

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 00986407 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 262119

Report of the Trustees and
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023
for
BLINDAID

**Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

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**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

MISSION STATEMENT

As London's oldest sight loss charity, BlindAid works to improve quality of life and promotes independence for blind and visually impaired Londoners. We provide individualised practical and emotional support to reduce the social isolation that many people living with sight loss can experience.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives

The charity seeks to alleviate loneliness and social isolation affecting sight impaired and severely sight impaired people. It aims to empower service users to encourage and support independent living. The charity also supports people suffering the emotional consequences of visual impairment. Services are provided free of charge.

The charity's strategic objectives for 2023 were:

- To actively seek and recruit two more new directors to complete the refresh of the charity's talent on the board of trustees.
- To implement the charity's funding strategy to focus on attaining secure future sources of external income to allow the continuation and expansion of its activities.
- To continue to evolve charity's Community Sight Support Service for the support blind and visually impaired people with a meaningful outreach service that listens to and meets the needs of its beneficiaries.
- To continue the Community Project Hub at Camden Living centre, and some popular Online Community Classes and Programmes.
- To continue to evolve the charity's ability to identify and help those who can benefit from its services in the most efficient/effective ways.
- To develop the funding streams and infrastructure, as well as the charity's capacity to achieve these aims.

Public benefit

The activities to achieve the charity's objectives are all carried out for the public benefit as described by the Charity Commission. The beneficiaries of the charity are members of the public who are in need because of health, disability or other problems arising from visual impairment and the activities of the charity seek to ensure these people can be supported by better services. The charity sets out in this report the charitable public benefit of its activities. The Board members have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Service Delivery:

BlindAid delivers service for people who are sight impaired or severely sight impaired people aged 18+ however, the majority profile of our beneficiaries are 50+: with a high percentage of those people also having more complex health conditions in addition to their sight impairment.

For these reasons BlindAid reaches a mostly hidden community of blind and visually impaired people, who are in need our help and are typically less independently mobile people when they are initially referred to our charity.

BlindAid's Sight Support Pathway:

Our charity offers three core services, which combined together provide vital support not offered by other sight loss charities. Our Sight Support Pathway therefore offers maximum support that often service users describe to be 'life changing' during feedback. Each individual service which may be used independently. There is greater detail on these services in the achievements section of this report.

Our service users may be referred to the charity when they have just been diagnosed, or registered with sight loss, or at a later time when their sight has deteriorated. Engaging with our Sight Support Service means they have an appointed Sight Support Worker with whom they can begin to build a relationship of trust. Sight loss is a unique and individual journey, and we work alongside our services users at their pace. In time when people feel ready, and if they choose to, they may be referred to our Community Project to enrol for a couple of classes. When our service users have completed their courses and 'graduate' from the project, they then have an opportunity to be referred to our Share London Project. They are then be matched with a volunteer with similar interests, so they can enjoy social outings together in and around London. This capitalises on and maximises service users new found independence and fosters a new social life in the Capital.

A recent analysis of BlindAid's bespoke database has evidenced that on average where service users access our Sight Support Service, as well as our Community Project, and then go on to be matched with a like minded Volunteer to experience our purely social Share London Volunteer Project, they are provided with a holistic and beneficial development pathway that tangibly improves independence and wellbeing and helps to encourage many of our beneficiaries to enjoy more fulfilled and self-sustaining lives. By investing in our services our funders play a vital role in empowering individuals to lead richer, more empowered lives, ultimately contributing to stronger communities and a lasting positive impact on the beneficiaries we serve.

Community Sight Support Service:

Our core service offers regular outreach visits for isolated service users in their own homes. Our hybrid Sight Support Service now provides vital visits from our Sight Support Workers (SSWs) for beneficiaries across three days each week, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays with SSW's, travelling via public transport or walking in between visits. On Mondays and Fridays weekly, SSW's work remotely from home, providing a telephone support service for isolated service users.

BlindAid Community Project:

In 2021 The City Bridge Trust awarded BlindAid funding to provide a Community Project hub centrally based at near Kings Cross Station in Camden for three years. The initial start of the project was delayed due to C-19 pandemic early in 2021 and was launched in April 2022 and so will continue to operate through until 2025. We were invited to additionally apply for extension funding for this valuable project and were awarded funding to continue the project through until end of Q1 2026.

The project offers specifically designed classes to allow our service users to either learn new skills or re-learn lost skills and classes includes IT: beginners and intermediate, Healthy Eating & Safe Cooking, Art, Yoga and Creative Writing. All classes empower beneficiaries toward greater independence in a supportive, pro-active ambience, fostering their ability to self-sustain, with greater confidence.

**Report of the Trustees
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OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Share London Project:

This project was developed to complete BlindAid's Sight Support Pathway. It was initially funded by Big Lottery Reaching Communities in December 2019, BlindAid was awarded circa £100K for a three year project. Due to the 'currency of kindness' that was fostered during the C-19 pandemic, BlindAid's target to recruit/train/match and deploy 240 new volunteers across the three years of the project, was fully met one year and three months ahead of our target. We are now proud to be sponsored by the Vision Foundation from 2023 through until 2025 because our vibrant Share London Project closely aligns with The Vision Foundation's aims.

During 2022 the charity determined that BlindAid could no longer plan to sustain the cost of providing the Sight Support Service across 12 inner London Boroughs from its reserves for the longer term future, and to better meet the future fundraising challenge ahead, our then trustees determined that a new role be created, that of Head of Fundraising. Management launched an immediate campaign and the role was filled by 01.11.22.

At the last Board meeting of 2022 on 29.11.2022 trustees ratified a proposal to lease out BlindAid's Head Office in Bermondsey Street SE1 3UB to provide a long term sustainable income for the charity. Therefore, in January 2023, three offers and two detailed business proposals were reviewed by trustees and the best offer for the charity was accepted. Practical work then began to pack the charity's records held at Lantern House to prepare them for archiving, and all other arrangements were made to clear the charity's property which was achieved by the end of Q1 2023.

Only 6 staff roles were permanently based at Lantern House. During the pandemic prolonged lockdowns all these staff had worked very successfully from home in 2020 and 2021. This also informed/supported the overall decision to lease the building because it was evidenced during this most testing of times, there had been no dip in motivation and in fact there had been several advantages. The larger cohort of BlindAid's team being our Sight Support Worker's, who have always been remote workers. SSW's only used to visit the office once every fortnight to meet with their team leader for supervision meetings, however, these too had moved to telephone supervisions during the pandemic, with no real negatives to be noted, and a considerable benefit in time and travel costs saving for the charity. One role was made redundant in February 2023, this being the role of the Office Manager because the office was to be leased.

The legal work to lease our property was conducted concurrently, together with additional essential negotiations involving the other shareholders who similarly owned properties in Lantern House.

BlindAid is a shareholder in Lantern House Management Limited (Private Ltd Co No: 03688443). The property is an old building, last converted in 1989 when the building was wholly renovated; the whole property comprises: two commercial units, one of which is own by BlindAid, and a property known as The Live/Work Unit, together, these three units make up the ground floor, in addition there are 7 apartments over another two floors. BlindAid naturally informed all shareholders at Lantern House in November 2022 of the board's ratification and the charity's intention to lease 102 Bermondsey Street, this being the unit purchased on behalf of the charity in 1990.

The legal work was completed and the lease finally signed on 21.09.2023. The new tenant then began work to refit the unit and the property was opened as a restaurant on 21.08.2024.

The charity's property was formally valued by a qualified RICS surveyor in 2023 which evidenced that the rental agreement reached with our tenant was in keeping with the unique style and location of the property within the heart of the conservation area of Bermondsey Street.

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OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Our service users' needs, naturally vary and are as unique as they are themselves. A percentage of our service users also have more complex needs, and we deliver individualised support accordingly. Our SSWs provide a range of assistance from emotional support with their sight loss journey, but also very practical help to encourage service users to engage with NHS appointments, and support with more information on eye conditions/eye drops, as well as with personal admin, reading post and other admin support to ensure a smooth homelife can be maintained. They also do things like check use by dates in the fridge, and often find 'lost' items indoors; often key items are simply dropped on the floor and cannot be found again easily by a service user. Our SSW's often are the first people to be alerted to either additional health or safeguarding issues, which can then be discussed and where appropriate reported.

The initial design of the Hybrid Sight Support Service in operation today, was funded by Big Lottery Reaching Communities, who awarded BlindAid £100K in 2020 to completely reimagine our core service. The development was achieved, as always in consultation with our service users; and importantly in collaboration with our staff team who deliver the service.

We included RNIB's latest data when reflecting upon how to reach more people across our area of operation.

Latest RNIB statistics findings related to visual impairment and sight loss are:

- Over 2 million people across the UK are living with sight loss
- Of those 2 million people - only 340,000 people are registered blind or VI in the UK
- Nearly 80% are 65 or older, c60% are 75+ plus,
- BlindAid is the only charity in London delivering outreach support for blind and VI people.
- 48% of all adult sight loss is attributable to Age Related Macular Degeneration
- People from certain ethnic minority groups are at greater risk of some of the leading causes of sight loss. The 12 inner London Boroughs are very cosmopolitan and therefore so too is the demographic makeup of the profile of BlindAid service user
- In 2013 there were an estimated 1.93 million people living with sight loss in the UK
- By 2050 the number of people living with sight loss is likely to grow to 4 million

We organised 14 online Focus Groups and each group was made up of service users from all 12 inner London Boroughs, each group consisted of between 8 and 20 people and each group were asked a detailed selection of questions about our previous, current, and also wished for future services. In total we consulted with and listen carefully to in excess of 250+ beneficiaries. Our service users' responses were honest, illuminating, and informative. Most importantly by working together we defined a new way of operating more flexibly which has allowed us to reach more people than ever.

Our hybrid service facilitates leaner, more agile working methods that allow us to effectively, dial up or down, our outreach community work, which benefits us because we can now respond proactively by being agile and adapting our service to continue to meet service users' needs should there be any future pandemic or any other major service disruption. The bright ideas of both service users' and our staff team who deliver the service relating to how our service could be re-designed were collated and are now built into our new service model, which in the two subsequent years, has been proven that it is a future asset for BlindAid.

Our hybrid service model allows us to reach a far greater number of beneficiaries across our area of operation.

Sight Support Workers are now each working with an average of c70 people at any one time. We attained this uplift in support by only visiting in the community the most in need, isolated service users 3 days each week, and by supporting an additional number of people by providing telephone support and guidance on two days each week. The whole team work each Monday and Friday from home and are providing outreach in the community on Tuesdays/Wednesdays and Thursdays every week.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable Activities and Achievements

Trustee Recruitment During 2023:

Trustee Recruitment: In 2022 BlindAid senior management actively invested much time in recruiting a whole board of new trustees. In 2021 we had recruited one new trustee, by the end of 2022 we had appointed 5 new trustees, and we completed the refresh of the talent and skills on our Board of trustees in 2023 by appointing a further 3 trustees. There was considerable commitment to time investment made by senior management to review and reach out to many potential candidates through 2022, the charity is now reaping the rewards of their undeniable investment in BlindAid's cause and their integral involvement in the design of the future of the charity.

Team Recruitment/Resourcing in 2023:

During 2023 we experienced significant staff turnover, in what at the beginning of the year was a lean recruitment marketplace, however, the candidate pool expanded notably during the second six months of the year, and we were able to secure several excellent quality new employees.

During 2023 we had 1 redundancy, and 5 leavers, and also recruited 7 new staff.

Total staff numbers were reduced in the management team, with the largest balance of employees being in service user facing roles, the staff turnover demanded a substantive time investment from senior management.

Fundraising:

Good progress was made during 2023 with SW London ICB as BlindAid won external funding from the NHS to fully fund our Sight Support Worker role in Wandsworth. SW London were impressed with the charity's impact reporting and so we were able to secure extra funding for a second SSW role in Wandsworth, which we recruited for immediately, therefore, NHS funding continues through until 2025 in Wandsworth. We also secured funding from NHS North West London for our Sight Support Service. Other funding for the year was secured for the year for our core service included, Southwark Charities, the Weinstock Fund, Charles French, Wallace Collection, John R Murray, Elizabeth Bennett, The Postcode Lottery and one other funder who wishes to remain anonymous.

Having appointed a new Head of Fundraising at the end of 2022, expectations for more extensive income traction in 2023 did not materialise as anticipated, and the appointee resigned in Dec 2023. Senior management retain a fundraising brief, and we also fortunately have a volunteer who has extensive experience in fundraising, and also a freelance fundraiser has been appointed for the foreseeable future. Generically, all charities are experiencing a much tougher financial climate as the UK has emerged from both Brexit and the C-19 pandemic, which naturally impacts philanthropy and fundraising has proved to be a challenging arena.

BlindAid Core Services:

Community Sight Support Service:

All SSWs are carefully selected during recruitment into the charity, are all vocationally trained. SSWs, and other relevant roles all hold current enhanced, Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certification, which are renewable every 3 years. This is because we reach a particularly isolated, hidden community of people. We believe our service is unique and meets an clearly evidenced, otherwise unmet need in society. No other Sight Loss Charity in London provides outreach support using employed/supervised staff who provide regular visits for beneficiaries who need and receive our service free of charge, and so BlindAid continues to be a vital source of support.

The core activity of the charity for over 189 years has been to visit predominantly isolated, blind, and visually impaired people residing in the twelve inner London boroughs in their own homes.

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Pre-Pandemic each of BlindAid's Sight Support Workers (SSWs), were responsible for supporting approximately c45-50 service users, visiting typically every fortnight. The frequency of visits may be varied to meet individual needs. SSWs typically focus on a particular borough for ease of logistics but will also visit individuals in other boroughs to optimise coverage, where capacity permits. Since the introduction of our Hybrid Service our SSWs support around 70 service users each, visiting people in most need and regularly calling others to provide telephone support and guidance, SSWs are able to make urgent ad hoc visits when essential. Service users are visited at home, in sheltered accommodation or residential/nursing homes.

BlindAid's ethos is to treat each service user as an individual, prioritising people who are isolated and living alone, and delivering support as needed and valued. Most service users have been diagnosed with sight loss in adulthood; this can be traumatic, and the individual period of adjustment can vary enormously depending upon personal resilience.

Referrals for our support are received from various sources; specialist sensory teams, local authorities, social work and community mental health teams, hospital eye clinics, and GPs, as well as from people who experience loss of vision themselves (or their friends or family). An initial assessment visit is made to understand first hand a person's individual needs, coping abilities and to determine whether the charity can be of assistance to meet those needs.

During a visit, SSWs will offer company and conversation to help alleviate loneliness and reduce isolation; practical help and guidance will also be offered where needed, appropriate and welcomed. The SSW will also encourage participation in, and signpost to both BlindAid Community & Online Projects and other suitable local social activities. Many service users who are extremely isolated have been visited consistently over many years. In most instances, the SSW will be one of the few social contacts people have. Outreach for isolated people in the community is therefore extremely important to many service users and good relationships of trust are usually established over time.

Our Sight Support Service provides greater consistency, reliability, and a high standard of quality support. The quality of service is regularly monitored through fortnightly supervision meetings, where shared decision may be taken about individual service user circumstances that may be complex. The standard of support is also monitored through key performance indicators, and annual Focus Groups with service users conducted by senior management, where feedback can be shared with SSWs afterwards.

During 2023 the charity continued both purposefully and successfully to increase in the charity's reach. We also continued to interrogate and both learn and track trends in our new hybrid service as the data on the new operating methods has become more substantial it has become easier to implement agile change where needed. The Hybrid Service has optimised visiting those with priority needs, and we have learned that a key factor in service delivery is to 'mindfully reassess' all service users regularly, agreeing with them their own needs for continued visits at home. In this way we have reduced the number of days spent visiting in the community each week, whilst in addition, maintained support via the telephone for beneficiaries for whom a clear identified need is established, that a call should be made by an experienced SSW. A longer term aim for these service users is that we support them to realise self-sustaining independence eventually, then where possible and with their agreement we may match them with a suitable Share London volunteer for regular social outings, or social telephone calls.

It should also be noted that there has always been a percentage of service users for whom making a return to enjoying a full social life is not possible due to mobility, or complex health issues, and for these people that charity has always made a commitment to continue to visit for those people who have no other family or friends.

Throughout 2023, we continued to review all service processes to ensure we are maximising key milestone re-assessments to reassure ourselves we are delivering our service consciously. We continue to review all service processes to optimise lean activity.

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For comparison:

The onset of the C-19 Pandemic brought about radical change for our charity for the first time in our history, because it caused a radical transformation in how our charity works alongside our blind and visually impaired community. The entity known today as BlindAid has enjoyed a long and rich history that has seen it emerge from several significant and challenging historical times in London's history and also included merging with other 19th and 20th century charities, and we have been known by at least 3 other names. For 186 years and up until March 2020 our Sight Support Service worked with our blind and visually impaired residents across 12 inner London Boroughs by visiting them in their own homes only.

By 2019 our team of SSWs totalled 19 an all-time high: with just over 13,000 individual visits made in that year.

Each SSW was supporting between c48-50 service users regularly with fortnightly visits. This was a high capacity standard we maintained across our Boroughs for this and a few prior years.

Due to the uncertain financial climate prevailing then in the UK it was agreed that the charity would halt recruitment and as well as replacement of natural attrition of employees. In 2019 one full time SSW retired. By the end of 2022, a further 2 part time SSWs retired, and 1 full time SSW resigned.

Practically, this provided c200 beneficiaries who needed to be reallocated/absorbed by the remaining team of SSWs. This was successfully achieved by management, without the need to withdraw support from any service users fortunately.

Sight Support Service Achievements 2023

Visiting in all Boroughs: 5,211 visits were made to service users, an increase of 23% from 2022 (4,236)

Support Calls: 15,540 regular support calls by SSWs: an overall decrease of 26% on 2022

This was an anticipated result of increasing the volume of visits across the year.

NB: In 2023 though: the overall number of regular visits for service users were less than would have been expected due to 3 SSWs unexpectedly being on long term sick leave during the year: due to accident (1) and illness (2).

In addition, recruitment/reappointment for leavers roles took longer than usual in the first half of the year, however, this substantially picked up during the second 6 months of 2023.

3,787 instances of information provision; a decrease of 12% (2022 - 4,302)

An expected reduction above as the level of information needed about Covid19/vaccinations etc subsided.

1,974 referrals made to other appropriate local organisations: a 10% decrease from 2022 (2,215)

841 referrals to social services (in agreement with service users) a 32% increase on 2022 (637)

826 instances of supporting service users to access/engage with NHS primary care services

786 contacts with housing depts./associations for service users for repairs: an increase of 25%

187 new referrals were taken for the Sight Support Pathway, a 9% decrease from 2022 (207)

1,177 people supported on Sight Support Service: a 7% increase (2022 - 1,099)

1,353 people accessed all BlindAid services: a 1% uplift (2022 - 1,337)

Community Project Background:

The launch of BlindAid's Community Projects in 2013 was ratified by trustees initially to trial the potential with the pilot Project in Southwark firstly, and secondly when it the pilot proved successful and beneficial for service users, then as a vehicle to contribute to the lives of beneficiaries, whilst spending down some of the charity's reserves, in order to better place the charity's appeal for funders of these activities.

In March 2020, the charity's popular and well known network of 3 long established Community Projects were all closed due to the C-19 pandemic. We had gathered 8 years' experience in operating our 3 individual community hub projects each offering a variety of very popular classes that provided 16 week long terms of classes, 3 times each year at each venue. Annually, BlindAid were offering places for beneficiaries, with any vacancies being easily filled as they was always a waiting list of service users to take the spaces on all our free courses. Over 8 years BlindAid offered classes to circa 1,400 blind and visually impaired people who personally reaped many individual benefits from their attendance.

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Due to the financial climate in the UK in 2020 trustees agreed the charity could no longer afford to continue to invest its reserves to solely fund these valuable projects going forward. Whilst at the same time recognising that our Projects Hubs are indeed a vital stage in regaining and strengthening service users' personal resilience and confidence to get out into society, and to develop/maintain self-sufficient independence. They also offer critical social contact with the ability to establish a network of friends and additional peer support. Unfortunately, they are expensive to operate, each costing between £30,000 to £50,000 per annum. (The financial variance is the difference between being offered free space or needing to rent space from local authorities). One of the most significant learnings taken from the eight years we ran 3 community Project Hubs was: each Hub was oversubscribed, always running at full capacity. The number of blind and visually impaired people needing and wanting to attend such projects outweighed our capacity each year.

In collaboration and consultation with our beneficiaries, the curriculum of courses offered has always included healthy eating and safe-cooking skills; yoga or other exercise classes; art/sculpture; creative writing and importantly IT training at both beginner and intermediate levels. Participants are encouraged to attend two classes, for a minimum of one full day each week. There is a strong social ambience during the activities to encourage participants to get to know each other both during classes and over lunch. It is an intended outcome that people form independent peer support groups and continue to meet and communicate after their courses were completed.

BlindAid Community projects are open to BlindAid service users, but also welcome other people with sight loss who may be referred by local authorities, NHS, or other local services or charities, and also people living in pan-London Boroughs, if they are able to get to the project, and where we are able to accommodate.

BlindAid has always encouraged attendees to travel independently to Project Hubs and has provided sighted guide support, from travel points to the project venues. We have also consistently worked in partnership with Dial-a-Ride for many years, to provide transport where independent travel is not possible.

All BlindAid Community based Projects were managed by a project manager and supervised day to day by a project coordinator based at each of the community venues. Classes were delivered by qualified subject tutors together with several dedicated volunteers who were on hand to assist service users where needed. Some of the charity's volunteers are themselves visually impaired people who, having joined the projects as service users, have chosen to return as volunteers to offer peer support for newcomers at the project Hubs subsequently.

The charity has a proactive framework to facilitate listening to service users and actively makes time to encourage and listen to service users' voices regularly when they are attending Community Projects. Three framed purposeful engagements with service users allows them to offer feedback and the charity a balance of measurement for the progress for all stakeholders are held in each term. Service Users' aspirations and abilities are noted during a pre-programme assessment; benchmarked again midterm and again finally before they leave the project. Service users' opinions, therefore, are fed into BlindAid's planning, preparation and inform the final choice of classes offered, helping the charity to remain relevant and meet the needs of the people attending as closely as possible.

Since the inception of our first Community Project, we have received extensive feedback from service users highlighting the transformative effects of our classes. Participation in these classes has proven to enhance self-esteem and promote independence, critical components in the journey toward self-actualisation. Over the past eight years, we have compiled comprehensive impact reports that clearly demonstrate the progress and achievements of our Community Project concept and initiatives. This wealth of experience positions us to effectively continue and expand our Community Projects, ensuring that we remain responsive to the needs of those we serve and dedicated to fostering positive change in our community. The charity will continue to seek external funding to offer more Community Projects.

Community Project - Camden 2022-2026:

This project forms part of BlindAid's Sight Support Pathway.

This Project is fully externally funded by The City Bridge Trust - until 2026:

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Late in 2021 BlindAid successfully applied for a grant to fund one centrally based Community Project. We were successful, and funding was awarded due to the composition of our curriculum, together with our operational experience. The City Bridge Trust awarded BlindAid £81,300 sufficient to fund our project for three years. Funding was awarded in late 2021, however, the project could not commence until 22 April 2022, due to another lockdown at the beginning of 2021. The project is located at The Living Centre which is a community hub located in the Francis Crick Institute in Ousulton Street NW1 1DF, close to Kings Cross Station.

BlindAid is enormously grateful to The City Bridge Fund for their financial support for this vital Camden Community Project, and we are also grateful to the team at The Living Centre for hosting our project free of charge. BlindAid appreciates the external acknowledgment of the intrinsic value our Community Projects offer blind and visually impaired Londoners. We believe both these organisations recognise the need for this tangible support for our beneficiaries is a vital part of our Sight Support Pathway.

Future Funding:

BlindAid has now secured extension funding from The City Bridge Trust for a further year to April 2026.

2023 Outcomes:

A total of 60 service users engaged with our Camden Community Project in 2023.

33 attended 2 classes per week over 16 weeks in - IT, Safe Cooking/Healthy Eating, Creative Writing, or Yoga.

18 people attended accessible tech classes. Places at these sessions are highly sought after: we have one tutor one day per week and the maximum number that could be accommodated across the year were offered space to absorb this vital training for life.

BlindAid would welcome third party involvement to expand these sessions for all service users across our 12 inner London Boroughs.

9 service users attended a weekly art class with our talented art tutor.

Best feedback 2023 from a service user:

"I love every minute of it, I like the people, we are one group and have merged in nicely. I love the activities, it has not only helped my mental and physical health, but I am also just not as shy as I used to be. I was housebound for 20 years, and it was so hard coming out and meeting new people - now - when I am here - I don't want to go home!"

Share London Project:

This project forms the final part of BlindAid's Sight Support Pathway.

This valuable Project is fully externally funded by The Vision Foundation until 2025:

From the initial engagement with a Sight Support Worker, and then benefitting from participation in classes at our Community Project Hub, service users expand their confidence and skills to realise self-sufficient independence through their engagement with our charity. Through our knowledge and experience gained over many years working with service users through our services, we determined that a third support mechanism was needed to complete our work successfully with a service user.

We needed to ensure that the tangible development gained by service users, through engagement first with our Sight Support Service, then through our Community Projects, could then be amplified to further nurture the beginnings of new confidence and independence gradually achieved by using our first two core services.

What tended to happen initially post engagement with Sight Support Service and a term at our Community Project was that a higher percentile of service users, without the structure the Community Project provides, would stop practicing their new found independence and retire back to the confines/safety of their own homes again. We evidenced that some service users were at risk of these newly won/improved skills being eroded away again, without an additional service that would encourage them to continue to practise and use them. Our Share London Project builds upon service users newfound/regained independence and ensures they can enjoy all the culture, open spaces, galleries, and other interesting experiences that London offers with the security of a trained sighted guide alongside them.

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This unique social project provides beneficiaries a powerful combination of the confidence to leave home knowing a matched trained sighted guide is alongside them and can provide support if difficulties are encountered during the outing, as well as having the pleasure of someone to share their interests with. The nature of activities vary widely and included outings such as visits to museums and galleries, a walk in the park, going for a coffee or a trip to the theatre for a touch tour before the performance.

Initially Share London was funded by Big Lottery Reaching Communities for three years. For the past two years BlindAid is proud to have been funded by The Vision Foundation as we share similar aims. BlindAid is now actively seeking new funding opportunities to see this extremely popular and well managed service continue into the future.

Initially Share London was funded by Big Lottery Reaching Communities for three years. For the past two years BlindAid is proud to have been funded by The Vision Foundation as we share similar aims. BlindAid is now actively seeking new funding opportunities to see this extremely popular and well managed service continue into the future.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all the volunteers who have previously, or who are currently volunteering for BlindAid through this unique and very special project. Our volunteers achieve so much for our beneficiaries, and the stories of social outings that have been enjoyed by both parties are many, varied and most of all heartwarming. Our volunteers are amazing people who share their energy and warmth of spirit with our service user, for the great benefit of both people.

In 2023 - volunteers achieved: 1,691 social contact calls, and 798 outings with service users.

Vocational Staff Training:

BlindAid remains dedicated to actively developing a broad, relevant specialist skill base for our whole team, ensuring maximum benefits are derived for our beneficiaries. BlindAid invests in its employees and the charity offers staff four full day training sessions annually. The curriculum offers a variety of relevant vocational training courses providing us all with the practical tools we need to enjoy and fulfil our roles to the best of our abilities and to ensure service users derive tangible benefits from engaging with our team. We are all now remote workers and training days also provides regular social contact for everyone which ensures thriving culture endures.

Corporate Sponsors:

We are very grateful to our Corporate Sponsor: Ernst & Young (EY) based at More London on Tooley Street, near London Bridge Station SE1, with whom we have enjoyed a very warm 9-year relationship: Collaboratively we have organised events that have matched EY employees who have volunteered to support our service users to enjoy such events as:

Annual Christmas Shopping Trips:

In 2023 we celebrated our 9th year of collaborating to provide an opportunity for our service users who would otherwise not be able to shop independently, to enjoy a sociable day where they are supported to do so. Over the years around 1,000 service users have attended this special day out, shopping with EY volunteers and sharing a buffet lunch and refreshments afterwards.

The 2023 event was the first post-pandemic Christmas Shopping Trip collaborating with our wonderful EY colleagues once again. It was a fantastic day with 25 service users being matched with EY colleagues for an enjoyable day of shopping, and then a buffet lunch and refreshments which everyone enjoyed enormously. We look forward to next year which marks a 10 year milestone for this terrific annual event.

River Walks: From London Bridge to the Royal Festival Hall. So many service users have enjoyed walking along the Southbank, with their EY volunteer alongside them, audio describing the buildings either side of the river Thames as well as what was happening on the river itself. Many service users especially like to stop where there is a shoreline to listen to the waves.

In the years that EY has been a loyal sponsor for BlindAid, our charity has trained c40-50 EY employees annually in Sighted Guiding techniques, across the 9 years to date around 360 EY employees have another significant skill for life because of their altruistic gift of time for BlindAid service users.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

Hoare Bank:

In 2023 Hoare Bank's in house Corporate Responsibility Team reached out to BlindAid became a corporate sponsor for BlindAid. The CSR Team soon demonstrated unfailing resources in that they are a force for good. They encouraged their colleagues to engage with in planned inhouse fundraising events throughout the whole month of September 2023, which culminated in an early evening special event, held at the bank. The event was host by their CEO and attended by many of the bank's staff team. It was a truly charming and enjoyable event, which clearly evidenced the wonderful familial culture in the ambient setting of the family's library. New staff were warmly welcomed to the team, and long serving staff were spoken about fondly and thanked for their service to date. The CSR team talked about the variety of events organised during September and presented BlindAid with our first ever large cardboard cheque for the amount raised for our charity.

We are already talking with our colleagues at Hoare Bank about other charitable collaborations we will do together going forward into 2024, and with Sighted Guide Training already in the diary, we are looking forward to working with them all again soon.

Corporate Sponsor: Williams Grant Distilleries:

We have also trained many of WG employees in Sighted Guiding techniques to date and we have collaborated in organising some exciting social events including such as: An early evening cocktail event, where specially designed cocktails and mocktails were available for service users and volunteers to try. Part of the cocktail experience is usually how they look visually, and so our service users drinks were designed to be especially aromatic and have sounds (popping candy) as well as multi-level flavours.

An evening with WG brand ambassadors, who are particularly skilled in explaining their crafts. This proved to be a very popular event with our service users, who were invited to taste various spirits and learn the stories of how they are distilled.

Corporate Sponsor: Financial Times:

We have previously run a Creative Writing session jointly with the FT, where senior editors of the newspaper joined our service users to talk about their experiences of journalism and writing on behalf of this prestigious newspaper.

We have also previously run Christmas Shopping Trips for this corporate sponsor. Training their employees who volunteered to guide service users for these days out and sharing refreshments together with service users before the end of the event.

The Charterhouse Partnership:

For the past few years BlindAid has enjoyed an enduring partnership relationship with The Charterhouse, located in Farringdon. This historic former monastery (1371) was transformed by Thomas Sutton who founded his almshouse charity there in 1611. BlindAid regularly organises visits for groups of our beneficiaries to attend tours to learn about this beautiful historic Tudor mansion, and to enjoy our coffee club there. We have run our Creative Writing Class at this thought provoking venue, and also supported some of our service users to attend and engage in tours of the venue.

Touch Tours with The Tate Modern:

We have run regular Touch Tours of the Tate, and also supported some service users to attend specific exhibitions of various artists' work. These are always popular and well supported.

The British Library:

As the library is located very close to The Living Centre in Camden where we operate our Community Project for our service users, it has proved an easy collaboration for us to also work together with the team at the British Library. We have run an art class for many years as part of our Community Project Curriculum, and now we can also offer special exhibitions, and also art classes in collaboration with the British Library team which is an exciting prospect for the future.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

Information and Advice:

The collation and dissemination of relevant information for our beneficiaries has always been an important and integral part of all the charity's activities and services, and it is also part of our Community Sight Support Workers roles, to research information required by service users and offered the provision of relevant information and guidance for service users daily during their work. In recent years, we have received some funding from certain Boroughs to ensure that BlindAid is disseminating information about local flu and C-19 vaccinations, and also winter warming campaigns for our blind and visually impaired beneficiaries.

Our general information provision may also include information relating to specific eye conditions as well as details of other services available in specific areas including social or sporting activities. Throughout the C-19 pandemic this connection was a vital service for our beneficiaries. BlindAid earned reputation for reliable unbiased quality information provision, as we were already a trusted voice within our community of service users, we were able to offer objective information from the NHS in relation to the vaccination program.

BlindAid assists people living with sight loss to obtain local authority and other statutory services or concessions to which they are entitled, and additionally acts as a broad information and guidance hub for all visually impaired people who contact the charity. For callers' resident elsewhere in the UK the charity will make referrals to other local sight loss charities via Visionary, an umbrella organisation for all small sight loss charities across the UK.

Aids and Equipment:

The charity leased its head office property in 2023 and as a result of this, we are no longer able to stock small aids and equipment that facilitate independent living. In 2023, we distributed all remaining limited stock to service users. We now refer and support service users to engage with RNIB's resource centres for these goods.

The Clothworkers Foundation Grant Award:

BlindAid has enjoyed an enduring relationship for many years with The Clothworkers Foundation and receives an annual grant of £50,000 each year for distribution to beneficiaries who are nominated for a grant award by our own SSWs, or other professional workers who are aware of the individual service user's circumstances. Applications for grants are made for aids and equipment that support and facilitate independent living. This grant funding enables the charity to provide financial support and the purchase of a variety of aids, equipment (not provided by statutory services) and other items that assist independent living.

BlindAid's Grant award was paid to bank on 25 July 2022.

In 2023 BlindAid were able to retain £7,500 to offset a percentage of the cost of disseminating this grant on their behalf.

This is specifically a grant for grants programme and BlindAid provides financial support for beneficiaries from this grant in various ways.

Grants made to small Charities, whose services are vital for the local VI communities they serve:

Blackfriars Settlement Southwark: £3,000
Lewisham Talking News: £2,000
Islington Talking News: £2,000

Individual Grants: A total of 116 individual grants were awarded total £29,198 (2022: 114 grants)
Small Grants: (under £100) 164 grants were awarded in 2023 a combined total of £2,626

Total of Clothworkers Foundation Grant Disseminated: £38,824 (2022: £38,788)

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

Collaboration and Consultation:

Vision Foundation: (previously Greater London Fund for the Blind)

BlindAid was a member charity of the Greater London Fund for the Blind (GLFB), together with 9 other local charities serving blind and visually impaired within the M25 area for many years. GLFB acted as an umbrella fundraising organisation on behalf of its member charities and made allocations to members as contributions toward the provision of their core services. In October 2019 GLFB repurposed and renamed their charity to The Vision Foundation at a formal launch event on 16 October 2019, which senior management from BlindAid attended. A consultation period followed, and on 11 March 2020 representatives of the member charities attended a meeting to vote on the dissolution of the membership. Each member charity was paid a proportionate settlement grant following this vote and the acceptance of the grant precluded any further regular allocations toward the delivery of core services for blind and visually impaired people in London. BlindAid is now a partner organisation with The Vision Foundation and continue a productive working relationship, and we do apply to Vision Foundation from time to time for funding for specific projects. In 2022 Vision Foundation merged with Fight for Sight, and BlindAid are grateful that The Vision Foundation has funded our Share London Project for the past two years.

In 2023 BlindAid won a collaborative bid with the charity Refuge, who together applied to The Vision Foundation for a grant for an education and learning project so that Refuge may better support blind or visually impaired service users seeking to use their support services in relation to domestic violence. BlindAid were acting as a consultant in collaboration with Refuge staff, who were building training resources for their own staff team who are based at and operate from the various Refuge facilities throughout the UK. The training was developed as e-learning materials, together with a handbook for staff to refer to when they are expecting a blind or visually impaired resident to arrive at a Refuge centre. The project was funded by The Vision Foundation.

In addition, there was an additional piece of consultancy provided for Refuge which was funded by The Home Office, which shared Tech Abuse Information and by attending these online sessions provided by Refuge, BlindAid Sight Support Workers became 'Tech Abuse Champions' and now have a great deal of knowledge to share with our service users in this specific niche arena.

In 2022 the NHS launched four main NHS Integrated Care Systems that quarter the 32 Boroughs of Greater London. At the end of 2022 BlindAid was awarded funding for our Community Sight Support Service in Wandsworth from South West London ICP from their Health Inequalities Funding Stream.

During 2023 we have upscaled our involvement with NHS ICB teams, and we have joined many ICB/ICP/NHS online meetings, with circa 20-30 medical professionals, ophthalmologists, as well as 3rd sector organisations attending in each region.

In addition, we have joined NHS ICB online consultation meetings relating to the transformation of a range of services that will be transferred 'from hospital to the community' either to 3rd sector organisations or private medical organisations.

Collaboration with AGE UK Wandsworth in relation to a local authority funded Healthy Eating and Safe Cooking yearlong project will finally commence in October 2024, to serve local blind and VI residents of Wandsworth, and sessions will be held at the Gwynneth Morgan Day Centre courtesy of AGE UK.

We have collaborated with 'The Place' based in Camden, in relation to dance sessions for blind and visually impaired service users.

We have long held a warm relationship with Community Connections in Lewisham and have a productive reciprocal referral relationship with them.

Part of Natural England is an organisation called 'Happier Outdoors' with whom we have collaborated in order to provide information and encouragement for all our service users resident in the 12 inner London Boroughs. For those who are able to get out and about, Happier Outdoors provide a directory listing all the events Borough by Borough that people can attend free of charge.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

We have worked alongside Jubilee Hall Gym, based in Covent Garden, and provided Sighted Guide Training for their staff team, so they are better able to respond to blind or visually impaired members at the gym. We have entered into collaborative bids online to run some audio described yoga sessions in collaboration with the Gym, and we are also exploring other opportunities to provide additional health options in collaboration with this gym for our BlindAid Community of service users.

In 2023 we began to join a number of consortiums together with other charities and made joint funding bids to a number of inner London Boroughs for the collective provision of services for all disabled people resident in those Boroughs, and at the request of those Boroughs.

Throughout 2023 BlindAid has remained committed to actively seeking opportunities to collaborate with other charities or organisations where it may be mutually beneficial to do so. The charity, primarily through its Chief Executive, and/or its Operations Director, maintains relationships with key visual impairment forums and many other charities both local and national, within and outside the visual impairment sector. BlindAid is also a member of a number of useful voluntary sector organisations.

Importantly, BlindAid regularly consults service users using structured methods to ensure their voices are heard, and their needs are being met effectively, and this has occurred more frequently during the past few years and again during 2023. We have used Focus Groups, as previously described above. We also receive feedback from service users through our day-to-day contact with service users.

In 2023 we also created as part of the overall charity governance structure a Service User Working Group, this group is chaired by one of our trustees, Adam Sandleson, and is supported by our operations director, and a number of service users have been invited to join this forum so that the Board may hear service users views first hand via the minutes of these meetings and the reporting of the Chair of the Group.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Strategy Review

BlindAid supports a total of c1,400 people annually, who are living with varying degrees of sight loss and are resident in London, with the provision of various services ranging from guidance and information to complex practical support.

To ensure BlindAid services remain relevant strategy is reviewed annually by trustees and senior management, taking account of all the charity's stakeholders, professional co-colleagues who refer to the charity regularly and we also listen to the voices of our staff and beneficiaries.

Recruitment of new Trustees - throughout 2022/23: The work to being to refresh the board of trustees for the charity began as planned in 2022, and this continued into 2023. Senior Management, met with substantial numbers of candidates informally, to select the most appointable candidates to meet with trustees on our Nominations Committee. During 2022, BlindAid appointed 5 new trustees, which included a new Chair of Trustees. Throughout the year, 4 trustees stood down from the board. The Treasurer of BlindAid had also served 9 years with the charity and graciously agreed to remain on the board until a suitable candidate could be appointed, and therefore retired on 31.03.2023. Additionally, 3 new trustees were appointed in 2023 including a new treasurer.

Previously trustees determined the charity's core activity should continue to be the alleviation of the social isolation which is present in the lives of many people with lived experience of sight loss, and to serve this aim the trustees have endorsed substantial investment from reserves into our core services in previous years. To balance this planned expenditure; in 2018 a key pillar of the strategic plan was that in conjunction with the investment from reserves to provide service for more beneficiaries year on year, the charity must also develop its own ability to generate income and identify significant sources of sustainable new funding for the future. In 2018 a fundraising consultant was commissioned to contribute to the charity's fundraising strategy, and to work with the senior management team to support learning/fundraising practice and generate additional income for the charity. This collaboration was concluded in 2020, with trustees endorsing further training investment in BlindAid staff to realise the development of the internal capacity to generate additional income for BlindAid. From January 2020 three senior staff adopted responsibility for fundraising, and whilst there is a resource/time cost to offset, this proved significantly less expensive than using external fundraisers. It remains a core aim for BlindAid to raise sufficient external funding eventually to wholly support its vital core Sight Support Service going forward and we aim to attain this within the next 2-4 years. To this specific end, BlindAid appointed a new Head of Fundraising in November 2022, whilst some new infrastructure was achieved early in 2023, the planned traction with income generation anticipated did not materialise throughout the year and the charity accepted the resignation of the HOF in December 2023.

Our new Chair of Trustees has already designed a new Governance structure for BlindAid to improve strategic work themes being managed by new working groups, chaired by new trustees with specific skills and talents to maximise efforts to support senior management to move the charity forward against strong headwinds created by C-19 pandemic plus the UK Cost of Living Crisis, which has impacted the third sector significantly, and all charities, both large and small. A new Service User Working Group, and additionally a Fundraising Working Groups have been created.

New trustees are also ambassadors for BlindAid and are tangibly working to support senior management in the challenges the charity is facing in the immediate term.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial Mitigation 2019-2022:

In March-April 2019 the trustees acted prudently to de-risk the charity's investments by moving to safer investment funds. This action was primarily taken due to the then financial climate and impending Brexit and was completed in January 2020, unfortunately, followed swiftly by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The UK continued to face a challenging economic outlook due to the financial impact of both Brexit and COVID-19 on the charity's investments, at the end of 2022 the charity suffered losses on investments of c£152,000. Therefore, in 2022 trustees prudently took the decision to encash 2 years' operating costs as a precaution against further investment losses.

At the last Board Meeting of 2022 (Dec 2022) trustees ratified a decision to capitalise on our property asset, and to lease out our head office; Lantern House 102 Bermondsey Street SE1 3UB, this to specifically provide for a sustainable income for the charity which was successfully achieved in 2023.

During 2023, the charity continued to manage finance conservatively by:

1. Making cost savings where appropriate and possible
2. Not replacing staff who retired/resigned and reallocating duties to other staff
3. Only replacing staff who left the charity in Boroughs which are externally funded
3. Renegotiating supplier contracts
4. Making significant numbers of applications for grant funding to support our core services

The prevailing financial impact relating to Brexit, global political issues, and the global COVID-19 pandemic naturally remain under constant review by the board of trustees and senior management. BlindAid's approach will continue to be prudent, conservative, and cautious in its fiscal management as always, but especially throughout this unprecedented and challenging time for all organisations.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial Review

Total unrestricted income from donations and legacies for 2023 were £243,988 (2022 - £137,759).

The charity has in previous years received some income from legacies, often from former service users. By its nature, such income is not possible to predict and thus can vary significantly from year to year, and in the past few years legacies have been greatly reduced. In 2023 BlindAid finally received a legacy first notified in 2021, on behalf of a Westminster service users, for a total of £20,688.

In addition, the charity received a restricted grant of £50,000 from The Clothworkers' Foundation. BlindAid disburses this funding in grants for visually impaired people on behalf of The Clothworkers Foundation. This provides small grants (under £100) and individual grants (£100-£400) for the provision of items that are otherwise unaffordable for beneficiaries living with sight loss and contribute to living independently. In 2023 BlindAid was permitted to retain an administration fee of 15% £7,500 from the grant funding as a contribution toward the resource costs of disseminating the grant.

The other source of income for BlindAid is from the charity's investment portfolio and interest on deposit accounts. In 2023 the charity received £57,694 (2022: £42,776).

In 2022 the charity recorded a net loss on investments of £151,753 due to market instability. Therefore, at the end of 2022 it was agreed the charity would encash investments sufficient for 2 years of operating costs to minimise future risk of further losses in investments, whilst noting this action naturally reduces the charity's annual dividend income. Therefore, investment holdings in CCLA Diversified Income fund were sold and funds transferred to our CCLA deposit fund. The charity has drawn from these funds to support its core Sight Support Service throughout 2023. A decision to be balanced against our operational stability which is vital for our service users and crucially underpins our increasingly important fundraising campaigns. It was therefore acknowledged that transition to breakeven operating status cannot be attained in the immediate term, which reflects in part the continuation of the charity's investment in its services, but also cost savings immediately being attained year on year.

In 2023 as the charity leased its head office to secure a sustainable income for the future of the charity, the clearance of the property resulted in an additional one off loss on disposal of equipment and furniture of £190K.

As the charity leased its property asset in 2023, the property was revalued by an qualified RICS surveyor who confirmed the market value with the existing lease to be £1,275,000 and market value with vacant possession to be £1,250,000.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Investment policy

The Charity's trustees manage our investments conservatively. Investments previously held in Charifund, a UK equities trust managed by M&G, were transferred to L&G in 2019 and invested in both UK and International Index Trusts, where they have remained. Investments managed by CCLA in COIF (Charities Official Investment Fund) were transferred to CCLA's new Diversified Fund in 2020, and in 2022, funds held in the Diversified Fund, were encashed to be held in CCLA's deposit account.

Given the UK emerged from the impact of both Brexit and the C-19 pandemic into a more inflationary financial environment, this produced greater investment volatility in 2022, which not only prompted a financial crisis in the UK, but also throughout 2023 has hardened the funding landscape across the UK for both national and local charities, and without doubt smaller charities are continuing to experience difficulties in fundraising.

As stated above BlindAid's investments with CCLA Diversified Fund were reviewed at the end of 2022, and for reasons of reducing risk it was agreed to hold more liquid assets (i.e. cash alternatives).

BlindAid's remaining investments held with L&G were reviewed throughout 2023 quarterly at each board meeting and will continue to be monitored in this way.

The charity's policy is to invest its assets across a range of asset classes to generate returns, through income and capital appreciation, to support its activities over the longer term.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

BlindAid maintains a restricted endowment fund, and accumulative investment gains earned by the endowment have been saved alongside the investment itself. Trustees are permitted to allocate part of the unapplied total return to the unrestricted income fund, being mindful of striking a balance between current and future beneficiaries. In 2017 trustees agreed the total endowment fund should not be reduced below a level to keep the original endowment sum in line with inflation as measured by Retail Price Index (RPI).

The fund in total at December 2023 was £662,173 (2022: £601,991). There was no transfer to unrestricted reserves in 2023.

In previous years the trustees established designated funds to cover fixed assets (including the refurbishment costs of the charity's offices completed in 2017); and projected costs of operating the community projects, which unfortunately were all closed on 16 March 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic. During 2020 it was decided BlindAid could not continue to cover the cost for all three Community Projects from reserves. Therefore, the charity began fundraising to secure external funding to sustain its centrally located Camden Community Project over a further five-year period. In 2021, BlindAid was awarded funding from The City Bridge Trust of £81,300 to financially support the Camden Community Project for a three year period. The project commenced in 2022 and will run through until 2025. We have subsequently then applied for one year of extension funding for this valuable project which has been granted and so the project will run until 2026.

In 2022 trustees chose to introduce a designated fund to cover the next three years of delivering the vital Community Sight Support Service. This cost totals £747,886 and has been included within the designated funds for this reporting year and the following two years, 2024 and 2025.

During previous years, trustees agreed BlindAid should operate a strategic deficit budget to invest surplus reserves to expand the charity's services in support of Londoners living with sight loss. As a result, an operating deficit (i.e. before gains or losses on investments) has been made for many years previously. Whilst our deficit was substantially reduced in 2021, it rose again in 2022 primarily due to external financial forces and due to leasing our head office in 2023 and the additional loss on disposal caused we also had an operating deficit in 2023.

The trustees have considered the minimum level of free reserves i.e., total reserves excluding restricted, endowment funds required to support the charity's operations. The free reserves as at the year-end that have not been designated towards the core service is £131K. Relevant factors to monitor include projected financial performance and an assessment of the risks to the charity's existing income streams.

It has been determined that, given the reliance of BlindAid on its investments to fund operating expenses, along with the more volatile investment environment because of higher inflation, which is also likely to increase BlindAid's costs, a higher cash/liquid asset buffer should be maintained of around 12-24 months of required expenditure (based on the average deficit of the last few years).

This policy and underlying factors are reviewed regularly and considered annually, and the minimum reserves requirement is, therefore, expected to change over time, as the investment outlook and funding position changes.

Going concern

The trustees consider the charity a going concern. There are sufficient reserves to support the planned operating activities of the charity.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Specific objectives for 2024 are:

1. To manage the lease and landlord responsibilities for Lantern House.
2. To seek other office accommodation to provide a hub for the charity.
3. To build fundraising capacity to provide sustainable sources of income for the charity.
4. To work within the new Governance Structure for the development/benefit of BlindAid.
5. To pursue NHS ICB Trusts funding for core services.
6. Work in collaboration with other charities to win consortium bids from local authorities.
7. Continue to recruit, train, match and deploy volunteers for Share London.
8. Review investment strategy considering the current UK financial climate.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Directors/Trustees

The Members of the charity's Board who served during the year are the Directors of the Company under the Companies Act 2006. Current Members are listed on page 19.

Board Members are trustees within the meaning of the Charities Act 2011. Members are appointed by the Board; details regarding the method of appointment and removal of Members are in the Charity's Articles of Association.

New Board Members receive induction and training appropriate to their experience of trusteeship and knowledge of the field of visual impairment. All are encouraged to invest time visiting head office to understand each employee's work, and to spend time out each year with any of the Sight Support Workers meeting some of our Service Users first hand. Trustees are encouraged to attend the annual celebration of the Charity's work, to join staff training days, to visit BlindAid community projects to engage with service users and to understand the work the Charity undertakes to provide skills for blind and visually impaired people to maintain their independence.

The powers of the Board are described in the Articles of Association. The Board holds four meetings each year. Each Board Meeting is preceded by a meeting of the Finance & Resource Committee Chair: Honorary Treasurer and including the Vice Chair and the Chief Executive.

The day-to-day management of the charity is delegated to the Chief Executive under the Board's supervision.

Risk management

The Board reviews the charity's risk register annually. The work of Sight Support Workers (SSWs) in providing guidance and support to vulnerable people implies a duty of care. Safeguarding is of paramount concern and features annually in the training schedule. The Operations Director has oversight for the planning of the curriculum for the on-going vocational training for the whole team, including volunteers. The charity recognises the importance of staff supervision, and all SSWs attend supervision meetings every two weeks. The Sight Support Team Leader focuses on induction training for new Sight Support Workers, as well as fortnightly staff supervision meetings. The Team Leader also supervises performance management to ensure that all SSWs operate within agreed quality standards. The charity also acknowledges its duty of care to its staff in relation to remote working in the community. The charity has reviewed administration and finance functions (last in February 2021) and is satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate its exposure to its major risks.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

00986407 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

262119

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

Registered office

C/o BWBCA Limited
Office 44
A30 Business Centre
Okehampton
Devon
EX20 1BG

Trustees

A Rawal - Senior Partner EY (appointed 30.9.22) - Chair of Trustees
R N Rutter - Capital Structure/Credit Rating Advisory Associate (appointed 29.11.23) - Treasurer
M K Gaffar - (resigned 31.3.24)
A Pankhania (resigned 28.3.23)
R Holdsworth- Investment Manager
A Sandleson - Psychotherapist
N de Silva - CEO Age UK Wandsworth
A J Gordon - Retired
J W F Small - Associate Partner WTW PLC (appointed 31.1.23)
D Spyridonidou - Associate Director/Credit Analyst (appointed 29.11.23)

Company Secretary

S O'hara

Independent Examiner

Shoaib Arshad
Knox Cropper LLP
65 Leadenhall Street
London
EC3A 2AD

Bankers

Lloyds Bank PLC
Camberwell Green Branch
25 Camberwell Green
London
SE5 7AB

Accountants

BWBCA Limited
Office 44
A30 Business Centre
Okehampton
Devon
EX20 1BG

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

Approved by order of the board of trustees on **25/11/2024** and signed on its behalf by:

Sue O'Hara

.....
S O'hara - Secretary

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Blindaid

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Blindaid ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also 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 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 your charity's accounts as 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 your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, 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 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.



Shoaib Arshad
The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Knox Cropper LLP
65 Leadenhall Street
London
EC3A 2AD

02/12/2024

Date:

BLINDAID

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment fund £	31.12.23 Total funds £	31.12.22 Total funds £
Notes						
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM						
Donations and legacies	2	243,988	42,500	-	286,488	180,259
Investment income	3	57,694	-	-	57,694	42,776
Total		301,682	42,500	-	344,182	223,035
EXPENDITURE ON						
Raising funds	4	68,327	-	-	68,327	58,359
Charitable activities						
Community Sight Support service	5	553,090	-	-	553,090	551,365
Camden Community Project		48,592	-	-	48,592	39,264
Grants		19,208	38,824	-	58,032	50,665
Telephone Support service		2,606	-	-	2,606	-
Share London		55,798	-	-	55,798	47,618
Other		183,552	-	-	183,552	-
Total		931,173	38,824	-	969,997	747,271
Net gains/(losses) on investments		1,159,567	-	-	1,159,567	(151,753)
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		530,076	3,676	-	533,752	(675,989)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward		1,550,180	52,767	397,627	2,000,574	2,676,563
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		2,080,256	56,443	397,627	2,534,326	2,000,574

The notes form part of these financial statements

Balance Sheet
31 December 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment fund £	31.12.23 Total funds £	31.12.22 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible assets	13	1,677	-	-	1,677	298,165
Investments						
Investments	14	265,646	-	397,627	663,273	602,091
Investment property	15	1,200,000	-	-	1,200,000	-
		1,467,323	-	397,627	1,864,950	900,256
CURRENT ASSETS						
Stocks	16	-	-	-	-	1,563
Debtors	17	148,301	-	-	148,301	111,197
Cash in hand		511,512	56,443	-	567,955	1,014,980
		659,813	56,443	-	716,256	1,127,740
CREDITORS						
Amounts falling due within one year	18	(46,880)	-	-	(46,880)	(27,422)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		612,933	56,443	-	669,376	1,100,318
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		2,080,256	56,443	397,627	2,534,326	2,000,574
NET ASSETS		2,080,256	56,443	397,627	2,534,326	2,000,574
FUNDS	19					
Unrestricted funds:						
General fund					130,693	232,015
Fixed assets					1,201,677	298,165
Community Sight Support Services					747,886	1,020,000
					2,080,256	1,550,180
Restricted funds					56,443	52,767
Endowment funds					397,627	397,627
TOTAL FUNDS					2,534,326	2,000,574

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The notes form part of these financial statements


Balance Sheet - continued
31 December 2023


The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

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

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 29/11/2024 and were signed on its behalf by:


[RRutter \(Nov 29, 2024 12:03 GMT\)](#)
R N Rutter - Trustee


[Ajay Rawal \(Nov 30, 2024 07:09 GMT\)](#)
A Rawal - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

BLINDAID**Cash Flow Statement
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

	Notes	31.12.23 £	31.12.22 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	(489,643)	(555,493)
Net cash used in operating activities		(489,643)	(555,493)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		-	(1,526)
Sale of fixed asset investments		-	1,473,592
Interest received		26,574	2,917
Dividends received		16,044	39,859
Net cash provided by investing activities		42,618	1,514,842
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			
		(447,025)	959,349
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		1,014,980	55,631
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		567,955	1,014,980

The notes form part of these financial statements

BLINDAID

Notes to the Cash Flow Statement for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	31.12.23 £	31.12.22 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	533,752	(675,989)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	11,321	16,924
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	183,552	-
Interest received	(26,574)	(2,917)
Dividends received	(16,044)	(39,859)
Unrealised (gains)/loss on investments	(61,182)	151,753
Revaluation gain on investment property	(1,098,385)	-
Decrease in stocks	1,563	-
Increase in debtors	(37,104)	(9,290)
Increase in creditors	19,458	3,885
Net cash used in operations	(489,643)	(555,493)

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.1.23 £	Cash flow £	At 31.12.23 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank and in hand	1,014,980	(447,025)	567,955
	1,014,980	(447,025)	567,955
Total	1,014,980	(447,025)	567,955

The notes form part of these financial statements

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention with the exception of investments which are included at market value. They have been prepared in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards, the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice' Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (SORP 2015), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Trust that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, 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 accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

Raising funds

Raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the charity to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities, events and non-charitable trading.

Governance costs

These represent those costs attributable to the management of the charity's assets, organisational administration and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's programmes and activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 7.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life. Freehold property is accounted for on a component cost basis with each component being depreciated over its economic life as shown below.

Freehold Property

Fabric of building - Over 70 years
Doors & windows - Over 20 years
Partitioning - Over 10 years

Other Assets

Fixtures & fittings - 15% on cost & 4% on cost
Computer & office equipment - 25% on cost

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023****1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued****Investment property**

Investment property is carried at fair value determined annually and derived from the current market rents and investment property yields for comparable real estate, adjusted if necessary for any difference in the nature, location or condition of the specific asset. No depreciation is provided for. Changes in fair value are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Stocks

Stocks consist mainly of small items of aids and equipment and are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Taxation

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

Fund accounting

General funds - These are funds which can be used in accordance with the charity's charitable objects at the discretion of the board.

Designated funds - These 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 - These funds are subject to specific restrictive conditions imposed by donors or funds received for specific purposes and projects.

Endowment funds - These are represented by a permanent endowment fund, the BlindAid Fund, which stipulates that the capital of the fund must be retained and cannot be spent. The BlindAid Fund is wholly invested in Legal & General International Index and Legal & General UK Index units (see note 15) and income arising from the Fund is used for charitable activities.

Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for the benefit of its employees and directors. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity. Contributions payable are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year they are payable.

Termination benefits

Termination benefits are payable when employment is terminated before the normal retirement date, or whenever an employee accepts voluntary redundancy in exchange for these benefits. The charity recognises termination benefits when it is demonstrably committed to either (i) terminating the employment of current employees according to a detailed formal plan without possibility of withdrawal or (ii) providing termination benefits as a result of an offer made to encourage voluntary redundancy.

Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time given to the charity is not recognised and refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Investments

Investments are included in the Balance Sheet at bid-market value. Gains and losses on disposal and revaluation of investments are credited or charged to the Statement of Financial Activities. Investment income and gains arising on endowment funds are accounted for on a total return basis.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	31.12.23	31.12.22
	£	£
Clothworkers funding	50,000	50,000
Big lottery funding	-	13,349
Vision foundation	20,000	-
Corporate donations	41,815	29,805
General donations, grants and trusts	174,673	62,400
Legacies	-	24,705
	<u>286,488</u>	<u>180,259</u>

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	31.12.23	31.12.22
	£	£
Rents received	15,076	-
Investment income from listed investments	16,044	39,859
Deposit account interest	26,574	2,917
	<u>57,694</u>	<u>42,776</u>

The shares in Lantern House Management Limited produce no income.

4. RAISING FUNDS

Raising donations and legacies

	31.12.23	31.12.22
	£	£
Staff costs	57,724	46,825
Advertising for legacies	550	1,350
Professional fundraising	288	299
Support costs	9,765	9,885
	<u>68,327</u>	<u>58,359</u>

BLINDAID

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs £	Grant funding of activities (see note 6) £	Support costs (see note 7) £	Totals £
Community Sight Support service	342,868	-	210,222	553,090
Camden Community Project	25,279	-	23,313	48,592
Grants	-	38,824	19,208	58,032
Telephone Support service	-	-	2,606	2,606
Share London	32,485	-	23,313	55,798
	<u>400,632</u>	<u>38,824</u>	<u>278,662</u>	<u>718,118</u>

	Direct Costs £	Grant funding of activities (see note 6) £	Support costs (see note 7) £	Totals £
2022 Comparative				
Community Sight Support service	354,989	-	196,376	551,365
Camden Community Project	15,016	-	24,248	39,264
Grants	-	38,788	11,877	50,665
Big Lottery Share London	23,370	-	24,248	47,618
	<u>393,375</u>	<u>38,788</u>	<u>256,749</u>	<u>688,912</u>

6. GRANTS PAYABLE

	31.12.23 £	31.12.22 £
Grants	<u>38,824</u>	<u>38,788</u>
The total grants paid to institutions during the year was as follows:		
	31.12.23 £	31.12.22 £
3 grants to VI organisations for community projects (2022 - 2)	<u>7,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>
The total grants paid to individuals during the year was as follows:		
	31.12.23 £	31.12.22 £
116 grants for general purposes (2022 - 114)	29,198	31,034
Small grants (not greater than £50)	<u>2,626</u>	<u>2,754</u>
	<u>31,824</u>	<u>33,788</u>

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

6. GRANTS PAYABLE - continued

The grants to individuals and grants to organisations were funded by a grant received in the current year from The Clothworkers' Foundation. The grant included a contribution of £7,500 towards the dissemination of the grant.

7. SUPPORT COSTS

	Other £	Governance costs £	Totals £
Raising donations and legacies	5,314	4,451	9,765
Community Sight Support service	134,548	75,674	210,222
Camden Community Project	16,302	7,011	23,313
Grants	15,869	3,339	19,208
Telephone Support service	2,606	-	2,606
Share London	16,302	7,011	23,313
	190,941	97,486	288,427

	Other £	Governance costs £	Totals £
2022 Comparative			
Raising donations and legacies	5,810	4,075	9,885
Community Sight Support service	127,118	69,258	196,376
Camden Community Project	17,804	6,444	24,248
Grants	8,821	3,056	11,877
Big Lottery Share London	17,804	6,444	24,248
	177,357	89,277	266,634

The charity initially identifies the costs of its support functions. It then identifies those costs which relate to the governance function. Having identified its governance costs, the remaining support costs together with the governance costs are apportioned between the charitable activities on the basis of time expended on each activity.

8. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	31.12.23 £	31.12.22 £
Auditors' remuneration	-	5,800
Depreciation - owned assets	11,322	16,925
Deficit on disposal of fixed assets	183,552	-
Independent examination	3,480	-

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

9. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2023 nor for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Trustees' expenses

There were no expenses reimbursed to trustees for the year ended 31 December 2023 nor for the year ended 31 December 2022.

10. STAFF COSTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	545,465	514,055
Social security costs	44,616	41,110
Pension costs	37,762	37,295
	<u>627,843</u>	<u>592,460</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	31.12.23	31.12.22
Office staff	5	4
Community Support Services staff	14	15
	<u>19</u>	<u>19</u>

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

	31.12.23	31.12.22
£60,001 - £70,000	1	-
£70,001 - £80,000	-	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

The amount of employer's pension contribution for the highest paid employee was £4,750 (2022 - £5,427).

There are two employees included in office staff that are considered to be key management personnel. Their aggregate emoluments for the year was £110,200 (2022 - £120,456).

BLINDAID

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

11. 2022 COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM				
Donations and legacies	137,759	42,500	-	180,259
Investment income	42,776	-	-	42,776
Total	<u>180,535</u>	<u>42,500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>223,035</u>
EXPENDITURE ON				
Raising funds	58,359	-	-	58,359
Charitable activities				
Community Sight Support service	551,365	-	-	551,365
Camden Community Project	39,264	-	-	39,264
Grants	11,877	38,788	-	50,665
Share London	47,618	-	-	47,618
Total	<u>708,483</u>	<u>38,788</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>747,271</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	<u>(106,987)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(44,766)</u>	<u>(151,753)</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	<u>(634,935)</u>	<u>3,712</u>	<u>(44,766)</u>	<u>(675,989)</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	2,185,115	49,055	442,393	2,676,563
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u><u>1,550,180</u></u>	<u><u>52,767</u></u>	<u><u>397,627</u></u>	<u><u>2,000,574</u></u>

12. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the charity to the fund and amounts to £37,762 for the year (2022 - £37,295). There were £4,478 of contributions outstanding at the balance sheet date (2022 - £3,194).

BLINDAID

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer & office equipment £	Totals £
COST				
At 1 January 2023	192,325	238,112	57,983	488,420
Disposals	-	(238,112)	(49,345)	(287,457)
Reclassification	(192,325)	-	-	(192,325)
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31 December 2023	-	-	8,638	8,638
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 January 2023	86,864	52,762	50,629	190,255
Charge for year	3,846	4,732	2,744	11,322
Eliminated on disposal	-	(57,494)	(46,412)	(103,906)
Reclassification	(90,710)	-	-	(90,710)
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31 December 2023	-	-	6,961	6,961
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 December 2023	-	-	1,677	1,677
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31 December 2022	105,461	185,350	7,354	298,165
	<u>105,461</u>	<u>185,350</u>	<u>7,354</u>	<u>298,165</u>

14. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

Listed Investments

	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
MARKET VALUE		
At 1 January 2023	600,990	2,227,435
Disposals	-	(1,473,592)
Gains / (losses)	61,182	(151,753)
	<u>662,172</u>	<u>602,090</u>
At 31 December 2023	662,172	602,090

Investments included in Unrestricted Funds are:

Investments included in Endowment Funds are L&G International Index Trust of £390,577 (2022 - £339,233) and L&G UK Index Trust of £271,596 (2022 - £261,757), less an amount allocated to General Unrestricted Funds under Total Return Accounting.

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

15. INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	£
FAIR VALUE	
Revaluation	1,098,385
Reclassification	101,615
	<hr/>
At 31 December 2023	1,200,000
	<hr/>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 December 2023	1,200,000
	<hr/>
At 31 December 2022	-
	<hr/>
Fair value at 31 December 2023 is represented by:	
	£
Valuation in 2024	1,200,000
	<hr/>

If investment property had not been revalued it would have been included at the following historical cost:

	31.12.23	31.12.22
	£	£
Cost	192,325	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Aggregate depreciation	(90,711)	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Investment property was valued on an open market basis on 21 July 2024 by Terracotta Limited.

16. STOCKS

	31.12.23	31.12.22
	£	£
Stocks	-	1,563
	<hr/>	<hr/>

17. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.12.23	31.12.22
	£	£
Other debtors	148,301	111,197
	<hr/>	<hr/>

BLINDAID

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

18. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.12.23	31.12.22
	£	£
Trade creditors	5,012	878
Social security and other taxes	13,530	13,122
Other creditors	24,858	7,152
Accruals and deferred income	3,480	6,270
	<u>46,880</u>	<u>27,422</u>

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.23	Net movement in funds	At 31.12.23
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	232,015	(101,322)	130,693
Fixed assets	298,165	903,512	1,201,677
Community Sight Support Services	1,020,000	(272,114)	747,886
	<u>1,550,180</u>	<u>530,076</u>	<u>2,080,256</u>
Restricted funds			
The Clothworkers' Foundation	52,767	3,676	56,443
Endowment funds			
Endowment fund	397,627	-	397,627
	<u>2,000,574</u>	<u>533,752</u>	<u>2,534,326</u>

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

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	Movement in funds
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	30,095	(192,599)	61,182	(101,322)
Fixed assets	-	(194,873)	1,098,385	903,512
Community Sight Support Services	271,587	(543,701)	-	(272,114)
	<u>301,682</u>	<u>(931,173)</u>	<u>1,159,567</u>	<u>530,076</u>
Restricted funds				
The Clothworkers' Foundation	42,500	(38,824)	-	3,676
	<u>344,182</u>	<u>(969,997)</u>	<u>1,159,567</u>	<u>533,752</u>

BLINDAID

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.1.22 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.12.22 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	1,871,551	(618,011)	(1,021,525)	232,015
Fixed assets	313,564	(16,924)	1,525	298,165
Community Sight Support Services	-	-	1,020,000	1,020,000
	<u>2,185,115</u>	<u>(634,935)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,550,180</u>
Restricted funds				
The Clothworkers' Foundation	49,055	3,712	-	52,767
Endowment funds				
Endowment fund	442,393	(44,766)	-	397,627
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>2,676,563</u>	<u>(675,989)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,000,574</u>

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	180,535	(691,559)	(106,987)	(618,011)
Fixed assets	-	(16,924)	-	(16,924)
	<u>180,535</u>	<u>(708,483)</u>	<u>(106,987)</u>	<u>(634,935)</u>
Restricted funds				
The Clothworkers' Foundation	42,500	(38,788)	-	3,712
Endowment funds				
Endowment fund	-	-	(44,766)	(44,766)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>223,035</u>	<u>(747,271)</u>	<u>(151,753)</u>	<u>(675,989)</u>

Designated funds comprise the following:

A fixed asset reserve, including the reclassification and revaluation of the charity's premises from freehold property to investment property.

Community Support Services reserve to cover the service delivery across 2023 to 2025 years.

BLINDAID

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

20. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2023.

21. ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	Unapplied Total Return £	Trust for Investment £	Total Endowment £
Balances as at 1 January 2023	182,627	215,000	397,627
Return for the year			
Investment gain	61,182	-	61,182
Allocated to Unrestricted Income Fund	(61,182)	-	(61,182)
Net movement for the year	-	-	-
Balance as at 31 December 2023	182,627	215,000	397,627
2022 Comparative	Unapplied Total Return £	Trust for Investment £	Total Endowment £
Balances as at 1 January 2022	227,393	215,000	442,393
Return for the year			
Investment loss	(44,766)	-	(44,766)
Net movement for the year	(44,766)	-	(44,766)
Balance as at 31 December 2022	182,627	215,000	397,627