and proportionate in all our actions.

## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

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The trustees (who are also the directors of Childhood Eye Cancer Trust 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) including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland."

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. These give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP; make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company, and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

### AUDITORS

The auditors, Knox Cropper LLP, have been re-appointed with a unanimous vote in favour by Trustees.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of Trustees on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2024 and signed on its behalf by;



Ian Ellington - Trustee

## REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF CHILDHOOD EYE CANCER TRUST

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### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Childhood Eye Cancer Trust (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, and notes to the financial statements, 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 (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its 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, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland'; 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 Auditors responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC'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 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.

### Other Information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.



## **REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF CHILDHOOD EYE CANCER TRUST**

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### **Opinions 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 Report of the Trustees, which includes the Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

### **Matters on Which we are Required to Report by Exception**

In the light of the 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 Report of the Trustees.

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received; or
- the 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; or
- the trustees were not entitled to take advantage of the small companies exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report or in preparing the Report of the Trustees.

### **Responsibilities of Trustees**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees Responsibilities, 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 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 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 a Report of the Independent Auditors 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:

## REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF CHILDHOOD EYE CANCER TRUST

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- The charitable company is required to comply with both company law and charity law as applicable in England and Wales and, based on our knowledge of its activities, we identified that the legal requirement to accurately account for restricted funds was of key significance.
- We gained an understanding of how the charitable company complied with its legal and regulatory framework, including the requirement to properly account for restricted funds, through discussions with management and a review of the documented policies, procedures, and controls.
- The audit team, which is experienced in the audit of charities, considered the charitable company's susceptibility to material misstatement and how fraud may occur. Our considerations included the risk of management override.
- Our approach was to check that all restricted income was properly identified and separately accounted for and to ensure that only valid and appropriate expenditure was charged to restricted funds. This included reviewing journal adjustments and unusual transactions.

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](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

### 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 auditors' 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 the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



**Richard Billinghamurst FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)**  
for and on behalf of Knox Cropper LLP  
65 Leadenhall Street  
London  
EC3A 2AD

Date: 23/10/2024  
Date: .....

**CHILDHOOD EYE CANCER TRUST (REGISTERED NUMBER: 02143917)**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND**  
**EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:</b>					
Donations and Legacies	2	279,695	157,414	437,109	639,710
Other Trading Activities	3	1,046	-	1,046	1,077
Investment Income	4	11,329	-	11,329	5,807
<b>Total</b>		<b>292,070</b>	<b>157,414</b>	<b>449,484</b>	<b>646,594</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>					
Raising Funds	5	128,670	-	128,670	169,066
<b>Charitable activities</b>	6				
Medical Research and Grant Making		104,834	5,000	109,834	61,392
Awareness Raising		113,002	-	113,002	107,647
Family Support and Information		57,217	145,614	202,831	252,206
Influencing		21,329	-	21,329	14,530
<b>Total</b>		<b>425,052</b>	<b>150,614</b>	<b>575,666</b>	<b>604,841</b>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>		<b>(132,982)</b>	<b>6,800</b>	<b>(126,182)</b>	<b>41,753</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total Funds Brought Forward		444,946	-	444,946	403,193
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>311,964</b>	<b>6,800</b>	<b>318,764</b>	<b>444,946</b>

**CONTINUING OPERATIONS**

All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities.

**CHILDHOOD EYE CANCER TRUST (REGISTERED NUMBER: 02143917)**  
**BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2024**

		2024	2023
	Notes	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Fixed Tangible Assets	14	-	465
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	15	20,771	10,388
Cash at Bank and in Hand		478,558	628,831
		<u>499,329</u>	<u>639,219</u>
<b>CREDITORS</b>			
Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	16	(155,565)	(188,017)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>343,764</u>	<u>451,202</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>343,764</b>	<b>451,667</b>
<b>CREDITORS</b>			
Amounts Falling Due After More Than One Year	17	(25,000)	(6,721)
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u><u>318,764</u></u>	<u><u>444,946</u></u>
<b>FUNDS</b>	20		
Unrestricted funds		311,964	444,946
Restricted funds		6,800	-
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<u><u>318,764</u></u>	<u><u>444,946</u></u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 24th September 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

  
 .....  
 Ian Ellington, Trustee

**CHILDHOOD EYE CANCER TRUST (REGISTERED NUMBER: 02143917)**  
**CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>			
Cash Generated from Operations	22	(161,602)	(2,487)
Finance Costs Paid		-	(577)
Net Cash (Used in)/Provided by Operating Activities		<u>(161,602)</u>	<u>(3,064)</u>
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities:</b>			
Interest Received		11,329	5,807
Net Cash Provided by Investing Activities		<u>11,329</u>	<u>5,807</u>
<b>Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents in reporting period</b>		<b>(150,273)</b>	<b>2,743</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of reporting period</b>		<b>628,831</b>	<b>626,088</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of reporting period</b>		<b><u>478,558</u></b>	<b><u>628,831</u></b>

**CHILDHOOD EYE CANCER TRUST (REGISTERED NUMBER: 02143917)**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

## **1. Accounting Policies**

### **Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the Charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

### **Going concern**

The trustees consider that the Charity's cash at the date of approval of the financial statements and its projected cash flows for the following year are sufficient such that the Charity remains a going concern for the foreseeable future, being a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements. In making this judgement, the trustees and senior management team have considered future agreed funding and the anticipated impact of external factors on future funding and expenditure.

### **Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty**

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice requires management to make estimates and judgements that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the reporting date and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. The critical judgements and estimates are reflected in these accounting policies.

### **Income**

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income when appropriate:

- Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the Charity, are recognised when the Charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the Charity only where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in these accounts. Donated goods are measured at fair value and included within income.
- Investment income is included when receivable.

### **Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT that cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates:

- Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income.
- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the Charity and include audit fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the Charity.
- All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned on an appropriate basis e.g. time or estimated usage basis as set out in the notes to these accounts.

**CHILDHOOD EYE CANCER TRUST (REGISTERED NUMBER: 02143917)**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

## 1. Accounting Policies – continued

### **Tangible fixed assets**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. The cost of minor additions or those costing below £250 are not capitalised. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life, which in all cases is estimated at 4 years.

### **Cash at bank and in hand**

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

### **Debtors**

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

### **Creditors**

Creditors are recognised at their settlement amount, after allowing for any trade discounts due.

### **Financial instruments**

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

### **Employee benefits**

Short-term benefits are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is received. Termination benefits are accounted for on an accrual basis and in line with FRS 102. The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate and are allocated between activities and funds based on the use of the resource i.e. where employees spend their time.

### **Taxation**

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

### **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees. Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the Charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

### **Hire purchase and leasing commitments**

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

**CHILDHOOD EYE CANCER TRUST (REGISTERED NUMBER: 02143917)**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

## 2. Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Grants</b>				
Grants from Trusts & Foundations	31,800	157,414	189,214	221,790
Government Grants	-	-	-	-
	<u>31,800</u>	<u>157,414</u>	<u>189,214</u>	<u>221,790</u>
<b>Donations:</b>				
General Donations	40,862	-	40,862	79,887
Standing Orders	21,770	-	21,770	21,782
In Memoriam	16,541	-	16,541	12,511
GAYE	4,644	-	4,644	5,549
Collecting Tins	2	-	2	1,149
Community Donations	333	-	333	2,434
Other Corporate Donations	36,092	-	36,092	101,654
London Marathon	16,525	-	16,525	39,075
Great North Run	6,852	-	6,852	9,747
Other Running Events and walks	5,531	-	5,531	66,251
Other events, Sporting Activities and Community Fundraisers	98,743	-	98,743	72,881
	<u>247,895</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>247,895</u>	<u>412,920</u>
<b>Legacies</b>	-	-	-	5,000
<b>Total Income from Donations and Legacies</b>	<u>279,695</u>	<u>157,414</u>	<u>437,109</u>	<u>639,710</u>

The Trustees would like to thank all the members and supporters who have contributed their time and effort to raising money for the Trust.

## 3. Other Trading Activities

	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Christmas Cards	201	310
Merchandise Sales	845	767
	<u>1,046</u>	<u>1,077</u>



**CHILDHOOD EYE CANCER TRUST (REGISTERED NUMBER: 02143917)**  
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**4. Investment Income**

	<b>2024 Total £</b>	<b>2023 Total £</b>
Bank Interest	<u>11,329</u>	<u>5,807</u>
	<b>11,329</b>	<b>5,807</b>

**5. Raising Funds**

	<b>2024 Total £</b>	<b>2023 Total £</b>
<b>Raising Donations and Legacies</b>		
Staff Costs	<b>73,138</b>	99,822
Fundraising Costs	<b>6,247</b>	8,171
Support Costs	<b>49,285</b>	61,073
	<u><b>128,670</b></u>	<u><b>169,066</b></u>

**6. Charitable Activities**

	<b>Direct Costs (see note 7) £</b>	<b>Grant Funding of Activities (see note 8) £</b>	<b>Support Costs (see note 9) £</b>	<b>2024 Total £</b>
Medical Research and Grant Making	<b>56,514</b>	<b>43,463</b>	<b>9,857</b>	<b>109,834</b>
Awareness Raising	<b>65,689</b>	-	<b>47,313</b>	<b>113,002</b>
Family Support and Information	<b>101,890</b>	<b>20,114</b>	<b>80,827</b>	<b>202,831</b>
Influencing	<b>11,472</b>	-	<b>9,857</b>	<b>21,329</b>
	<u><b>235,565</b></u>	<u><b>63,577</b></u>	<u><b>147,854</b></u>	<u><b>446,996</b></u>

**7. Direct Costs of Charitable Activities**

	<b>2024 Total £</b>	<b>2023 Total £</b>
Staff Costs	<b>218,829</b>	209,805
Newsletter Costs	<b>3,324</b>	3,075
Other Direct Costs	<b>13,412</b>	21,068
	<u><b>235,565</b></u>	<u><b>233,948</b></u>

**CHILDHOOD EYE CANCER TRUST (REGISTERED NUMBER: 02143917)**  
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**8. Grants Payable**

	<b>2024</b>	2023
	<b>Total</b>	Total
	£	£
Medical Research and Grant Making	<b>43,463</b>	43,500
Family Support and Information	<b>20,114</b>	13,335
	<hr/> <b>63,577</b> <hr/>	<hr/> 56,835 <hr/>

**CHILDHOOD EYE CANCER TRUST (REGISTERED NUMBER: 02143917)**  
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**9. Support Costs**

Support costs are allocated to activities on the basis of staff time. Governance costs of £3,639 are included in support costs.

	Raising Donations and Legacies	Medical Research and Grant Making	Awareness Raising	Family Support and Information	Influencing	Total Activities 2024	Total Activities 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Salaries	30,352	6,070	29,137	49,776	6,071	121,406	126,140
Premises Rent	4,211	842	4,043	6,906	842	16,844	11,409
Premises Costs	142	28	137	233	28	568	1,337
Repairs & Maintenance	168	34	161	275	34	672	635
Communications and Stationery	4,236	847	4,066	6,947	847	16,943	27,862
Meetings, Seminars and Staff Training	436	87	420	716	87	1,746	1,666
Travel and Subsistence	189	37	181	309	38	754	906
Recruitment	6,226	1,247	5,977	10,211	1,245	24,906	21,395
Accountancy Fees	1,816	363	1,743	2,978	363	7,263	7,345
Sundries	404	84	388	663	81	1,620	3,410
Depreciation of Tangible Fixed Assets	117	21	112	192	23	465	472
Bank Charges	123	24	118	202	25	492	579
Auditors' Remuneration	865	173	830	1,419	173	3,460	2,909
	<b>49,285</b>	<b>9,857</b>	<b>47,313</b>	<b>80,827</b>	<b>9,857</b>	<b>197,139</b>	<b>206,065</b>

**CHILDHOOD EYE CANCER TRUST (REGISTERED NUMBER: 02143917)**  
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**10. Net Income (Expenditure)**

	<b>2024</b>	2023
	<b>Total</b>	Total
	£	£
Auditors Remuneration	<b>3,542</b>	2,909
Depreciation – Owned Assets	<b>465</b>	472
Auditors' Remuneration – Non Audit Services	<b>3,838</b>	3,151

Net Income/(expenditure) as stated after charging/(crediting).

**11. Trustees' Remuneration and Benefits**

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

**Trustees Expenses**

During the current year £71 of expenses were reimbursed to the Trustees (2023: £129).

**12. Staff Costs**

	<b>2024</b>	2023
	<b>Total</b>	Total
	£	£
Wages and Salaries	<b>368,800</b>	369,537
Social Security Costs	<b>33,447</b>	26,338
Other Pension Costs	<b>11,126</b>	7,401
Interim Fees Payable	<b>-</b>	32,491
	<b>413,373</b>	435,767

Included within wages and salaries are the direct costs of the interim CEO.  
The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	<b>2024</b>	2023
	<b>Total</b>	Total
Average Number of Employees	10	10

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

	<b>2024</b>	2023
	<b>Total</b>	Total
	£	£
£60,000 - £70,000	1	-

**CHILDHOOD EYE CANCER TRUST (REGISTERED NUMBER: 02143917)**  
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**13. Comparatives For the Statement of Financial Activities**

	<b>Unrestricted Fund £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total Funds £</b>
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>			
Donations and Legacies	553,401	86,309	639,710
Other Trading Activities	1,077	-	1,077
Investment Income	5,807	-	5,807
<b>Total</b>	560,285	86,309	646,594
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>			
Raising Funds	169,066	-	169,066
<b>Charitable Activities</b>			
Medical Research and Grant Making	61,392	-	61,392
Awareness Raising	107,647	-	107,647
Family Support and Information	163,356	88,850	252,206
Influencing	14,530	-	14,530
<b>Total</b>	515,991	88,850	604,841
<b>NET INCOME /(EXPENDITURE)</b>	44,294	(2,541)	41,753
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
Total Funds Brought Forward	400,652	2,541	403,193
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	444,946	£-	444,946

**14. Tangible Fixed Assets**

	<b>Computer and Office Equipment £</b>
<b>COST</b>	
At 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024	28,428
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>	
At 1 April 2023	27,963
Charge for Year	465
At 31 March 2024	28,428
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	
At 31 March 2024	0
At 31 March 2023	465

**CHILDHOOD EYE CANCER TRUST (REGISTERED NUMBER: 02143917)**  
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**15. Debtors:**

	<b>2024</b>	2023
	<b>Total</b>	Total
	£	£
Trade Debtors	<b>509</b>	123
Other Debtors	<b>2,792</b>	2,792
Prepayments and Accrued Income	<b>17,470</b>	7,473
	<hr/> <b>20,771</b> <hr/>	<hr/> 10,388 <hr/>

**16. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year**

	<b>2024</b>	2023
	<b>Total</b>	Total
	£	£
Trade Creditors	<b>15,674</b>	32,096
Pension Creditor	<b>4,052</b>	7,948
Deferred Income	<b>23,489</b>	14,668
Accruals	<b>112,350</b>	133,305
	<hr/> <b>155,565</b> <hr/>	<hr/> 188,017 <hr/>

Included within Accruals is £108,418 for research grants awarded but expected to be drawn down within 12 months of the year end (2023: £79,936).

Deferred income relates to donations received in respect of future events, all of which is released in the following financial year.

**17. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due After More Than One Year**

	<b>2024</b>	2023
	<b>Total</b>	Total
	£	£
Accruals and Deferred Income	<hr/> <b>25,000</b> <hr/>	<hr/> 6,721 <hr/>

Accruals reflect grants awarded but not expected to be drawn down until more than 12 months after the current year end.

**18. Leasing Agreements**

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows

	<b>2024</b>	2023
	<b>Total</b>	Total
	£	£
Within One year	<hr/> <b>5,125</b> <hr/>	<hr/> - <hr/>

In August 2023 a two-year lease was signed for office space and this lease includes a 6 month notice period for either party to end the agreement.

**CHILDHOOD EYE CANCER TRUST (REGISTERED NUMBER: 02143917)**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**19. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds**

	<b>Unrestricted Fund</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2024 Total Funds</b>	<b>2023 Total Funds</b>
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	-	-	-	465
Current Assets	<b>492,529</b>	<b>6,800</b>	<b>499,329</b>	639,219
Current Liabilities	<b>(155,565)</b>	-	<b>(155,565)</b>	(188,017)
Long Term Liabilities	<b>(25,000)</b>	-	<b>(25,000)</b>	(6,721)
	<b>311,964</b>	<b>6,800</b>	<b>318,764</b>	444,946

Included within restricted funds is the restricted Hobson grant which was received during the year but is restricted to activities in 2024/25.

**20. Movement In Funds**

	<b>At 1.4.23</b>	<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>	<b>At 31.3.24</b>
	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>			
General Fund	<b>444,946</b>	<b>(132,982)</b>	<b>311,964</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>			
Family Support	-	<b>6,800</b>	<b>6,800</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>444,946</b>	<b>(126,182)</b>	<b>318,764</b>

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

	<b>Incoming Resources</b>	<b>Resources Expended</b>	<b>Movement in Funds</b>
	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>			
General Fund	<b>292,070</b>	<b>(425,052)</b>	<b>(132,982)</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>			
Family Support	<b>152,414</b>	<b>(145,614)</b>	<b>6,800</b>
Research	<b>5,000</b>	<b>(5,000)</b>	-
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>449,484</b>	<b>(575,666)</b>	<b>(126,182)</b>

**CHILDHOOD EYE CANCER TRUST (REGISTERED NUMBER: 02143917)**  
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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

20. Movement In Funds - continued

**Comparatives for Movement in Funds**

	<b>At 1.4.22</b>	<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>	<b>At 31.3.23</b>
	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>			
General Fund	400,652	44,294	444,946
<b>Restricted Funds</b>			
Family Support	2,541	(2,541)	-
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>403,193</u>	<u>£41,753</u>	<u>£444,946</u>

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

	<b>Incoming Resources</b>	<b>Resources Expended</b>	<b>Movement in Funds</b>
	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>			
General Fund	560,285	(515,991)	44,294
<b>Restricted Funds</b>			
Family Support	86,309	(88,850)	(2,541)
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>646,594</u>	<u>(604,841)</u>	<u>41,753</u>

**Purposes of Restricted Funds**

Research	Available for research into various projects that promote the objects of the Charity
Family Support	To provide support and information to families and individuals affected by retinoblastoma.
Kent Travel	A fund to provide eligible families living in Kent with one-off travel grants for financial assistance with travel to UK clinics.



**CHILDHOOD EYE CANCER TRUST (REGISTERED NUMBER: 02143917)**  
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## 21. Related Party Disclosures

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2024 or 31 March 2023.

## 22. Reconciliation of Net (Expenditure)/Income To Net Cash Flow From Operating Activities

	<b>2024</b>	2023
	<b>Total</b>	Total
	£	£
<b>Net (Expenditure)/Income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)</b>	<b>(126,182)</b>	41,752
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation Charges	<b>465</b>	472
Interest Received	<b>(11,329)</b>	(5,807)
Finance Costs	<b>-</b>	580
Decrease in Debtors	<b>(10,383)</b>	125
(Decrease) in Creditors	<b>(14,173)</b>	(39,609)
<b>Net Cash (used in)/provided by operations</b>	<b><u>(161,602)</u></b>	<b><u>(2,487)</u></b>

## 23. Analysis Of Changes In Net Funds

	<b>At 1.4.23</b>	<b>Cash Flow</b>	<b>At 31.3.24</b>
	£	£	£
<b>Net Cash</b>			
Cash at Bank	<u>628,831</u>	<u>(150,273)</u>	<u>478,558</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>628,831</u></b>	<b><u>(150,273)</u></b>	<b><u>478,558</u></b>

## 24. Capital Commitments

At the year end the Trust Board had no capital commitments (2023: £nil).