

Registered number: 07258623
Charity number: 1136716

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

UNAUDITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITABLE COMPANY, ITS TRUSTEES AND
ADVISERS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Trustees	C Wigley, Chair H Shaw, Vice Chair R Milford, Treasurer E S Baio S Sheridan V Merrett (resigned 18 January 2022) E Mackenzie P Mackenzie J McBride J Hill N Button (appointed 1 May 2022) P A Virdi-Smith (appointed 1 May 2022) A W Hall (appointed 18 January 2022)
Company registered number	07258623
Charity registered number	1136716
Registered office	The Bradbury Centre 2 Sansome Walk Worcester WR1 1LH
Chief Executive Officer	Ms J Gage
Independent Examiner	Bishop Fleming LLP Chartered Accountants 1-3 College Yard Worcester WR1 2LB
Bankers	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
Solicitors	Thursfields Solicitors 9-10 The Tything Worcester WR1 1HD

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
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**CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

The Chairman presents her statement for the year.

This has been a challenging year with the continuing pressures and isolation as a result of the pandemic. Periods of return to normal living post lockdown were soon followed by more uncertainty with new variants. It has been difficult to provide the same level of face-to-face activity to our clients and new demands have arisen as a result of isolation and loneliness. In particular there has been a demand for counselling and we have agreed to establish a new counselling service.

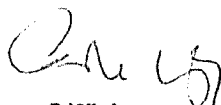
However, we are delighted that we have recruited new people to our team of staff and added to our Board. In particular we have engaged some additional property development expertise to help us think through our option appraisal exercise for the Bradbury centre.

We have now developed our digital technology support service, which has been enthusiastically received and our administrative team and reception have injected new energy into our customer care. Our volunteering service has gone from strength to strength. In addition, our sight loss team has been strengthened by appointing a well-being member of staff. This was in response to our Discovery project where clients emphasised the importance of activities that connected people with visual impairment. There are now a range of interesting activities taking place ranging from clay pottery to pub nights.

We spent a lot of time debating how to use our legacy income to good effect and decided to set a budget for investment for the future and to recruit more staff, including a senior sight loss adviser.

Much collaborative work has taken place with our NHS colleagues on the proposal to establish an integrated low vision service at the Bradbury centre and lay the foundations for it to start up in 2022.

In summary, although a difficult year still in terms of face-to-face delivery, Sight Concern has continued to consolidate and strengthen its service within Worcestershire.



**C Wigley
Chair**

Date:

8.12.22.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the Worcestershire Association For The Blind for the 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022. The Annual Report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report under company law. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Since the Charitable Company qualifies as small under section 382 of the Companies Act 2006, the Strategic Report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

Objectives and activities

a. Policies and objectives

The stated objects within the Articles for which Worcestershire Association for the Blind is established are for the public benefit:

- To promote the prevention of avoidable sight loss.
- To support and promote the welfare of blind and partially sighted persons and their families or carers, in particular those resident in the County of Worcestershire.
- The provision of assistance and good quality services for blind and partially sighted persons, alone or in collaboration with other voluntary and statutory organisations.
- To provide the resources and information necessary to empower visually impaired people to make appropriate and informed choices.

These objectives will be monitored on a regular basis by the officers of the association and our Board of Trustees.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the association should undertake and consider that Worcestershire Association for The Blind provides a public benefit by actively promoting, supporting and empowering people affected by sight loss.

Our vision is a world where blind and partially sighted people have the confidence to reach their full potential and the opportunity to play an active role in society.

Our mission is to support blind and partially sighted people to lead independent and fulfilling lives.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Objectives and activities (CONTINUED)

b. Strategies for achieving objectives

Supporting People to Make Informed Choices

We will provide information, advice and guidance regarding the impact of sight loss and the support available to help people affected by sight loss.

Supporting People to Lead Independent Lives

We will help people to adapt to sight loss, learn new skills, access equipment and make the most of technology.

Supporting People to Lead Fulfilling Lives

We will assist people to engage in social and leisure activities of their choice that enhance the quality of their lives.

There are approximately 8,280* blind or partially sighted people living in Worcestershire. We aim to reach as many of these people as we can, within our available resources, to support them to lead the lives they wish to lead. (*RNIB Sight Loss Data Tool)

c. Activities undertaken to achieve objectives

In order to achieve our objectives, we provide a range of services that either directly support people with sight loss or provide information, advice and guidance to those people who are supporting people with sight loss.

Our Services include:

- Information and advice helpline;
- One-to-one support from our Sight Loss Advisors;
- Monthly Sight Loss Support Groups;
- Living with Sight Loss group support sessions;
- Low Vision Clinics prescribing magnifiers, to make the best use of any remaining sight;
- Aids and Equipment demonstrations, advice & exhibitions;
- Digital Technology training through workshops and one-to-one support;
- Befriending Volunteers who can support people with the things they need to do (e.g. read their post) as well as the things they love (e.g. hobbies, getting out in the community);
- Sight Loss Awareness which provides practical training on how to assist visually impaired people.

We appreciate how challenging it can be to travel across the county, so we deliver our services across the six districts of Worcestershire, in local community settings or in people's homes.

We are fortunate to benefit from the support of over 150 volunteers, they support us across all areas of the charity including administration tasks in our offices, marshalling at events, running social groups, befriending, reading and recording the talking news and more.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Achievements and performance

a. Main achievements of the Charitable Company

The ongoing impact of the pandemic spanned many areas of our work from the direct effect on people who are blind or partially sighted to our ability to raise funds. People who are blind or partially sighted have faced greater challenges than many, for example, social distancing when you are not able to see where other people are or markers on floors. This has meant that many people faced a loss of confidence in getting around in their community, have lost mobility skills and faced greater loneliness and isolation. The demand for our services has grown as a direct result. Our team continued to adapt and provide support over the phone or via video calls, until they were able to meet people again and they have worked tirelessly throughout the year to provide the best service possible given the limitations, however we still had longer waiting times for support than we would have liked as a result.

During the year we used the challenges that the pandemic brought as an opportunity to carry out a strategic review, through the delivery of our most significant consultation project to date, the Discovery Project. We commissioned an independent consultant to gather evidence to support strategic decisions as we emerge from the pandemic. Desk research and interviews with 118 people, including 50 blind and partially sighted people plus volunteers, staff, trustees and external stakeholders were carried out. In September 2021, we held an away day for staff and trustees to discuss the findings of the Discovery Project and agree strategic priorities based on this feedback. Throughout the report references will be made to some of the changes that we have implemented as a result.

Information and Advice - In order to feel empowered to make decisions people affected by sight loss need to have access to information and advice relating to their unique circumstances. They also need to trust that the source of information is credible. This year we have invested additional funds into this area and employed a Services Support Assistant; she talks to people to find out what is important to them and how we can support them, she responds to queries and signposts or makes referrals into other services, both internal and external. Our new member of staff is registered blind and has a wealth of personal experience, often when she is speaking to people and explaining some of the things that she achieves they are inspired to try new things themselves.

During the year we received 378 new referrals for information and advice, resulting in people being able to make informed decisions.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Achievements and performance (CONTINUED)

Sight Loss Support Service – Some people need more than just basic information and advice or signposting, they may be newly diagnosed or just coming to terms with their sight loss and beginning to accept support. In many cases people are not aware of the support that is available to them including benefits, equipment, help with the emotional impact, to adapt and develop confidence, etc.

Our Sight Loss Advisers are specially trained to carry out a bespoke assessment called the Sight Loss MOT, with these people. They work through the following areas and together they develop an action plan that helps to address any issues identified:

1. Understanding your eye condition.
2. Making the best use of your sight.
3. Health and wellbeing.
4. Managing at home.
5. Getting out and about.
6. Your finances and planning for the future.
7. Work, learning and having your say.
8. Having someone to talk to.

Once the plan is agreed they work with the individual, on a short-term basis, to help them to achieve the actions and ensure that they are able to access any other services that have been recommended. The end goal is the person feeling more able to manage their condition independently of Sight Concern.

There were 407 new referrals into the sight loss support service during the year, resulting in people being able to adapt to sight loss and feel more in control of their lives.

Low Vision Clinics – It is important to us that we enable people to do as much for themselves as they want to. Obtaining the right magnifier to help people make the most of their remaining sight can make a real difference in aiding independence. This may help people to read their own mail, tell the time, read labels on boxes, etc. At our low vision clinics our optician carries out an assessment of a person's remaining sight and prescribes magnifiers.

We have an NHS contract to provide 200 Low Vision appointments per year. We started the year with a significant waiting list owing to the pressures caused by the pandemic in the previous year. We were also aware that the hospital low vision clinics were facing similar pressures with waiting lists, therefore some patients were waiting a long time for their appointments. Additional resources were allocated to enable us to reduce waiting times for patients, with the team working hard to manage the backlog.

In some cases, during periods where pandemic restrictions meant we were unable to meet clients face to face, we were able to adapt the service, with our optician carrying out telephone-based assessments, where appropriate. Magnifiers were sent in the post. These were subsequently followed up with a face-to-face appointment, when possible and necessary.

During the year 204 patients received an in-person assessment, 46 clients received a telephone assessment during periods of reduced contact. 227 magnification devices were issued, resulting in people being able to manage tasks more independently.

Sight Loss Support Groups – Much of the most useful advice and support on living well with sight loss comes through peer support. Knowing that someone else who is blind or partially sighted is achieving something that you are struggling with and learning how they have adapted gives people more confidence to try things out. Having someone to talk to who has experienced setbacks due to their sight loss that you can relate to makes it easier to deal with; they can empathise and share stories and will often have a laugh and a joke about it.

Sadly, our group activities were significantly hampered by the pandemic, even as restrictions eased, some people were too afraid to meet initially. We continued to provide online and telephone support groups, but these were not as effective as face-to-face meetings, so we were keen to get these back up and running.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Achievements and performance (CONTINUED)

Our Discovery Project consultation also told us that 'we need to offer a wider range of activities in local communities across Worcestershire and provide services that are relevant to younger people'. By the summer it appeared that restrictions would ease enough for us to bring groups together again, so in September 2021 we took on a Wellbeing Activity Coordinator to develop our group sessions. Unfortunately, once again we were affected by the pandemic, so just as our new colleague was ready to relaunch groups, we faced restrictions again.

Our Wellbeing Activities Coordinator utilised the time that we were unable to meet run groups, carrying out consultation and making some great connections in the local community that will help with our future plans. She also completed Living Well with Sight Loss training, in conjunction with RNIB, so she is now ready to deliver these sessions.

In February we started the delivery of a new service aimed at helping families affected by visual impairment to meet and gain peer support. Clay Days were set up in school holidays. 5 new families with young people with visual impairment engaged. The project was fully funded by Worcester Art Gallery and Museum, an on-going relationship has been established with them as a result. An exhibition of work produced will be opened on 25 October 2022, with a celebration for families.

Our Connections peer support groups re-started in March 2022. Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest areas had a session in March. Worcester and Malvern have been delivered since May 2022.

Access to Technology – We are living in a world that is more dependent on technology every day; the pandemic has accelerated this even further, yet many blind and partially sighted people still face barriers to using everyday technology. In addition to this there is an array of aids, equipment and technology, both specialist and mainstream, that can make a huge difference to how visually impaired people manage their lives and carry out day to day tasks. We want to ensure that everyone who wants to make the most of technology is given the information, training and support to be able to identify and use suitable products.

Participants in the Discovery projects told us they would like a product demonstration service and more help to make the most of mainstream technology. So, during the year we recruited a full time Technology Coordinator who is registered blind and a proficient user of all things tech. He works with people on a case-by-case basis, identifying what tasks they want to carry out and helping them to assess which pieces of equipment are most suitable for them; this could be based on affordability, digital skills, level of sight loss or personal preference. He supports them to set up and feel confident using technology.

Many of the queries are based on not being able to read print anymore and unable to use a mobile device. The three examples below show how our Technology Coordinator used his skills and knowledge and found solutions based on the individuals' personal circumstances.

One lady could not use her old Nokia mobile, and she wasn't able to use a touch screen even with voice or magnification options, it was just too much for her to take in and learn. She was shown how to use a 'blind shell' phone which acts/behaves nearly identical to her old Nokia style phone. She instantly loved it and purchased one in a matter of days, she can now independently text her friends/family again and make calls.

A lady who was employed as a librarian when she lost her sight and was struggling to write emails on her computer; she was shown how to magnify both her iPhone and computer. Because she was young and familiar with technology, she instantly picked it up and said it had made a massive difference and gave her renewed confidence that she'd be able to continue in her role.

One young man who had recently lost his sight in a car accident met with the Technology Coordinator, and by the end of the session he was able to grasp the concept of voice over on his iPhone. He and his parents were really excited that he could use this again. In addition to this, just by talking to someone who is blind he realised that he'd still be able to look forward to things he used to do. He used to go to watch football but had stopped after he had lost his sight. Our Technology Coordinator is a Liverpool football fan, after learning that he goes to watch the matches and listens to audio description of the match, he was very keen to start getting back in to going himself.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Achievements and performance (CONTINUED)

There were 167 referral into this service during the year, resulting in people being more digitally able, giving them more of a sense of control over their lives.

Volunteering - Volunteers are the life blood of the Charity and we could not operate without them, they enable us to reach more people and run the charity more effectively due to the range of activities they carry out from befriending and recording the talking news to administrative support, such as reminder calls from low vision clients.

Unfortunately, all aspects of volunteering activity have been affected by the pandemic and it continues to create some challenges. Ongoing Covid restrictions during the first half of this period meant that we were unable to place visiting befrienders with clients who were experiencing high levels of isolation and loneliness. There were still 39 clients on the waiting list for befrienders as at March 2022.

Recruitment of new visiting volunteers was challenging as many people were returning to the workplace and there was a huge demand for volunteers across the sector. In the first 3 months of 2022 we had a number of enquiries and applications from potential volunteers who withdrew before the induction session due to a range of factors. Some of our new volunteers recruited during the pandemic withdrew due to a return to work and 'normal' life as they no longer had the time to commit to volunteering.

However, despite the challenges we have continued to recruit volunteers and have developed the support we provide them. In May 2021, 11 telephone befrienders attended one of two online sight loss awareness sessions to prepare for visiting befriending. Volunteers resumed face to face visiting befriending in July 2021 which was much appreciated by volunteers and clients after such a long suspension of visits, and we started organising new matches.

During the year there were 39 active telephone befrienders, 10 of whom became visiting befrienders as restrictions were lifted making a total of 26 active visiting befrienders. Most of the telephone befrienders called 2 clients on a weekly basis.

We held a Dementia Friends session for volunteers in April 2021 to broaden their knowledge. This was attended by 9 of our befrienders. During Volunteers' Week June 2021 face to face meetings took place for across the county for new volunteers recruited during lockdown who we had not previously met in person.

An outside gathering was held for all the Malvern Talking News volunteers in August 2021. They had resumed recording the news remotely from home but had not met each other in person. The meeting was much appreciated by all.

In September 2021 we held a thank you event at the Diglis House Hotel for all our volunteers. This was attended by 48 volunteers who enjoyed drinks by the river before a cream tea. A volunteer photographer captured pictures on the day, and we decorated the tables with gift wrapped herb plants which the volunteers then took home.

Following a consultation where volunteers identified their preferred type/time/day for a meeting we agreed to hold one social event annually with a second meeting offering training and development. As a result, we held a meeting at Bennetts Farm in March 2022 attended by 45 volunteers. Our technology coordinator led the session with a talk and demo of assistive technology, and we had excellent feedback. Thank you to Waitrose who donated cakes for the refreshments!

Representation

We were able to secure funds from Worcestershire County Council that enabled us to run focus groups for visually impaired people to ensure their voices were represented in the public consultation exercises that they were carrying out; often the information is not accessible, so the needs of visually impaired people are overlooked. We held both a Covid Impact Study focus group and a Pharmaceutical Needs focus group; information will be used to inform planning of future Council services.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Achievements and performance (CONTINUED)

b. Fundraising activities and income generation

The Bradbury Centre is our main asset, it is an old building of substantial size. We do not utilise the whole building, therefore we rent out as much as possible to provide a sustainable income source. After a period of being unable to find tenants, partly related to the pandemic, in January 2021 we welcomed new tenants who now rent our entire first floor. They have a three-year lease. We also continued our rental of the main hall to a mobility company until March 2022, when they moved out to rent a self-contained building that was more appropriate for them. Unfortunately, we have not been able to find alternative tenants for this area as yet.

As the pandemic continued, we were unable to put on any of our usual style of fundraising events, community fundraising income also continued to suffer. However, during the year we received significant legacy income that has given us the financial security to not only provide our ongoing services, but also to carry out some development work.

We give grateful thanks to all those whose grant funds including help us to continue our work: The National Lottery Reaching Communities, Garfield Weston, The Masonic Lodge, Eveson Charitable Trust, Schroder Charity Trust, Six Masters' Charity, and Frogmal Trust.

Financial review

a. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charitable Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

b. Reserves policy

The Trustees have given careful consideration to the requirement to maintain an appropriate level of free reserves, being those unrestricted funds not invested in fixed assets or otherwise committed.

The Charity needs reserves to enable it to develop its long term aims as well as to ensure the continuation of its current activities. In order to meet their responsibilities and to ensure that the Charity continues to operate on a going concern basis, the Finance Committee has reviewed the requirements and risks faced by the charity in both the short and medium term.

Our reserves policy takes into consideration that, as we are a charity that relies heavily on fundraising, we are subject to the effects of short-term volatility in income. We therefore hold funds in reserve to ensure that we can continue to provide continuity in our core services in the face of fluctuations.

We hold reserves to meet the following purposes:

Inability to raise income: Inability to raise income could have many root causes, including recession or further restrictions relating to the pandemic impacting on fundraising, loss of tenant's rental income, reduction in investment income. Our budget includes £75K of income that could be affected in this way. We are holding a reserve that would allow us to face a 75% reduction in income against budget. The Trustees have set aside £57k to cover these contingencies.

The costs of closure of the Charity: Should the Charity need to wind up the staff team will need to be paid redundancy costs and we may need to pay professional fees to assist us to close down the Charity. The Trustees have set aside £39k to cover these contingencies.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Costs of repairs to the building: The building that the Charity occupies is an old property and repairs can be costly. We have included a sum of £10k for unplanned essential repairs. Our flat roof is over 20 years old and may require replacement in the very near future, quotes have been obtained for this. The Trustees have set aside £82k, in total, to cover these contingencies.

Staffing contingency costs: There are some key activities that must be carried out in order to fulfil contractual or legal requirements, there may be a requirement to employ temporary staff to cover long-term sickness absence or to fund agency recruitment costs for senior staff. The Trustees have set aside £30k, in total, to cover these contingencies.

Designated funds - We received an unusually high amount of legacy income over the last two years and have committed to spend a significant amount of these funds on the cost of providing our ongoing activities, on a full cost recovery basis, until the end of the financial year. We will be making grant applications towards these costs, however, it can take up to a year to identify funders, make applications and finally obtain funds and therefore we have designated sufficient funds for the Charity to continue to operate for the year, without raising any grant income. The designated funds of £274k, (detailed on page 30 of the accounts) therefore make up part of the free reserves required for our contingency funding that ensures that our services can continue to the end of the financial year in the event of a failure to raise any further income. The Trustees have designated £274k of funds in total.

Based on the above assessment the Trustees estimate that the total level of free reserves required to mitigate against identifiable risks is approximately £481k.

Inability to raise income: £57k

The costs of closure of the charity: £39k

Costs of repairs to the building: £82k

Staffing Contingency Costs £30k

Designated Funds: £274k

Total: £481k

The level of our free reserves held at the year-end - excluding fixed assets, restricted funds and including payment of our creditors – stands at £673k. (2021: £567k). This includes £386k investment funds which are convertible at short notice if required (2021: £355k), less current liabilities of £49k (2021: £32k), plus unrestricted current assets of £336k (2021: £244k).

Our reserves currently exceed the amount required to mitigate our risks, therefore we have decided to draw down some of these savings to use for frontline services, and to invest in business development to diversify how we generate income with an aim to be more sustainable in the future.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Structure, governance and management

a. Structure

Worcestershire Association for the Blind (operating as Sight Concern Worcestershire) is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital and governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The association was established by a charitable trust deed in 1930. The Trustees transferred all assets to the charitable company limited by guarantee which was incorporated on 19th May 2010.

b. Governance

The charity is governed by a board of trustees, who also act as directors, under its memorandum and articles.

The trustees/directors have overall responsibility for ensuring that:

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

Trustees are selected for the skills they can offer; a skills audit is used to identify the range of skills required and any gaps the current board needs to fill.

All new trustees undertake the charity's Sight Loss Awareness training, receive an induction from the Chief Executive Officer and spend time with key members of staff. They also receive a trustee handbook containing relevant information about their role and responsibility as a trustee, the charity's services and its policies.

c. Management

The trustees delegate the day-to-day management, the development of strategy, and overall leadership of the charity to the Chief Executive Officer.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Plans for future periods

We continue to work towards delivering the priorities highlighted as part of the Discovery Project, and the ongoing impact of the pandemic causing higher demand for our services. This is balanced against careful management of our finances and the success of fundraising, in particular grant applications.

We are employing a Senior Sight Loss Adviser, so that we have more capacity to respond to people who are in need of one-to-one support, can respond faster and to further reduce the waiting times.

We have made great progress working with our colleagues in the NHS on a proposal to integrate the hospital based low vision service with our service.

We begin a pilot project in the summer of 2022, whereby the hospital orthoptists will deliver their low vision assessments from our building, instead of the hospital eye clinics. This joint project will reduce the number of people being discharged from the hospital eye clinics without any information or a referral for support. It will also free up space in the hospital for sight saving treatment.

Our Wellbeing Activities Coordinator has responded to requests for more activities, including those that will appeal to younger people. For example, a trial Yoga session was delivered in May, funding has been secured to roll out a subsidized 6-week course alongside other wellbeing taster sessions in Worcester. Our first 'Pub Club' session started in April 2022, an informal peer support group, during the evening, for people who just want to get together informally over a drink or two.

We are recruiting technology volunteers who will be trained to support people with common technology challenges. This will enable us to expand the number of people that we support in this area. We intend to host local tech support sessions, across Worcestershire, where people can share tips and tricks with peers as well as gaining support with tech devices.

We have employed a part time Business Development Officer to lead on a review of the use of our building, our largest asset, to ensure that we are making the most of this. We are carrying out a comprehensive review of the building, included what we facilities we need on an ongoing basis and the potential for income generation through this. We are in discussion with another local Worcestershire charity who are considering sharing the building with us. Their service compliments what we do and could provide some exciting opportunities for joint projects.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

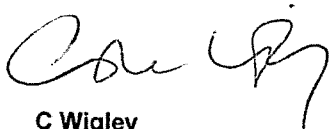
The Trustees (who are also the directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial . 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 then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the 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 order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



C Wigley

Chair

Date:

5.12.22.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WORCESTERSHIRE
ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND ('the Charitable Company')**

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charitable Company for the year ended 31 March 2022.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

As the Trustees of the Charitable Company (and its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Charitable Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the Charitable Company's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

Since the Charitable Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charitable Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE OF WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

This report is made solely to the Charitable Company's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charitable Company's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charitable Company and the Charitable Company's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Signed:



Dated:

21st December 2022

Andrew Wood
FCCA DChA

BISHOP FLEMING LLP
Chartered Accountants
1-3 College Yard
Worcester
WR1 2LB

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
INCOME FROM:					
Donations and legacies	3	210,417	-	210,417	236,453
Charitable activities	4	971	158,372	159,343	324,241
Other trading activities	5	2,320	-	2,320	1,805
Investments	6	63,451	-	63,451	40,563
Other income	7	-	-	-	10
TOTAL INCOME		277,159	158,372	435,531	603,072
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds	8	30,260	29,836	60,096	49,188
Charitable activities		169,056	162,512	331,568	262,154
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		199,316	192,348	391,664	311,342
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE NET GAINS ON INVESTMENTS					
		77,843	(33,976)	43,867	291,730
Net gains on investments		70,257	52,524	122,781	60,787
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS		148,100	18,548	166,648	352,517
OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS:					
Gains on revaluation of fixed assets and investments		153,978	204,109	358,087	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		302,078	222,657	524,735	352,517
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total funds brought forward		835,870	597,593	1,433,463	1,080,946
Net movement in funds		302,078	222,657	524,735	352,517
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		1,137,948	820,250	1,958,198	1,433,463

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

The notes on pages 19 to 37 form part of these financial statements.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
REGISTERED NUMBER:07258623**

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2022**

	Note	2022 £	As restated 2021 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	13	680,355	334,492
Investment property	14	446,103	353,955
		<u>1,126,458</u>	<u>688,447</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	15	9,646	11,396
Investments	16	385,583	354,950
Cash at bank and in hand		485,258	447,649
		<u>880,487</u>	<u>813,995</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(48,747)	(68,979)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>831,740</u>	<u>745,016</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>1,958,198</u>	<u>1,433,463</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u><u>1,958,198</u></u>	<u><u>1,433,463</u></u>
CHARITY FUNDS			
Restricted funds	19	820,250	597,593
Unrestricted funds			
Designated funds	19	273,664	68,307
General funds	19	864,284	767,563
Total unrestricted funds	19	<u>1,137,948</u>	<u>835,870</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u><u>1,958,198</u></u>	<u><u>1,433,463</u></u>

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
REGISTERED NUMBER:07258623

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

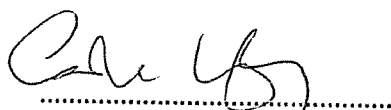
The Charitable Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of Companies Act 2006.

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

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

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



C Wigley

Chair

Date: 5.12.22

The notes on pages 19 to 37 form part of these financial statements.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Worcestershire Association for the Blind is a private limited Charitable Company incorporated in the UK and registered in England and Wales.

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

The principal activity of the Charitable Company is that set out in the Trustees' Report.

The accounts are presented in GBP and are rounded to the nearest GBP.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

2.1 BASIS OF PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

Worcestershire Association For The Blind meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

2.2 GOING CONCERN

At the time of approving the accounts the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparation of the accounts.

The pandemic has had an impact on the Charity's ability to fundraise using its traditional methods, however the legacy income that was received in the last financial year has given us sufficient funds to see us through this downturn.

2.3 INCOME

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

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

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

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

2.4 EXPENDITURE

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

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

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

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.5 INTEREST RECEIVABLE

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charitable Company; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

2.6 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION

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

At each reporting date the Charitable Company assesses whether there is any indication of impairment. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined to be the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. An impairment loss is recognised where the carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount.

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

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Long-term leasehold property	- 2% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	- 10-20% on cost

2.7 DEBTORS

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

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

2.8 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

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

2.9 LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS

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

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

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

2.10 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Charitable Company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.11 PENSIONS

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

2.12 FUND ACCOUNTING

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

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

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

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

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

3. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Donations	22,996	-	22,996	30,091
Legacies/In Memorial	187,421	-	187,421	206,362
	<u>210,417</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>210,417</u>	<u>236,453</u>
TOTAL 2021	<u>213,728</u>	<u>22,725</u>	<u>236,453</u>	

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Grants	-	158,372	158,372	324,171
Sale of aids and equipment	971	-	971	70
	<u>971</u>	<u>158,372</u>	<u>159,343</u>	<u>324,241</u>
TOTAL 2021	<u>70,455</u>	<u>253,786</u>	<u>324,241</u>	

5. INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

Income from fundraising events

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Events	<u>2,320</u>	<u>2,320</u>	<u>1,805</u>
TOTAL 2021	<u>1,805</u>	<u>1,805</u>	

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

6. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Investment income - investment properties	52,850	52,850	29,960
Investment income - listed investments	10,575	10,575	10,544
Investment income - interest	26	26	59
	<u>63,451</u>	<u>63,451</u>	<u>40,563</u>
TOTAL 2021	<u>40,563</u>	<u>40,563</u>	

7. OTHER INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Other incoming resources	-	-	10
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10</u>
TOTAL 2021	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

8. EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS

COSTS OF RAISING VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Premises costs	30,260	11,765	42,025	23,913
Staff costs	-	8,716	8,716	15,972
Depreciation	-	9,355	9,355	9,303
	<u>30,260</u>	<u>29,836</u>	<u>60,096</u>	<u>49,188</u>
TOTAL 2021	<u>15,899</u>	<u>33,289</u>	<u>49,188</u>	

9. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES

	Activities undertaken directly 2022 £	Support costs 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Expenditure on charitable activities	<u>275,677</u>	<u>55,891</u>	<u>331,568</u>	<u>262,154</u>
TOTAL 2021	<u>219,100</u>	<u>43,054</u>	<u>262,154</u>	

ANALYSIS OF DIRECT COSTS

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

9. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

ANALYSIS OF DIRECT COSTS (continued)

	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Staff costs	247,896	200,026
Depreciation	5,522	4,704
Consumables and equipment	17,183	12,226
Staff and volunteer travel	2,896	945
Staff training and recruitment	1,588	989
Direct premises expenses	592	210
	<u>275,677</u>	<u>219,100</u>

ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Printing, postage and stationery	2,990	2,170
Recruitment and support	645	310
Telephone	7,357	3,885
Computer costs	10,789	12,811
Sundry expenses	1,773	1,070
Irrecoverable VAT	7,421	12,277
PR costs	1,550	-
Entertainment charges	1,283	120
Professional fees	18,183	6,911
Independent Examiner's fees	3,900	3,500
	<u>55,891</u>	<u>43,054</u>

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

10. INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REMUNERATION

The independent examiner's remuneration amounts to an independent examiner fee of £3,900 (2021: £3,500).

11. STAFF COSTS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	237,467	199,649
Social security costs	12,886	10,808
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	6,259	5,541
	256,612	215,998

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

	2022	2021
	No.	No.
Charitable	10	8
Fundraising	1	1
Admin	1	1
Management	4	4
	16	14

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

12. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2021: £NIL).

During the year ended 31 March 2022, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2021: £NIL).

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Long-term leasehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Total £
COST OR VALUATION			
At 1 April 2021	605,765	248,231	853,996
Additions	-	2,653	2,653
Revaluations	63,132	-	63,132
At 31 March 2022	668,897	250,884	919,781
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 April 2021	285,600	233,904	519,504
Charge for the year	9,355	5,522	14,877
On revalued assets	(294,955)	-	(294,955)
At 31 March 2022	-	239,426	239,426
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2022	668,897	11,458	680,355
At 31 March 2021	320,165	14,327	334,492

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

14. INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	Investment property £
VALUATION	
At 1 April 2021	353,955
Revaluation	92,148
At 31 March 2022	<u>446,103</u>

The valuation of the property held at the beginning of the reporting period was carried out by Fisher German LLP, a member of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and is an independent valuer to the company. The building was valued at £1,115,000 as at 17 December 2021. The valuation was made on an open market, value in use basis by reference to market evidence of transaction prices for similar properties and the percentage growth rate of the property market over the year, having due regard to any impairment provision necessary.

The investment property represents leasehold land and buildings situated in Sansome Walk, Worcester.

15. DEBTORS

	2022 £	2021 £
DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		
Trade debtors	5,687	7,286
Prepayments and accrued income	3,959	4,110
	<u>9,646</u>	<u>11,396</u>

16. CURRENT ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2022 £	As restated 2021 £
Listed and unlisted investments	<u>385,583</u>	<u>354,950</u>

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

17. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	6,259	3,515
Other taxation and social security	-	1,928
Other creditors	8,552	9,700
Accruals and deferred income	33,936	53,836
	48,747	68,979

18. PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENTS

A prior year adjustment has been made in respect of investments held in a fund managed by a third party. Previously these investments were held as fixed asset investments, however the investments meet the definition of current as opposed to fixed due to their liquid nature.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

19. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Unrestricted Funds						
Designated Funds						
Volunteering	15,440	-	(13,053)	38,516	-	40,903
Wyre Forest Branch	6,598	-	(6,598)	-	-	-
Low Vision	-	-	-	16,559	-	16,559
Sight Loss Support Service (previously known as Localeyes)	37,000	-	-	84,455	-	121,455
Malvern Branch	3,269	1,599	(1,130)	1,256	-	4,994
Building Maintenance	6,000	-	-	(6,000)	-	-
Digital Technology	-	-	-	60,132	-	60,132
Well Being Activities	-	-	-	14,695	-	14,695
Counselling	-	-	-	14,926	-	14,926
	<u>68,307</u>	<u>1,599</u>	<u>(20,781)</u>	<u>224,539</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>273,664</u>
General Funds						
General Funds	747,175	275,560	(178,535)	(204,151)	224,235	864,284
Volunteering	15,656	-	-	(15,656)	-	-
Influence, Engagement & Development	4,732	-	-	(4,732)	-	-
	<u>767,563</u>	<u>275,560</u>	<u>(178,535)</u>	<u>(224,539)</u>	<u>224,235</u>	<u>864,284</u>
Total Unrestricted Funds	<u>835,870</u>	<u>277,159</u>	<u>(199,316)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>224,235</u>	<u>1,137,948</u>

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

19. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Restricted Funds						
Sansome Walk Property	421,189	-	(9,355)	-	256,633	668,467
Big Lottery Reaching Communities	104,502	84,067	(83,093)	-	-	105,476
Information, Advice & Support	23,450	-	(23,450)	-	-	-
Low Vision	-	26,092	(26,092)	-	-	-
Volunteering	7,235	8,413	(10,529)	-	-	5,119
Digital Technology	34,967	5,000	(19,059)	-	-	20,908
Admin	-	8,000	(8,000)	-	-	-
Well Being (formerly known as Group Support)	6,250	25,000	(10,970)	-	-	20,280
Bradbury Centre	-	1,800	(1,800)	-	-	-
	<u>597,593</u>	<u>158,372</u>	<u>(192,348)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>256,633</u>	<u>820,250</u>
Total of Funds	<u><u>1,433,463</u></u>	<u><u>435,531</u></u>	<u><u>(391,664)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>480,868</u></u>	<u><u>1,958,198</u></u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

19. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

FUND DESCRIPTIONS

Designated Funds

Sight Loss Support Service (previously known as Localeyes)

This project was part funded by the National Lottery these restricted funds are allocated to this project, however there is a shortfall in the funding therefore we have designated the balance to ensure we can continue the project to the end of the financial year.

Low Vision

This project is part funded by the NHS, however there is a shortfall in the funding, therefore we have designated the balance to ensure we can continue the project until the end of the year.

Digital Technology

This is a project that we have chosen to fund, based on consultation from stakeholders; there is a need to bridge the digital divide and ensure that people with vision impairment can make the most of the technology available to support their independence.

Well-Being Activities (Formerly known as Group Support)

This is a project that we have chosen to fund, based on consultation with stakeholders; there is a need and demand for group activities that enable people with vision impairment to learn from their peers and gain confidence and skills.

Volunteering

This project includes all of our volunteer recruitment, training and support costs, including a significant befriending project. We only have minimal grant funding for this project for the year, therefore we are designating unrestricted funds to cover these costs.

Counselling

This is a pilot project aimed at assessing the impact of counselling on people diagnosed with sight loss. This is based on client need and long waiting list for national counselling services for people with sight loss.

Wyre Forest Branch

Wyre Forest branch closed during the year; the balance of the local bank account was transferred to the Charity's main CAF Cash bank account.

Malvern Branch

Attendance fees are charged, and specific fundraising activities take place to raise the funds for this volunteer-led branch, therefore the funds raised are designated for expenditure within the branches.

Building Maintenance

Cost associated with maintaining the Bradbury Centre. This has now been included within the accommodation overhead costs and is apportioned on a full cost recovery basis.

19. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Restricted Funds

Sansome Walk Property

This fund relates to the establishment of the Bradbury Centre in Worcester. The fund balance at the year-end represents the net book value of the part of the property that was funded from restricted income.

Big Lottery Reaching Communities – Information, advice and support

This fund represents a grant made by the Big Lottery towards the cost of our information, advice and support project that enables people with sight loss to make informed choices, improve their mental wellbeing, become more independent, feel less socially isolated and lead more active lives

Sight Loss Support Service

This fund is made up of a range of grants that have been provided to meet the funding gap in our information advice and support project, as described above.

Low Vision

This fund is made up of grants provided towards the cost of running a community based low vision assessment service, including the provision of free prescribed magnifiers.

Volunteering

This fund represents grants provided towards the cost of Volunteer Management, including, recruitment, training and ongoing support.

Digital Technology

This fund represents grants provided towards the cost of advice, training and support for people to make the most of digital technology.

Admin

This fund represents grants that have been provided towards our core operating costs.

Well-Being (formerly known as Group Support)

This fund represents a grant towards the cost of peer group activities, that enable people affected by sight loss to provide mutual support and opportunities to learn from each other.

Transfers between funds

The transfers between funds are in relation to ensuring the designated funds are at the level thought to be required by the Board of Trustees, for the funds set out.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

19. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
Unrestricted Funds						
Designated Funds						
Volunteering	-	-	-	15,440	-	15,440
Wyre Forest Branch	6,197	700	(299)	-	-	6,598
Sight Loss Support Service (previously known as Localeyes)	100,000	-	-	(63,000)	-	37,000
Malvern Branch	1,715	1,835	(281)	-	-	3,269
I.T.	10,000	-	-	(10,000)	-	-
Building Maintenance	3,528	-	(7,098)	9,570	-	6,000
Bid Writer	14,200	-	(14,200)	-	-	-
	<u>135,640</u>	<u>2,535</u>	<u>(21,878)</u>	<u>(47,990)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>68,307</u>
General Funds						
General Funds	363,628	324,026	(49,256)	47,990	60,787	747,175
Volunteering	15,656	-	-	-	-	15,656
Influence, Engagement & Development	4,732	-	-	-	-	4,732
	<u>384,016</u>	<u>324,026</u>	<u>(49,256)</u>	<u>47,990</u>	<u>60,787</u>	<u>767,563</u>
Total Unrestricted Funds	<u>519,656</u>	<u>326,561</u>	<u>(71,134)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>60,787</u>	<u>835,870</u>

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

19. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
Restricted Funds						
Sansome Walk Property	430,492	-	(9,303)	-	-	421,189
Big Lottery Reaching Communities	64,456	112,200	(72,154)	-	-	104,502
Information, Advice & Support	3,867	51,994	(32,411)	-	-	23,450
Low Vision	1,583	-	(1,583)	-	-	-
Volunteering	10,169	37,678	(40,612)	-	-	7,235
Digital Technology	35,162	1,000	(1,195)	-	-	34,967
Influence, Engagement & Development	5,817	-	(5,817)	-	-	-
Increasing Our Reach	4,244	-	(4,244)	-	-	-
Admin	4,500	67,389	(71,889)	-	-	-
Fundraising	1,000	-	(1,000)	-	-	-
Well Being (formerly known as Group Support)	-	6,250	-	-	-	6,250
	<u>561,290</u>	<u>276,511</u>	<u>(240,208)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>597,593</u>
Total of Funds	<u>1,080,946</u>	<u>603,072</u>	<u>(311,342)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>60,787</u>	<u>1,433,463</u>

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

20. SUMMARY OF FUNDS

SUMMARY OF FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Designated funds	68,307	1,599	(20,781)	224,539	-	273,664
General funds	767,563	275,560	(178,535)	(224,539)	224,235	864,284
Restricted funds	597,593	158,372	(192,348)	-	256,633	820,250
	<u>1,433,463</u>	<u>435,531</u>	<u>(391,664)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>480,868</u>	<u>1,958,198</u>

SUMMARY OF FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
Designated funds	135,640	2,535	(21,878)	(47,990)	-	68,307
General funds	384,016	324,026	(49,256)	47,990	60,787	767,563
Restricted funds	561,290	276,511	(240,208)	-	-	597,593
	<u>1,080,946</u>	<u>603,072</u>	<u>(311,342)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>60,787</u>	<u>1,433,463</u>

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

21. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	126,831	553,524	680,355
Fixed asset investments	385,583	-	385,583
Investment property	338,382	107,721	446,103
Current assets	335,899	159,005	494,904
Creditors due within one year	(48,747)	-	(48,747)
TOTAL	1,137,948	820,250	1,958,198

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	334,492	334,492
Investment property	268,485	85,470	353,955
Current assets	598,964	215,031	813,995
Creditors due within one year	(31,579)	(37,400)	(68,979)
TOTAL	835,870	597,593	1,433,463

22. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The Charitable Company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charitable Company in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Charitable Company to the fund and amounted to £6,259 (2021: £5,541). Contributions totalling £1,500 (2021: £1,238) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.