

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 2578918
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1045841

**Wales Council of the Blind
Company Limited by Guarantee
Unaudited Financial Statements
31 March 2020**

CARSTON
Chartered accountants
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Cardiff
CF11 9LJ

**Wales Council of the Blind
Company Limited by Guarantee
Financial Statements
Year ended 31 March 2020**

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

Year ended 31 March 2020

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 2020.

Chair's report

This is my second year as Chair of Wales Council of the Blind and I see first-hand the value of our work. We sustain our member organisations, people with sight loss and professionals who serve them, with vital information and networking opportunities, as well as provide an interface between a large, diverse third sector and policy makers in Wales. We fulfil a unique impartial role and ensure that the views of blind and partially sighted people are presented without bias.

An example of our work is the pivotal role WCB played in supporting children with sensory loss and their families in Newport when the Council tried to cut the vital SenCom service. WCB galvanised support from across the sight loss sector, as well as in the National Assembly for Wales against the proposed cut and the Council decision was reversed. The testimonials from grateful parents were a heart-warming indicator of the value of WCB as an umbrella organisation supporting people with sight loss in in Wales.

This year's accounts will report on the final 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.

WCB is widely recognised as the independent sight loss charity in Wales and has received funding from Welsh Government for the past 30 years. Therefore, when we received news in December that our funding application to the Sustainable Social Services Third Sector grant scheme was not successful, it understandably came as a great shock. I am aware that the withdrawing of funding has caused concern to our members and partners who see us as a critical organisation within the sight loss sector in Wales.

We have received letters of support from across the sight loss sector, acknowledging the vital role that WCB plays; we are most grateful for your support. We believe that Welsh Government's decision to withdraw core funding from key disability organisations, such as Wales Council of the Blind, is flawed and lacks any consideration about sustainability. The letters of support reinforce our view and we will engage in discussions with Welsh Government to explore sustainable funding that does not put us in in competition for funding with our members.

In March all staff moved to home working due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The pandemic had the immediate effect of reducing our income to almost zero due to funding sources changing their priorities. We were expecting two large funding streams that have been put on hold during the crisis. This has placed the organisation in a position of considerable vulnerability.

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However, since April 2020 we have obtained financial support to carry us through the period affected by Coronavirus. This has bought us time to look at possible avenues of funding.

Consequently, we have not been required to furlough our staff. This has been a great advantage since each of them plays a vital role in informing the sector and bringing it together, particularly at this unprecedented time. If needed, we will begin to draw down funding from our investment portfolio.

We all recognise that we are at a critical stage in our existence as a charity. However, I would like to reassure you that WCB will continue to carry out our work supporting the sight loss sector in Wales and that we will do all we can to secure sustainable funding for our future.

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, particularly in these challenging times.

Janice Powers
Chairperson

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Year ended 31 March 2020

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

Mr P Curtis
Mr B Mawby
Mrs M Wright
Ms J Powers
Ms J Thomas
Mr B J Hobart
Ms C Draper (Appointed 25 April 2019)
Ms R Stiff (Appointed 25 April 2019)

Company secretary Mr O J Williams

Independent examiner Farzana Ahmed FCCA
1st Floor, Tudor House
16 Cathedral Road
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OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

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

Outbreak of Coronavirus

March saw the introduction of a UK-wide lockdown and we closed our offices. We did not furloughed our staff because each one of the three plays a vital role in informing the sector and bringing it together, particularly at this critical time.

WCB produced an information resource for those with sight loss during the Coronavirus pandemic who do not have access to information online. It is difficult for many people to get food, medicines, medical and social care, or to cope with social isolation at this time. The services listed within individual local authority packs offer various kinds of support to help in these areas.

We identified at least one source of help that is community-based and the opticians in each Local Health Board that were offering emergency support, as well as useful information about prescriptions. This information was sent out in audio CD and large print and we worked with local societies to offer this resource to their members, as well as patients of LVSU.

In addition to this, WCB's online resource provided advice for those who are in contact with someone with sight loss who is self-isolating and may require assistance with tasks such as shopping or prescription deliveries. This resource contains contact details of organisations that can provide advice, information or support in each area. Updates were sent out through weekly Sylw e-bulletins.

WCB convened weekly meetings of the Wales Vision Forum, where members were able to provide updates on the support and services they were providing.

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During the Coronavirus pandemic we sent Sylw out weekly. This ensured that our members, professionals who support people with sight loss, and blind and partially sighted people themselves receive regular updates on support and services available, as well as the latest information, guidance and advice throughout these unprecedented times.

WCB will continue to provide this critical role thanks to funding received from the Third Sector Resilience Fund for Wales, managed by WCVA on behalf of the Welsh Government.

Welsh Government, Sustainable Social Services Third Sector Grant scheme

This is the final rollover year of three year funding. Unfortunately, our application to the Sustainable Social Services Third Sector grant scheme 1,997 was not successful. Wales Council of the Blind received grant funding for 2019-20 of £136,139. A quarter of this grant was provided to members as part of our continued partnership agreements.

THE ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE PAST YEAR IN WCB'S WALES-WIDE WORK PLAN

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.

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).

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Year ended 31 March 2020

WCB's Sylw distributed as a monthly print/audio bulletin;

Sylw is also produced in Welsh language. This monthly edition continues to be 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. This enables us to promote new services in a timely manner and, importantly, Sylw is now the main channel of communication between some of these organisations and their members.

Support provided by WCB to local sight loss charities.

Ceredigion Association for the Blind

WCB has provided advice around updating their Articles of Association and appointment of new members to their Executive Board. We have also provided advice on committee matters and continue to support elected officers. Following a request from their members, Ceredigion Association for the Blind are exploring the idea of setting up an IT peer support group.

Radnorshire Association for the Blind

Our Engagement Officer continues to sit on RAB's Executive Committee to offer advice and support when required. All printing of meeting papers is produced by WCB.

Visual Impairment Breconshire

WCB continues to provide secretariat support. WCB's Engagement Officer attends 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. In addition to their current services, Visual Impairment Breconshire is looking to provide social trips for its members.

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

Visual Impairment West Glamorgan (VIWG0)

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.

Sight Life (formerly CIB) - WCB promoted Sight Life's consultation on changing the name of their organisation. The results were also published and shared with subscribers.

UCAN Productions - providing advice on changing their legal status to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) or registered charity.

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WCB continues to provide website support and assist with the updating of information, as well provide advice in relation to Governance. Owen Williams, WCB, was elected as Chair in May to support the charity through change.

WCB wrote a funding application, on behalf of WAVIB, to the Disability Sports Development Trust. The application was successful and the £1,500 awarded will be used to encourage more people with sight loss to take up the game in Wales. WCB also supported the UK Home Para Bowls Championships in Cardiff.

WCB, working with the WAVIB committee, wrote and submitted an application to the National Lottery Awards for All Wales funding scheme. The funding bid was successful (£10,000) and will see the development of a new bowls league. After each match players will receive talks on support and services within the community, as well as having an opportunity to offer peer support. WAVIB has also received an additional £12,500 through legacy funding managed by WCB.

'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.

The project, which started in October, will work with WCB's members to comprehensively map services and identify the gaps, quality standards and evaluation methods that are being applied. We will also ask members which services they provide from a list of service descriptors provided by Visionary. We will also map support and services that would benefit people with sight loss, provided by organisations unrelated to sight loss. We will assess the appetite for collaboration within the sight loss sector. Additionally, it shall look at collaboration across the sensory loss and the wider disability sector. This is 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.

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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.

In order to prepare the ground Perspectif has been updated following a request to all service providers. This provides a baseline of known support and services for people with sight loss in Wales and shall inform our questionnaires that we shall be sending out.

An edition of Roundup was sent out to over 3,000 individuals and organisations giving an overview of the nature of third sector organisations, along with an explanation of this project and an opportunity to contact us for further information. This edition also contained a directory of third sector providers from the Perspectif portal.

Engagement with service users had been planned for two events: Sight Village, Cardiff and North Wales Vision Alliance, Llandudno. Unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus pandemic the Cardiff event was cancelled, and the North Wales event is in doubt. This would have connected us with hundreds of service users in the North and South of Wales. This project is also suspended at this time. We hope to pick this work back up in September 2020.

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 continued 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 has enabled 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, as well as report the activities of our regional groups.

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Working with regional partnership boards

In 2019, WCB's regional groups identified a lack of representation on the citizen panels of the Regional Partnership Boards and recognised that the boards need to be better informed about the needs of people with sensory impairment. A discussion, led by a representative of the West Wales Regional Partnership Board, revealed that service users were keen to have sensory loss properly represented.

People with sensory loss must be properly represented as citizens with specific needs on the Citizens' Panels in the Regional Partnership Boards in Wales. There are problems that require solutions both within the services provided in the purview of the RPBs and Public Services Boards and within the Citizens' Panels themselves. Access to the services also requires access to the discussions that shape them.

WCB wrote a proposal for a project to ensure that people with sensory loss are fully engaged with, and are empowered to influence, the work of the Regional Partnership Board. We had gained support from Welsh Government but unfortunately the project proposal could not progress due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Influence policy

Through WCB's regional group, vision impaired people contributed to discussions around the Low Vision Service in Wales. Comments from the group will help to improve how people are signposted and access the service. Through WCB's fortnightly bulletin and quarterly newsletter, people are encouraged to respond to consultations and surveys to help improve services.

Agreement between ophthalmologists and optometrists in the certification of vision impairment

WCB, asked by LVSW Clinical Lead, convened a patient focus group to discuss the pros and cons of Low Vision Service Wales practitioners issuing Certificates of Visual Impairment. The patient voice was invaluable and supported fully the choice to have CVIs issued by high street low vision practitioners. We are delighted to report that the CVI paper has now been published.

Eye Health Care Delivery Plan Outcomes

At the all-Wales Eye Care Steering Group in May there was a discussion around what exactly the health boards need to be reporting under action point 10 (that has a focus on rehabilitation and habilitation) in order to successfully report on the action point. We have met with Welsh Government to take this forward and the Wales Vision Forum have reported to Welsh Government on the following outcomes:

- People are satisfied with the care they receive from social services
- People with sight impairment receive care and support that addresses all their needs - both physical and emotional.

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Year ended 31 March 2020

- People with sight impairment are offered specialist training that enables them to live independently and get out and about.

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

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.wcb-ccd.org.uk/wales_vision_forum.php.

Welsh Government need to action recommendations with Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-based (SMART) targets.

Next steps

Wales Vision Forum and Welsh Government Social Care team to take forward the above outcomes through consideration of the "State of the Nation Report" developed by Wales Vision Forum. WCB met with the Chief Optometric Advisor and colleagues from Welsh Government to explore funding for WCB to lead on this work. WCB will write a funding proposal that includes the continued close working relationship with the Welsh Rehabilitation Officers Forum (WROF). Unfortunately, the outbreak of Coronavirus has delayed discussions on this important work.

Rehabilitation campaign

As a sector, we continue to promote the state of the nation report on rehabilitation. In August, we wrote to Albert Heaney, Director of Social Services and Integration, to request a meeting to discuss the recommendations detailed within the reports. We will continue to promote the work of the ROVI and look to raise awareness of this role.

There is an apprenticeship levy currently in place in Wales but ROVIs currently are not eligible to apply. We will campaign for the inclusion of this essential provision as this could be an opportunity to support training of additional ROVIs. In partnership with Guide Dogs Cymru and WROF, we have written to David Good, Welsh Government, to request a meeting.

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Earlier in the year, working together as a sector, we developed and delivered a media 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. The campaign featured blind and partially sighted people and the impact this service has had on their lives.

The BBC Wales article is at:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-48498503>

Wales Vision Forum meets quarterly and continues to report on preventative services and how people with sight loss access them. We continue to raise concerns, as and when they arise.

Sensory and Communication Support for Children (SenCom) 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). 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 understood that this was to give sufficient time to consult meaningfully with service users and their families and that the offer of financial support from WLGA would enable proper consultation this time, so that children and their families could make a meaningful contribution to the design of a specialist service that best meets their needs.

However, we are concerned that lessons have not been learnt from the consultation carried out by Newport previously and that many families remain unaware of this current review. Accessibility and language remain a concern.

Personal Independent Payment (PIP) assessments

As reported previously, we have been in 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.

Wales Council of the Blind fed into a BBC report on the incorrect use of Snellen or LogMAR charts in PIP assessments. For people with sight loss (who constitute 0.8% of all PIP clients), PIP assessors have been known to use the Snellen or LogMAR Chart - the eye chart for assessing sharpness of vision - to conduct a sight test.

Employment opportunities

Access to Work provides crucial support to disabled people to ensure they retain employment and reduce need on social care. In 2016 Wales Council of the Blind and RNIB Cymru with partner organisations conducted a survey into employees' experiences and impressions of the Access to Work scheme in Wales, particularly in

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the light of changes to the way it is structured and run. The survey revealed deficiencies throughout five key aspects of the service and these prompted a set of recommendations. The five areas were: contact with clients; provision of information; advisor skills and knowledge; assessments; and payments, reviews and personalised budgets.

Three years on ... WCB repeated the survey to see if the problems persist or have been ameliorated or solved, and has published a report on its findings. The review covers the same areas as the original report and essentially considers people's responses in comparison to three years ago. WCB published, **'How Accessible is Access to Work for people with sight loss in Wales? 3 years on,** in July.

Wales Disability Reference Group.

The Wales Disability Reference Groups (comprising of Disability Wales, WCB, WCD and Learning Disability Wales) continues to fund the work of the Cross Party Group on Disability. WCB continues to represent the voices of people with sight loss on the Cross Party Group on Disability (CPGD). WCB provides secretariat for the group. In February, Owen Williams presented WCB's report **'How Accessible is Access to Work for people with sight loss in Wales? 3 years on, and Third Sector funding.**

In March, the WDRG and partners provided a joint response to the Coronavirus outbreak across Wales. The letter to Welsh Government raised concerns about the impact on disabled people living with pre-existing medical conditions.

WDRG members sat on the National Independent Living Steering Group for the refresh of the Action on Disability: The Right to Independent Living. This group has now merged with the Disability Equality Forum on which WCB and other WDRG members sit.

Consultation response to changes to disabled students' allowances

Wales Council of the Blind consulted with our members and third sector partners. The response submitted to Welsh Government included contributions and support from Disabled people; Sense Cymru; Thomas Pocklington Trust; Visionary; Senior Specialist Teacher - Visual Impairment/Multi-Sensory; and RNIB Cymru.

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.

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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.

A Perspectif Supplement on Third Sector Support was produced and, most recently, a Perspectif special edition on Community Support during Covid19. This was found to be of great help to service users and professionals who work with them. One Rehabilitation Officer reported: *"Just wanted to say how impressed I am with this at present; it is even more a helpful resource than usual. Thank you."*

Following on from a mapping exercise our database has been overhauled to reflect the current picture of services to people with sight loss. Packs were issued to each of the 22 authorities and to each of the 7 LHBs.

The Perspectif supplements, sent out with Roundup, have gone to over 600 professionals and over 2,750 blind and partially sighted people.

This year, Roundup its news elements, being better disseminated through Sylw, from longer articles. It covered the following topics:

- Sight loss and other conditions: a look at ways in which sight conditions may arise from, or are complicated by, other conditions.
- The cost of sight loss: how economics impacts blind and partially sighted people.
- The many shapes of Third Sector organisations: an overview of the types of organisations in the charity and social enterprise sectors.
- Staying safe through the Coronavirus pandemic: an early look at the anticipated effects of 'lockdown' measures on disabled people.

During Sensory Loss Month in November, WCB staff and trustees, in partnership with ROVs from across Hywel Dda University Health Board, gave 3 talks focusing on patient experience and referral pathways into social care.

WCB attended an exhibition in Welshpool (in partnership with NWSB) that was attended by over 70 people with sight loss. People were informed of support and services within their community. Owen Williams, spoke at the Nystagmus Network conference in Cardiff (September). He spoke about the work of the third sector, social care and health service in Wales, as well as about sight loss. 200 people attended the conference. At the event, WCB signposted people to support and services through Sylw, Perspectif and members' leaflets.

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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. Sylw continues to be 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. Sylw is circulated monthly in paper and audio format to 1,375 blind and partially sighted through our membership whilst the fortnightly (now weekly) e-bulleting reaches over 600 people electronically and is also forwarded to colleagues by our members.

Distribution of the recent Perspectif special on Covid19 community support to Practitioners and their patients is to be discussed at the next Low Vision Advisory Group.

WCB has 1,685 followers on twitter.

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 supported the Welsh Rehabilitation Officers Forum (WROF) to do the following:

Fund group membership of the Rehabilitation Workers Professional Network (RWPN) to 34 ROVs working in Wales.

Membership offers Continued Professional Development (CPD), as well as 1-to-1 support (professional advice) and training opportunities (through WROF in partnership). 3 members from Wales have been chosen to have their work evaluated. Members will also have access to special interest groups (on-line), newsletter and information, as well as discounted training across the UK.

In January 2018, a voluntary register was established by RWPN. Talks remain ongoing in relation to the register becoming mandatory and how this could be funded and overseen.

Currently all 22 local authorities employ a qualified Rehabilitation Officer as set out in Social Care Wales training framework. We believe that mandatory CPD is needed to keep the workforce's skills up to date to meet the needs of blind and partially sighted people and to ensure all workers are fit to practice. The use of a register is only meaningful if it is taken up and we would prefer that it became mandatory in Wales.

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Provide grant funding for training events and annual conference

Welsh Rehabilitation Officers Forum held three training / networking events across Wales with Eye Care Liaison Officers (ECLOs) and Managing Better case workers. All three sessions were well supported with around 90 front line professionals in attendance.

The theme for the annual conference was transitioning from education into adult social care services, UCAN Productions were commissioned to provide a performance.

Social Care Professionals continue to attend WCB's Regional Groups of people with sight loss. A regional group has been established in Bridgend and Swansea and WCB attends and presents updates to both groups. The regional group of professionals in West Wales remains well attended and is looking at how to gain a voice to influence the work of the West Wales Regional Partnership Board.

Support WROF to directly influence policy

WCB chairs the Wales Vision Forum Social Care Task and Finish Group, which focuses on the role of the ROVI. This group led on producing a State of the Nation report - Services for Adults (Rehabilitation) for people with sight loss in Wales. We have met with WLGA and Welsh Government to find the best approach to influencing change and to ensuring that our recommendations are considered. This grant has enabled WROF to contribute fully.

The Wales Vision Forum submitted a consultation response to Rapid Engagement on Draft Guidance Consequent to the Coronavirus Act 2020. As a sector we drew attention to the need for timely access to rehabilitation services. We are aware that some Rehabilitation Officers of Visually Impaired people (ROVIs) are already being redeployed away from rehabilitation duties in response to front-line pressures.

The Wales Vision Forum State of the Nation report - services for adults with sight loss in Wales, identified that there already exists a substantial backlog of people with sight loss in Wales waiting for vision rehabilitation assessment and support; upwards of 12 months in some areas.

Waiting times for new assessments are likely to increase dramatically due to the coronavirus pandemic. This has the potential to disadvantage people with preventative service needs, such as vision rehabilitation, if they are not seen as an equal priority to those with assessed care and support needs. This is particularly the case within wider adult care services that were already under-resourced before the pandemic struck. Blind and partially sighted people are more likely to live alone and are heavily reliant on people from outside the household for support. Many people living with sight loss rely on the services provided by Local Authorities to maintain their personal wellbeing and independence.

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Assistance and/or equipment to help with daily tasks such as meal preparation, maintaining personal hygiene, dressing appropriately and toileting enable blind and partially sighted people to live safely.

Any delays to accessing these vital services will have significant implications for people with sight loss, who will be left increasingly isolated and at greater risk of unnecessary harm and declining mental health.

We support fully the role of the ROVI and recognise the critical role that they play in helping people regain independence, confidence and live fulfilled lives. WCB sits on the Vision UK Early Intervention and Enablement Group to ensure that a Welsh voice is heard in UK strategic planning.

WCB will work with WROF and the Wales Vision Forum to campaign for additional ROVIs and raise awareness of their role - to combat against concerns linked to workforce planning. In this regard, WCB submitted a bid under the Sustainable Social Services grant scheme (2020-23) that would have funded the Welsh Rehabilitation Officer Forum (WROF) for a ROVI to work on promoting the role of the profession, to work on promoting an all-Wales standard for a set of outcome measures, explore future working relationships around joint training opportunities to ensure continued professional standards, as well as address workforce planning to include adding the role of the ROVI within the Quality Framework Standards so that individuals can apply for an apprenticeship levy. Unfortunately, our bid was not successful. It is critical that this work continues. WCB has had positive discussions with Welsh Government and the Chief Optometric Advisor (COA) on how we could receive funding to continue this work but discussions were put on hold due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

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.

A by-product of the Thomas Pocklington-funded project will be a new evaluation toolkit of services. Unfortunately, Covid-19 has put this project on hold.

WCB has received evidence that many people are not receiving the patient leaflet as part of the CVI process. Furthermore WCB, who hosts the patient leaflet email service, has received no emails requesting support.

In addition to this, members of WROF and Low Vision Service Wales Advisory Group have reported inconsistencies around the CVI process. This includes receiving CVI (England) form and not the CVI (Wales) form, as well as incomplete forms. We believe that there is a pathway issue and that an all-Wales CVI pathway should be

Wales Council of the Blind

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2020

created to ensure that patients are signposted in a timely manner to the most appropriate support. For example, LVSW receives less than half of the CVI forms completed, despite being listed as an organisation to be referred to (with permission).

WCB raised the above concerns at the last National Eye Care Steering Group and it was agreed that the LVSW advisory Group, chaired by Owen Williams (WCB), should lead on drafting a report to be considered. Part of this work will be to gather evidence from across Wales. WCB shall work with ECLOs and third sector partners to achieve this. A member has also received evidence of someone being refused a CVI in Welsh. We have referred this enquiry to Welsh Government. This work shall begin next year.

There will also be a CVI group established through the Joint Committee to look at scoping, developing and delivering certification by Low Vision Accredited practitioners. This work will be carried forward by the Low Vision Group, chaired by WCB.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

With the ending of the financial year, the Board of trustees report a year end financial position of a loss of £38,648 (2019 £17,945). The Welsh Government funding has continued through the year.

WCB's reserves policy is fully met and we have sufficient funds to plan for the future. Unrestricted reserves at the year end were £252,577 (2019: £291,225) with free reserves of £44,002 (2019: £98,990).

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 £205,155. This was a net loss of £11,608 on the previous year. This will continue to be invested. The loss is directly linked to the coronavirus outbreak.

Wales Council of the Blind

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2020

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.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

In January, WCB attended the TSPC planning meeting and raised concerns on how the third sector is funded in Wales. There has been a change in the way Welsh Government funds the third sector. Third sector 'umbrella' organisations in Wales were supported in their core roles for many years under the Welsh Government Section 64 grant scheme. This was crucial funding for those in receipt of it because it enabled an aspect of these organisations' work that was very difficult to fund from other sources. We provide our members with vital information and networking opportunities, as well as provide a collective strategic voice.

In 2016, Welsh Government introduced the Sustainable Social Services Third Sector grant scheme that called for project proposals. The move away from core funding model to project funding has created a deeper problem for the umbrella organisations in Wales, as it is not appropriate to reinvent the organisation to meet the project-funding scheme.

There is an immediate threat to the sustainability of such organisations and that is why we are calling for a return to the core-funding model that secures a strategic coordination of the sector and that the voices of disabled people are heard. Core funding could sit alongside project funding as an additional funding resource.

We all recognise that we are at a critical stage in our existence as a charity. However, since April 2020 we have obtained financial support to carry us through the period affected by Coronavirus. This has bought us time to look at possible avenues of funding.

Wales Council of the Blind

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2020

Structure, governance and management *(continued)*

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 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.

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 2020

Structure, governance and management *(continued)*

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 on11.12.2020..... and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

Trustee



Name

BRIAN MAWBY

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 2020

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 2020.

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.



Farzana Ahmed FCCA
Independent Examiner
1st Floor, Tudor House
16 Cathedral Road
Cardiff
CF11 9LJ

Dated 15/6/2020

Wales Council of the Blind
Company Limited by Guarantee
Statement of Financial Activities
(including income and expenditure account)
Year ended 31 March 2020

		2020			2019
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies	5	23,576	157,652	181,228	158,162
Charitable activities	6	540	–	540	4,000
Investment income	7	4,821	–	4,821	4,721
Total income		<u>28,937</u>	<u>157,652</u>	<u>186,589</u>	<u>166,883</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on raising funds:					
Costs of other trading activities	8	1,266	–	1,266	1,108
Investment management costs	9	3,775	–	3,775	3,731
Expenditure on charitable activities	10,11	52,990	154,552	207,542	186,167
Total expenditure		<u>58,031</u>	<u>154,552</u>	<u>212,583</u>	<u>191,006</u>
Net (losses)/gains on investments	13	(12,655)	–	(12,655)	6,178
Net expenditure and net movement in funds		<u>(41,749)</u>	<u>3,100</u>	<u>(38,649)</u>	<u>(17,945)</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		291,225	–	291,225	309,170
Total funds carried forward		<u>249,476</u>	<u>3,100</u>	<u>252,576</u>	<u>291,225</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 25 to 37 form part of these financial statements.

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

31 March 2020

	Note	2020		2019	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	19		320		426
Investments	20		<u>205,154</u>		<u>216,763</u>
			205,474		217,189
Current assets					
Debtors	21	21,096		14,416	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>32,094</u>		<u>68,044</u>	
		53,190		82,460	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	22	<u>6,088</u>		<u>8,424</u>	
Net current assets			<u>47,102</u>		<u>74,036</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>252,576</u>		<u>291,225</u>
Net assets			<u>252,576</u>		<u>291,225</u>
Funds of the charity					
Restricted funds			3,100		—
Unrestricted funds			<u>249,476</u>		<u>291,225</u>
Total charity funds	24		<u>252,576</u>		<u>291,225</u>

For the year ending 31 March 2020 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 25 to 37 form part of these financial statements.

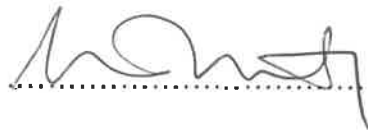
Wales Council of the Blind
Company Limited by Guarantee
Statement of Financial Position *(continued)*
31 March 2020

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 11/12/2020, and are signed on behalf of the board by:



.....Signed

Trustee **J.D. POWERS**



..... Signed

Trustee **BRIAN MANBY**

Company registration number:
02578918

The notes on pages 25 to 37 form part of these financial statements.

Wales Council of the Blind
Company Limited by Guarantee
Notes to the Financial Statements
Year ended 31 March 2020

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 investment properties 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 2020

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 2020****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 2020

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 2020

5. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £
Donations			
Donations and bequests	1,779	–	1,779
Fundraising	8,229	–	8,229
Grants			
Welsh Government	–	136,139	136,139
Local Authority grants	3,018	–	3,018
Other grants	700	10,000	10,700
Thomas Pocklington Trust	–	11,513	11,513
Subscriptions			
Membership subscriptions	1,150	–	1,150
Other donations and legacies			
Other income	8,700	–	8,700
	<u>23,576</u>	<u>157,652</u>	<u>181,228</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2019 £
Donations			
Donations and bequests	2,744	–	2,744
Fundraising	7,428	–	7,428
Grants			
Welsh Government	–	136,139	136,139
Local Authority grants	4,518	–	4,518
Other grants	712	–	712
Thomas Pocklington Trust	–	–	–
Subscriptions			
Membership subscriptions	1,150	–	1,150
Other donations and legacies			
Other income	5,471	–	5,471
	<u>22,023</u>	<u>136,139</u>	<u>158,162</u>

Wales Council of the Blind

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2020

6. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2019 £
Promoting Welfare	540	<u>540</u>	4,000	<u>4,000</u>

7. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2019 £
Income from listed investments	4,821	<u>4,821</u>	4,721	<u>4,721</u>

8. Costs of other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2019 £
Fundraising costs	1,266	<u>1,266</u>	1,108	<u>1,108</u>

9. Investment management costs

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2019 £
Portfolio management	3,775	<u>3,775</u>	3,731	<u>3,731</u>

Wales Council of the Blind
Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2020

10. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestrict ed Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2020
	£	£	£
Promoting Welfare	30,560	154,552	185,112
Support costs	22,430	–	22,430
	<u>52,990</u>	<u>154,552</u>	<u>207,542</u>

	Unrestrict ed 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>

11. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly	Support costs	Total funds 2020	Total fund 2019
	£	£	£	£
Promoting Welfare	185,112	18,479	203,591	182,302
Governance costs	–	3,951	3,951	3,865
	<u>185,112</u>	<u>22,430</u>	<u>207,542</u>	<u>186,167</u>

12. Analysis of support costs

	Analysis of support costs		
	Promoting Welfare	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£
Staff costs	13,253	13,253	12,331
General office	5,226	5,226	5,465
Governance costs	3,951	3,951	3,865
	<u>22,430</u>	<u>22,430</u>	<u>21,662</u>

Wales Council of the Blind
Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2020

13. Net (losses)/gains on investments

	Unrestrict ed Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Unrestrict ed Funds £	Total Funds 2019 £
Gains/(losses) on listed investments	(12,655)	(12,655)	6,178	6,178

14. Net expenditure

Net expenditure is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2020 £	2019 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	106	159

15. Independent examination fees

	2020 £	2019 £
Fees payable to the independent examiner for: Independent examination of the financial statements	2,520	2,400

16. Staff costs

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

	2020 £	2019 £
Wages and salaries	96,942	91,873
Social security costs	6,806	6,153
Employer contributions to pension plans	3,130	3,130
	106,878	101,156

The average head count of employees during the year was 3 (2019: 3). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2020 No.	2019 No.
Project staff	3	3

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2019: Nil).

Wales Council of the Blind
Company Limited by Guarantee
Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*
Year ended 31 March 2020

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 £37,558 (2019: £34,759).

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 £280 (2019: £236) for travelling costs to attend meetings.

18. Transfers between funds

Transfer of £12,500 between general funds and designated funds during the year based upon the discretion of the board of trustees (2019: Nil).

19. Tangible fixed assets

	Equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020	<u>24,289</u>	<u>24,289</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2019	23,863	23,863
Charge for the year	106	106
At 31 March 2020	<u>23,969</u>	<u>23,969</u>
Carrying amount		
At 31 March 2020	<u>320</u>	<u>320</u>
At 31 March 2019	<u>426</u>	<u>426</u>

Wales Council of the Blind

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2020

20. Investments

	Cash or cash equivalents £	Listed investments £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 April 2019	10,748	206,015	216,763
Additions	47,209	45,092	92,301
Disposals	(48,867)	(38,639)	(87,506)
Fair value movements	–	(16,404)	(16,404)
At 31 March 2020	<u>9,090</u>	<u>196,064</u>	<u>205,154</u>
Impairment			
At 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020			–
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2020	<u>9,090</u>	<u>196,064</u>	<u>205,154</u>
At 31 March 2019	<u>10,748</u>	<u>206,015</u>	<u>216,763</u>

All investments shown above are held at valuation.

Listed investments

The aggregate market value of listed investments is £196,064 (2019: £206,015) and the stock exchange value is £196,064 (2019: £206,015).

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 £202,978 (2019 : £196,179).

21. Debtors

	2020 £	2019 £
Trade debtors	17,570	9,712
Prepayments and accrued income	3,406	4,584
Other debtors	120	120
	<u>21,096</u>	<u>14,416</u>

Wales Council of the Blind

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2020

22. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2020	2019
	£	£
Trade creditors	1,012	3,639
Accruals and deferred income	2,520	2,400
Social security and other taxes	2,529	2,358
Other creditors	27	27
	<u>6,088</u>	<u>8,424</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 (2019: £3,130).

24. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 Apr 201 9	Income £	Expenditu re £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	At 31 Mar 2 020 £
General funds	291,225	28,937	(58,031)	(12,500)	(12,655)	236,976
Designated Fund	—	—	—	12,500	—	12,500
	<u>291,225</u>	<u>28,937</u>	<u>(58,031)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>(12,655)</u>	<u>249,476</u>
	<u>At 1 Apr 201 8</u>	<u>Income £</u>	<u>Expenditu re £</u>	<u>Transfers £</u>	<u>Gains and losses £</u>	<u>At 31 Mar 20 19 £</u>
General funds	309,170	30,744	(54,867)	—	6,178	291,225
Designated Fund	—	—	—	—	—	—
	<u>309,170</u>	<u>30,744</u>	<u>(54,867)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>6,178</u>	<u>291,225</u>

Wales Council of the Blind

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2020

24. Analysis of charitable funds *(continued)*

Restricted funds

	At 1 Apr 201 9	Income £	Expenditu re £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	At 31 Mar 2 020 £
Welsh Government Pontypridd Talking Newspaper Thomas Pocklington Trust	—	136,139	(136,139)	—	—	—
	—	10,000	(6,900)	—	—	3,100
	—	11,513	(11,513)	—	—	—
	—	<u>157,652</u>	<u>(154,552)</u>	—	—	<u>3,100</u>
	At 1 Apr 201 8	Income £	Expenditu re £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	At 31 Mar 20 19 £
Welsh Government Pontypridd Talking Newspaper Thomas Pocklington Trust	—	136,139	(136,139)	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	<u>136,139</u>	<u>(136,139)</u>	—	—	—

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

The Pontypridd Talking Newspaper grant was received in respect of providing support to local residents in RCT via a talking newspaper. Wales Council of the Blind are responsible for controlling the funds and monitoring this service provided.

Thomas Pocklington Trust grant was received towards producing a State of the Nation report on third sector services for blind and partially sighted people.

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Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2020

25. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestrict ed Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2020
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	320	–	320
Investments	205,154	–	205,154
Current assets	50,090	3,100	53,190
Creditors less than 1 year	(6,088)	–	(6,088)
Net assets	<u>249,476</u>	<u>3,100</u>	<u>252,576</u>
	Unrestrict ed Funds	Restricted 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)
Net assets	<u>291,225</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>291,225</u>

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.

27. Post Balance Sheet Events

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the Coronavirus COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic, due to its rapid spread throughout the world, having affected more than 150 countries. The consequences derived from COVID-19 are considered a subsequent event that does not require an adjustment in the annual accounts for the year 2020. As of the date of preparation of these annual accounts, the charity is not expected to be significantly affected by the consequences derived from COVID-19.