

Angel Eyes NI Services

Northern Ireland · Charity number 103126

Details

Status Received

Registered 2015-09-16

Register [View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register](#)

Contact

Address Innovation Factory
385 Springfield Road
Belfast
Bt12 7dg
BT12 7DG

Phone 02895902835

Email info@angeleyesni.org

Website www.angeleyesni.org

Activities

Purposes: The Charity's Objects are specifically restricted to provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare and recreation and leisure time occupation of blind and partially sighted children, young adults and adults and their families (hereinafter called "the beneficiaries") with the objects of improving the conditions of life for the said beneficiaries and in particular, but not limited, to the following: 1. assisting the beneficiaries in any way that is charitable in law including helping the beneficiaries to access services. Please contact the Commission or the charity directly for the remainder of these purposes.

What the charity does: The advancement of education, The advancement of health or the saving of lives, The relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage

How the charity works: Advice/advocacy/information, Counselling/support, Disability, Education/training, Medical/health/sickness, Research/evaluation, Sport/recreation

Who the charity helps: Adult training, Carers, Children (5-13 year olds), Parents, Preschool (0-5 year olds), Sensory disabilities, Volunteers, Youth (14-25 year olds)

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£475,626	£444,533	£-83,349	10

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr Brian Scott		
Miss Naomi Nixon		
Mr Brian John Wallace		
Mr Colin Higgins		
Mr Michael Johnston		
Mr Wilson Matthews		
Mrs Michelle Bateson		
Rosemary Rainey		

Angel Eyes NI Services

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103126

Accounts

Company registration number:NI633274

Charityregistration number:NIC103126

Angel Eyes NI Services

(A company limited by share capital)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Baxterworld Limited
Chartered Management Accountants
Unit 3 Dargan Industrial Park
60-84 Dargan Crescent
Belfast
Co. Antrim
BT3 9JP

Angel Eyes NI Services

Trustees

Dr Brian Scott
Michelle Bateson
Mr Michael Cameron Johnston
Wilson Matthews
Mr Colin Higgins
Naomi Nixon
Shelagh Rosemary Rainey
Mr Brian John Wallace

Charity Registration Number NIC103126

Company Registration Number NI633274

The charity is incorporated in Northern Ireland.

Registered Office Innovation Factory
Springfield Road
Belfast
BT12 7DG

Principal Office Innovation Factory
Springfield Road
Belfast
BT12 7DG

Independent Examiner Baxterworld Ltd
Chartered Management Accountant
Unit 3 Dargan Industrial Park
60-84 Dargan Crescent
Belfast
BT3 9JP

Angel Eyes NI Services
Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Chair's Report for Year Ending 31 March 2025

As Sara, our CEO, has reported, Angel Eyes has had another very successful year. The credit for this comes, firstly and very importantly, from our institutional and community donors. It is you who provide the funds that makes the charity possible. Secondly, I must acknowledge Sara and her trained, talented, and hard-working staff, who do the work on the ground every day.

One aspect of Angel Eyes activities that I think is particularly impressive is the work carried on beyond its specific remit. For example, caring for a visually impaired child costs more than for a sighted child. This is much more challenging for lower income parents, especially as inflation never stops. In response, we have been able to use some of our donations to set up a small fund to ease the burden. Kerrie and her team have also succeeded in getting vouchers from the utility companies, supermarkets, and specialised charities that give specific items such as fridges, beds, etc. I should also draw your attention to the extra care and support for the few families who are caring for a visually impaired, disabled child at the end of life.

Another important recent initiative beyond Angel Eyes remit is with Féach, a similar organisation operating in the Irish Republic. Together we have compared legislation, policies, and practices with respect to visually impaired children in both Irish jurisdictions. We have highlighted some excellent practices in one jurisdiction that can readily be emulated in the other part of the island. We are also able to spot gaps in policies and practices in either jurisdiction. Both Angel Eyes and Féach are now advocating and lobbying for improvements.

Yet another initiative, which actually came from the young person's we work with. They suggested we look into how QR codes might assist visually impaired young people. The first step has been to encourage cafes and restaurants to use QR codes that give clear, easy to read menus. Our staff are now encouraging local authorities all over Northern Ireland to promote the spread of these codes widely. The young people now think that QR codes can also provide maps of the layout of public buildings, business offices, etc. Wouldn't it be a great step forward if all buildings open to the public had such explanatory QR codes at the entrances! They would also be a great help to the whole community.

I must reiterate that none of this invaluable work would be possible without the continuing financial support of all our donors. So, on behalf of my fellow trustees, and of the entire staff, I wish to express my profound thanks to you all.

And I cannot conclude without also thanking the ongoing hard work and enthusiasm of our expert staff. Finally, too, on a personal note I am most grateful for the advice and support always given to me by my fellow trustees. Thank you all for another great year.



Dr Brian Scott
Chair, Angel Eyes NI

Angel Eyes NI Services
Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Chief Executives Report for April 2024 - March 2025

As CEO of Angel Eyes NI, I am proud to present our Annual Activities Report for 2024/25 a reflection of the passion, resilience, and strong commitment that defines our organisation.

This past year has seen both excellent progress and increasing challenges across the sector. In a climate where many charities have been forced to scale back or close entirely due to drastic reductions in government funding, Angel Eyes NI has not only sustained our services - we have grown them. We made the strategic decision not to rely on government funding, instead focusing on Trusts, Foundations, and community fundraising. This independence has given us the flexibility and focus to continue delivering high-quality and impactful support.

At the heart of everything we do are children and young people with vision impairment, and their families. Guided by their lived experiences, we've continued to expand and innovate, ensuring our work remains meaningful, impactful, and relevant. From immersive clinical training through Empathey VR to strengthened family support, education advocacy, and youth empowerment, every service we provide is shaped by the voices and needs of those we support.

This year we have also introduced our new Home Visit Service through the SpecialEyes Project, offering much-needed practical and emotional support directly to families. We know from our own data that only 29% of our children have access to a Disability or Sensory Social Worker, despite 50% having complex or additional needs. This shrinking of statutory services places immense pressure on families - many of whom are fighting just to secure basic respite support.

We have been consistently engaged in the ongoing SEND Reform process, led by Minister of Education Paul Girvan. While the direction of reform is still evolving, we remain concerned that, without ringfenced funding or increased provision for SEND, any positive outcomes will be limited. Our role is to continue gathering robust data which is an essential tool in advocating for our community and pushing for meaningful, evidence-based change. This work is just one of the many ways Angel Eyes NI is striving to influence long-term reform and help build a truly inclusive education system for all.

Some key highlights from the past year:

- Family Support Team: Reached over 250 families, hosted 18 inclusive events, and secured over£32,000 in direct grant support, ensuring families are supported at a time of financial need.
- Education Team: Driving systemic change in the education system, supported over 70 families, and secured vital improvements in Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision.
- Youth Services Team: Empowered 77 young people to grow in confidence, explore new opportunities, and become advocates for themselves and each other.
- Clinical Team: Delivered Empathey VR training to over 500 participants, raising awareness and improving understanding of vision impairment across schools, healthcare, and community settings.

Behind every number is a story, a child finding their voice, a family feeling heard, or a professional gaining a new understanding of vision impairment. These moments are the heartbeat of our work and keep us driving forward to create an inclusive community.

Angel Eyes NI Services
Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

We have also made our voice heard through key consultations, including:

- The Executive Office's draft Programme for Government 2024-2027, Our Plan: Doing What Matters Most
- The Department of Education's Free School Meals and Uniform Grant Consultation
- Department of Education - Accounting for Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs: Changing the 'Supernumerary' Status
- Claire Sugden MLA - Consultation on Proposed Legislation to Address Age Discrimination in Goods, Facilities, and Services
- The Department for Communities' Fuel Poverty Strategy
- Carers NI's State of Caring Survey 2025

These responses reflect our continued commitment to influencing policy and ensuring that the needs of children with a vision impairment and their families are represented.

None of this would be possible without our incredible Angel Eyes NI team, who go above and beyond every day. To our funders, partners, and our dedicated Board of Trustees, led by Dr Brian Scott, thank you. Your support, belief, and guidance are the foundations on which we continue to grow.

As we look to the future, our mission remains to break down barriers, amplify voices, and ensure that every child and young person with vision impairment is empowered to thrive.

With thanks,



Sara McCracken
CEO, Angel Eyes NI

Achievements and Performance

Annual Summary 2024/25

Introduction

We are pleased to present the Angel Eyes NI Annual Activities Report for 2024/25. This report reflects the breadth and impact of our work over the past year, highlighting how we have supported, represented, and advocated for children and young people with vision impairment and their families across Northern Ireland.

This year, our team grew to 10 staff members, with the addition of two new staff. This expanded capacity has enabled us to deliver more targeted, practical, and impactful services. Our work continues to be driven by lived experience, co-design, and a commitment to addressing the challenges facing our community.

Throughout this report, you will find clear evidence of how we have responded to need, supported the rights of those we support, and invested in our own learning to remain a skilled and knowledgeable team. We hope this report demonstrates our ongoing commitment to ensuring children and young people with vision impairment receive the recognition, opportunity, and support they deserve.

Education Services

The team continue to advocate powerfully for young people with vision impairment in education settings, driving systemic change and parent empowerment.

- Supported over 70 families with one to one educational support and advice
 - Angel Eyes NI recommendations cited and included in a child's Statement of SEN
 - Supporting children and young people in Higher Education
- Representation at 75 key forums and committees
- Delivered CPD accredited VR training to 160 Education Professionals across mainstream and special, primary and post primary schools.
 - Launch of the Shared Education in Ireland Report in November in partnership with Féach at Parliament Buildings, Stormont

Clinical Services

Our Clinical Lead continues to lead in the delivery of our innovative Empathey VR experiences and CPD Accredited Training which is significantly raising awareness of the impact of a vision impairment.

Delivered immersive VR sessions to over 350 participants:

- 14 family sessions (99 participants)
- 6 school sessions (120 participants)
- Belfast Met training for Health and Social Care Students
- Training delivered to Education Authority QTVI service
- CPD training for Angel Eyes NI Volunteers
- Training delivered to SE Trust Paediatric AHP's
- Training delivered to Lisnagarvey Operatic Society

This service provides clinical information and advice for the Angel Eyes NI Team and continues to support parents in understanding their clinical reports and demonstrating ocular defects using Empathey Virtual Reality VI Simulator.

Testimonials:

- "It was brilliant! Really enjoyed the VR experience..." APH, Sperrinview Special School, Dungannon
- "Thank you for the outstanding training..." Principal of Ardnashee school and College

Family Services

The Family Services Team has in collaboration with other entities worked to provide emotional, practical, and financial support to families navigating vision impairment.

- Supported 250 families with emotional and practical support
- 18 events delivered to over 500 attendees
- Delivered 40 home visits across Northern Ireland
- Co-delivered VR training and presentations to Mencap, Disability Teams, Children's Centres, AHPs
- Collaborative work with Guide Dogs, Cahoots, and Disability Sports NI
- Presence at external events and advocacy spaces (e.g. Carers APG, VISCF, Children's Health Coalition)
- Hosted webinar with NCB regarding cost-of-living impact
- Hosted Queen's MSc placement

Family Services Impact:

- Stronger peer connections and increased confidence reported
- Tailored support via home visits
- Expanded accessible social opportunities across NI

Financial Support for Families:

- 255 grants secured totalling £32,276
- 229 free meals provided at events

Professional Development

CPD Training undertaken includes Baby Massage, TacPac, Sensory Play, Mental Health and First Aid.

Testimonials:

- "The member of the team is lovely... she showed me reflexology massage... His massage sent him off to sleep. We look forward to another visit soon." - Mum

Thank you to the Family Service Funders:

- EyeDentity Plus Project - Powell Foundation
- SpecialEyes - National Lottery Community Fund
- Cash for Kids - Summer Hunger 2024
- Belfast Association for the Blind & Belfast Harbour Commissioners - Pantomime 2024
- The ARN Foundation

Youth Services

The Youth Team has made huge strides in engaging and empowering young people with vision impairment through peer support, advocacy, and creative engagement.

- 77 young people engaged
- 41 one-to-one support sessions delivered
- 19 events and workshops, including a 3-day residential
- QR Code Accessibility Campaign launched in Derry City and Strabane District Council
- Representation at 42 forums and groups

Key Milestones:

- QR campaign expanded with councils and NaviLens
- Youth Advisory Group established
- Collaborated with organisations like Archery GB and Speakers for Schools
- Youth successes: employment, accessible work experience, NI Youth Assembly & Forum

Testimonials:

- "X has blossomed since Angel Eyes... His confidence has grown so much!" - Principal
- "It changed his path... he now wants to work with youth." - Parent
- "I got support to get a job and explore future opportunities." - Young person
- "Trying things I never thought possible, like go-karting." - Young person
- "I really enjoy the events... made a lot of friends and learned new skills." - Young person

Thank you to the Youth Service Funders:

- SEE Project - Ulster Garden Villages and Belfast Association for the Blind
- EqualEyes - National Lottery Community Fund
- Create and Motivate - RTE Toy Show Appeal
- Motivate - Halifax Foundation
- Youth Activities - Ulster Society for the Blind
- The ARN Foundation

Thank you to all our Amazing Community Fundraisers!

Big Thanks to the following amazing fundraisers!

- Annual Mournes Challenge: £4,180
- Donation from Talking Libraries: £6,000
- Barbour Nursery School fundraising cycle: £1,025
- Julie-Ann Bell Marathon: £1,169
- Jean Mullen Family fundraiser: £2,000

Communications:

- 4 Quarterly Ezine distributed to 3540 recipients
- Covers activities, operations, staff updates, and events

Conclusion

Angel Eyes NI has demonstrated significant impact across all service areas through innovation, co-design, and dedication to lived experience.

From strategic partnerships to frontline support, every aspect of our work continues to reflect our mission: ensuring that children and young people with vision impairment and their families receive the support, recognition, and empowerment they deserve.

Angel Eyes NI Services
Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Financial review

Group Income in the year was £475,626 and group expenditure totalled £445,461 giving a group surplus of £30,165. £88,063 of the total funds are restricted and are not available for the general purposes of the group at the end of the reporting period. Group unrestricted and designated reserves totalled £127,227 at the close of the period.

Charity Income in the year was £415,563 and expenditure totalled £385,424 giving a surplus of £30,139. Total funds held at 31st March 2024 were £184,374. £88,064 of the total funds are restricted and are not available for the general purposes of the charity at the end of the reporting period. Unrestricted and designated reserves totalled £126,449 at the close of the period.

Policy on reserves

Angel Eyes NI Services maintains a prudent level of reserves to enable the organisation to manage financial risk and deliver on our commitments. The objective is that the organisation would be able to carry on its work, even if faced with a combination of difficult circumstances, and have the time to adjust its strategy to meet these changing circumstances. Our reserves policy is set therefore to ensure that there is not disruption to our services at short notice, due to a lack of funds, an unforeseen reduction in income or an increase in expenditure, while at the same time ensuring that reserves are no higher than necessary and not retained longer than required. This gives time in the event of a drop in funding, to seek alternative funds, restructure and cut costs whilst continuing to provide current services. The charity's policy is to retain a level of free reserves, which matches the needs of the organisation, both at the current time and in the foreseeable future. The reserves required should be sufficient to meet committed grant expenditure, personnel and overheads for a period equivalent to three to six months annual expenditure. The charity will continue to monitor compliance with this policy on a regular basis and the Board of Directors will review the appropriateness of the policy annually. At year ended 31st March 2025 free reserves available amounted to the equivalent of just over 3 months' annual expenditure.

The strategic report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 28 October 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Wilson Matthews
Trustee

Angel Eyes NI Services Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

Our Vision is that every blind and partially sighted child and young person will have equal access to everything they need to flourish (in society).

Through engagement with blind and partially sighted children and their families, and stakeholders we will inform, empower, and educate to bring about change, build confidence, knowledge, and skills for families and professionals.

Our mission is to create a fully inclusive society for children and young people who are blind and partially sighted so they can achieve their dreams, aspirations and full potential.

The core values of Angel Eyes:

Angel Eyes has grown in the past thirteen years and remained in touch with its core values which are at the heart of the organisation and form the basis for our strategic direction.

Our core values are:

• Knowledge

We empower families with information and skills to raise aspirations and make informed choices for their child.

• Inclusion

We work to identify and remove barriers to accessibility and inclusion and campaign for the rights of blind and partially sighted children.

• Empathy and Understanding

We have lived experience in our team which is at the heart of all the support we deliver to families and their child. We have travelled the same road and understand the highs and lows of bringing up a child with a visual impairment.

• Creating Change

We are passionate about creating innovative solutions, and where appropriate collaborating to overcome barriers to make a positive impact on the lives of blind and partially sighted children.

Welcome to our Strategic Plan 2023 - 2026

This document summarises the Angel Eyes NI strategy for 2023 - 2026. The strategy builds on the last three years' growth and achievements. In seeking to achieve our strategic priorities, it is very important to us that we continue to focus on our existing vision, mission and core values and maintain the Angel Eyes ethos which we believe reflects those values.

Our Strategic Objectives are:

1. All children and young people who are blind or partially sighted in Northern Ireland, will have equal access to education.
2. All families with a child who is blind or partially sighted in NI will have access to the services and support they require to bring up and support their child.
3. All children and young people who are blind or partially sighted in NI will have equal opportunity to accessible clubs and activities.
4. Angel Eyes will raise awareness of the needs of children and young people who are blind or partially sighted in NI by enabling them to have access to policy makers and legislators.
5. Angel Eyes will be recognised as an organisation that specialises in creating positive change for children and young people who are blind or partially sighted in NI, based on their needs and challenges.

Vision, Mission, and Core Values

Our Vision: All children and young people who are blind or partially sighted in Northern Ireland will have equal access to everything they need to flourish.

Our Mission: Through engagement with children and young people who are blind or partially sighted, their families, and relevant stakeholders, we will Advocate, Educate, Navigate, and Innovate, to bring about positive change and build confidence, knowledge, and skills.

Angel Eyes NI Services Trustees' Report

Angel Eyes will contribute to the creation of a fully inclusive society for children and young people who are blind and partially sighted so they can achieve their dreams, aspirations, and full potential.

It is important to us to remain transparent in all our work, and we seek, therefore, to protect our independence by only accepting funding and investment from those organisations which are supportive of our aims and of how we operate.

Public benefit

Purpose 1: To provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare which improve the conditions of life of blind and partially sighted children and young people and their families in Northern Ireland.

Benefit: The benefit which flows from this purpose is reduced stress, improved family life and individual wellbeing for the parents, carers and families of children and young people who are blind or partially sighted and increased ease of access and efficiency to supports and services for those children and young people so that they may reach their full potential resulting in alleviation of anxiety and stress.

How Benefit is evidenced: This will be demonstrated through use of a database held with details of parents, carers and their children which enables regular contact, feedback and surveys. It will be demonstrated through the use of evaluation forms with families. It is demonstrated through active collaboration and partnership working with statutory bodies, agencies and the voluntary sector.

Harm: This purpose does not lead to harm.

Public Element: The beneficiaries of this purpose are blind and partially sighted children and young people and their families and carers in Northern Ireland.

Private Benefit: Charity Trustees may include parents of blind or partially sighted children and young people and hence gain benefit in the same way as all other beneficiaries. This benefit is incidental and necessary to ensure the benefit is provided to all beneficiaries.

Purpose 2: To provide and assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of recreation and leisure time occupation of blind and partially sighted children and young people and their families in Northern Ireland.

Benefit The benefits which flow from this purpose are fully accessible holidays, recreational and educational activities with supports to enable increased participation of blind and partially sighted children and young people leading to improved family life, feelings of individual wellbeing and self-worth.

How Benefit is evidenced: This is demonstrated by feedback and records relating to organised events. It is demonstrated by the extension of recreation and leisure time opportunities available through collaboration with a range of partners within the voluntary sector.

Harm: This purpose does not lead to harm.

Public Element: The beneficiaries of this purpose are blind and partially sighted children and young people and their families and carers in Northern Ireland.

Private Benefit: Two of the Charity Trustees are parents of blind or partially sighted children and young people and hence gain benefit in the same way as all other beneficiaries. This benefit is incidental and necessary to ensure the benefit is provided to all beneficiaries.

Angel Eyes NI Services Trustees' Report

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 3 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

Angel Eyes NI Services is a Company Limited by Guarantee, governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association (NI633274) and registered as a charity with the Charities Commission for Northern Ireland, NIC103126.

The organisation is run by a Board of skilled individuals including two parents of visually impaired children. They are passionate and dedicated individuals who meet on a quarterly basis. It is responsible for the strategic direction of the organisation and oversees the management of the organisation. The day-to-day management and operation of activities are carried out by a staff team, led by the CEO who reports to the board.

Directors are appointed according to the specific skills required by the organisation to fulfil its' responsibilities and are ratified on a yearly basis at the AGM.

In the year ended March 2025, Angel Eyes NI Services employs 10 staff, including a Chief Executive, a full time and part time Education Advocate, two part-time Family Support Coordinators, a part time Eye Clinician and a part time administrator.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

It is an underpinning requirement that members of the management board have commitment to and an understanding of the ethos, aims and values of Angel Eyes NI Services. Specific skills may be required and with this in mind, new board members are attracted by advertising on digital platforms and by word of mouth. The new potential member is then invited to attend the next board meeting to observe and will become a full board member if co-opted by the board at that time and then elected at the next AGM.

Induction and training of Trustees

There is an induction pack which includes roles and responsibilities for new board members. A training and induction programme is also put in place.

Organisational structure

The day-to-day management and operation of the activities are carried out by a staff team, led by the CEO and Management Team, who also report regularly to the Committee.

Angel Eyes NI Services
Trustees' Report

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

Objectives and policies

The group's activities expose it to a number of financial risks including credit risk, cash flow risk and liquidity risk.

Cash flow risk

The group's activities expose it primarily to the financial risks of reduced funding from grant making bodies. Fundraising activities and donations are crucial to the group's cash flow.

Credit risk

The group's principal financial assets are bank balances and cash, trade and other receivables. The group's credit risk is primarily attributable to its trade receivables. The amounts presented in the balance sheet are net of allowances for doubtful receivables.

The credit risk on liquid funds and derivative financial instruments is limited because the counterparties are banks with high credit-ratings assigned by international credit-rating agencies. The group has no significant concentration of credit risk.

Liquidity risk

In order to maintain liquidity to ensure that sufficient funds are available for ongoing operations and future developments, the group regularly reviews funding sources to ensure sufficient cash flows are available for current projects.

Further details regarding liquidity risk can be found in the Statement of accounting policies in the financial statements.

Going Concern

The trustees believe that the charity will continue as a going concern. Funders have shown themselves to be supportive, flexible and adaptive to the current situation which is an invaluable help. The organisation continues to work in partnership with government bodies and agencies in terms of developing a longer term strategy to support the group's beneficiaries.

Angel Eyes NI Services
Trustees' Report

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of Angel Eyes NI Services 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), and applicable law and regulations.

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

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

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

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 28 October 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Wilson Matthews
Trustee

Angel Eyes NI Services
Independent Examiners's Report to the Members of Angel Eyes NI Services

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025 which are set out on pages 17 to 31 .

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 65(2) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (the 2008 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £100,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of CIMA. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the 2008 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the 2008 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



.....
Catherine McRory FCMA CGMA
For and on behalf of Baxterworld Ltd
Chartered Management Accountant (CIMA)
Unit 3 Dargan Industrial Park
60-84 Dargan Crescent
Belfast
Co. Antrim
BT3 9JP

28 October 2025

Angel Eyes NI Services

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (Including Consolidated Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	3	60,472	342,852	403,324
		-	-	-
Income from Trading Subsidiary	4	66,401	-	66,401
Investment income	5	451	-	451
Other income	6	5,450	-	5,450
Total income		132,774	342,852	475,626
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	7	(747)	-	(747)
Costs of trading activities	4	(60,776)	-	(60,776)
Staff Costs	11	-	-	-
Charitable activities	8	(80,631)	(302,379)	(383,010)
Other expenditure			-	-
Total expenditure		(142,154)	(302,379)	(444,533)
Net income		(9,380)	40,473	31,093
Transfers between funds		(3,306)	3,306	-
Net movement in funds		(12,686)	43,779	31,093
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		138,423	45,951	184,374
Total funds carried forward	20	125,737	89,730	215,467
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	3	107,138	259,166	366,304
		-	-	-
Other trading activities		-	-	-
Investment income	5	349	-	349
Other income	6	5,250	-	5,250
Total income		112,737	259,166	371,903

Angel Eyes NI Services

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (Including Consolidated Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	7	(1,074)	(10)	(1,084)
Costs of trading activities	4	-	-	-
Staff Costs	11	-	-	-
Charitable activities	8	(64,959)	(242,384)	(307,343)
Other expenditure		-	-	-
		<hr/>		
Total expenditure		(66,033)	(242,394)	(308,427)
		<hr/>		
Net income		46,704	16,772	63,476
Transfers between funds		(6,075)	6,075	-
		<hr/>		
Net movement in funds		40,629	22,847	63,476
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		97,795	23,103	120,898
		<hr/>		
Total funds carried forward	20	138,424	45,950	184,374
		<hr/>		

All of the group's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2025 & 2024 is shown in note 20.

Angel Eyes NI Services
(Registration number: NI633274)
Consolidated Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	-	-
Current assets			
Debtors	16	26,128	63,683
Cash at bank and in hand		272,688	173,366
		<hr/> 298,816	<hr/> 237,049
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	17	(83,349)	(52,675)
		<hr/> 215,467	<hr/> 184,374
Net current assets			
		<hr/> 215,467	<hr/> 184,374
Funds of the group:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds		89,730	45,951
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		125,737	138,423
Other reserves		-	-
		<hr/> 125,737	<hr/> 138,423
Total unrestricted funds			
		<hr/> 125,737	<hr/> 138,423
Total funds	20	<hr/> 215,467	<hr/> 184,374

For the financial year ending 31 March 2025 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements on pages 21 to 36 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 28 October 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Wilson Matthews
Trustee

Angel Eyes NI Services
(Registration number: NI633274)
Balance Sheet at 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	-	-
Current assets			
Debtors	16	69,718	63,683
Cash at bank and in hand		223,222	173,366
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		292,940	237,049
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	17	(78,427)	(52,675)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net current assets		214,513	184,374
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net assets		214,513	184,374
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds		88,064	45,951
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		126,449	138,423
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funds	20	214,513	184,374
		<hr/>	<hr/>

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The financial statements on pages 21 to 36 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 28 October 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Wilson Matthews
Trustee

1. Charity status

The charity is a charity limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £10,000. These financial statements were authorised for issue by the trustees on 28 October 2025.

2. Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Income from trading subsidiary

The trading subsidiary, Empatheyes Ltd, income is summarised on the group statement of financial activities and detailed in note 5 to the accounts.

Basis of preparation

Angel Eyes NI Services meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Basis of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements consolidate the financial statements of the charity and its subsidiary undertakings drawn up to 31 March 2025.

No statement of financial activities is presented for the charity as permitted by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006. The charity made a surplus after tax for the financial year of £30,139.

A subsidiary is an entity controlled by the charity. Control is achieved where the charity has the power to govern the financial and operating policies of an entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities.

The results of subsidiaries acquired or disposed of during the year are included in the statement of financial activities from the effective date of acquisition or up to the effective date of disposal, as appropriate. Where necessary, adjustments are made to the financial statements of subsidiaries to bring their accounting policies into line with those used by the group.

The purchase method of accounting is used to account for business combinations that result in the acquisition of subsidiaries by the group. The cost of a business combination is measured as the fair value of the assets given, equity instruments issued and liabilities incurred or assumed at the date of exchange, plus costs directly attributable to the business combination. Identifiable assets acquired and liabilities and contingent liabilities assumed in a business combination are measured initially at their fair values at the acquisition date. Any excess of the cost of the business combination over the acquirer's interest in the net fair value of the identifiable assets, liabilities and contingent liabilities recognised is recorded as goodwill.

Inter-company transactions, balances and unrealised gains on transactions between the charity and its subsidiaries, which are related parties, are eliminated in full.

Intra-group losses are also eliminated but may indicate an impairment that requires recognition in the consolidated financial statements.

Accounting policies of subsidiaries have been changed where necessary to ensure consistency with the policies adopted by the group. Non-controlling interests in the net assets of consolidated subsidiaries are identified separately from the group's equity therein. Non-controlling interests consist of the amount of those interests at the date of the original business combination and the non-controlling shareholder's share of changes in equity since the date of the combination. Total comprehensive income is attributed to non-controlling interests even if this results in the non-

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Income and endowments

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

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Investment income

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities

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.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £0.00 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Borrowings

Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period of the relevant borrowing.

Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the charity has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the group.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Financial instruments

Classification

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the group becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the group after deducting all of its liabilities.

Recognition and measurement

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the group intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the group transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the group, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Investments

Investments in non-convertible preference shares and non-puttable ordinary or preference shares (where shares are publicly traded or their fair value is reliably measurable) are measured at fair value through profit or loss. Where fair value cannot be measured reliably, investments are measured at cost less impairment.

Investments in subsidiaries and associates are measured at cost less impairment. For investments in subsidiaries acquired for consideration including the issue of shares qualifying for merger relief, cost is measured by reference to the nominal value of the shares issued plus fair value of other consideration. Any premium is ignored.

Fair value measurement

The best evidence of fair value is a quoted price for an identical asset in an active market. When quoted prices are unavailable, the price of a recent transaction for an identical asset provides evidence of fair value as long as there has not been a significant change in economic circumstances or a significant lapse of time since the transaction took place. If the market is not active and recent transactions of an identical asset on their own are not a good estimate of fair value, the fair value is estimated by using a valuation technique.

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	General £	£	£	£
Donations and legacies;				
Donations from individuals	30,472	-	30,472	35,138
Grants, including capital grants;				
Grants from other charities	30,000	342,852	372,852	331,166
	<u>60,472</u>	<u>342,852</u>	<u>403,324</u>	<u>366,304</u>

4. Income from other trading

Registered address of Subsidiary:

Innovation Factory
Forthriver Business Park
385 Springfield Road
Belfast
BT12 7DG

Emaptheyes Ltd

	2025
	£
Trading income;	
Turnover	66,401
Cost of Sales	(14,239)
Staff Costs	(20,613)
Administrative expenses	(26,852)
Tax on profit/(loss)	(697)
	<u>4,000</u>
Aggregate Share Capital and Reserves	<u>955</u>

5. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds	Total	Total
	General	2025	2024
	£	£	£
Interest receivable on bank deposits	451	451	349

6. Other income

	Unrestricted funds	Total	Total
	General	2025	2024
	£	£	£
Other Income	5,450	5,450	5,250

7. Expenditure on raising funds

a) Costs of generating donations and legacies

	Direct costs	Total 2025 £	Total 2024
	£		£
Costs of generating donations and legacies	747	747	1,084

8. Expenditure on charitable activities

Charity

		Unrestricted & Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	Note	General £	£	£	£
Support for visually impaired children		12,741	77,872	90,613	70,417
Staff costs		64,197	226,012	290,209	233,098
Allocated support costs		2,156	162	2,318	2,793
Governance costs	9	1,537	-	1,537	1,035
		<u>80,631</u>	<u>304,046</u>	<u>384,677</u>	<u>307,343</u>

£79,094 (2024: £48,943) of the above expenditure was attributable to unrestricted funds and £304,046 (2024: £258,449) to restricted funds.

9. Analysis of governance and support costs

Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	General £	£	£	£
Independent examiner fees				
Examination of the financial statements	1,537	-	1,537	1,035
	<u>1,537</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,537</u>	<u>1,035</u>

10. Trustees remuneration and

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the group during the year.

11. Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	241,275	196,137
Social security costs	21,792	17,476
Pension costs	12,404	7,862
Other staff costs	14,738	11,623
	290,209	233,098

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2025	2024
	No	No
Front Line Staff	10	7
Management	2	1
	12	8

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year

12. Independent examiner's

	2025	2024
	£	£
Examination of the financial statements	1,537	1,035
	1,537	1,035

13. Taxation

The group combines a charity and a trading subsidiary. The charity is a registered as such and is therefore exempt from taxation, however the trading subsidiary is subject to corporation tax at the prevailing rates.

14. Tangible fixed assets
Group

	Furniture and equipment	Total
	£	£
Cost		
At 1 April 2024	10,920	10,920
Additions	-	-
At 31 March 2025	10,920	10,920
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2024	7,280	7,280
Charge for the year	-	-
At 31 March 2025	10,920	10,920
Net book value		
At 31 March 2025	-	-
At 31 March 2024	3,640	3,640

Charity

	Furniture and equipment	Total
	£	£
Cost		
At 1 April 2024		-
Additions		-
At 31 March 2025	-	-
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2024		-
Charge for the year		-
At 31 March 2025	-	-
Net book value		
At 31 March 2025	-	-
At 31 March 2024	-	-

15. Investments

	Subsidiary Undertaking
	Shares
	£
Cost	
At 31st March 2024 and 31st March 2025	169
Carrying amount	
At 31st March 2025	169
At 31st March 2024	169

15.1. Holdings in subsidiary undertakings

Name	Company Registration	Details of	Proportion
	Number	Investment	held by
			charity
Empatheytes Limited	NI667819	Ordinary	100%

The aggregate amount of capital and reserves and the results of these undertakings for the last relevant financial year were as follows:

Name	Year Ended	Capital and Reserves (£)	Profit/(loss) (£)
Empatheytes Limited	31st March 2025	955	26

16. Debtors

	Group		Charity	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	25,720	63,275	69,310	63,275
Prepayments	-	-	-	-
Other debtors	408	408	408	408
	<u>26,128</u>	<u>63,683</u>	<u>69,718</u>	<u>63,683</u>

Group debtors includes £Nil (2024: £Nil) receivable after more than one year.

Charity debtors includes £Nil (2024: £Nil) receivable after more than one year.

17. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Charity	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	3,969	629	678	629
Trading subsidiary corporation tax payable	697	-	-	-
Other taxation and social security	4,262	3,900	4,997	3,900
Other creditors	5,136	47,426	5,135	3,270
Accruals	15,051	720	13,383	720
Deferred income	54,234	-	54,234	44,156
	<u>83,349</u>	<u>52,675</u>	<u>78,427</u>	<u>52,675</u>

18. Pension and other schemes

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £12,405 (2023 - £7,862).

19. Analysis of Net Assets Group

	Unrestricted funds			Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
	Designated Funds 2025	General funds 2025	Restricted funds 2025		
	At 1 April 2024	85,000	53,423		
Net Incoming/(outgoing) resources	(3,772)	(5,609)	40,473	31,092	63,476
Transfer between funds	23,772	(27,078)	3,306	-	-
At 31 March 2025	105,000	20,735	89,730	215,465	184,374

Charity

	Unrestricted funds			Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
	Designated 2025	General 2025	Restricted 2025		
	At 1 April 2024	85,000	53,423		
Net Incoming/(outgoing) resources	(3,772)	(4,893)	38,804	30,139	63,476
Transfer between funds	23,772	(27,078)	3,306	-	-
At 31 March 2025	105,000	21,452	88,061	214,513	184,374

20. Funds Group

	Balance at 1 April 2024	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Unrestricted funds					
<i>General</i>					
Unrestricted income	53,423	66,373	(77,605)	(27,078)	15,111
Empatheyes	-	66,401	(60,777)	-	5,624
	53,423	132,774	(138,382)	(27,078)	20,735
<i>Designated</i>					
Redundancy Fund	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
Running cost Reserve	50,000	-	-	15,000	65,000
Unfunded Salary Reserve	15,000	-	(3,772)	8,772	20,000
	85,000	-	(3,772)	23,772	105,000
Total unrestricted funds	138,423	132,774	(142,155)	(3,306)	125,735
<i>Restricted funds</i>					
AENI Crisis Fund	1,250	1,025	(1,223)	-	1,052
Awards for All - Financial Advice &	-	-	-	-	-
Cash for Kids Summer Hunger	-	2,470	(2,478)	8	-
Dept of Foreign Affairs - Shared	2,546	-	(4,107)	1,561	-
Island Civic Society Fund	-	30,364	(10,648)	-	19,715
Dept of Foreign Affairs - Shared	-	30,364	(10,648)	-	19,715
Island Civic Society Fund 2025	-	-	-	-	-
National Lottery Equal Eyes	7,019	87,981	(87,975)	-	7,025
Muller Trust Eye Learn	-	58,000	(30,442)	-	27,558
Community Foundation Eyedentity	2,896	-	(2,896)	-	-
The Powell Foundation Eyedentity	-	29,590	(27,583)	-	2,007
Gardiniers Trust for the Blind	-	574	(574)	-	-
HSF Eyelearn VR	-	-	-	-	-
LFT - CRM & Comms	3,490	-	(5,228)	1,737	-
Halifax - Motivates	-	8,704	(7,687)	-	1,017
Panto	308	5,314	(5,622)	-	-
PHA Slippage	-	9,940	-	-	9,940
RTE Create & Motivate	-	7,390	(3,253)	-	4,137
Belfast Association for Blind SEE Project	24,912	15,000	(30,562)	-	9,350
National Lottery SpecialEyes	3,530	85,501	(81,843)	-	7,189
USPEDB	-	1,000	(262)	-	738
	45,951	342,852	(302,379)	3,306	89,730
Total funds	184,374	475,626	(444,534)	-	215,465

Charity

	Balance at 1 April 2024	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Unrestricted funds					
<i>General</i>					
Unrestricted income	53,423	66,373	(71,267)	(27,078)	21,450
Empatheyes	-	6,337	(6,337)	-	-
	<u>53,423</u>	<u>72,710</u>	<u>(77,604)</u>	<u>(27,078)</u>	<u>21,450</u>
<i>Designated</i>					
Redundancy Fund	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
Running cost Reserve	50,000	-	-	15,000	65,000
Unfunded Salary Reserve	15,000	-	(3,772)	8,772	20,000
	<u>85,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,772)</u>	<u>23,772</u>	<u>105,000</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>138,423</u>	<u>72,710</u>	<u>(81,377)</u>	<u>(3,306)</u>	<u>126,450</u>
<i>Restricted funds</i>					
AENI Crisis Fund	1,250	1,025	(1,223)	-	1,052
Awards for All - Financial Advice & Cash for Kids Summer Hunger	-	-	-	-	-
Dept of Foreign Affairs - Shared	-	2,470	(2,478)	8	-
Dept of Foreign Affairs - Shared	2,546	-	(4,107)	1,561	-
Dept of Foreign Affairs - Shared	-	30,364	(12,315)	-	18,048
National Lottery Equal Eyes	7,019	87,981	(87,975)	-	7,025
Muller Trust Eye Learn	-	58,000	(30,442)	-	27,558
Community Foundation Eyedentity	2,896	-	(2,896)	-	-
The Powell Foundation Eyedentity	-	29,590	(27,583)	-	2,007
Gardiners Trust for the Blind	-	574	(574)	-	-
HSF Eyelearn VR	-	-	-	-	-
LFT - CRM & Comms	3,490	-	(5,228)	1,737	-
Halifax - Motivates	-	8,704	(7,687)	-	1,017
Panto	308	5,314	(5,622)	-	-
PHA Slippage	-	9,940	-	-	9,940
RTE Create & Motivate	-	7,390	(3,253)	-	4,137
Belfast Association for Blind SEE	24,912	15,000	(30,562)	-	9,350
National Lottery SpecialEyes	3,530	85,501	(81,843)	-	7,189
USPEDB	-	1,000	(262)	-	738
	<u>45,951</u>	<u>342,852</u>	<u>(304,046)</u>	<u>3,306</u>	<u>88,063</u>
Total funds	<u>184,374</u>	<u>415,563</u>	<u>(385,423)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>214,513</u>

Group

	Balance at 1 April 2023	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted funds					
<i>General</i>					
Unrestricted income	56,506	112,737	(57,432)	(58,388)	53,423
	<u>56,506</u>	<u>112,737</u>	<u>(57,432)</u>	<u>(58,388)</u>	<u>53,423</u>
<i>Designated</i>					
Des Res Consultancy Costs	4,228	-	-	(4,228)	-
Redundancy Fund	-	-	-	20,000	20,000
Running cost Reserve	-	-	-	50,000	50,000
Unfunded Salary Reserve	37,063	-	(8,603)	(13,460)	15,000
	<u>41,291</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(8,603)</u>	<u>52,312</u>	<u>85,000</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>97,797</u>	<u>112,737</u>	<u>(66,035)</u>	<u>(6,076)</u>	<u>138,423</u>

Restricted funds

BBC CIN - In Tune (Open Arts)		48	(117)	69	-
AENI Crisis Fund	-	1,250	-	-	1,250
Belfast Association for Blind SEE	-	44,992	(20,080)	-	24,912
Will Charitable Trust	1,873	-	(5,065)	3,192	-
Education Insight - TPT	653			(653)	-
Dept of Foreign Affairs - Shared	-	8,324	(5,779)	-	2,545
Island Civic Society Fund					
National Lottery Equal Eyes	4,254	90,818	(88,053)	-	7,019
Cash for Kids	-	3,000	(3,000)	-	-
Community Foundation Eyedentity	2,826	36,264	(36,194)	-	2,896
LFT - CRM & Comms	1,790	4,480	(2,780)	-	3,490
National Lottery SpecialEyes	-	47,015	(43,484)	-	3,531
Hospital Saturday Fund	2,260	-	(2,260)	-	-
Empatheyes	-	15,464	(15,464)	-	-
Residential 2023	9,234	-	(10,679)	1,445	-
HSF - VR	-	4,500	(4,472)	(28)	-
Panto	211	2,350	(2,253)	-	308
Parent Support Worker (ARN)	-	-	(2,529)	2,529	-
Parents Conference	-	662	(184)	(478)	-
	23,101	259,167	(242,393)	6,076	45,951
Total funds	120,898	371,904	(308,428)	-	184,374

Charity

	Balance at 1 April 2023	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
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Unrestricted funds

General

Unrestricted income	56,506	112,737	(57,432)	(58,388)	53,423
	-	-	-	-	-
	56,506	112,737	(57,432)	(58,388)	53,423

Designated

Des Res Consultancy Costs	4,228	-	-	(4,228)	-
Redundancy Fund	-	-	-	20,000	20,000
Running cost Reserve	-	-	-	50,000	50,000
Unfunded Salary Reserve	37,063	-	(8,603)	(13,460)	15,000
	41,291	-	(8,603)	52,312	85,000
Total unrestricted funds	97,797	112,737	(66,035)	(6,076)	138,423

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Parent Support Worker (ARN)	-	-	(2,529)	2,529	-
Parents Conference	-	662	(184)	(478)	-
	23,101	259,167	(242,393)	6,076	45,951

Total funds	120,898	371,904	(308,428)	-	184,374
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21. Analysis of net assets between Group

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 March 2025
	General £	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-
Current assets	209,086	89,730	298,816
Current liabilities	(83,349)	-	(83,349)
Total net assets	125,737	89,730	215,467

Charity

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 March 2025
	General £	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-
Current assets	204,877	88,063	292,940
Current liabilities	(78,428)	-	(78,428)
Total net assets	126,449	88,063	214,512

Angel Eyes NI Services

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103126

Accounts

Company registration number: NI633274

Charity registration number: 103126

Angel Eyes NI Services

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Baxterworld Ltd
Chartered Management Accountant
Unit 3 Dargan Industrial Park
60-84 Dargan Crescent
Belfast
BT3 9JP

Angel Eyes NI Services

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Angel Eyes NI Services

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Dr Brian Scott Michelle Bateson Mr Michael Cameron Johnston Wilson Matthews Mr Colin Higgins Naomi Nixon Shelagh Rosemary Rainey Mr Brian John Wallace
Secretary	Sara McCracken
Principal Office	Innovation Factory Springfield Road Belfast BT12 7DG
Company Registration Number	NI633274
Charity Registration Number	103126
Independent Examiner	Baxterworld Ltd Chartered Management Accountant Unit 3 Dargan Industrial Park 60-84 Dargan Crescent Belfast BT3 9JP

Angel Eyes NI Services

Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Chair's Report for Year Ending 31 March 2024

Despite the buffeting of the external political, health, and overall financial uncertainties, Angel Eyes has had another very successful year. Total revenues for 2023-24 were 10% higher than the previous year! Our average annual revenue increase over the past four years has been 17.7%. This success is a tribute to the energy and expertise of Sara and her excellent team in gaining and sustaining the trust and support of so many existing and new trusts, foundations, and individual donors. On behalf of my fellow board members, I congratulate you all!

Our growing financial resources are being put to excellent use; Sara's operational report details the extensive growth in the numbers of young people and families receiving support, and also the development of additional ways of doing so.

Family support includes not only the traditional close advice and guidance through the maze of bureaucracy but also direct financial help during the recent cost of living crisis, which has impacted those with visually impaired children especially hard. Sara's team has been able to unlock more special grants for laptops and white goods, and also provide money and vouchers to meet some families' basic needs for food and heating.

Support and services to families has also broken new ground in arranging financial information provision to help families cope with the ever-changing complex social welfare regulations. This assistance is also made available online, which is relatively cheap and easy for both sides and which has proved very valuable to several families. We also now have more specialist eye clinicians to provide individual support when needed. This latter service is combined also with our Empatheyes virtual reality technology to inform and train both families and educational staff.

As well as direct support for families Sara's team are providing a growing range of social and cultural activities for children and teenagers. The feedback from residential weekends, the annual pantomime, and other meetings and social events has been universally positive and welcomed.

Given continuing uncertainty in government policy and what is clearly going to be the greater financial stringency to provide for all of children's special needs, and indeed education in general, we are stepping up our lobbying and campaigning work. The revamped website and extra social media activities underpin the direct lobbying of politicians and senior educational officials. Alongside this work, we are developing new relationships with similar organisations in ROI, which have shown great interest in our virtual reality technology and teaching assistant certifications. We plan to gather comparison data for each jurisdiction to illustrate gaps and inadequacies of NI's legislation and services (and vice versa).

This impressive progress has been achieved by both increasing staff numbers somewhat but also, very importantly, improving management and operational efficiencies. A new management/financial reporting system means that the activities reports from the different departments can be brought together and assessed every month in much less time than before, thus giving everyone freedom for more productive 'frontline' work. The system also has enabled our departmental heads to take more responsibility for planning and direct operational management. This enables Sara to avoid becoming a bottleneck to further development.

I cannot conclude without thanking the entire staff of Angel Eyes, all of our invaluable donors and supporters, and, of course, my fellow trustees, who are an enormous support to me in particular. Thank you all so very much.

Dr Brian Scott

Angel Eyes NI Services

Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Chair, Angel Eyes NI

Angel Eyes NI Services

Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Chief Executives Report for April 2023 - March 2024

As the CEO of Angel Eyes NI, I am delighted to present the Annual Report for the 2023-2024 financial year. This report encapsulates our collective efforts and achievements, detailing the significant impact we have made in supporting children with vision impairments and their families across Northern Ireland. Throughout this period, our team has worked diligently to provide essential services, secure crucial funding, and advocate for the rights and needs of children and young people with a vision impairment and their families.

I want to extend my thanks to the wonderful staff team and Board of Trustees along with our volunteers, partners, funders and donors. Their contributions and support make our work possible and enable us to create a more inclusive and supportive environment for children with vision impairments and their families.

Sara McCracken
CEO and Founder, Angel Eyes NI

Overview

This year, we focused on enhancing our operational efficiency, growing our reach, and expanding our impact. Our services have continued to grow to meet the needs of children and young people with a vision impairment and their families. We now offer Education, Family and Youth Services as well as having an Eye Clinician inhouse to provide medical input for families and our staff.

The following report provides a detailed account of our activities and achievements over the past year.

Angel Eyes NI Services

Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Achievements and performance Education Services

Our Education Service has made substantial strides this year in advocating for and supporting the educational needs of children with vision impairments and provided much needed school support to increase knowledge and understanding of supporting vision impairment within the education sector.

Key activities and achievements include:

- **Family Support:** The EqualEyes project provided critical support to 42 new families and continued to assist 107 existing families. This included personalised guidance on navigating the education system, securing appropriate accommodations, and advocating for necessary resources.
- **Young People Assistance:** The project supported 79 young people in accessing educational opportunities tailored to their needs, ensuring they have the tools and confidence to succeed.
- **Specialist Accommodation:** We submitted a detailed response to the Education Authority, advocating for the inclusion of specialist accommodations in schools to better equip students with vision impairments. This is a significant step towards inclusive education in Northern Ireland.
- **Collaborations:** Engaged in discussions with the Equality Commission regarding SEAG (Special Educational Needs Advice and Guidance) access arrangements for children with vision impairments, ensuring fair and equitable treatment in the education system.

Events/Training

- **Teen Residential:** Summer 2023. This event provided a unique opportunity for teenagers with vision impairments to build independence, socialise, and gain confidence in a supportive environment. Feedback from participants and their families has been overwhelmingly positive.
- **VR Training:** Delivered virtual reality (VR) training to 22 schools, enhancing teachers' ability to support children with vision impairments. This innovative approach has proven effective in helping educators understand the challenges faced by visually impaired students and adapt their teaching methods accordingly.
- **School Partnerships:** Worked closely with both mainstream and special schools to improve the educational experience for visually impaired students. This included information on how to adapt resources and incorporating assistive technologies to create a more inclusive learning environment.

Advocacy and Support

The Education Team have been instrumental in advocating for children with vision impairments:

- **Tribunal Success:** Successfully represented a family in a tribunal case, securing the necessary educational support for their child. This victory highlights the importance of legal advocacy in ensuring equal educational opportunities.
- **Inclusion Efforts:** Secured the inclusion of children with vision impairments in various school activities, promoting a more inclusive school culture.
- **Education Advocacy:** Provided ongoing support to numerous families dealing with in-school support issues and statementing, helping them navigate the complex education system and secure the best possible outcomes for their children.

Angel Eyes NI Services

Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Training and Workshops

- We delivered workshops to 20 CA's and 20 SNA's as part of an innovative collaboration with Féach to equip education staff with the necessary skills and knowledge to support students with vision impairments effectively.
- Special School Partnership: Engaged in partnerships with special schools, sharing our expertise and resources to enhance the educational experiences of pupils in special schools with vision impairments.

Summary

Our Education Services Team have made remarkable progress this year in supporting and advocating for the educational needs of children with vision impairments. The Education Service has successfully provided vital support to numerous families, empowered young people, and advocated for necessary changes within the educational system.

Through continuous advocacy, collaboration, and tailored support, we have significantly contributed to creating equal educational opportunities for children with vision impairments.

Family Support Services

Key Achievements

Supporting Families

Over the past year, Family Support Services has made significant strides in supporting families within our community. We have secured funding for the next 5 years to provide comprehensive family support throughout Northern Ireland.

We achieved a record high of supporting 112 new family referrals and continued providing ongoing support to 346 existing families. Our efforts were boosted by securing funding for the SpecialEyes project, which will commence in November 2023.

Financial Assistance

In response to the observed impact of the cost-of-living crisis on families, we proactively implemented a series of strategies to provide support to families in Northern Ireland with visually impaired children. Recognising the heightened financial pressures these families face, we prioritised identifying and addressing their specific needs.

We processed a total of 316 applications for financial assistance which included laptops which helped children in the education as well as social interactions. Additionally, we secured grants for food and fuel as well as funding to provide essential white goods through the Emergency Essentials funding scheme.

Our team expanded with new staff members, allowing us to extend our reach and enhance service delivery. We also conducted 6 home visits and hosted 8 family events, with a total attendance of 670 individuals. The inclusive Christmas Panto hosted at the Lisburn Arts centre was a highlight, with 487 attendees enjoying memorable show!

Angel Eyes NI Services

Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

We have collaborated with Employers for Childcare to deliver financial workshops, addressing changes in Family Tax Credits and Universal Credit, ensuring families are well-informed and supported through these transitions.

Angel Eyes NI Services

Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Summary

This year, Family Support Services has significantly impacted our community by providing essential services including training and financial assistance. With the addition of our home visits service we are able to provide tailored support for our most vulnerable children and families.

Youth Services

Angel Eyes NI's Youth Service was established in August 2023 to engage with teens and young people with vision impairment to address their issues.

From focus groups we learned that they felt isolated and embarrassed of their vision impairment which was compounded by challenges such as not being able to drive and requiring assistive technology, leading to feelings of isolation and misunderstanding.

Angel Eyes NI has recruited a Youth Advocate to focus on the emotional well-being of these teens, to promote inclusion in school activities and to help develop meaningful strategies to overcome anxiety.

Key Achievements and Activities

One to One Support and Advocacy:

Registered 44 young people across Northern Ireland, providing them with ongoing support.

Accessible Activities:

Delivered six events, including:

Mental health support workshop

Two Bowling and Pizza nights

Employment rights session with Labour Relations Agency

Education rights workshop with Children's Law Centre

Participation in All Party Working Group and Youth Forum at Stormont

Peer Network Development:

Established closed Facebook and WhatsApp groups for young people (12 members) and parents (80 members) to facilitate communication and co-design events.

Young People Committee to co design project and discuss project goals and activities.

Resource Database:

We have developed a comprehensive database of services and supports, including grants for education, which will be available on our new website launching in July 2024.

Angel Eyes NI Services

Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Resource Database:

We have developed a comprehensive database of services and supports, including grants for education, which will be available on our new website launching in July 2024.

Stakeholder Engagement:

Engaged four young people in All Party Groups for Youth Participation and Mental Health, contributing to policy discussions and advocacy efforts.

Collaborated with the Children's Law Centre to present findings to the All Party Working Group for Mental Health.

The Youth Service has made significant progress in supporting visually impaired youth, emphasising the importance of independence and community engagement.

Clinical Services

Established in 2021 this service continues to support both parents and professionals around understanding the impact of visual impairment. Primarily this service, headed up by an eye clinician delivers training on eye conditions, understanding clinical information and working with the whole Angel Eyes NI team to develop training sessions that are effective and meaningful. The Clinician uses the Empathey Virtual Reality software to demonstrate and explain eye conditions.

Key Achievements:

Delivered 29 VR parent session for 83 family members

Delivered along with the Education Team 22 school sessions to over 250 education staff

Delivered 8 VR sessions for stakeholders and partners.

Developed school training resources.

Delivered VR Training sessions to Centre for Public Health as part of the Wellness Week at QUB.

Organisational Development

HR and Team Structure

- Welcomed HR consultants Beyond HR for recruitment and policy review.
- Created a new Senior Management Team
- Implemented regular one-on-one meetings for staff and introduced flexible working arrangements to support work-life balance.
- Conducted Live Well Work Well health checks, promoting staff well-being.

Angel Eyes NI Services

Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

IT and Cybersecurity

- Transitioned to a fully managed IT support service with Precept IT, enhancing data security and staff training.
- Implemented Microsoft 365 backup services and Bitdefender for robust cybersecurity measures.

Public Relations and Media Coverage

- As part of our strategy we have implemented a Communications Plan and as a result have seen a significant increase in the followers across all social media platforms.
- Secured significant media coverage on Good Morning Ulster, Radio 5 Live, and BBC World Health Service, raising awareness of our VR initiatives.
- Participated in international conferences and events, expanding our network and influence.
- Continued to issue a quarterly Ezine for families and stakeholders.

Conclusion

The past year has been marked by growth, resilience, and firm commitment to our mission. The achievements outlined in this report reflect the commitment of the team, the support of our partners, and the trust of the families and children we support. As we look ahead, we will focus on continuing to grow and refine our services to meet the needs of our families. Being cognisant of the current financial climate we will continue to seek out individual grants for our families in need and strive to secure sustainable funding. We will as always continue to keep the needs of children with vision impairments at the heart of everything we do.

Thank you to all our children, families, volunteers, partners and stakeholders for your continued support and engagement with Angel Eyes NI. With your support we are determined to continue to make a positive impact on the lives of children and families across Northern Ireland.

Angel Eyes NI Services

Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Financial review

Income in the year was £371,903 and expenditure totalled £308,427 giving a surplus of £63,476. Total funds held at 31st March 2024 were £184,374. £45,951 of the total funds are restricted and are not available for the general purposes of the charity at the end of the reporting period. Designated reserves total £85,000 and Unrestricted reserves total £53,423 at the close of the period.

Policy on reserves

Angel Eyes NI Services maintains a prudent level of reserves to enable the organisation to manage financial risk and deliver on our commitments. The objective is that the organisation would be able to carry on its work, even if faced with a combination of difficult circumstances, and have the time to adjust its strategy to meet these changing circumstances. Our reserves policy is set therefore to ensure that there is not disruption to our services at short notice, due to a lack of funds, an unforeseen reduction in income or an increase in expenditure, while at the same time ensuring that reserves are no higher than necessary and not retained longer than required. This gives time in the event of a drop in funding, to seek alternative funds, restructure and cut costs whilst continuing to provide current services.

The charity's policy is to retain a level of free reserves, which matches the needs of the organisation, both at the current time and in the foreseeable future. The reserves required should be sufficient to meet committed grant expenditure, personnel and overheads for a period equivalent to three months annual expenditure. The charity will continue to monitor compliance with this policy on a regular basis and the Board of Directors will review the appropriateness of the policy annually. At year ended 31st March 2024 free reserves available amounted to the equivalent of just over 2 months' annual expenditure.

The strategic report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 29 October 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Wilson Matthews
Trustee

Angel Eyes NI Services

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

Our Vision is that every blind and partially sighted child and young person will have equal access to everything they need to flourish (in society).

Through engagement with blind and partially sighted children and their families, and stakeholders we will inform, empower, and educate to bring about change, build confidence, knowledge, and skills for families and professionals.

Our mission is to create a fully inclusive society for children and young people who are blind and partially sighted so they can achieve their dreams, aspirations and full potential.

Angel Eyes NI Services

Trustees' Report

The core values of Angel Eyes

Angel Eyes has grown in the past thirteen years and remained in touch with its core values which are at the heart of the organisation and form the basis for our strategic direction.

Our core values are:

- **Knowledge**

We empower families with information and skills to raise aspirations and make informed choices for their child.

- **Inclusion**

We work to identify and remove barriers to accessibility and inclusion and campaign for the rights of blind and partially sighted children.

- **Empathy and Understanding**

We have lived experience in our team which is at the heart of all the support we deliver to families and their child. We have travelled the same road and understand the highs and lows of bringing up a child with a visual impairment.

- **Creating Change**

We are passionate about creating innovative solutions, and where appropriate collaborating to overcome barriers to make a positive impact on the lives of blind and partially sighted children.

Welcome to our Strategic Plan 2023 - 2026

This document summarises the Angel Eyes NI strategy for 2023 - 2026. The strategy builds on the last three years' growth and achievements. In seeking to achieve our strategic priorities, it is very important to us that we continue to focus on our existing vision, mission and core values and maintain the Angel Eyes ethos which we believe reflects those values.

Our Strategic Objectives are:

1. All children and young people who are blind or partially sighted in Northern Ireland, will have equal access to education.
2. All families with a child who is blind or partially sighted in NI will have access to the services and support they require to bring up and support their child.
3. All children and young people who are blind or partially sighted in NI will have equal opportunity to accessible clubs and activities.
4. Angel Eyes will raise awareness of the needs of children and young people who are blind or partially sighted in NI by enabling them to have access to policy makers and legislators.
5. Angel Eyes will be recognised as an organisation that specialises in creating positive change for children and young people who are blind or partially sighted in NI, based on their needs and challenges.

Vision, Mission, and Core Values

Our Vision: All children and young people who are blind or partially sighted in Northern Ireland will have equal access to everything they need to flourish.

Our Mission: Through engagement with children and young people who are blind or partially sighted, their families, and relevant stakeholders, we will **Advocate, Educate, Navigate, and Innovate**, to bring about positive change and build confidence, knowledge, and skills.

Angel Eyes will contribute to the creation of a fully inclusive society for children and young people who are blind and partially sighted so they can achieve their dreams, aspirations, and full potential.

Angel Eyes NI Services

Trustees' Report

It is important to us to remain transparent in all our work, and we seek, therefore, to protect our independence by only accepting funding and investment from those organisations which are supportive of our aims and of how we operate.

Public benefit

Purpose 1: To provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare which improve the conditions of life of blind and partially sighted children and young people and their families in Northern Ireland.

Benefit: The benefit which flows from this purpose is reduced stress, improved family life and individual wellbeing for the parents, carers and families of children and young people who are blind or partially sighted and increased ease of access and efficiency to supports and services for those children and young people so that they may reach their full potential resulting in alleviation of anxiety and stress.

How Benefit is evidenced: This will be demonstrated through use of a database held with details of parents, carers and their children which enables regular contact, feedback and surveys. It will be demonstrated through the use of evaluation forms with families. It is demonstrated through active collaboration and partnership working with statutory bodies, agencies and the voluntary sector.

Harm: This purpose does not lead to harm.

Public Element: The beneficiaries of this purpose are blind and partially sighted children and young people and their families and carers in Northern Ireland.

Private Benefit: Charity Trustees may include parents of blind or partially sighted children and young people and hence gain benefit in the same way as all other beneficiaries. This benefit is incidental and necessary to ensure the benefit is provided to all beneficiaries.

Purpose 2: To provide and assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of recreation and leisure time occupation of blind and partially sighted children and young people and their families in Northern Ireland.

Benefit The benefits which flow from this purpose are fully accessible holidays, recreational and educational activities with supports to enable increased participation of blind and partially sighted children and young people leading to improved family life, feelings of individual wellbeing and self-worth.

How Benefit is evidenced: This is demonstrated by feedback and records relating to organised events. It is demonstrated by the extension of recreation and leisure time opportunities available through collaboration with a range of partners within the voluntary sector.

Harm: This purpose does not lead to harm.

Public Element: The beneficiaries of this purpose are blind and partially sighted children and young people and their families and carers in Northern Ireland.

Private Benefit: Two of the Charity Trustees are parents of blind or partially sighted children and young people and hence gain benefit in the same way as all other beneficiaries. This benefit is incidental and necessary to ensure the benefit is provided to all beneficiaries.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 3 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

Angel Eyes NI Services

Trustees' Report

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

Angel Eyes NI Services is a company limited by guarantee and controlled by its Memorandum and Articles. It is registered as a Charity with the Charities Commission for NI. The organisation is run by a Board of skilled individuals including two parents of visually impaired children. They are passionate and dedicated individuals who meet on a quarterly basis. It is responsible for the strategic direction of the organisation and oversees the management of the organisation. The day-to-day management and operation of activities are carried out by a staff team, led by the CEO who reports to the board. Directors are appointed according to the specific skills required by the organisation to fulfil its responsibilities and are ratified on a yearly basis at the AGM.

In the year ended March 2024, Angel Eyes NI Services employs a Chief Executive, a full time and part time Education Advocate, two part-time Family Support Coordinators, a part time Eye Clinician and a part time administrator.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

It is an underpinning requirement that members of the management board have commitment to and an understanding of the ethos, aims and values of Angel Eyes NI Services. Specific skills may be required and with this in mind, new board members are attracted by advertising on digital platforms and by word of mouth. The new potential member is then invited to attend the next board meeting to observe and will become a full board member if co-opted by the board at that time and then elected at the next AGM.

Induction and training of trustees

There is an induction pack which includes roles and responsibilities for new board members. A training and induction programme is also put in place.

Financial instruments

Objectives and policies

The charity's activities expose it to a number of financial risks including credit risk, cash flow risk and liquidity risk.

Cash flow risk

The charity's activities expose it primarily to the financial risks of reduced funding from grant making bodies. Fundraising activities and donations are crucial to the charity's cash flow.

Credit risk

The charity's principal financial assets are bank balances and cash, trade and other receivables. The charity's credit risk is primarily attributable to its trade receivables. The amounts presented in the balance sheet are net of allowances for doubtful receivables. The credit risk on liquid funds and derivative financial instruments is limited because the counterparties are banks with high credit-ratings assigned by international credit-rating agencies. The charity has no significant concentration of credit risk

Angel Eyes NI Services

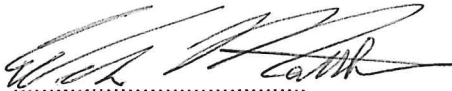
Trustees' Report

Liquidity risk

In order to maintain liquidity to ensure that sufficient funds are available for ongoing operations and future developments, the charity regularly reviews funding sources to ensure sufficient cash flows are available for current projects.

Further details regarding liquidity risk can be found in the Statement of accounting policies in the financial statements.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 29 October 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Wilson Matthews
Trustee

Angel Eyes NI Services

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of Angel Eyes NI Services for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; 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 adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on 29 October 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Wilson Matthews
Trustee

Angel Eyes NI Services

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Angel Eyes NI Services

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on pages 19 to 33 .

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 65(2) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (the 2008 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £100,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of CIMA.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the 2008 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the 2008 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

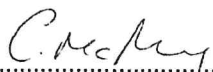
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



.....
Catherine McRory FCMA CGMA
Chartered Management Accountant
CIMA

Unit 3 Dargan Industrial Park
60-84 Dargan Crescent
Belfast
BT3 9JP

29 October 2024

Angel Eyes NI Services

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	107,138	259,166	366,304	274,402
Investment income	4	349	-	349	170
Other income	5	5,250	-	5,250	5,000
Total Income		<u>112,737</u>	<u>259,166</u>	<u>371,903</u>	<u>279,572</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	6	(1,074)	(10)	(1,084)	(195)
Charitable activities	7	(64,959)	(242,384)	(307,343)	(281,594)
Total Expenditure		<u>(66,033)</u>	<u>(242,394)</u>	<u>(308,427)</u>	<u>(281,789)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		46,704	16,772	63,476	(2,217)
Transfers between funds		(6,075)	6,075	-	-
Net movement in funds		40,629	22,847	63,476	(2,217)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		97,795	23,103	120,898	123,114
Total funds carried forward	15	<u>138,424</u>	<u>45,950</u>	<u>184,374</u>	<u>120,897</u>
			Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
2023 Year		Note			
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3		31,602	242,800	274,402
Investment income	4		170	-	170
Other income	5		5,000	-	5,000
Total Income			<u>36,772</u>	<u>242,800</u>	<u>279,572</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	6		(195)	-	(195)
Charitable activities	7		(12,445)	(269,149)	(281,594)
Total Expenditure			<u>(12,640)</u>	<u>(269,149)</u>	<u>(281,789)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)			24,132	(26,349)	(2,217)
Transfers between funds			1,610	(1,610)	-
Net movement in funds			25,742	(27,959)	(2,217)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward			72,053	51,061	123,114
Total funds carried forward	15		<u>97,795</u>	<u>23,102</u>	<u>120,897</u>

Angel Eyes NI Services

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.
The funds breakdown for 2024 and 2023 are shown in note 15.

Angel Eyes NI Services
(Registration number: NI633274)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Current assets			
Debtors	12	63,683	43,561
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>173,366</u>	<u>110,538</u>
		237,049	154,099
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(52,675)</u>	<u>(33,202)</u>
Net assets		<u>184,374</u>	<u>120,897</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted funds			
		45,951	23,101
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>138,423</u>	<u>97,797</u>
Total funds	15	<u>184,374</u>	<u>120,898</u>

For the financial year ending 31 March 2024 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements on pages 19 to 33 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 29 October 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Wilson Matthews
Trustee

Angel Eyes NI Services

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

1 Charity status

The charity is a charity limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

Angel Eyes NI Services meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Income and endowments

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

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Angel Eyes NI Services

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Investment income

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities

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.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees's meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Angel Eyes NI Services

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Borrowings

Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period of the relevant borrowing.

Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the charity has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees's discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Angel Eyes NI Services

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Financial instruments

Classification

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

Recognition and measurement

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the charity intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the charity transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the charity, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Investments

Investments in non-convertible preference shares and non-puttable ordinary or preference shares (where shares are publicly traded or their fair value is reliably measurable) are measured at fair value through profit or loss. Where fair value cannot be measured reliably, investments are measured at cost less impairment.

Investments in subsidiaries and associates are measured at cost less impairment. For investments in subsidiaries acquired for consideration including the issue of shares qualifying for merger relief, cost is measured by reference to the nominal value of the shares issued plus fair value of other consideration. Any premium is ignored.

Fair value measurement

The best evidence of fair value is a quoted price for an identical asset in an active market. When quoted prices are unavailable, the price of a recent transaction for an identical asset provides evidence of fair value as long as there has not been a significant change in economic circumstances or a significant lapse of time since the transaction took place. If the market is not active and recent transactions of an identical asset on their own are not a good estimate of fair value, the fair value is estimated by using a valuation technique.

Angel Eyes NI Services

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	General £	£	£	£
Donations and legacies;				
Donations from individuals	34,138	1,000	35,138	31,224
Gift aid reclaimed	-	-	-	378
Grants, including capital grants;				
Grants from other charities	73,000	258,166	331,166	242,800
	107,138	259,166	366,304	274,402

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	General £	£	£
Interest receivable and similar income;			
Interest receivable on bank deposits	349	349	170
	349	349	170

5 Other income

	Unrestricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	General £	£	£
Other Income	5,250	5,250	5,000
	5,250	5,250	5,000

6 Expenditure on raising funds

a) Costs of generating donations and legacies

	Direct costs	Total 2024	Note Total 2023
	£	£	£
Costs of generating donations and legacies	1,084	1,084	195
	1,084	1,084	195

Angel Eyes NI Services

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
		Designated £	General £			
Support for visually impaired children		-	10,361	60,056	70,417	73,457
Staff costs		8,602	42,302	182,194	233,098	204,117
Allocated support costs	8	-	2,659	134	2,793	2,100
Governance costs	8	-	1,035	-	1,035	1,920
		<u>8,602</u>	<u>56,357</u>	<u>242,384</u>	<u>307,343</u>	<u>281,594</u>

£48,943 (2023 - £37,481) of the above expenditure was attributable to unrestricted funds and £258,449 (2023 - £242,192) to restricted funds.

8 Analysis of governance and support costs

Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
	General £		
Independent examiner fees			
Examination of the financial statements	1,035	1,035	1,920
	<u>1,035</u>	<u>1,035</u>	<u>1,920</u>

9 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	196,137	176,015
Social security costs	17,476	16,276
Pension costs	7,862	7,282
Other staff costs	11,623	4,544
	<u>233,098</u>	<u>204,117</u>

Angel Eyes NI Services

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2024 No	2023 No
Front Line staff	7	5
Management	1	1
	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

10 Independent examiner's remuneration

	2024 £	2023 £
Examination of the financial statements	<u>1,035</u>	<u>1,920</u>

Angel Eyes NI Services

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

11 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

12 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	63,275	41,880
Prepayments	-	1,681
Other debtors	408	-
	<u>63,683</u>	<u>43,561</u>

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	629	8,027
Other taxation and social security	3,900	4,507
Other creditors	47,426	18,748
Accruals	720	1,920
	<u>52,675</u>	<u>33,202</u>

14 Pension and other schemes

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £7,862 (2023 - £7,283).

Angel Eyes NI Services

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

15 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted funds					
<i>General</i>					
Unrestricted Funds	56,506	112,737	(57,432)	(58,388)	53,423
<i>Designated</i>					
Unfunded Salary Reserve	37,063	-	(8,603)	(13,460)	15,000
Des Res Consultancy Costs	4,228	-	-	(4,228)	-
Redundancy Reserve	-	-	-	20,000	20,000
Running costs reserve	-	-	-	50,000	50,000
	<u>41,291</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(8,603)</u>	<u>52,312</u>	<u>85,000</u>
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>97,797</u>	<u>112,737</u>	<u>(66,035)</u>	<u>(6,076)</u>	<u>138,423</u>
Restricted funds					
AENI Crisis Fund	-	1,250	-	-	1,250
Will Charitable Trust	1,873	-	(5,065)	3,192	-
Cash for Kids	-	3,000	(3,000)	-	-
Dept of Foreign Affairs - Share Ireland Civic Fund	-	8,324	(5,779)	-	2,545
Education Insight (TPT)	653	-	-	(653)	-
National Lottery - Equal Eyes	4,254	90,818	(88,053)	-	7,019
Eyedentity	2,826	36,264	(36,194)	-	2,896
HSF - VR	-	4,500	(4,472)	(28)	-
Hospital Saturday Fund	2,260	-	(2,260)	-	-
BBC CIN - InTune (Open Arts)	-	48	(117)	69	-
LFT _ CRM & Comms	1,790	4,480	(2,780)	-	3,490
Panto	211	2,350	(2,253)	-	308
Parent Support Worker (ARN Foundation)	-	-	(2,529)	2,529	-
Parents Conference	-	662	(184)	(478)	-
Residential 2023	9,234	-	(10,679)	1,445	-
SEE Project	-	44,992	(20,080)	-	24,912
SpecialEyes	-	47,015	(43,484)	-	3,531
Empatheyeyes	-	15,464	(15,464)	-	-
	<u>23,101</u>	<u>259,167</u>	<u>(242,393)</u>	<u>6,076</u>	<u>45,951</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>23,101</u>	<u>259,167</u>	<u>(242,393)</u>	<u>6,076</u>	<u>45,951</u>

Angel Eyes NI Services

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Total funds	<u>120,898</u>	<u>371,904</u>	<u>(308,428)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>184,374</u>

Angel Eyes NI Services

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted funds					
<i>General</i>					
Arn Foundation - Family Support	-	30,000	(26,907)	(3,093)	-
Unrestricted Funds	<u>42,393</u>	<u>36,772</u>	<u>(10,769)</u>	<u>(11,890)</u>	<u>56,506</u>
	<u>42,393</u>	<u>66,772</u>	<u>(37,676)</u>	<u>(14,983)</u>	<u>56,506</u>
<i>Designated</i>					
Unfunded Salary Reserve	29,660	-	(1,870)	9,273	37,063
Des Res Consultancy Costs	-	-	-	4,228	4,228
	<u>29,660</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,870)</u>	<u>13,501</u>	<u>41,291</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>72,053</u>	<u>66,772</u>	<u>(39,546)</u>	<u>(1,482)</u>	<u>97,797</u>
Restricted funds					
AREYES A4A	-	9,894	(9,918)	24	-
Will Charitable Trust	28,000	-	(26,127)	-	1,873
Education Insight (TPT)	-	21,552	(20,899)	-	653
National Lottery - Equal Eyes	1,378	83,962	(81,086)	-	4,254
Eyedentity	-	36,263	(33,437)	-	2,826
Halifax	4,533	-	(4,603)	70	-
Hospital Saturday Fund	-	10,000	(7,740)	-	2,260
BBC CIN - InTune (Open Arts)	-	10,516	(11,425)	909	-
LFT_ CRM & Comms	-	4,480	(2,690)	-	1,790
Belfast Association for the Blind	2,000	-	(2,000)	-	-
Panto	-	2,000	(1,789)	-	211
Residential 2023	-	9,984	(750)	-	9,234
National Lottery Community Fund (Visual Eyes)	15,150	1,155	(16,305)	-	-
Empatheyeyes	-	17,121	(17,121)	-	-
Liberty IT VR Project	-	4,550	(4,550)	-	-
Total restricted funds	<u>51,061</u>	<u>211,477</u>	<u>(240,440)</u>	<u>1,003</u>	<u>23,101</u>
Total funds	<u>123,114</u>	<u>278,249</u>	<u>(279,986)</u>	<u>(479)</u>	<u>120,898</u>

Angel Eyes NI Services

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds £	Total funds £
	General £	Designated £		
Current assets	106,098	85,000	45,951	237,049
Current liabilities	<u>(52,675)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(52,675)</u>
Total net assets	<u>53,423</u>	<u>85,000</u>	<u>45,951</u>	<u>184,374</u>

Angel Eyes NI Services

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103126

Annual report

Annual Activities Report 2023/2024



1

**EQUALITY FOR CHILDREN
WITH VISION IMPAIRMENT**

Foreword:

CHAIR'S NOTE

Despite the buffeting of the external political, health, and overall financial uncertainties, Angel Eyes has had another very successful year. Total revenues for 2023-24 were 10% higher than the previous year! Our average annual revenue increase over the past four years has been 17.7%. This success is a tribute to the energy and expertise of Sara and her excellent team in gaining and sustaining the trust and support of so many existing and new trusts, foundations, and individual donors. On behalf of my fellow board members, I congratulate you all!

Our growing financial resources are being put to excellent use; Sara's operational report details the extensive growth in the numbers of young people and families receiving support, and also the development of additional ways of doing so.

Family support includes not only the traditional close advice and guidance through the maze of bureaucracy but also direct financial help during the recent cost of living crisis, which has impacted those with visually impaired children especially hard. Sara's team has been able to unlock more special grants for laptops and white goods, and also provide money and vouchers to meet some families' basic needs for food and heating.

Support and services to families has also broken new ground in arranging financial information provision to help families cope with the ever-changing complex social welfare regulations. This assistance is also made available online, which is relatively cheap and easy for both sides and which has proved very valuable to several families. We also now have more specialist eye clinicians to provide individual support when needed. This latter service is combined also with our Empathey virtual reality technology to inform and train both families and educational staff.

As well as direct support for families Sara's team are providing a growing range of social and cultural activities for children and teenagers. The feedback from residential weekends, the annual pantomime, and other meetings and social events has been universally positive and welcomed.

Given continuing uncertainty in government policy and what is clearly going to be the greater financial stringency to provide for all of children's

special needs, and indeed education in general, we are stepping up our lobbying and campaigning work. The revamped website and extra social media activities underpin the direct lobbying of politicians and senior educational officials. Alongside this work, we are developing new relationships with similar organisations in ROI, which have shown great interest in our virtual reality technology and teaching assistant certifications. We plan to gather comparison data for each jurisdiction to illustrate gaps and inadequacies of NI's legislation and services (and vice versa).

This impressive progress has been achieved by both increasing staff numbers somewhat but also, very importantly, improving management and operational efficiencies. A new management/financial reporting system means that the activities report from the different departments can be brought together and assessed every month in much less time than before, thus giving everyone freedom for more productive 'frontline' work. The system also has enabled our departmental heads to take more responsibility for planning and direct operational management. This enables Sara to avoid becoming a bottleneck to further development.

I cannot conclude without thanking the entire staff of Angel Eyes, all of our invaluable donors and supporters, and, of course, my fellow trustees, who are an enormous support to me in particular. Thank you all so very much.

3



Dr Brian Scott
Chair, Angel Eyes NI
July 2024

Introduction

As the CEO of Angel Eyes NI, I am delighted to present the Annual Report for the 2023-2024 financial year. This report encapsulates our collective efforts and achievements, detailing the significant impact we have made in supporting children with vision impairments and their families across Northern Ireland. Throughout this period, our team has worked diligently to provide essential services, secure crucial funding, and advocate for the rights and needs of children and young people with a vision impairment and their families.

I want to extend my thanks to the wonderful staff team and Board of Trustees along with our volunteers, partners, funders and donors. Their contributions and support make our work possible and enable us to create a more inclusive and supportive environment for children with vision impairments and their families.



Sara McCracken
CEO and Founder, Angel Eyes NI
June 2024

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Overview

This year, we focused on enhancing our operational efficiency, growing our reach, and expanding our impact. Our services have continued to grow to meet the needs of children and young people with a vision impairment and their families. We now offer Education, Family and Youth Services as well as having an Eye Clinician inhouse to provide clinical knowledge for families and our staff.

The following report provides a detailed account of our activities and achievements over the past year.

Education Services

Our Education Service has made substantial strides this year in advocating for and supporting the educational needs of children with vision impairments and provided much needed school support to increase knowledge and understanding of supporting vision impairment within the education sector.



Figure 1/the members of the Equaleyes Project steering group sitting around a table all smiling at camera

Key activities and achievements include:

- **Family Support:** The EqualEyes project provided critical support to 42 new families and continued to assist 107 existing families. This included personalised guidance on navigating the education system, securing appropriate accommodations, and advocating for necessary resources.
- **Young People Assistance:** The project supported 79 young people in accessing educational opportunities tailored to their needs, ensuring they have the tools and confidence to succeed.
- **Specialist Accommodation:** We submitted a detailed response to the Education Authority, advocating for the inclusion of specialist accommodations in schools to better equip students with vision

impairments. This is a significant step towards inclusive education in Northern Ireland.

- **Collaborations:** Engaged in discussions with the Equality Commission regarding SEAG (Special Educational Needs Advice and Guidance) access arrangements for children with vision impairments, ensuring fair and equitable treatment in the education system.

Events/Training

- **Teen Residential:** Summer 2023. This event provided a unique opportunity for teenagers with vision impairments to build independence, socialise, and gain confidence in a supportive environment. Feedback from participants and their families has been overwhelmingly positive.
- **VR Training:** Delivered virtual reality (VR) training to 22 schools, enhancing teachers' ability to support children with vision impairments. This innovative approach has proven effective in helping educators understand the challenges faced by visually impaired students and adapt their teaching methods accordingly.
- **School Partnerships:** Worked closely with both mainstream and special schools to improve the educational experience for visually impaired students. This included information on how to adapt resources and incorporating assistive technologies to create a more inclusive learning environment.

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Advocacy and Support

The Education Team have been instrumental in advocating for children with vision impairments:

- **Tribunal Success:** Successfully represented a family in a tribunal case, securing the necessary educational support for their child. This victory highlights the importance of legal advocacy in ensuring equal educational opportunities.
- **Inclusion Efforts:** Secured the inclusion of children with vision impairments in various school activities, promoting a more inclusive school culture.
- **Education Advocacy:** Provided ongoing support to numerous families dealing with in-school support issues and statementing, helping them navigate the complex education system and secure the best possible outcomes for their children.

Training and Workshops

- We delivered workshops to 20 CA's and 20 SNA's as part of an innovative collaboration with Féach to equip education staff with the necessary skills and knowledge to support students with vision impairments effectively.
- **Special School Partnership:** Engaged in partnerships with special schools, sharing our expertise and resources to enhance the educational experiences of pupils in special schools with vision impairments.



Figure 2/ A representative from Feach, a charity partner delivering a session on Assistive Technology to Classroom Assistants who look on

Summary

Our Education Services Team have made remarkable progress this year in supporting and advocating for the educational needs of children with vision impairments. The Education Service has successfully provided vital support to numerous families, empowered young people, and advocated for necessary changes within the educational system.

Through continuous advocacy, collaboration, and tailored support, we have significantly contributed to creating equal educational opportunities for children with vision impairments.

Family Support Services

Key Achievements

Supporting Families

Over the past year, Family Support Services has made significant strides in supporting families within our community. We have secured funding for the next 5 years to provide comprehensive family support throughout Northern Ireland.

We achieved a record high of supporting 112 new family referrals and continued providing ongoing support to 346 existing families. Our efforts were boosted by securing funding for the SpecialEyes project, which will commence in November 2023.

Financial Assistance

In response to the observed impact of the cost-of-living crisis on families, we proactively implemented a series of strategies to provide support to families in Northern Ireland with visually impaired children. Recognising the heightened financial pressures these families face, we prioritised identifying and addressing their specific needs.

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We processed a total of 316 applications for financial assistance which included laptops which helped children in the education as well as social interactions. Additionally, we secured grants for food and fuel as well as funding to provide essential white goods through the Emergency Essentials funding scheme.

Our team expanded with new staff members, allowing us to extend our reach and enhance service delivery. We also conducted 6 home visits and hosted 8 family events, with a total attendance of 670 individuals. The inclusive Christmas Panto hosted at the Lisburn Arts centre was a highlight, with 487 attendees enjoying memorable show!

We have collaborated with Employers for Childcare to deliver financial workshops, addressing changes in Family Tax Credits and Universal Credit, ensuring families are well-informed and supported through these transitions.



Figure 3/ A group of representatives from the Health Coalition standing on the grand staircase of Parliament Buildings holding a sign

Summary

This year, Family Support Services has significantly impacted our community by providing essential services including training and financial assistance. With the addition of our home visits service, we are able to provide tailored support for our most vulnerable children and families.



Figure 4/ a young girl skating with a large plastic penguin designed to assist on the ice



Figure 5/ two young girls sitting on a step both smiling at the camera

Youth Services

Angel Eyes NI's Youth Service was established in August 2023 to engage with teens and young people with vision impairment to address their issues.

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From focus groups we learned that they felt isolated and embarrassed of their vision impairment which was compounded by challenges such as not being able to drive and requiring assistive technology, leading to feelings of isolation and misunderstanding.

Angel Eyes NI has recruited a Youth Advocate to focus on the emotional well-being of these teens, to promote inclusion in school activities and to help develop meaningful strategies to overcome anxiety.

Key Achievements and Activities

One to One Support and Advocacy:

Registered 44 young people across Northern Ireland, providing them with ongoing support.



Figure 6/ A group of young people some sitting and some standing looking at camera on a grassy bank

Accessible Activities:

Delivered six events, including:

Mental health support workshop

Two Bowling and Pizza nights

Employment rights session with Labour Relations Agency

Education rights workshop with Children's Law Centre

Participation in All Party Working Group and Youth Forum at Stormnt

Peer Network Development:

Established closed Facebook and WhatsApp groups for young people (12 members) and parents (80 members) to facilitate communication and co-design events.

Young People Committee to co design project and discuss project goals and activities.

Resource Database:

We have developed a comprehensive database of services and supports, including grants for education, which will be available on our new website launching in July 2024.

Stakeholder Engagement:

Engaged four young people in All Party Groups for Youth Participation and Mental Health, contributing to policy discussions and advocacy efforts.

Collaborated with the Children's Law Centre to present findings to the All Party Working Group for Mental Health.

The Youth Service has made significant progress in supporting visually impaired youth, emphasising the importance of independence and community engagement.

Clinical Services

Established in 2021 this service continues to support both parents and professionals around understanding the impact of visual impairment. Primarily this service, headed up by an eye clinician delivers training on eye conditions, understanding clinical information and working with the whole Angel Eyes NI team to develop training sessions that are effective and meaningful. The Clinician uses the Empathey Virtual Reality software to demonstrate and explain eye conditions.



Figure 7/ Rebecca leading a VR session with two people in foreground wearing headsets

Key Achievements:

Delivered 29 VR parent session for 83 family members

Delivered along with the Education Team 22 school sessions to over 250 education staff

Delivered 8 VR sessions for stakeholders and partners.

Developed school training resources.

Delivered VR Training sessions to Centre for Public Health as part of the Wellness Week at QUB.

Organisational Development

HR and Team Structure

- Welcomed HR consultants Beyond HR for recruitment and policy review.
- Created a new Senior Management Team
- Implemented regular one-on-one meetings for staff and introduced flexible working arrangements to support work-life balance.
- Conducted Live Well Work Well health checks, promoting staff well-being.

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IT and Cybersecurity

- Transitioned to a fully managed IT support service with Precept IT, enhancing data security and staff training.
- Implemented Microsoft 365 backup services and Bitdefender for robust cybersecurity measures.

Public Relations and Media Coverage

- As part of our strategy, we have implemented a Communications Plan and as a result have seen a significant increase in the followers across all social media platforms.
- Secured significant media coverage on Good Morning Ulster, Radio 5 Live, and BBC World Health Service, raising awareness of our VR initiatives.
- Participated in international conferences and events, expanding our network and influence.
- Continued to issue a quarterly Ezine for families and stakeholders.

Conclusion

The past year has been marked by growth, resilience, and firm commitment to our mission. The achievements outlined in this report reflect the commitment of the team, the support of our partners, and the trust of the families and children we support. As we look ahead, we will focus on continuing to grow and refine our services to meet the needs of our families. Being cognisant of the current financial climate we will continue to seek out individual grants for our families in need and strive to secure sustainable funding. We will as always continue to keep the needs of children with vision impairments at the heart of everything we do.

Thank you to all our children, families, volunteers, partners and stakeholders for your continued support and engagement with Angel Eyes NI. With your support we are determined to continue to make a positive impact on the lives of children and families across Northern Ireland.



Figure 8 The Angel Eyes Team around a tree, some hanging from the branches.

Angel Eyes NI Services

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103126

Annual return

Angel Eyes NI Services

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Angel Eyes NI Services

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on pages 19 to 33 .

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 65(2) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (the 2008 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £100,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of CIMA.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the 2008 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the 2008 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

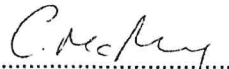
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



.....
Catherine McRory, FCMA CGMA
Chartered Management Accountant
CIMA

Unit 3 Dargan Industrial Park
60-84 Dargan Crescent
Belfast
BT3 9JP

29 October 2024

Angel Eyes NI Services

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103126

Accounts

Company registration number: NI633274

Charity registration number: 103126

Angel Eyes NI Services

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Baxterworld Ltd
Chartered Management Accountant
Unit 3 Dargan Industrial Park
60-84 Dargan Crescent
Belfast
BT3 9JP

Angel Eyes NI Services

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Angel Eyes NI Services

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Dr Brian Scott Joanne Sara Lynham (Resigned 1 March 2023) Michelle Bateson Mr Michael Cameron Johnston Wilson Matthews Mr Colin Higgins Naomi Nixon Shelagh Rosemary Rainey Mr Brian John Wallace (appointed 20 March 2023)
Secretary	Sara McCracken
Principal Office	Innovation Factory Springfield Road Belfast BT12 7DG
Company Registration Number	NI633274
Charity Registration Number	103126
Independent Examiner	Baxterworld Ltd Chartered Management Accountant Unit 3 Dargan Industrial Park 60-84 Dargan Crescent Belfast BT3 9JP

Angel Eyes NI Services

Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present their strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2023, in compliance with s414C of the Companies Act 2006.

Chief Executives Report for April 2022 - March 2023

I am delighted to present the Activities Report for Angel Eyes NI, covering the period from April 2022 to March 2023. It gives me great pleasure to outline the remarkable achievements and milestones we have reached during this period.

This year has been incredibly eventful for the charity, as we had the privilege of presenting at both Global and International Conferences. One notable highlight was our participation in the Equality Commission podcast, where we shared insights from our Education Report on the profound impact of COVID on children with visual impairments. Additionally, we delivered two presentations at the Vision 2022 conference in Dublin, focusing on the positive outcomes of our Level 4 Qualification for Classroom Assistants supporting learners with visual impairments and the innovative VisualEyes Virtual Reality Project.

Furthermore, our Social Enterprise Empatheyeyes gained international recognition when I was invited to speak at the Women in Tech Conference in Sweden. This was a remarkable opportunity to showcase our cutting-edge virtual reality visual impairment simulator and the transformative effects it has on supporting visually impaired individuals.

During the reporting period, we successfully launched our EyeDentity Project, funded by the Department of Health Carers Fund, at the Angel Eyes Parents conference held at the Dunadry Hotel. This event received extensive support from both statutory and voluntary organisations. Additionally, we had the privilege of presenting at the Belfast Eye Conference, which drew eye clinicians from across the UK.

Notably, we unveiled our ambitious strategy for 2023-2026, which builds upon our existing expertise while addressing identified gaps. This strategic roadmap will guide our efforts as we continue to make a lasting impact on the lives of visually impaired children and their families.

We are acutely aware of the challenges faced by our families due to the ongoing cost-of-living crisis. As a result, we have witnessed an increase in the number of families seeking benefit support. To address this critical issue, we established the "Grants in NI" page on our website to facilitate easier access to financial assistance and resources.

I am delighted to share that our 3rd cohort of students successfully completed the Classroom Assistant Qualification in partnership with Ulster University in December 2022, further expanding the pool of skilled professionals equipped to support learners with visual impairments.

I am proud to announce that our exceptional achievements have been recognised by sector organisations. Our chairperson was honoured with the CO3 Award for Trustee of the Year, and I myself won the CO3 Award for Social Innovation for Empatheyeyes. Furthermore, we were overjoyed to receive the Tech for Good award at the Digital DNA Awards, which celebrated the impact of Empatheyeyes as a social enterprise.

In recognition of our commitment to excellence in professional development, Empatheyeyes Training for Health and Social Care workers and Professionals has been granted CPD Accreditation.

These accomplishments would not have been possible without the unwavering dedication and tireless efforts of our incredible team, partners, and supporters. Together, we continue to make a significant difference in the lives of children with visual impairments, empowering them to thrive and overcome challenges.

Angel Eyes NI Services

Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

As I reflect on the past year's achievements, I am grateful for the collective commitment and passion that drives Angel Eyes NI. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to all our stakeholders who have played an integral role in our success.

I would also like to express my thanks to our Trustees for their invaluable guidance and support throughout this period. Their strategic vision and commitment have been instrumental in shaping our organisation's growth and impact.

Thanks to all that support us and our committed team we are transforming lives and creating a more inclusive and equitable society for visually impaired children.

Sara McCracken,
Founder and Chief Executive

Angel Eyes NI Services

Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Chair's Report for Year Ending 31 March 2023

Our CEO's annual report shows vividly the extensive and growing range of activities carried on by the charity. My overriding impression of the year is the passion, dedication, skill, and commitment shown by Sara and all her team. They are tireless in their support for families grappling with great difficulties in their personal lives. We know also, from the feedback we receive, how much of a difference their expertise and caring makes to the visually impaired young people and their families.

Sara's report notes the continuing growth of services. In the past, to be able to do this, we would have greatly welcomed financial support from the government. But we are now, in a way, fortunate in that Angel Eyes is not in receipt of statutory funding of any kind. Thus, we have not been affected by the swingeing budget reductions now being experienced by so many other charities and voluntary agencies. The resources driving this growth come, of course, from all our invaluable fundraisers, our donors, and the several trusts and foundations that have put their faith in Angel Eyes ability to bring really substantive benefits to visually impaired young people. To all of you, I add my gratitude to that expressed by Sara in her report. Without your help it would be impossible to continue.

While the harsh government expenditure reductions have not affected Angel Eyes directly, it is clear that meeting statutory requirements is now more remote than before. In recent years Angel Eyes has provided hard data to demonstrate government failures to meet its legal obligations to visually impaired young people. Regrettably, there is even less prospect of it doing so in the near future. This makes the work of Angel Eyes, and your hugely important support, all the more vital.

Sara's report draws attention to our excellent progress in developing and expanding qualifications for those working with visually impaired students. It is clear that professionally trained teaching assistants do a much better job in providing classroom support. We are stressing to the government that investing in such training not only enhances the visually impaired students' educational experience but can also save public money. Trained professionals are more efficient and can therefore work with more students and also reduce the number of possible future problems. Everybody wins!

Our social enterprise, Empathey, adds to this efficiency. The vividness of the virtual reality experience quickly brings it home to all concerned what visual impairment truly is. Understanding and retention of lessons learned by the classroom assistant is very much better via virtual reality. And those trained in this way comprehend immediately how to provide the best support to the visually impaired child.

I cannot finish without thanking Sara and her team for their excellent work, and also my wonderful board colleagues upon whom I depend for so much expert advice and support. Without you all Angel Eyes would not be making the strides in providing more and more support to visually impaired young people and their families.

Thank you so much.

Kind Regards,
Dr Brian Scott (Chair)

Angel Eyes NI Services

Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Achievements and performance

The following report sets out the activities and impact of the following services over the period April 2022 – March 2023.

1. Education Service
2. Family Support Services
3. Accessible Clubs

Education Service

We have delivered three projects in this year to meet our strategic aim that all children and young people who are blind and partially sighted in NI will have equal access to education, with a team of 2 Education Advocates and a part time Eye Clinician who work across all projects.

1. EqualEyes Project in partnership with Childrens Law Centre and funded by National Lottery Community Fund

The first purpose of the EqualEyes project is Children and Young people with a visual impairment will demonstrate an increased understanding of their rights to equitable education, feel more confident in voicing their opinions and concerns about their educational experiences; and develop the skills to communicate effectively with all professionals involved in their school journey.

To achieve this goal the Education Team delivered the following activities for 30 children and young people:

- One to one support provided to each young person.
- Residential in summer 2023 which 8 young people attended.
- Teen Hub events for young people to connect and talk.
- Technology workshop on accessibility functions and apps that are useful.
- Focus Groups to engage with young people about topical issues.

The second purpose of the EqualEyes Project is that families of children and young people with visual impairment, from across NI will demonstrate increased understanding of the specialist education support services and feel more knowledgeable and empowered to make key decisions in this area.

To achieve this goal the Education Team delivered the following activities for 99 Families:

- One to one support provided to each family.
- Attendance at school meetings of Angel Eyes NI Education Advocate to support the family.
- Individual contact with schools to enable support for children with vision impairment.
- Tribunal actions and case statements submitted.
- Multidisciplinary meetings including Angel Eyes NI Education Advocate to represent vision impairment in education and support the child and family.
- Development of 'Rights' in education leaflet which is available on website for parents to access.

Finally, the EqualEyes project seeks to raise awareness of vision impairment, highlighting the impact on children and young people when their needs are not met, how this can be overcome with support and knowledge and the importance of listening to our children and young people and learning from their experience to better inform support, policy, and legislation.

Angel Eyes NI Services

Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

To achieve this the Education Team attended 32 meetings of the following groups:

- Children's Disability Strategic Alliance
- All Party Group for Visual Impairment
- Civic Government
- Education Authority Joint Consultative Forum
- Visual Impairment Sector Forum
- Equality Coalition

2. Education Insight Project funded by Thomas Pocklington Trust.

Objectives:

- Parents will have a safe platform to talk about their experience with their child in education.
- Increase confidence and reduce isolation felt by other parents when advocating for their child.
- Raise awareness of the challenges faced by parents advocating for their child.

Through the Education Insight project, we provided the following:

- Online Themed Meet Ups
- Closed Parents Only Facebook Page
- Parent Ambassadors to talk at meet ups about their own personal experience of supporting their children through the education system.

3. Level 4 Qualification and Workshops in partnership with Ulster University and Education Workshops using Virtual Reality Training was successfully funded.

The objective of the Project was to ensure that children with vision impairment receive the necessary assistance and accommodations required to fully engage in their educational journey, promoting inclusivity, independence and maximising their learning potential. By equipping classroom assistants with a higher level of expertise through an accredited qualification and education workshops, the initiatives were aimed to improve the children's access to the curriculum.

Activities Delivered as part of the Project:

- Deliver an online Level 4 accredited professional qualification in partnership with Ulster University for Classroom Assistants who support children with visual impairment through a 10-week course covering 5 topics.
- Deliver Education Virtual Reality Workshops to support and enhance the skills of classroom assistants and other school staff supporting children with a vision impairment.

Impact of the Angel Eyes NI Education Service have included:

- Empowering parents with strategies and knowledge.
- Enabling children and young people with knowledge of rights and strategies and technology to improve access.
- Improving learning environments and accessible resources through training.
- Communication between home and school improved.
- 2 leading issues identified as Statements of Special Educational Needs and in school support.
- Development of bespoke VR training sessions
- Impact of paediatric visual impairment is understood in a meaningful way to improve services, support, and resources.

Angel Eyes NI Services

Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Family Support Services Activity Report

To meet our strategic aim that all families with a child who is blind or partially sighted in NI will have access to the services and support they require to bring up and support their child we have delivered 3 projects in this period that supported 198 families. The services are delivered by two Family Services Coordinators.

Projects:

1. EyeDentity -funded by Department of Health through the Carer's Fund
2. Parent's Conference May 2022 funded by Belfast Association of the Blind
Parent's Conference Mar 2023 funded by BHSCT Microfund
3. Family Support funded by Hospital Saturday Fund and the ARN Foundation.

The overall activities of Family Support Services have included:

- One to One family Support, which included emotional and practical support.
- Quarterly Contribution to the Angel Eyes NI Ezine on issues and events for families.
- Advising parents on how to register as carers in their HSC Trust.
- Two carers focused events to enhance carer knowledge and to give practical advice.
- Two community events to raise awareness of Visual Impairment.
- Early years parents' events in partnership with RNIB and Sense NI
- Emergency Essentials Grant and financial advice available to secure grants.
- New Grants Advice support developed for website.
- Secured assistive technology for families that did not qualify through other funding from local companies.

The Family Services Team have advocated and represented the needs of parent carers at the following groups and meetings:

- Cost of Living roundtable event,
- Visual Impairment Sector Consultative Forum,
- Carers Coalition,
- All Party Group for Disability and Mental Health
- Member of all 29 Family Support Hubs
- Childrens Health Coalition
- Fermanagh Council inclusion in toolkit

Impact of the Family Services team have included:

- New service developed.
- Increased parents seeking support.
- Increased community engagement
- Parents reported increased knowledge of support available to their child and increased registrations as carers with trusts.
- Became and associate member on all 29 Family Support Hubs
- Increased number of forums attended to represent the voice of parent carers of visually impaired children.

Accessible Clubs Activity Report

To meet our strategic aim that all children and young people who are blind or partially sighted in NI will have equal opportunity to accessible clubs and activities we delivered three projects that supported 133 families. The Clubs are delivered by a Family Support Coordinator, a part time Club Facilitator and volunteers.

Projects:

1. InTune in partnership with Open Arts funded by Children in Need

Angel Eyes NI Services

Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

2. ArEyes My Mini and Me funded by Awards for All.
3. Christmas Party and Panto funded by Belfast Harbour Commission and Belfast Association for the Blind.

Clubs and Events Delivered:

Early Year Play Sessions - 9

InTune Workshops - 49

Panto 2022 for 149 parents and children

Christmas Party for 40 parents and children

The projects funded by Children In Need and Awards for All have had a significant impact on the lives of children with vision impairment and their families. Through the InTune project, an accessible arts programs, leading to increased confidence and inclusion in mainstream activities. The ArEyes My Mini and Me project has supported parents and carers, providing them with support, knowledge, and practical tools and resources.

Through hosting our Christmas Pantomime in the Island Arts Centre, we were able to meet the needs of our families with on-site parking and disabled spaces. The centre has state-of-the-art changing places facilities and wheelchair access. We were able to offer 12 wheelchair spaces to accommodate children who required this. The touch tour insured that the show was a fully accessible experience for our families.

Impact of Accessible Clubs and Event for Children and Families:

- Early Years families benefitted from practical learning and play experiences, improving their confidence and knowledge in supporting early learning.
- Increased confidence and knowledge with families being more confident and informed about supporting their child.
- Improved support for parents by developing a toolbox of ideas and resources to support the development of their child at home, enhancing their ability to provide appropriate care and learning opportunities.
- Peer support as families participating in the projects have formed meaningful relationships with other families facing similar challenges, creating a support network and fostering a sense of community.
- Increased accessible creative arts session which increased accessible creative arts sessions for children ensuring their inclusion and participation in the arts.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, Angel Eyes NI has made significant strides in supporting children with vision impairments and their families. Through the comprehensive Education Service, the charity has provided invaluable resources and assistance to ensure that children receive the necessary education and support tailored to their specific needs.

Furthermore, the Qualification and Workshops for classroom assistants have equipped professionals with the knowledge and skills required to effectively support children with vision impairments in educational settings. By investing in the training of these individuals, Angel Eyes NI has enhanced the overall learning experience for pupils with a vision impairment, supporting and enabling them to reach their full potential.

The Family Services offered by Angel Eyes NI have proven to be instrumental in empowering families to support and nurture their visually impaired child. By providing guidance, a listening ear and practical resources, the charity has fostered an inclusive and supportive environment, enabling families to navigate the challenges they may face.

Angel Eyes NI Services

Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Angel Eyes NI is committed to creating accessible clubs and events for children with vision impairments. By providing opportunities in the arts, play and organising fully accessible family events, to give children a platform to explore their talents and interests. These inclusive activities not only foster a sense of belonging but also promote socialisation, self-expression, and personal development.

Overall, Angel Eyes NI continues to demonstrate an unwavering dedication and a genuine passion for improving the lives of children with vision impairments and their families. Through their comprehensive range of services, the charity has undoubtedly made a great impact, ensuring that children with vision impairments are provided with equal opportunities to thrive, learn, and participate fully in society.

Angel Eyes NI Services

Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

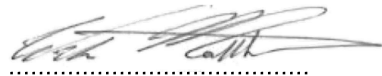
Financial review

Policy on reserves

Angel Eyes NI Services maintains a prudent level of reserves to enable the organisation to manage financial risk and deliver on our commitments. The objective is that the organisation would be able to carry on its work, even if faced with a combination of difficult circumstances, and have the time to adjust its strategy to meet these changing circumstances. Our reserves policy is set therefore to ensure that there is not disruption to our services at short notice, due to a lack of funds, an unforeseen reduction in income or an increase in expenditure, while at the same time ensuring that reserves are no higher than necessary and not retained longer than required. This gives time in the event of a drop in funding, to seek alternative funds, restructure and cut costs whilst continuing to provide current services.

The charity's policy is to retain a level of free reserves, which matches the needs of the organisation, both at the current time and in the foreseeable future. The reserves required should be sufficient to meet committed grant expenditure, personnel and overheads for a period equivalent to three months annual expenditure. The charity will continue to monitor compliance with this policy on a regular basis and the Board of Directors will review the appropriateness of the policy annually. At year ended 31st March 2023 free reserves available amounted to the equivalent of just over 4 months' annual expenditure.

The strategic report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 26 October 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Wilson Matthews
Trustee

Angel Eyes NI Services

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

Our Vision is that every blind and partially sighted child and young person will have equal access to everything they need to flourish (in society).

Through engagement with blind and partially sighted children and their families, and stakeholders we will inform, empower, and educate to bring about change, build confidence, knowledge, and skills for families and professionals.

Our mission is to create a fully inclusive society for children and young people who are blind and partially sighted so they can achieve their dreams, aspirations and full potential.

Angel Eyes NI Services

Trustees' Report

The core values of Angel Eyes

Angel Eyes has grown in the past thirteen years and remained in touch with its core values which are at the heart of the organisation and form the basis for our strategic direction.

Our core values are:

- **Knowledge**

We empower families with information and skills to raise aspirations and make informed choices for their child.

- **Inclusion**

We work to identify and remove barriers to accessibility and inclusion and campaign for the rights of blind and partially sighted children.

- **Empathy and Understanding**

We have lived experience in our team which is at the heart of all the support we deliver to families and their child. We have travelled the same road and understand the highs and lows of bringing up a child with a visual impairment.

- **Creating Change**

We are passionate about creating innovative solutions, and where appropriate collaborating to overcome barriers to make a positive impact on the lives of blind and partially sighted children.

Welcome to our Strategic Plan 2023 - 2026

This document summarises the Angel Eyes NI strategy for 2023 - 2026. The strategy builds on the last three years' growth and achievements. In seeking to achieve our strategic priorities, it is very important to us that we continue to focus on our existing vision, mission and core values and maintain the Angel Eyes ethos which we believe reflects those values.

Our Strategic Objectives are:

1. All children and young people who are blind or partially sighted in Northern Ireland, will have equal access to education.
2. All families with a child who is blind or partially sighted in NI will have access to the services and support they require to bring up and support their child.
3. All children and young people who are blind or partially sighted in NI will have equal opportunity to accessible clubs and activities.
4. Angel Eyes will raise awareness of the needs of children and young people who are blind or partially sighted in NI by enabling them to have access to policy makers and legislators.
5. Angel Eyes will be recognised as an organisation that specialises in creating positive change for children and young people who are blind or partially sighted in NI, based on their needs and challenges.

Vision, Mission, and Core Values

Our Vision: All children and young people who are blind or partially sighted in Northern Ireland will have equal access to everything they need to flourish.

Our Mission: Through engagement with children and young people who are blind or partially sighted, their families, and relevant stakeholders, we will **Advocate, Educate, Navigate,** and **Innovate,** to bring about positive change and build confidence, knowledge, and skills.

Angel Eyes will contribute to the creation of a fully inclusive society for children and young people who are blind and partially sighted so they can achieve their dreams, aspirations, and full potential.

Angel Eyes NI Services

Trustees' Report

It is important to us to remain transparent in all our work, and we seek, therefore, to protect our independence by only accepting funding and investment from those organisations which are supportive of our aims and of how we operate.

Public benefit

Purpose 1: To provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare which improve the conditions of life of blind and partially sighted children and young people and their families in Northern Ireland.

Benefit: The benefit which flows from this purpose is reduced stress, improved family life and individual wellbeing for the parents, carers and families of children and young people who are blind or partially sighted and increased ease of access and efficiency to supports and services for those children and young people so that they may reach their full potential resulting in alleviation of anxiety and stress.

How Benefit is evidenced: This will be demonstrated through use of a database held with details of parents, carers and their children which enables regular contact, feedback and surveys. It will be demonstrated through the use of evaluation forms with families. It is demonstrated through active collaboration and partnership working with statutory bodies, agencies and the voluntary sector.

Harm: This purpose does not lead to harm.

Public Element: The beneficiaries of this purpose are blind and partially sighted children and young people and their families and carers in Northern Ireland.

Private Benefit: Charity Trustees may include parents of blind or partially sighted children and young people and hence gain benefit in the same way as all other beneficiaries. This benefit is incidental and necessary to ensure the benefit is provided to all beneficiaries.

Purpose 2: To provide and assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of recreation and leisure time occupation of blind and partially sighted children and young people and their families in Northern Ireland.

Benefit The benefits which flow from this purpose are fully accessible holidays, recreational and educational activities with supports to enable increased participation of blind and partially sighted children and young people leading to improved family life, feelings of individual wellbeing and self-worth.

How Benefit is evidenced: This is demonstrated by feedback and records relating to organised events. It is demonstrated by the extension of recreation and leisure time opportunities available through collaboration with a range of partners within the voluntary sector.

Harm: This purpose does not lead to harm.

Public Element: The beneficiaries of this purpose are blind and partially sighted children and young people and their families and carers in Northern Ireland.

Private Benefit: Two of the Charity Trustees are parents of blind or partially sighted children and young people and hence gain benefit in the same way as all other beneficiaries. This benefit is incidental and necessary to ensure the benefit is provided to all beneficiaries.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 3 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

Angel Eyes NI Services

Trustees' Report

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

Angel Eyes NI Services is a company limited by guarantee and controlled by its Memorandum and Articles. It is registered as a Charity with the Charities Commission for NI. The organisation is run by a Board of skilled individuals including two parents of visually impaired children. They are passionate and dedicated individuals who meet on a quarterly basis. It is responsible for the strategic direction of the organisation and oversees the management of the organisation. The day-to-day management and operation of activities are carried out by a staff team, led by the CEO who reports to the board. Directors are appointed according to the specific skills required by the organisation to fulfil its responsibilities and are ratified on a yearly basis at the AGM.

In the year ended March 2023, Angel Eyes NI Services employs a Chief Executive, a full time and part time Education Advocate, two part-time Family Support Coordinators, a part time Eye Clinician and a part time administrator.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

It is an underpinning requirement that members of the management board have commitment to and an understanding of the ethos, aims and values of Angel Eyes NI Services. Specific skills may be required and with this in mind, new board members are attracted by advertising on digital platforms and by word of mouth. The new potential member is then invited to attend the next board meeting to observe and will become a full board member if co-opted by the board at that time and then elected at the next AGM.

Induction and training of trustees

There is an induction pack which includes roles and responsibilities for new board members. A training and induction programme is also put in place.

Financial instruments

Objectives and policies

The charity's activities expose it to a number of financial risks including credit risk, cash flow risk and liquidity risk.

Cash flow risk

The charity's activities expose it primarily to the financial risks of reduced funding from grant making bodies. Fundraising activities and donations are crucial to the charity's cash flow.

Credit risk

The charity's principal financial assets are bank balances and cash, trade and other receivables. The charity's credit risk is primarily attributable to its trade receivables. The amounts presented in the balance sheet are net of allowances for doubtful receivables.

The credit risk on liquid funds and derivative financial instruments is limited because the counterparties are banks with high credit-ratings assigned by international credit-rating agencies. The charity has no significant concentration of credit risk.

Angel Eyes NI Services

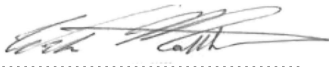
Trustees' Report

Liquidity risk

In order to maintain liquidity to ensure that sufficient funds are available for ongoing operations and future developments, the charity regularly reviews funding sources to ensure sufficient cash flows are available for current projects.

Further details regarding liquidity risk can be found in the Statement of accounting policies in the financial statements.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 26 October 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Wilson Matthews
Trustee

Angel Eyes NI Services

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of Angel Eyes NI Services for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; 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 adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on 26 October 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Wilson Matthews
Trustee

Angel Eyes NI Services

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Angel Eyes NI Services

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on pages 18 to 32 .

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 65(2) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (the 2008 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £100,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of CIMA.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the 2008 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the 2008 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

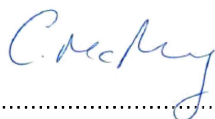
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



.....
Catherine McRory FCMA CGMA
Chartered Management Accountant
CIMA

Unit 3 Dargan Industrial Park
60-84 Dargan Crescent
Belfast
BT3 9JP

26 October 2023

Angel Eyes NI Services

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	31,602	242,800	274,402	233,487
Investment income	4	170	-	170	6
Other income	5	5,000	-	5,000	-
Total Income		36,772	242,800	279,572	233,493
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	6	(195)	-	(195)	(769)
Charitable activities	7	(12,445)	(269,149)	(281,594)	(202,698)
Total Expenditure		(12,640)	(269,149)	(281,789)	(203,467)
Net income/(expenditure)		24,132	(26,349)	(2,217)	30,026
Transfers between funds		1,610	(1,610)	-	-
Net movement in funds		25,742	(27,959)	(2,217)	30,026
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		72,053	51,061	123,114	93,087
Total funds carried forward	15	97,795	23,102	120,897	123,113
2022 Year					
	Note		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3		30,603	202,884	233,487
Investment income	4		6	-	6
Total Income			30,609	202,884	233,493
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	6		(769)	-	(769)
Charitable activities	7		(22,852)	(179,846)	(202,698)
Total Expenditure			(23,621)	(179,846)	(203,467)
Net income			6,988	23,038	30,026
Transfers between funds			2,324	(2,324)	-
Net movement in funds			9,312	20,714	30,026
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward			62,741	30,346	93,087
Total funds carried forward	15		72,053	51,060	123,113

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

Angel Eyes NI Services

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

The funds breakdown for 2023 and 2022 are shown in note 15.

Angel Eyes NI Services

(Registration number: NI633274) Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Current assets			
Debtors	12	43,561	20,449
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>110,538</u>	<u>143,841</u>
		154,099	164,290
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(33,202)</u>	<u>(41,177)</u>
Net assets		<u>120,897</u>	<u>123,113</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted funds		23,101	51,060
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>97,797</u>	<u>72,053</u>
Total funds	15	<u>120,898</u>	<u>123,113</u>

For the financial year ending 31 March 2023 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements on pages 18 to 32 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 26 October 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



.....
Wilson Matthews
Trustee

Angel Eyes NI Services

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

1 Charity status

The charity is a charity limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

Angel Eyes NI Services meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Income and endowments

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

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Angel Eyes NI Services

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Investment income

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities

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.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees's meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Angel Eyes NI Services

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Borrowings

Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period of the relevant borrowing.

Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the charity has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees's discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Angel Eyes NI Services

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Financial instruments

Classification

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

Recognition and measurement

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the charity intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the charity transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the charity, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Angel Eyes NI Services

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Debt instruments

Debt instruments which meet the following conditions are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method:

(a) The contractual return to the holder is (i) a fixed amount; (ii) a positive fixed rate or a positive variable rate; or (iii) a combination of a positive or a negative fixed rate and a positive variable rate.

(b) The contract may provide for repayments of the principal or the return to the holder (but not both) to be linked to a single relevant observable index of general price inflation of the currency in which the debt instrument is denominated, provided such links are not leveraged.

(c) The contract may provide for a determinable variation of the return to the holder during the life of the instrument, provided that (i) the new rate satisfies condition (a) and the variation is not contingent on future events other than (1) a change of a contractual variable rate; (2) to protect the holder against credit deterioration of the issuer; (3) changes in levies applied by a central bank or arising from changes in relevant taxation or law; or (ii) the new rate is a market rate of interest and satisfies condition (a).

(d) There is no contractual provision that could, by its terms, result in the holder losing the principal amount or any interest attributable to the current period or prior periods.

(e) Contractual provisions that permit the issuer to prepay a debt instrument or permit the holder to put it back to the issuer before maturity are not contingent on future events, other than to protect the holder against the credit deterioration of the issuer or a change in control of the issuer, or to protect the holder or issuer against changes in levies applied by a central bank or arising from changes in relevant taxation or law.

(f) Contractual provisions may permit the extension of the term of the debt instrument, provided that the return to the holder and any other contractual provisions applicable during the extended term satisfy the conditions of paragraphs (a) to (c).

Debt instruments that are classified as payable or receivable within one year on initial recognition and which meet the above conditions are measured at the undiscounted amount of the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received, net of impairment.

With the exception of some hedging instruments, other debt instruments not meeting these conditions are measured at fair value through profit or loss.

Commitments to make and receive loans which meet the conditions mentioned above are measured at cost (which may be nil) less impairment.

Investments

Investments in non-convertible preference shares and non-puttable ordinary or preference shares (where shares are publicly traded or their fair value is reliably measurable) are measured at fair value through profit or loss. Where fair value cannot be measured reliably, investments are measured at cost less impairment.

Investments in subsidiaries and associates are measured at cost less impairment. For investments in subsidiaries acquired for consideration including the issue of shares qualifying for merger relief, cost is measured by reference to the nominal value of the shares issued plus fair value of other consideration. Any premium is ignored.

Angel Eyes NI Services

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Derivative financial instruments

The charity uses derivative financial instruments to reduce exposure to foreign exchange risk and interest rate movements. The charity does not hold or issue derivative financial instruments for speculative purposes.

Derivatives are initially recognised at fair value at the date a derivative contract is entered into and are subsequently remeasured to their fair value at each reporting date. The resulting gain or loss is recognised in statement of financial activities immediately unless the derivative is designated and effective as a hedging instrument, in which event the timing of the recognition in statement of financial activities depends on the nature of the hedge relationship.

Fair value measurement

The best evidence of fair value is a quoted price for an identical asset in an active market. When quoted prices are unavailable, the price of a recent transaction for an identical asset provides evidence of fair value as long as there has not been a significant change in economic circumstances or a significant lapse of time since the transaction took place. If the market is not active and recent transactions of an identical asset on their own are not a good estimate of fair value, the fair value is estimated by using a valuation technique.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds			
	General	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	funds	2023	2022
		£	£	£
Donations and legacies;				
Donations from individuals	31,224	-	31,224	30,348
Gift aid reclaimed	378	-	378	255
Grants, including capital grants;				
Grants from other charities	-	242,800	242,800	202,884
	<u>31,602</u>	<u>242,800</u>	<u>274,402</u>	<u>233,487</u>

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds		
	General	Total	Total
	£	2023	2022
		£	£
Interest receivable and similar income;			
Interest receivable on bank deposits	170	170	6
	<u>170</u>	<u>170</u>	<u>6</u>

Angel Eyes NI Services

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

5 Other income

	Unrestricted funds	Total 2023
	General	Total
	£	£
Other Income	5,000	5,000
	5,000	5,000

6 Expenditure on raising funds

a) Costs of generating donations and legacies

	Direct costs	Total 2023	Note Total 2022
	£	£	£
Costs of generating donations and legacies	195	195	769
	195	195	769

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

		Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
		Designated	General			
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
Support for visually impaired children		-	8,251	65,206	73,457	72,652
Staff costs		1,870	404	201,843	204,117	128,952
Allocated support costs	8	-	-	2,100	2,100	-
Governance costs	8	-	1,920	-	1,920	1,094
		1,870	10,575	269,149	281,594	202,698

£37,481 (2022 - £22,528) of the above expenditure was attributable to unrestricted funds and £242,192 (2022 - £179,843) to restricted funds.

Angel Eyes NI Services

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

8 Analysis of governance and support costs

Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	General £	£	£
Independent examiner fees			
Examination of the financial statements	1,920	1,920	1,094
	1,920	1,920	1,094
	1,920	1,920	1,094

9 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	176,015	116,408
Social security costs	16,276	5,398
Pension costs	7,282	5,126
Other staff costs	4,544	2,020
	204,117	128,952
	204,117	128,952

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2023 No	2022 No
Front Line staff	5	5
Management	1	1
	6	6
	6	6

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

10 Independent examiner's remuneration

	2023 £	2022 £
Examination of the financial statements	1,920	1,094
	1,920	1,094

Angel Eyes NI Services

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

11 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

12 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	41,880	20,449
Prepayments	1,681	-
	43,561	20,449

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	8,027	409
Other taxation and social security	4,507	1,519
Other creditors	18,748	36,229
Accruals	1,920	3,020
	33,202	41,177

14 Pension and other schemes

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £7,283 (2022 - £5,126).

15 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted funds					
<i>General</i>					
Arn Foundation - Family Support	-	30,000	(26,907)	(3,093)	-
Unrestricted Funds	42,393	36,772	(10,769)	(11,890)	56,506
	42,393	66,772	(37,676)	(14,983)	56,506

Angel Eyes NI Services

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Designated					
Unfunded Salary Reserve	29,660	-	(1,870)	9,273	37,063
Des Res Consultancy Costs	-	-	-	4,228	4,228
	<u>29,660</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,870)</u>	<u>13,501</u>	<u>41,291</u>
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>72,053</u>	<u>66,772</u>	<u>(39,546)</u>	<u>(1,482)</u>	<u>97,797</u>
Restricted funds					
AREYES A4A	-	9,894	(9,918)	24	-
Halifax	4,533	-	(4,603)	70	-
BBC CIN - InTune (Open Arts)	-	10,516	(11,425)	909	-
Will Charitable Trust	28,000	-	(26,127)	-	1,873
Belfast Association for the Blind	2,000	-	(2,000)	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund (Visual Eyes)	15,150	1,155	(16,305)	-	-
Empatheyeyes	-	17,121	(17,121)	-	-
National Lottery - Equal Eyes	1,378	83,962	(81,086)	-	4,254
Panto	-	2,000	(1,789)	-	211
Hospital Saturday Fund	-	10,000	(7,740)	-	2,260
Education Insight (TPT)	-	21,552	(20,899)	-	653
Residential 2023	-	9,984	(750)	-	9,234
Eyedentity	-	36,263	(33,437)	-	2,826
Eyedentity - Parent Conference 2023	-	1,323	(1,802)	479	-
LFT _ CRM & Comms	-	4,480	(2,690)	-	1,790
Liberty IT VR Project	-	4,550	(4,550)	-	-
	<u>51,061</u>	<u>212,800</u>	<u>(242,242)</u>	<u>1,482</u>	<u>23,101</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>51,061</u>	<u>212,800</u>	<u>(242,242)</u>	<u>1,482</u>	<u>23,101</u>
Total funds	<u>123,114</u>	<u>279,572</u>	<u>(281,788)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>120,898</u>

Angel Eyes NI Services

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Unrestricted funds					
<i>General</i>					
Arn Foundation - Family Support	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-
Unrestricted Funds	<u>13,355</u>	<u>30,609</u>	<u>(3,895)</u>	<u>2,324</u>	<u>42,393</u>
	13,355	45,609	(18,895)	2,324	42,393
<i>Designated</i>					
Unfunded Salary Reserve	<u>49,386</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(19,726)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>29,660</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>62,741</u>	<u>45,609</u>	<u>(38,621)</u>	<u>2,324</u>	<u>72,053</u>
Restricted funds					
Ulster University - Classroom Assistant training	3,500	-	(3,500)	-	-
AREYES A4A	978	1,933	(2,911)	-	-
RNIB - Family Insight	2,899	15,000	(15,434)	(2,465)	-
Halifax	4,906	4,945	(5,318)	-	4,533
BBC CIN - InTune (Open Arts)	-	8,339	(8,339)	-	-
Will Charitable Trust	5,000	30,000	(7,000)	-	28,000
Belfast Association for the Blind	1,128	2,000	(1,178)	50	2,000
National Lottery Community Fund (Visual Eyes)	11,935	42,000	(38,785)	-	15,150
Empatheyes	-	20,449	(20,449)	-	-
National Lottery - Equal Eyes	-	50,406	(49,029)	-	1,377
Panto	-	2,812	(2,903)	91	-
Hospital Saturday Fund	<u>-</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>(10,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>30,346</u>	<u>187,884</u>	<u>(164,846)</u>	<u>(2,324)</u>	<u>51,060</u>
Total funds	<u>93,087</u>	<u>233,493</u>	<u>(203,467)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>123,113</u>

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

Angel Eyes NI Services

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds
	General	Designated		
	£	£	£	£
Current assets	89,707	41,289	23,103	154,099
Current liabilities	<u>(33,202)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(33,202)</u>
Total net assets	<u>56,505</u>	<u>41,289</u>	<u>23,103</u>	<u>120,897</u>

Angel Eyes NI Services

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103126

Annual report

CHAIR'S NOTE

Our CEO's annual report shows vividly the extensive and growing range of activities carried on by the charity. My overriding impression of the year is the passion, dedication, skill, and commitment shown by Sara and all her team. They are tireless in their support for families grappling with great difficulties in their personal lives. We know also, from the feedback we receive, how much of a difference their expertise and caring makes to the visually impaired young people and their families.



Sara's report notes the continuing growth of services. In the past, to be able to do this, we would have greatly welcomed financial support from the government. But we are now, in a way, fortunate in that Angel Eyes is not in receipt of statutory funding of any kind. Thus, we have not been affected by the swingeing budget reductions now being experienced by so many other charities and voluntary agencies. The resources driving this growth come, of course, from all our invaluable fundraisers, our donors, and the several trusts and foundations that have put their faith in Angel Eyes ability to bring really substantive benefits to visually impaired young people. To all of you, I add my gratitude to that expressed by Sara in her report. Without your help it would be impossible to continue.

While the harsh government expenditure reductions have not affected Angel Eyes directly, it is clear that meeting statutory requirements is now more remote than before. In recent years Angel Eyes has provided hard data to demonstrate government failures to meet its legal obligations to visually impaired young people. Regrettably, there is even less prospect of it doing so in the near future. This makes the work of Angel Eyes, and your hugely important support, all the more vital.

Sara's report draws attention to our excellent progress in developing and expanding qualifications for those working with visually impaired students. It is clear that professionally trained teaching assistants do a much better job in providing classroom support. We are stressing to the government that investing in such training not only enhances the visually impaired students' educational experience but can also save public money. Trained professionals are more efficient and can therefore work with more students and also reduce the number of possible future problems. Everybody wins!

Our social enterprise, Empathey, adds to this efficiency. The vividness of the virtual reality experience quickly brings it home to all concerned what visual impairment truly is. Understanding and retention of lessons learned by the classroom assistant is very much better via virtual reality. And those trained in this

way comprehend immediately how to provide the best support to the visually impaired child.

I cannot finish without thanking Sara and her team for their excellent work, and also my wonderful board colleagues upon whom I depend for so much expert advice and support. Without you all Angel Eyes would not be making the strides in providing more and more support to visually impaired young people and their families. Thank you so much.



Dr Brian Scott
Chair, Angel Eyes NI

CEO REPORT

April 2022 – March 2023

I am delighted to present the Activities Report for Angel Eyes NI, covering the period from April 2022 to March 2023. It gives me great pleasure to outline the remarkable achievements and milestones we have reached during this period.



This year has been incredibly eventful for the charity, as we had the privilege of presenting at both Global and International Conferences. One notable highlight was our participation in the Equality Commission podcast, where we shared insights from our Education Report on the profound impact of COVID on children with visual impairments. Additionally, we delivered two presentations at the Vision 2022 conference in Dublin, focusing on the positive outcomes of our Level 4 Qualification for Classroom Assistants supporting learners with visual impairments and the innovative VisualEyes Virtual Reality Project.

Furthermore, our Social Enterprise Empatheyeyes gained international recognition when I was invited to speak at the Women in Tech Conference in Sweden. This was a remarkable opportunity to showcase our cutting-edge virtual reality visual impairment simulator and the transformative effects it has on supporting visually impaired individuals.

During the reporting period, we successfully launched our EyeDentity Project, funded by the Department of Health Carers Fund, at the Angel Eyes Parents conference held at the Dunadry Hotel. This event received extensive support from both statutory and voluntary organisations. Additionally, we had the privilege of presenting at the Belfast Eye Conference, which drew eye clinicians from across the UK.

Notably, we unveiled our ambitious strategy for 2023-2026, which builds upon our existing expertise while addressing identified gaps. This strategic roadmap will guide our efforts as we continue to make a lasting impact on the lives of visually impaired children and their families.

We are acutely aware of the challenges faced by our families due to the ongoing cost-of-living crisis. As a result, we have witnessed an increase in the number of families seeking benefit support. To address this critical issue, we established the "Grants in NI" page on our website to facilitate easier access to financial assistance and resources.

I am delighted to share that our 3rd cohort of students successfully completed the Classroom Assistant Qualification in partnership with Ulster University in December 2022, further expanding the pool of skilled professionals equipped to support learners with visual impairments.

I am proud to announce that our exceptional achievements have been recognised by sector organisations. Our chairperson was honoured with the CO3 Award for Trustee of the Year, and I myself won the CO3 Award for Social Innovation for Empatheyas. Furthermore, we were overjoyed to receive the Tech for Good award at the Digital DNA Awards, which celebrated the impact of Empatheyas as a social enterprise.

In recognition of our commitment to excellence in professional development, Empatheyas Training for Health and Social Care workers and Professionals has been granted CPD Accreditation.

These accomplishments would not have been possible without the unwavering dedication and tireless efforts of our incredible team, partners, and supporters. Together, we continue to make a significant difference in the lives of children with visual impairments, empowering them to thrive and overcome challenges.

As I reflect on the past year's achievements, I am grateful for the collective commitment and passion that drives Angel Eyes NI. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to all our stakeholders who have played an integral role in our success.

I would also like to express my thanks to our Trustees for their invaluable guidance and support throughout this period. Their strategic vision and commitment have been instrumental in shaping our organisation's growth and impact.

Thanks to all that support us and our committed team we are transforming lives and creating a more inclusive and equitable society for visually impaired children.



Sara McCracken

Chief Executive Officer

The following report sets out the activities and impact of the following services over the period April 2022 – March 2023.

1. Education Service
2. Family Support Services
3. Accessible Clubs

Education Service

We have delivered three projects in this year to meet our strategic aim that all children and young people who are blind and partially sighted in NI will have equal access to education, with a team of 2 Education Advocates and a part time Eye Clinician who work across all projects.

1. **EqualEyes Project** in partnership with Childrens Law Centre and funded by National Lottery Community Fund

The first purpose of the EqualEyes project is Children and Young people with a visual impairment will demonstrate an increased understanding of their rights to equitable education, feel more confident in voicing their opinions and concerns about their educational experiences; and develop the skills to communicate effectively with all professionals involved in their school journey.

To achieve this goal the Education Team delivered the following activities for **30 children and young people:**

- One to one support provided to each young person.
- Residential in summer 2023 which 8 young people attended.
- Teen Hub events for young people to connect and talk.
- Technology workshop on accessibility functions and apps that are useful.
- Focus Groups to engage with young people about topical issues.

The second purpose of the EqualEyes Project is that families of children and young people with visual impairment, from across NI will demonstrate increased understanding of the specialist education support services and feel more knowledgeable and empowered to make key decisions in this area.

To achieve this goal the Education Team delivered the following activities for **99 Families:**

- One to one support provided to each family.
- Attendance at school meetings of Angel Eyes NI Education Advocate to support the family.

- Individual contact with schools to enable support for children with vision impairment.
- Tribunal actions and case statements submitted.
- Multidisciplinary meetings including Angel Eyes NI Education Advocate to represent vision impairment in education and support the child and family.
- Development of 'Rights' in education leaflet which is available on website for parents to access.

Finally, the EqualEyes project seeks to raise awareness of vision impairment, highlighting the impact on children and young people when their needs are not met, how this can be overcome with support and knowledge and the importance of listening to our children and young people and learning from their experience to better inform support, policy, and legislation.

To achieve this the Education Team attended 32 meetings of the following groups:

- Children's Disability Strategic Alliance
- All Party Group for Visual Impairment
- Civic Government
- Education Authority Joint Consultative Forum
- Visual Impairment Sector Forum
- Equality Coalition

2. Education Insight Project funded by Thomas Pocklington Trust.

Objectives:

- Parents will have a safe platform to talk about their experience with their child in education.
- Increase confidence and reduce isolation felt by other parents when advocating for their child.
- Raise awareness of the challenges faced by parents advocating for their child.

Through the Education Insight project, we provided the following:

- Online Themed Meet Ups
- Closed Parents Only Facebook Page
- Parent Ambassadors to talk at meet ups about their own personal experience of supporting their children through the education system.

3. Level 4 Qualification and Workshops in partnership with Ulster University and Education Workshops using Virtual Reality Training was successfully funded.

The objective of the Project was to ensure that children with vision impairment receive the necessary assistance and accommodations required to fully engage in their educational journey, promoting inclusivity, independence and maximising their learning potential. By equipping classroom assistants with a higher level of expertise through an accredited qualification and education workshops, the initiatives were aimed to improve the children's access to the curriculum.

Activities Delivered as part of the Project:

- Deliver an online Level 4 accredited professional qualification in partnership with Ulster University for Classroom Assistants who support children with visual impairment through a 10-week course covering 5 topics.
- Deliver Education Virtual Reality Workshops to support and enhance the skills of classroom assistants and other school staff supporting children with a vision impairment.

Impact of the Angel Eyes NI Education Service have included:

- Empowering parents with strategies and knowledge.
- Enabling children and young people with knowledge of rights and strategies and technology to improve access.
- Improving learning environments and accessible resources through training.
- Communication between home and school improved.
- 2 leading issues identified as Statements of Special Educational Needs and in school support.
- Development of bespoke VR training sessions
- Impact of paediatric visual impairment is understood in a meaningful way to improve services, support, and resources.

Family Support Services Activity Report

To meet our strategic aim that all families with a child who is blind or partially sighted in NI will have access to the services and support they require to bring up and support their child we have delivered 3 projects in this period that supported 198 families. The services are delivered by two Family Services Coordinators.

Projects:

1. **EyeDentity** –funded by Department of Health through the Carer’s Fund
2. **Parent’s Conference May 2022** funded by Belfast Association of the Blind
Parent’s Conference Mar 2023 funded by BHSC Microfund
3. **Family Support** funded by Hospital Saturday Fund and the ARN Foundation.

The overall activities of Family Support Services have included:

- One to One family Support, which included emotional and practical support.
- Quarterly Contribution to the Angel Eyes NI Ezine on issues and events for families.
- Advising parents on how to register as carers in their HSC Trust.
- Two carers focused events to enhance carer knowledge and to give practical advice.
- Two community events to raise awareness of Visual Impairment.
- Early years parents’ events in partnership with RNIB and Sense NI
- Emergency Essentials Grant and financial advice available to secure grants.
- New Grants Advice support developed for website.
- Secured assistive technology for families that did not qualify through other funding from local companies.

The Family Services Team have advocated and represented the needs of parent carers at the following groups and meetings:

- Cost of Living roundtable event,
- Visual Impairment Sector Consultative Forum,
- Carers Coalition,
- All Party Group for Disability and Mental Health
- Member of all 29 Family Support Hubs
- Childrens Health Coalition
- Fermanagh Council inclusion in toolkit

Impact of the Family Services team have included:

- New service developed.
- Increased parents seeking support.
- Increased community engagement
- Parents reported increased knowledge of support available to their child and increased registrations as carers with trusts.
- Became and associate member on all 29 Family Support Hubs
- Increased number of forums attended to represent the voice of parent carers of visually impaired children.

Accessible Clubs Activity Report

To meet our strategic aim that all children and young people who are blind or partially sighted in NI will have equal opportunity to accessible clubs and activities we delivered three projects that supported 133 families. The Clubs are delivered by a Family Support Coordinator, a part time Club Facilitator and volunteers.

Projects:

1. **InTune in partnership with Open Arts** funded by Children in Need
2. **ArEyes My Mini and Me** funded by Awards for All.
3. **Christmas Party and Panto** funded by Belfast Harbour Commission and Belfast Association for the Blind.

Clubs and Events Delivered:

Early Year Play Sessions - 9

InTune Workshops – 49

Panto 2022 for 149 parents and children

Christmas Party for 40 parents and children

The projects funded by Children In Need and Awards for All have had a significant impact on the lives of children with vision impairment and their families. Through the InTune project, an accessible arts programs, leading to increased confidence and inclusion in mainstream activities. The ArEyes My Mini and Me project has supported parents and carers, providing them with support, knowledge, and practical tools and resources.

Through hosting our Christmas Pantomime in the Island Arts Centre, we were able to meet the needs of our families with on-site parking and disabled spaces. The centre has state-of-the-art changing places facilities and wheelchair access. We were able to offer 12 wheelchair spaces to accommodate children who required this. The touch tour insured that the show was a fully accessible experience for our families.

Impact of Accessible Clubs and Event for Children and Families:

- Early Years families benefitted from practical learning and play experiences, improving their confidence and knowledge in supporting early learning.
- Increased confidence and knowledge with families being more confident and informed about supporting their child.
- Improved support for parents by developing a toolbox of ideas and resources to support the development of their child at home, enhancing their ability to provide appropriate care and learning opportunities.
- Peer support as families participating in the projects have formed meaningful relationships with other families facing similar challenges, creating a support network and fostering a sense of community.
- Increased accessible creative arts session which increased accessible creative arts sessions for children ensuring their inclusion and participation in the arts.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, Angel Eyes NI has made significant strides in supporting children with vision impairments and their families. Through the comprehensive Education Service, the charity has provided invaluable resources and assistance to ensure that children receive the necessary education and support tailored to their specific needs.

Furthermore, the Qualification and Workshops for classroom assistants have equipped professionals with the knowledge and skills required to effectively support children with vision impairments in educational settings. By investing in the training of these individuals, Angel Eyes NI has enhanced the overall learning experience for pupils with a vision impairment, supporting and enabling them to reach their full potential.

The Family Services offered by Angel Eyes NI have proven to be instrumental in empowering families to support and nurture their visually impaired child. By providing guidance, a listening ear and practical resources, the charity has fostered an inclusive and supportive environment, enabling families to navigate the challenges they may face.

Angel Eyes NI is committed to creating accessible clubs and events for children with vision impairments. By providing opportunities in the arts, play and organising fully accessible family events, to give children a platform to explore their talents and interests. These inclusive activities not only foster a sense of belonging but also promote socialisation, self-expression, and personal development.

Overall, Angel Eyes NI continues to demonstrate an unwavering dedication and a genuine passion for improving the lives of children with vision impairments and their families. Through their comprehensive range of services, the charity has undoubtedly made a great impact, ensuring that children with vision impairments are provided with equal opportunities to thrive, learn, and participate fully in society.

Angel Eyes NI Services

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103126

Annual return

Angel Eyes NI Services

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Angel Eyes NI Services

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on pages 18 to 32 .

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 65(2) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (the 2008 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £100,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of CIMA.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the 2008 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the 2008 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

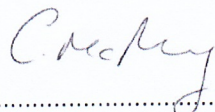
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



.....
Catherine McRory FCMA CGMA
Chartered Management Accountant
CIMA

Unit 3 Dargan Industrial Park
60-84 Dargan Crescent
Belfast
BT3 9JP

26 October 2023