

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 2578918  
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1045841

**Wales Council of the Blind  
Company Limited by Guarantee  
Financial Statements  
31 March 2019**

**CARSTON**  
Chartered accountants  
1st Floor, Tudor House  
16 Cathedral Road  
Cardiff  
CF11 9LJ

**Wales Council of the Blind**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**Financial Statements**  
**Year ended 31 March 2019**

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**Wales Council of the Blind**

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Year ended 31 March 2019

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The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2019.

**Chair's report**

This has been my first year as Chair of Wales Council of the Blind and it has been a pleasure to continue to watch the organisation work to improve the lives of blind and partially sighted people across Wales. This year was also a very special year as WCB turned 80. We celebrated our anniversary at the Eisteddfod, Cardiff Bay, with birthday cake and a glass of Champagne.

As someone with sight loss, I have seen first hand the important role that the Rehabilitation Officer for the Vision Impaired plays in building confidence, providing emotional support, regaining lost skills and teaching new skills, and maintaining and promoting independence and choice. These skills have enabled myself, and many others, to live safely and contribute to society as active citizens. I am proud of the support WCB has given to this profession and we will continue to work together with the sector to lobby for an increase in workforce and timely access to this invaluable service.

We are also working to support increased provision for children through Habilitation specialists across Wales. Led on by WCB, the sight loss sector in Wales has campaigned as a single voice against Newport's decision to withdraw their funding from Gwent Sensory and Communication Support Service (SenCom). In March, we were delighted to receive the news that the Gwent authorities had decided to commit jointly to the continuation of the best practice SenCom regional service, until 2022. We will continue to fight for services for people with sight loss to continue and not be diluted or dissolved.

This year's accounts will report on the 3rd year of funding under Welsh Government's Sustainable Social Services Third Sector Grant Scheme. We will report on five outcomes and the impact that this funding has had. We are pleased to report confirmation of an additional year of funding under this scheme, enabling us to continue to work to improve services and support for people with sight loss. In addition, it provides WCB with continued financial security. Over the next year we will work with the sector to look at new ways of working together as a new funding round approaches.

I have enjoyed my first year as Chair and, with your support, I am looking forward to taking WCB into a new chapter of the organisation's life. It just leaves me to thank my fellow trustees for their support over the year and, most importantly, the staff and volunteers for all of their continued hard work and dedication.

Janice Powers  
Chairperson

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**Year ended 31 March 2019**

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**Reference and administrative details**

**Registered charity name** Wales Council of the Blind

**Charity registration number** 1045841

**Company registration number** 2578918

**Principal office and registered office**  
 Hastings House  
 Fitzalan Place  
 Unit 2.2  
 Cardiff  
 CF24 0BL

**The trustees**

Cllr Peter Curtis  
 Cllr Brian Mawby  
 Mrs Miriam Wright  
 Ms J Powers  
 Ms J Thomas  
 Mr B J Hobart  
 Mrs C M L Draper  
 Miss R E Stiff

*Appointed 25 April 2019*  
*Appointed 25 April 2019*

**Company secretary** Owen J Williams

**Independent examiner** Farzana Ahmed ACCA  
 1st Floor, Tudor House  
 16 Cathedral Road  
 Cardiff  
 CF11 9LJ

**Wales Council of the Blind**

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**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES****The independent umbrella agency**

Wales Council of the Blind is the independent umbrella agency for vision impairment in Wales representing blind and partially sighted people and the clubs and societies who support them. Our independence also enables us to act as an impartial advisor, advocate, intermediary and evaluator for this complex, diverse group of organisations and services. In carrying out our charitable objectives, services to people with sight loss are improved.

We gather the opinions and views of people with sight loss through groups and consultation. We put their voice at the centre of what we do, reporting their views to the people who are responsible for the services that help them. We also act as an agency to direct people to these services, giving them impartial advice and choice.

The trustees confirm that they complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard for the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE****Welsh Government, Sustainable Social Services Third Sector Grant scheme**

This was to be the final year of funding. However, we are pleased to report confirmation of an additional year of funding under this scheme, taking our funding up to 31st March 2020. Wales Council of the Blind received grant funding for this period of £136,139. Over a quarter of this grant was provided to members as part of our continued partnership agreements.

**The Plan 2016-19**

WCB's Wales-wide work plan, based on the principle of partnership working, has five areas of work aimed at reducing the impact on Social Services.

We won't be providing services on the ground, other than referring people to organisations that support people with sight loss. We are in the unique position of being able to refer people impartially.

Our project work-streams address five outcomes, as detailed below, along with our achievements over the past year.

**Wales Council of the Blind**

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Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*Year ended 31 March 2019

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**OUTCOME ONE - THAT PEOPLE WITH SIGHT LOSS BENEFIT FROM IMPROVED SUPPORT FROM LOCAL SOCIETIES AND GROUPS**

It is essential that people with sight loss are signposted to the most appropriate services and support available to them. The Wales Vision Forum, a group comprising of local, regional and national sight loss charities working in Wales, has agreed that WCB should continue to maintain a map of services on behalf of the sector.

Perspectif, our on-line portal, is updated regularly and allows us to continuously evaluate services and support across Wales. This evidence will help partners to plan their services to strengthen their role, as well as help us to identify gaps in provision and to ensure that duplication is avoided, where possible. New services, clubs, groups, etc., are also promoted with Sylw (e-bulletin) and monthly bi-lingual newsletter, as well as Roundup (our quarterly magazine).

In 2016 WCB led on the production of a resource pack, to accompany the Certificate of Visual Impairment (CVI), that provides patients and professionals with range of useful information at the point of diagnosis. This includes information, advice and a wide range of contacts. This pack will be reviewed to ensure that patients are receiving the most appropriate information and in a timely manner.

**Support provided by WCB to local sight loss charities****Ceredigion Association for the Blind**

WCB provided Secretariat support up until June 2018. WCB has continued to support the elected local officer, as and when requested. WCB continues to attend executive meetings of the Association. We have also provided advice on governance and committee matters.

WCB has written GDPR Privacy notices for **Visual Impairment Breconshire and Radnorshire Association for the Blind.**

**Radnorshire Association for the Blind**

WCB's Engagement Officer continues to attend Radnorshire Association for the Blind's executive meetings. Four such meetings have taken place in the past year. WCB's advice is sought around various governance issues at these meetings. All printing of meeting papers is produced by WCB.

**Visual Impairment Breconshire**

WCB's Engagement Officer remains the Secretary for Visual Impairment Breconshire. VIB meet regularly, with four executive board meetings have taken place within the last 6 months. WCB attend all executive meetings and their AGM. Over the past year, membership has increased and the monthly social group set up in partnership with the Macular Society is working well and is attended by approximately 20 people.

**Wales Council of the Blind****Company Limited by Guarantee****Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*****Year ended 31 March 2019**

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WCB continues to produce their quarterly newsletter, which is circulated in accessible formats to all of their members.

**BridgeVis**

At the request of the Board of Trustees, WCB has printed publicity material for the organisation to promote their work.

**Visual Impairment West Glamorgan (VIWG)**

Residents from Swansea, Port Talbot, Neath and surrounding areas continue to receive a newsletter from VIWG and partners. WCB, as part of our role, formats, prints and distributes these to over 900 blind and partially sighted people in large print and audio CD.

**Welsh VI Bowls**

WCB continues to provide website support and assist with the updating of information, as well as provide advice in relation to governance. We have met with the executive committee of the Welsh Association for the Visually Impaired Bowlers. WCB will draft an application to the Disability Sports Development Trust to fund a VI Bowls league. It is hoped that the league will encourage more people to participate in the game, as well as attract more coaches. It is also hoped that the league will increase the level of competition amongst players that will put them in a stronger position to compete at UK and World tournaments.

**National Eisteddfod**

This August, WCB had a stand at the National Eisteddfod to celebrate our 80th birthday!

As the umbrella organisation for sight loss in Wales, **WCB invited representatives from local societies** to attend during the week to promote the work of their society / organisation. WCB, where necessary, produced local society leaflets in Welsh.

Representatives from **BridgeVis, Radnorshire Association for the Blind, Cardiff Institute for the Blind, UCAN Productions, Macular Society and Low Vision Service Wales** joined us on the stand.

**WCB's Sylw**

As a result of feedback from members in North Wales, Sylw is now distributed as a monthly print/audio bulletin. It is also produced in Welsh language. This monthly edition is distributed to our subscribers who do not use email/internet and is sent also through Vision Support, North Wales Society for the Blind, Vision Impaired West Glamorgan, Radnorshire Association for the Blind and Visual Impairment Merthyr. Importantly, Sylw is now the main channel of communication between some of these organisations and their members.

**Wales Council of the Blind**

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**Funding Opportunity to Produce a State of the Nation report on Third Sector Services for people with sight loss in Wales**

WCB worked with Visionary, Thomas Pocklington Trust (TPT) and the Third Sector in Wales to shape a project to support change influenced by people with sight loss. **As a first step, WCB has invited Visionary members** to discuss how we, as a sector, could work together to increase reach and impact and improve quality, in order to create services where none exist and enhance those that do exist. However, since we met there has been a change in funding and we are now only able to apply for a 1-year project and for £23,000. This has led us to re-think the bid.

As a sector, we have worked on a number of 'State of the Nation' reports and we sought members' views on producing a 'State of the Nation' report on third sector services for blind and partially sighted people. The report will provide the sector with a stronger basis, through evidence of need, to seek sustainable funding for new and improved services. The funding bid was sent and supported by all members.

More information on this project can be found later in this document under **plans for future periods**.

**OUTCOME TWO - PEOPLE WITH SIGHT LOSS INFLUENCE DESIGN AND DELIVERY TO ACHIEVE CITIZEN-CENTRED SERVICES**

We want people with sight loss to provide the evidence needed to ensure that services do not create systems that unfairly screen out individuals at first point of contact.

WCB and partners continue to run regional groups across Wales. These groups are well attended and give people with sight loss the opportunity to hear talks and engage in debate on a range of themes including social care, transport, health, employment, community services and support, etc.

The additional year of funding under Welsh Government's Sustainable Social Services Third Sector Grant will enable our partners of Vision Support, North Wales Society of the Blind, UCAN Productions (working with young adults) and Sight Cymru (BAME) to continue to run these regional groups and directly influence the work of WCB as the umbrella body.

Through our regional groups, WCB continues to encourage members and other clubs and societies to understand and raise awareness of Welsh Government initiatives. Promoting the Welsh Low Vision Service through local societies to encourage referrals to the scheme is one such example. Sylw and Roundup continues to be a tool to promote consultation and engage directly with blind and partially sighted people.



**Wales Council of the Blind**

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In the summer, WCB, representing the Wales Disability Reference Group (WDRG), attended a WCVA-led meeting to discuss third sector involvement with the Regional Partnership Boards across Wales. The outcome of the meeting was to set up workshops to explore how the third sector could engage better and have our voice heard. WCB will engage with service users to gain their input. There was an additional event that took place in March. WDRG member, Learning Disability Wales attended and we await the outcome of the engagement.

**Sensory and Communication support for children across Gwent**

Led on by WCB, the sight loss sector in Wales has campaigned as a single voice against Newport's decision to withdraw their funding from Gwent Sensory and Communication Support Service (SenCom). We initially wrote to Newport officials in December and met with them to better understand their decision to move away from a best practice regional service. The meeting left us with a number of concerns and in January, WCB drafted a letter that was signed by a number of sight loss partners in Wales and the UK.

In January, we wrote to Councillors and Council officials to consider our concerns that fell broadly under two headings: consultation process; and scale of service. We believed that the consultation process was a requirement due to the extent of the changes to the service, and that the scale of the service has not been properly assessed and accounted for. As a result we felt that the children and young people will receive an inferior service and that it is in the best interests of service users and their families for the decision to be reversed. We continued to lobby and received feedback and support from parents that helped WCB produce further evidence in relation to sensory support and specialist provision in the medium of Welsh. We were told that this was not a decision based on finance but we believed that the full financial implications of the change had not been accounted for and could have a negative impact on the budget.

In March, we were delighted to receive the news that the Gwent authorities had decided to commit jointly to the continuation of the best practice SenCom regional service, until 2022.

We await the terms and conditions of the review and would like to see any review led by an someone who is impartial, with no pre-determined agenda, and with a background of sensory loss. We would also like to see them have knowledge of SenCom and the invaluable services and support that they provide to children and young people across Gwent. We also hope that any review will enable proper consultation this time, so that children and their families and carers can make a meaningful contribution to the design of a specialist service that best meets their needs.

## Wales Council of the Blind

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Year ended 31 March 2019

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WCB's role is to bring the sector together and this joint working approach and the content and strength of the letter of January has ensured that children with sensory loss will continue to be supported fully across Gwent.

### Social Care Group working with the Low Vision Advisory Group

Members of the Wales Vision Forum (led by WCB, RNIB and Guide Dogs Cymru) and Welsh Rehabilitation Officers Forum have published a **State of the Nation report on Rehabilitation**.

The report defines three important and key factors:

1. A model of Rehabilitation which should be uniformly available across Wales;
2. An overview of current provision; and
3. Recommendations to implement.

We have done a great job as a sector on working collaboratively on the State of the Nation report on Rehabilitation and presenting the report to a number of influential groups:

- Welsh Government Eye Care Group (presented by WCB).
- Wales Vision Strategy (presented by WCB).
- Cross Party Group on Vision (presented by WCB and RNIB Cymru).

As a sector, we have secured an invitation to present the report to the North Wales Regional Partnership Board. We will meet with partners from across North Wales to discuss how best to present.

We have established the process through which to engage most effectively with the WLGA. WCB has coordinated a briefing to go in front of the Cabinet and we will engage as a sector with the Spokespersons on Education and Health and Social Care and we are aiming to secure a slot for discussion by the Cabinet in order to take forward through the WLGA.

Working together as a sector, we will be developing a campaign to promote the role of the Rehabilitation Officer and the positive impact this has on the wellbeing, confidence and independence of people with sight loss in Wales. It was also felt that the campaign should draw attention to the variability of where you live - the post code lottery.

WCB and partners are keen to ensure that assessments are the same across all areas of Wales, ensuring that outcomes are person-centred. WCB will work with WROF to promote an all-Wales standard for a set of outcome measures for the ROVI profession.

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This work will feature in our next funding bid to Welsh Government, strengthening the need for coproduced services for people with sight loss within social care.

**Consultation responses**

Wales Council of the Blind consulted with Low Vision Advisory Group, Wales Vision Forum members and people with sight loss on '**Connected Communities: Tackling Loneliness and Social Isolation**'. The consultation response, submitted in January, cited the NHS-funded Low Vision Service Wales as a good practice example of how accredited high street optometrists refer people with sight loss to social care and third sector services. It was suggested that this model could be translated to other aspects of health support such as GP clusters, pharmacies and dentists.

Any such pathways must account for specialist communication needs of people with sight loss. These practitioners must be more aware of the access issues of blind and partially sighted people. The consultation response also highlighted the role of the third sector, habilitation and the role of the Rehabilitation Officer for the Visually Impaired (ROVI).

Wales Council of the Blind, Guide Dogs Cymru and RNIB Cymru also submitted a consultation response on '**Action on Disability: the Right to Independent Living**'. The response promoted the role of the ROVI in relation to independent living. The third sector response also cited the NHS Low Vision Service Wales. This community-based service enables people with sight loss to make the best use of the sight they have by prescribing low-vision aids to enable them to live as independently as possible. This service uses established referral pathways to health, education (including habilitation specialists), social services (including ROIVs), employment and third sector support.

The response went on to say that, **Priority 10 of the revised Eye Care Plan** is to work with Local Partnership Boards and Local Authorities to support the implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. Key to this is the provision of rehabilitation and habilitation services **in every authority** in order to prevent loss of independence, loss of mobility, falls, isolation and depression in people with sight loss.

We recommended that Priority 10 is added to the action plan because the skills taught by a Habilitation specialist will prepare children and young people with VI for independent living. In addition to this, one of the roles of the Rehabilitation Officer for the Visually Impaired (ROVI) is to promote independence and to regain the ability to get out and about safely through mobility training. This is crucial to help maintain existing social networks.

**Wales Council of the Blind****Company Limited by Guarantee****Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) (continued)****Year ended 31 March 2019**

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Re/habilitation is about helping people to do things for themselves. Existing pathways via the Low Vision Service Wales (optometrist practice) or Certificate of Visual Impairment (Hospital Eye Services) can offer a gateway as outlined above, however, it is essential that these habilitation and rehabilitation services are properly recognised, supported and engaged with within all regional partnership areas in Wales. Regional partnership boards need to acknowledge, utilise and promote these pathways. The third sector will play an integral role in this.

Early intervention is needed to reduce the need for further ongoing support services, as well as for tackling loneliness and social isolation. It is vital to promote greater independence and quality of life and, importantly, to allow children and young people with vision impairment to maximise their potential. Timely access to this specialist services is therefore essential.

As a sector, we are concerned that not all LHBs are providing meaningful reporting on Priority 10. The Low Vision Advisory Group will continue to work with Local Health Boards so that Priority 10 can be reported fully. WCB will draft a regional summary for each LHB ahead of the next Welsh Government Eye Care Steering Group in May.

WCB continues to sit on a number of key groups including the National Eye Care Steering Group, Low Vision Service Wales Advisory Group (Owen Williams is Chair), steering group for the refresh of the Framework for Action on Independent Living and the Disability Equality Forum. This grant enables WCB to consult with our members on these important areas of work.

**Influencing local authority preventative services**

As previously reported, residents of Neath Port Talbot raised concerns in relation to Rehabilitation Services. WCB, working in partnership, lobbied to ensure that a rehabilitation and habilitation service is provided within the authority. We are pleased to report that a full-time ROVI was appointed in September contracted by Sight Cymru.

Welsh Government has also agreed to fund training for 3 Habilitation Officers across Wales including local provision in NPT.

Working with the Ceredigion Association of the Blind and local clubs, WCB has raised concerns of a large waiting list in Ceredigion for intervention from a ROVI. A ROVI assistant has since been appointed but they are unqualified. As a sector we will continue to lobby for an additional ROVI, as previously funded. We recognise that workforce planning is a concern across Wales and would welcome local authorities investing in training for ROVIs. There is an apprenticeship levy currently in place in Wales and this could be an opportunity to support training of additional ROVIs.

**Wales Council of the Blind**

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Regional groups continue to report on the provision of services through social care. There is now a rehabilitation service in each of the 22 local authorities but provision of the service varies greatly.

There are many good examples of good practice across Wales, as promoted at this year's eye care conference. WCB will continue to highlight the essential work of the ROVI and the impact on an individual's independence that this preventative service can bring.

The Wales Vision Forum (WCB providing secretariat and chair) continues to monitor services for both adults and children. This will be fed into campaigns for the role of the ROVI and Habilitation.

**Certificate of Vision Impairment Patient Focus Group**

Wales Council of the Blind, as the independent and impartial umbrella organisation, was asked by the Low Vision Clinical Lead to set up a Patient Focus Group, as part of a research project into Certification of Vision Impairment (CVI), to discuss the pros and cons of Low Vision Service Wales practitioners issuing Certificates of Vision Impairment (CVIs).

The group comprised of regional representatives (with sight loss) from across North, West, Central and East Wales. We included people of working age, young adults, older people and a representative from the BME community.

Their feedback was invaluable and supported fully the choice to have CVIs issued by high street low vision practitioners. WCB sees this work as an opportunity to strengthen referral pathways to the third and social care sector.

We would also feel more confident that information, such as the patient leaflet, would be distributed at the point of diagnosis. Additionally, the Low Vision Practitioner would be better suited to monitor referrals, disseminate all forms of information, as well as monitor the impact that this has had on an individual's wellbeing.

The group was reconvened in October where the preliminary results of the research were shared and discussed. The report is due to be published in May.

WCB has also worked with the Low Vision Clinical Lead to provide impartial feedback on the SPECS project.

**Wales Council of the Blind****Company Limited by Guarantee****Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*****Year ended 31 March 2019**

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**Employment opportunities**

Less than one in four registered partially sighted or blind people of working age is in employment. This figure is even worse for people who are completely blind. Only around one in 10 people with poor functional vision is in paid employment.

As a sector we remain deeply concerned that fewer people with sight loss are being given opportunities to work and that Access to Work can create further barriers to Employment. Empathy and understanding, the assessment process, allocation of support workers and claims are the most common problems raised. In October, **WCB convened and chaired a meeting** with Access to Work officials, third sector partners and people with sight loss to highlight these concerns and to seek reassurance that these concerns will be addressed.

WCB has also collected a large number of case studies. WCB is drafting a report that will look at the state of access to work 3 years on from the original report published by WCB and RNIB Cymru. This report will be presented to the Wales Vision Forum and Wales Vision Strategy Implementation Group.

As a sector we have worked with Welsh Government to ensure that the promotion of the Access to Work scheme is included with the refresh of the Action on Disability - The Right to Independent Living.

We are pleased to see that Welsh Government will actively work with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), and others through their employment support networks, to ensure that the DWP's Access to Work scheme is promoted and there is a significant raising of awareness with employers and individuals for how the scheme can help disabled people, those with mental health conditions and work limiting health conditions to remain in, or to move into, employment and increase the take-up of the scheme in Wales.

We also welcome the focus on apprenticeships and that Welsh Government will build on the opportunities from gaining additional support for internships, apprenticeships where feasible, for those individuals with disabilities. We have sought assurance that people with sight loss will be able to access a level of support and equipment that will empower them to fulfil their role.

**Personal Independence Payment (PIP)**

WCB, in partnership with Cardiff Institute for the Blind and RNIB Cymru, set up a meeting with Capita and DWP to discuss concerns around the PIP process.

**Wales Council of the Blind**

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People with sight loss attended and shared experiences. WCB remains concerned that people are being given sight and functional vision tests during an assessment despite assurance from DWP that this should not happen. We have been in further talks with Capita and the Department of Work and Pensions in regard to sight tests being carried out and optical magnifiers being used to assess visual function as part of the Personal Independent Payment (PIP) assessment. WCB and the Low Vision Advisory Group, remain strongly opposed to this, as the PIP assessors are not qualified to carry out such tests.

In December WCB held a telephone meeting with Capita who confirmed that their assessors do indeed perform sight tests, particularly when they are unsure of what an individual can see. Not only does this show a lack of trust in the client, but also a lack of understanding of the nature of various types of sight condition because the sight test only measures visual acuity and not overall visual function. It is also not acceptable for non-qualified assessors to use optical magnifiers to assess for visual function. We have requested a face-to-face meeting, as this is an opportunity for Wales to address a UK-concern. Capita are not engaging with this issue and through the Low Vision Advisory Group, chaired by Owen Williams (WCB), we will continue to collect case studies that will form part of a media campaign.

**OUTCOME 3 - PEOPLE WITH SIGHT LOSS AND SOCIAL CARE PROFESSIONALS ARE FULLY INFORMED OF THE WIDER RANGE OF SERVICES/SUPPORT AVAILABLE THROUGH AN INTEGRATED INFORMATION SERVICE**

One of the key barriers for people with sight loss is access to information: about their sight condition; about the services available to them; about the support groups and interest groups that can help with social integration and regaining of confidence and skills.

WCB is the umbrella organisation for sight loss in Wales and, as such, we consider it our duty to showcase the large spectrum of support that exists in Wales. Support can come from public, private and third sectors. Because WCB does not itself provide any direct services, we can signpost people without a conflict of interest. We believe that, in our sector in Wales at least, we are unique in being able to make that claim.

Perspecif training packs and updates of records went to the first-point-of-contact teams in each Local Authority. As a result of this, we received interest from a number of Community Connectors. We will collect contact details of Community Connectors from each local authority and send out packs and training materials to this workforce. We will also work with Low Vision Service Wales (LVSU) to send packs and training materials to all of LVSU accredited practitioners.

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In order to further integrate information services, we shall be exploring the possibility of aligning the Perspectif categorisation with the Visionary (UK umbrella agency) categories of core services. This would also tie in with a piece of research we are being funded to carry out in 2019/20 around services in Wales. WCB is building its place on external portals such as Dewis, Infobase and third sector partners so that people with sight loss are offered a full range of support and services.

We have made the decision not to encourage formal registration with the Perspectif Portal in order to avoid problems with Data Protection laws.

The Perspectif supplements, sent out with Roundup, have gone to over 500 professionals and over 2,000 blind and partially sighted people. The latest edition focused on organisations supporting specific sight conditions and was therefore distributed to attendees of Cardiff School of Optometry and Vision Sciences' Inherited Eye Disease Day in March. WCB represented the sight loss sector in Wales and promoted the work of our members through Sylw, Roundup and Perspectif supplements.

During Sensory Loss Month in November, WCB attended an event organised by Hywel Dda Health Board at Prince Philip Hospital in Llanelli to promote WCB's work and that of the sector. Visitors to the stand were also signposted to relevant services and other organisations were present to give advice including the International Glaucoma Association, Macular Society, and Rehabilitation Officers for the region.

Roundup subscribers number 2,200, including editions that goes out through our members.

Our 80th Anniversary was marked by a special edition of Roundup that included reminiscences, testimonials and a timeline of WCB's main developments. Collaboration has been a cornerstone of WCB's work and the success of the organisation is in its ability to work openly with partners to get results. This was made possible in large part by core funding from Welsh Government and local authorities that enabled us to carry out our work without having to enter the competitive arena of fundraising.

The reflections and testimonials in Roundup are evidence of the value of that independence.

This was launched at the National Eisteddfod and was produced bilingually. A supplement to this edition was a timeline of WCB's work over this period. This serves to highlight the nature of WCB's work as a 'backroom' organisation - one that does not have a visible public face.



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The November edition of Roundup celebrated 70 Years of the NHS with a focus on the Welsh Government Annual Eye Care Conference. Another edition of Roundup focused on the impact of other conditions on sight loss, such as dementia, learning disability and stroke. This has opened up our capacity to collaborate with other sectors.

Our fortnightly e-bulletin, Sylw - which is drawn from our posts to the Sylw part of our website - continues to be useful to sector professionals and disabled people. The subscription number is currently over 550 as Sylw is forwarded to colleagues by our members.

Sylw is now also produced as a print and audio monthly edition following feedback from service users in the Vision Support area that there are still many people who do not engage through the internet or email. This is produced in English and Welsh and is distributed through a number of organisations. The Welsh edition is also enabling WCB to reach a wider audience. We are reviewing how we can make our website more accessible in the language of Welsh.

This version of Sylw is distributed to 1,375 blind and partially sighted people; North Wales Society for the Blind (150); Vision Support (500); Visual Impairment Merthyr Tydfil (130); Radnorshire Association for the Blind (50); and distributed directly through WCB (545).

WCB has 1,484 Twitter followers.

**OUTCOME 4 - THAT THE EXPERTISE IN SOCIAL SERVICES IS USED MORE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVELY. WE BELIEVE REHABILITATION IS THE CORE SERVICE THAT ENABLES PEOPLE WITH SIGHT LOSS TO ACHIEVE INDEPENDENCE.**

Through the Sustainable Social Services Third Sector Grant, WCB supports Welsh Rehabilitation Officers Forum (WROF) to do the following:

In January a voluntary register was established and is managed by the Rehabilitation Workers Professional Network (RWPN). 32 ROVIs, through the Wales Rehabilitation Officers Forum (WROF) and funded through this grant, took up group membership of the RWPN. Membership offers Continued Professional Development (CPD) through the logging and monitoring of their work, as well as 1-to-1 support (professional advice) and **training opportunities** (through WROF in partnership). Members will also have access to special interest groups (on-line), newsletter and information, as well as discounted training across the UK.

**Wales Council of the Blind**

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*Year ended 31 March 2019

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Over the last year, WCB's funding has enabled WROF to carry out 2 training events in Sight Loss and Dementia. The events, 1 in North Wales and 1 in South Wales took place in June and were offered to all practising ROVIs in Wales. 40 people attended the events.

WROF have organised 3 training and network sessions, set up across Wales, with Eye Clinic Liaison Officers (ECLOs) and Care and Repair Managing Better Workers. The aim is to look at roles, build meaningful relationships and try to improve referral pathways between health, social care and their partners in the third sector. These events will take place in April / May. The WROF conference, to take place early summer, will focus on transitions.

This year's Eye Care Conference, organised by WCB, was attended by over 140 people, with a good representation from social care, and celebrated 70 years of the NHS. Delegates heard talks on rehabilitation, habilitation, falls prevention, stroke and dementia. This offered additional knowledge-sharing opportunities for the ROVI profession.

Social Care professionals attend WCB's regional groups of people with sight loss, 'Your Voice - A Shared Vision'. These give them a unique opportunity to receive feedback and promote best practice. WROF training has offered an opportunity for regional events and networking. WCB's regional partnership group in West Wales continues to be well attended and is monitoring workload and workforce, within a social-care setting.

**OUTCOME 5 - SERVICES ARE BETTER COORDINATED AND MONITORED**

The sector offers a spectrum of services that often reduce the impact on social services by improving wellbeing and independence through training, support and social engagement. Services are generally monitored by providers in consultation with beneficiaries. We work with providers to share best practice.

Vision Support and North Wales Society for the Blind have continued to evaluate their services and WCB's funding has helped to achieve this. North Wales Societies will look to see what services are sustainable and what additional support or services are required.

CIB, VIWG and RNIB Cymru consulted with residents in Swansea, Neath and Port Talbot on what services and support are wanted locally. WCB was invited to present and impartially lead on an open discussion about what was needed. The findings listed a number of barriers to services including transport. Service users also wished to see access to digital technology training within their homes, more social groups and a resource centre / society in Swansea.

**Wales Council of the Blind****Company Limited by Guarantee****Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*****Year ended 31 March 2019**

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The work with TPT has progressed slower than expected. However, over the next year, WCB will send an evaluation questionnaire to our readers across Wales. We carried out evaluation of services to 30 people who attend our West Wales Group in October. We will repeat this exercise across Wales. Residents across Wales wished to see access to digital technology training, welfare benefits advice and continued access to the role of the RCVI.

We remain concerned that the CVI patient leaflet is not being circulated to all newly diagnosed patients. We continue to monitor this and, if Low Vision Accredited Practitioners are soon able to sign and provide certificates of vision impairment, we will work with Welsh Government through the Low Vision Advisory Group to review and revise the information leaflet. There may be scope to regionalise the information.

Over the last 6 months we have sent Perspectif packs to individuals referred to WCB as part of this process. As a sector, we would like blind and partially sighted people to be given choice and referred to the most appropriate local, regional or national organisations. WROF, through this grant, is in the process of evaluating third sector referrals from Social Care. Over the next year, WCB will continue to promote referral pathways.

**CORE FUNCTION OF WALES COUNCIL OF THE BLIND**

WCB will continue to carry out its core umbrella functions of signposting blind and partially sighted people to the organisations that can give them support, information provision through 'Perspectif' and support to our members. This will continue to be jointly funded by grant funding and sponsorship. We will continue to ensure that people with sight loss have a voice and that, through WCB, they are heard.

**BRINGING THE SIGHT LOSS SECTOR TOGETHER**

Wales Council of the Blind, as the umbrella organisation for vision impairment in Wales, is responsible for convening, chairing and providing secretariat to the Wales Vision Forum.

The Wales Vision Forum reports on a number of outcomes within the Eye Health Care Delivery Plan for Wales. Nominated representatives on the sub-committees consult with members on papers and agenda items prior to meetings; represent the views of all members and feed back relevant points. WCB works to ensure that the Forum is represented.

The Forum reports directly to the Minister for Health and Social Care on key themes in order to reduce duplication and to make best use of the Minister's time. The Forum will represent viewpoints which the sector has arrived at consensually.

**Wales Council of the Blind**

Company Limited by Guarantee

**Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) (continued)****Year ended 31 March 2019**

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Owen Williams is the chair of the Low Vision Advisory Group and sits on the overarching Steering Group. Given that a lot of societies find it difficult to attend these meetings, one of our roles is to represent their views. The development of regional groups enables the local voice of vision impaired people to be represented at an all Wales level.

The Wales Vision Forum has led on two 'State of the Nation' reports for people with sight loss in Wales:

**State of the nation - services for adults with sight loss in Wales; and State of the Nation - services for children and young people with sight loss in Wales**

As a sector, we will work with Welsh Government to set out how the recommendations in these reports will be taken forward. Partnership working with Local Authorities, Regional Partnerships Boards, Third Sector and Welsh Rehabilitation Officers Forum will be required.

Local Authorities must provide good quality services for blind and partially sighted people. We would like the recommendations in these reports to be adopted as part of the Area Plans to address shortcomings in service provision. Furthermore, good quality support for blind and partially sighted people will increase their employability, improve their financial independence and increase their contribution to the economy. The reports are available from [http://www.wcbccd.org.uk/downloads/state\\_of\\_the\\_nation\\_services\\_for\\_adults\\_with\\_sight\\_loss\\_in\\_wales.docx](http://www.wcbccd.org.uk/downloads/state_of_the_nation_services_for_adults_with_sight_loss_in_wales.docx)

**PARTNERSHIPS**

WCB continues to represent the voices of people with sight loss on the Cross Party Group on Disability (CPGD). WCB is responsible for minute taking for the group. WCB also continues to contribute to the work of the Cross Party Group on Vision (CPGV) and Wales Vision Strategy Implementation Group. WCB, RNIB Cymru and Guide Dogs organised and funded the launch of the refreshed Wales Vision Strategy in November. The event was well attended (over 70 people) by professionals and people with sight loss.

WCB is a member of the Wales Disability Reference Group along with Disability Wales, Learning Disability Wales, Mind Cymru and Wales Council for the Deaf. The group is looking to engage more effectively with its members.

WCB continues to collect and update information on the third sector national, regional, local and specialist organisations across Wales to be listed on the Eyecare Wales website and, where permission has been granted, contact details provided.

**Wales Council of the Blind****Company Limited by Guarantee****Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*****Year ended 31 March 2019**

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WCB can fulfil its umbrella function by acting as an 'agency' between the client and the club for the purpose of confidentiality, because many clubs and societies are run by individuals from home addresses.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

With the ending of the financial year, the Board of trustees are delighted to report a healthy year end financial position even though a loss of £17,945 (2018 gain £29,853). This is due to the continuation of Welsh Government funding and the continued efforts of staff.

WCB's reserves policy is fully met and we have sufficient funds to plan for the future. Unrestricted reserves at the year end were £291,225 (2018: £309,170) with free reserves of £74,036 (2018: £98,990)

Next year will be the final year of our Welsh Government funding. We will meet with members to discuss how they could continue to work in partnership with WCB as part of the next tranche of Welsh Government's Sustainable Social Services Third Sector Grant Scheme. If successful, this will provide WCB with an additional 3 years funding, as well as continue to provide grant funding to our members so that we can continue to work together to represent the voices of people with sight loss across Wales.

**Investment Policy**

Under Articles of Association the charity has the power to make any investment which the trustees see fit. The present policy is to keep an amount that represents short term operating requirements in liquid deposits (bank deposit accounts) and place the balance in the hands of a professional investment broker, to invest in a wide range of fixed interest and equity funds. During the period 2015/16 the charity invested £200,000 with Quilter Cheviot as part of a Discretionary Managed Portfolio at a lower to medium tolerance of risk. WCB's investment objective is to grow the capital of the portfolio, as well as generating some degree of income. At the year end WCB's managed portfolio was valued at £216,763. This was a net gain of £5,178 on the previous year. This will continue to be invested.

**Risk Assessment**

The major risks to which the Charity is exposed, as indicated by the Trustees, have been assessed in accordance with SORP 2005 as recommended by the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales. All risks achieving a risk factor of medium or high using the suggested numerical assessment procedures have been reviewed and systems introduced to monitor changes in these risks.

**Wales Council of the Blind**

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*Year ended 31 March 2019

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**Reserves Policy**

The Trustees have considered carefully the purpose of any reserves Wales Council of the Blind has or might have in the future. The stated aim of the reserves policy is to allow for unforeseeable events. This could be anything from replacing essential office equipment, to the sudden loss of funding. The amount should be sufficient to pay for staff redundancies and outstanding liabilities.

Reserves should be maintained at a level of 6 months operating costs of the core organisation. In addition, we may need to recognise any longer term grant / project commitments and to settle the finances accordingly. Reserves should exclude funding that has been restricted for other specified use.

Reserves should be invested in a safe, low risk environment that maintains the capital invested and where possible provides a level of return on those funds.

This policy is reviewed annually by Trustees, or more frequently as necessary.

**Wales Council of the Blind**

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*Year ended 31 March 2019

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**PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

WCB has received a 1-year extension to Welsh Government's Sustainable Social Services Third Sector Grant with no guarantee of continuation funding from 2020. WCB recognises this risk and will explore other grant opportunities.

**'State of the Nation' report on third sector services for blind and partially sighted people in Wales**

Wales Council of the Blind (WCB) has been awarded one year funding from Thomas Pocklington Trust (TPT) to produce a 'State of the Nation' report on third sector services for blind and partially sighted people in Wales. As a sector, we have worked on a number of 'State of the Nation' reports and we sought members' views on producing one on third sector services. The report will provide the sector with a stronger basis, through evidence of need, to seek sustainable funding for new and improved services.

We will work with our members to comprehensively map services and identify the gaps, quality standards and evaluation methods that are being applied. We will ask members which services they provide from a list of service descriptors provided by Visionary, as well as map support and services that would benefit people with sight loss, provided by organisations unrelated to sight loss.

Importantly, we will assess the appetite for collaboration within the sight loss sector. Additionally, we shall look at collaboration across the sensory loss and the wider disability sector. This is in line with a move by local authorities towards sensory loss and pan-disability contracting. These conversations will involve local, regional, Wales-wide and UK-wide organisations including Visionary and TPT.

The final report will be used as a tool to provide evidence for funding bids for members to build their service provision. This report will be presented to the sector, Welsh Government, the seven Regional Partnership Boards and the 22 Local Authorities in Wales. We anticipate that this report, being service-user-centred, will go some way to influencing the choice and shape of new services and how the Third Sector is funded in Wales.

The project will provide evidence of need that we hope will be of direct benefit to our members when applying for funding locally, regionally, or in partnership nationally.

**Wales Council of the Blind****Company Limited by Guarantee****Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*****Year ended 31 March 2019**

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**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT****Governing Document**

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee and as such is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association. The company was incorporated on 31 January 1991 under the Companies Act 1985 and registered as a charity on 18 April 1995.

**Recruitment and Appointment of the Management Committee**

The directors of the company also serve as trustees of the charity and under the company's Articles are known as members of the Management Committee. Trustees are appointed annually at the Annual General Meeting. Casual vacancies are filled by the Management Committee and ratified at the next Annual General Meeting.

Each member of the Management Committee has agreed to guarantee the company's debts for the amount of £1 each.

All new Trustees are given induction training via the issuing of our organisational policy and procedures book and WCB offers to arrange for Trustees to have the opportunity to attend Trustee training provided by Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) should they wish. Trustees are able to contact the Council's secretary if they wish to have specific advice or guidance on any policies or procedures. WCB provides Trustees with indemnity insurance to the value of £500,000.

**The staff and volunteers**

Owen Williams is the Director at Wales Council of the Blind. He provides senior management to WCB and helps plan and deliver strategic direction to the sector.

Richard Bowers is our Campaigning and Communications Officer and he manages WCB's communications and has developed and updates 'Perspectif', our online information portal.

Our Engagement Officer, Rebecca Phillips, facilitates and organises the Regional Steering Groups, as well as enables the voice of people with sight loss to be heard.

Rebecca Phillips and Richard Bowers marked 25 years of service and we would like to thank them for all of their hard work and dedication over the years.

WCB has a dedicated team of volunteers who we would like to thank, providing invaluable support to the organisation around information gathering, keeping our database up-to-date and updating our Twitter feed, collating the material for Roundup, providing help with fundraising, answering the telephone and providing advice. Thank you, Ann, Dewi, Alan and Valmai for your continued support. We would also like to thank Bethan Smale our bookkeeper for all of her hard work.



## Wales Council of the Blind

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*Year ended 31 March 2019

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**Small company provisions**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

Trustee



Name

J. POWERS

**Wales Council of the Blind**

Company Limited by Guarantee

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Wales Council of the Blind**Year ended 31 March 2019

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I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Wales Council of the Blind (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2019.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity 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 company'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**

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the 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.

*Causton*  
Farzana Ahmed ACCA  
Independent Examiner

1st Floor, Tudor House  
16 Cathedral Road  
Cardiff  
CF11 9LJ

Dated: 19/12/2019

**Wales Council of the Blind**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**(including income and expenditure account)**  
**Year ended 31 March 2019**

		2019	2019	2019	2018
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
<b>Income and endowments</b>					
Donations and legacies	5	22,023	136,139	158,162	203,317
Charitable activities	6	4,000	–	4,000	4,000
Investment income	7	4,721	–	4,721	4,761
<b>Total income</b>		<u>30,744</u>	<u>136,139</u>	<u>166,883</u>	<u>212,078</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Expenditure on raising funds:					
Costs of other trading activities	8	1,108	–	1,108	1,224
Investment management costs	9	3,731	–	3,731	3,612
Expenditure on charitable activities	10,11	50,028	136,139	186,167	174,623
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>54,867</u>	<u>136,139</u>	<u>191,006</u>	<u>179,459</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	13	6,178	–	6,178	(2,766)
<b>Net (expenditure)/income and net movement in funds</b>		<u>(17,945)</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>(17,945)</u>	<u>29,853</u>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		309,170	–	309,170	279,317
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<u>291,225</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>291,225</u>	<u>309,170</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 28 to 40 form part of these financial statements.

**Wales Council of the Blind**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**31 March 2019**

	Note	2019		2018	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible fixed assets	19		426		585
Investments	20		216,763		209,595
			<u>217,189</u>		<u>210,180</u>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	21	14,416		13,386	
Cash at bank and in hand		68,044		101,332	
		<u>82,460</u>		<u>114,718</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	22	8,424		15,728	
<b>Net current assets</b>			74,036		98,990
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>291,225</u>		<u>309,170</u>
<b>Net assets</b>			<u>291,225</u>		<u>309,170</u>
<b>Funds of the charity</b>					
Unrestricted funds			291,225		309,170
<b>Total charity funds</b>	24		<u>291,225</u>		<u>309,170</u>

For the year ending 31 March 2019 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

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

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

The statement of financial position  
continues on the following page.

The notes on pages 28 to 40 form part of these financial statements.

Wales Council of the Blind  
Company Limited by Guarantee  
Statement of Financial Position (continued)

31 March 2019

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These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 13/12/2019, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

 ..... Signed J. BOWERS

Trustee

 ..... Signed B. MAWBY

Trustee

Company registration number: 02578918

**Wales Council of the Blind**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**Year ended 31 March 2019**

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**1. General information**

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales and a registered charity in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Hastings House, Fitzalan Place, Unit 2.2, Cardiff, CF24 0BL.

**2. Statement of compliance**

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

**3. Accounting policies**

**Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investments measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

**Going concern**

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

**Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty**

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

**Wales Council of the Blind****Company Limited by Guarantee****Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)****Year ended 31 March 2019**

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**3. Accounting policies (continued)****Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the purposes of the charity. Unrestricted funds include a revaluation reserve representing the restatement of investment assets at market values.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for specific purposes.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor.

**Incoming resources**

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

**Wales Council of the Blind**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements** *(continued)*  
**Year ended 31 March 2019**

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**3. Accounting policies** *(continued)*

**Resources expended**

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

**Tangible assets**

All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost. Fixed assets are not capitalised where the cost is below £100.

**Depreciation**

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Office equipment                      -    25% reducing balance

**Investments**

Unlisted equity investments are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently measured at fair value. If fair value cannot be reliably measured, assets are measured at cost less impairment.

Listed investments are measured at fair value with changes in fair value being recognised in income or expenditure.



**Wales Council of the Blind**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements** *(continued)*  
**Year ended 31 March 2019**

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**3. Accounting policies** *(continued)*

**Debtors and creditors receivable/ payable within one year**

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

**Financial instruments**

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted. Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Where investments in shares or preference shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

**Defined contribution plans**

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

**4. Limited by guarantee**

Each member of the Board of Trustees has undertaken to guarantee the Council's debts to the sum of £1 each.

**Wales Council of the Blind**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**  
**Year ended 31 March 2019**

**5. Donations and legacies**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2019 £
<b>Donations</b>			
Donations and bequests	2,744	–	2,744
Fundraising	7,428	–	7,428
<b>Grants</b>			
Welsh Government	–	136,139	136,139
Local Authority grants	4,518	–	4,518
Other grants	712	–	712
<b>Subscriptions</b>			
Membership subscriptions	1,150	–	1,150
<b>Other donations and legacies</b>			
Other income	5,471	–	5,471
	<u>22,023</u>	<u>136,139</u>	<u>158,162</u>
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2018 £
<b>Donations</b>			
Donations and bequests	44,110	–	44,110
Fundraising	7,816	–	7,816
<b>Grants</b>			
Welsh Government	–	143,305	143,305
Local Authority grants	4,832	–	4,832
Other grants	712	–	712
<b>Subscriptions</b>			
Membership subscriptions	453	–	453
<b>Other donations and legacies</b>			
Other income	2,089	–	2,089
	<u>60,012</u>	<u>143,305</u>	<u>203,317</u>

## Wales Council of the Blind

## Company Limited by Guarantee

## Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended 31 March 2019

## 6. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2019 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2018 £
Promoting Welfare	<u>4,000</u>	<u>4,000</u>	<u>4,000</u>	<u>4,000</u>

## 7. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2019 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2018 £
Income from listed investments	<u>4,721</u>	<u>4,721</u>	<u>4,761</u>	<u>4,761</u>

## 8. Costs of other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2019 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2018 £
Fundraising costs	<u>1,108</u>	<u>1,108</u>	<u>1,224</u>	<u>1,224</u>

## 9. Investment management costs

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2019 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2018 £
Portfolio management	<u>3,731</u>	<u>3,731</u>	<u>3,612</u>	<u>3,612</u>

**Wales Council of the Blind**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2019

**10. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2019 £
Promoting Welfare	28,366	136,139	164,506
Support costs	21,662	–	21,661
	<u>50,028</u>	<u>136,139</u>	<u>186,167</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2018 £
Promoting Welfare	10,799	143,305	154,104
Support costs	20,519	–	20,519
	<u>31,318</u>	<u>143,305</u>	<u>174,623</u>

**11. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type**

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total funds 2019 £	Total fund 2018 £
Promoting Welfare	164,506	17,796	182,302	170,750
Governance costs	–	3,865	3,865	3,873
	<u>164,506</u>	<u>21,661</u>	<u>186,167</u>	<u>174,623</u>

**12. Analysis of support costs**

	Analysis of support costs		
	activity 1 £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Staff costs	12,331	12,331	12,096
General office	5,465	5,465	4,550
Governance costs	3,865	3,865	3,873
	<u>21,661</u>	<u>21,661</u>	<u>20,519</u>

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**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**

**Year ended 31 March 2019**

**13. Net gains/(losses) on investments**

	Unrestrict ed Funds £	Total Funds 2019 £	Unrestrict ed Funds £	Total Funds 2018 £
Gains/(losses) on listed investments	6,178	<u>6,178</u>	(2,766)	<u>(2,766)</u>

**14. Net (expenditure)/income**

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

	2019 £	2018 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>159</u>	<u>572</u>

**15. Independent examination fees**

	2019 £	2018 £
Fees payable to the independent examiner for: Independent examination of the financial statements	<u>2,400</u>	<u>2,400</u>

**16. Staff costs**

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2019 £	2018 £
Wages and salaries	91,873	89,605
Social security costs	6,153	6,025
Employer contributions to pension plans	3,130	3,124
	<u>101,156</u>	<u>98,754</u>

The average head count of employees during the year was 3 (2018: 3). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2019 No.	2018 No.
Project staff	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2018: Nil).

**Wales Council of the Blind**  
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**Notes to the Financial Statements** *(continued)*  
**Year ended 31 March 2019**

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**16. Staff costs (continued)****Key Management Personnel**

Key management personnel include all persons that have authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the charity. The total compensation paid to key management personnel for services provided to the charity was £34,759 (2018: £34,103).

**17. Trustee remuneration and expenses**

No remuneration or other benefits from employment with the charity or a related entity were received by the trustees.

All trustees are entitled to claim reimbursement of the cost of attending meetings, one trustee was reimbursed £236 (2018: £400) for travelling costs to attend meetings.

**18. Transfers between funds**

There were no fund transfers during the year (2018: Nil).

**19. Tangible fixed assets**

	Equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>		
At 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019	24,289	24,289
<b>Depreciation</b>		
At 1 April 2018	23,704	23,704
Charge for the year	159	159
At 31 March 2019	23,863	23,863
<b>Carrying amount</b>		
At 31 March 2019	426	426
At 31 March 2018	585	585

**Wales Council of the Blind**  
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**Year ended 31 March 2019**

**20. Investments**

	Cash or cash equivalent s £	Listed investment s £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>			
At 1 April 2018	12,494	197,101	209,595
Additions	30,451	28,466	58,917
Disposals	(32,197)	(25,296)	(57,493)
Fair value movements	—	5,744	5,744
<b>At 31 March 2019</b>	<u>10,748</u>	<u>206,015</u>	<u>216,763</u>
<b>Impairment</b>			
At 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019			—
<b>Carrying amount</b>			
At 31 March 2019	<u>10,748</u>	<u>206,015</u>	<u>216,763</u>
At 31 March 2018	<u>12,494</u>	<u>197,101</u>	<u>209,595</u>

All investments shown above are held at valuation.

**Listed investments**

The aggregate market value of listed investments is £206,015 (2018: £197,101) and the stock exchange value is £206,015 (2018: £197,101).

**Financial assets held at fair value**

Investments are stated at fair value at the balance sheet date, listed investments are stated at the stock exchange values at the year end. Other investments are valued based on investment performance.

The historical cost of investments at the year end date is £196,179 (2018: £193,009).

**21. Debtors**

	2019 £	2018 £
Trade debtors	9,712	7,807
Prepayments and accrued income	4,584	5,459
Other debtors	120	120
	<u>14,416</u>	<u>13,386</u>

## Wales Council of the Blind

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## Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended 31 March 2019

## 22. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2019	2018
	£	£
Trade creditors	3,639	11,094
Accruals and deferred income	2,400	2,280
Social security and other taxes	2,358	2,327
Other creditors	27	27
	<u>8,424</u>	<u>15,728</u>

## 23. Pensions and other post retirement benefits

## Defined contribution plans

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £3,130 (2018: £3,124).

## 24. Analysis of charitable funds

## Unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2018	Income	Expenditure	Gains and losses	At 31 March 2019
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	<u>309,170</u>	<u>30,744</u>	<u>(54,867)</u>	<u>6,178</u>	<u>291,225</u>

  

	At 1 April 2017	Income	Expenditure	Gains and losses	At 31 March 2018
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	<u>279,317</u>	<u>68,773</u>	<u>(36,154)</u>	<u>(2,766)</u>	<u>309,170</u>



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**Year ended 31 March 2019**

**24. Analysis of charitable funds** *(continued)***Restricted funds**

	At 1 April 2018	Income	Expenditure	Gains and losses	At 31 March 2019
	£	£	£	£	£
Welsh Government	—	136,139	(136,139)	—	—

  

	At 1 April 2017	Income	Expenditure	Gains and losses	At 31 March 2018
	£	£	£	£	£
Welsh Government	—	143,305	(143,305)	—	—

The Welsh Government grant was received in respect of funding for the Sustainable Social Services Third Sector 2016-19 project.

**25. Analysis of net assets between funds**

	Unrestricte d Funds	Total Funds 2019
	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	426	426
Investments	216,763	216,763
Current assets	82,460	82,460
Creditors less than 1 year	(8,424)	(8,424)
<b>Net assets</b>	<u>291,225</u>	<u>291,225</u>

  

	Unrestricte d Funds	Total Funds 2018
	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	585	585
Investments	209,595	209,595
Current assets	114,718	114,718
Creditors less than 1 year	(15,728)	(15,728)
<b>Net assets</b>	<u>309,170</u>	<u>309,170</u>

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**Year ended 31 March 2019**

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**26. Related parties**

The charity was under the control of the trustees throughout the current and previous year.

No transactions with related parties were undertaken such as are required to be disclosed under FRS 102.