

**COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 02578918**  
**CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1045841**

**Wales Council of the Blind**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**Unaudited Financial Statements**  
**31 March 2022**

**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 2022**

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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 2022

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 2022.

#### CHAIR'S REPORT

The pandemic continued to impact on the way in which third sector organisations provide support and services to people with sight loss. Most of our members did not return to face-to-face activities during the year and WCB continued to hold all our meetings on-line. In fact, our staff and volunteers continued to work from home except for producing mail-outs, in accordance with Covid restrictions.

This year brought a very different challenge to WCB as Covid funding streams were no longer available to us.

Over the past two years, we have met with Welsh Government to explore funding streams aligned to our core function. In this regard, we were delighted to receive news that WCB had been awarded an indicative grant for 2022-23 and the following two years 2023-24 and 2024-25 of up to £105,000 per annum. This provides WCB with a stable financial platform in which to plan for the next three years.

This year's work was centered on three areas: information services, network support, and service improvement. Some key areas of work include:

- **Information services:** Discussions have taken place with Low Vision Service Wales (LVSU) to develop functionality for accredited low vision optometrists to signpost patients to third sector support using WCB's **Perspectif** online portal. This project shall form part of our 2022-23 workplan and has been approved by WECS Joint Committee. This is a great opportunity for WCB to promote the work of all our members across Wales.
- **Network support:** WCB chairs and provides secretariat for the Wales Vision Forum. This forum proved an invaluable resource during the pandemic and enabled us directly address concerns raised by people with sight loss.
- **Service improvement:** A report on the scarcity of Rehabilitation Officers for the Visually Impaired (ROVIs) was sent to Welsh Government highlighting recommendations, including the option of a course to be delivered in Wales and the possibility of this being part of the apprenticeship scheme. This critical work will continue next year.

**Wales Council of the Blind**

**Company Limited by Guarantee**

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

**Year ended 31 March 2022**

The trustees are grateful to staff and volunteers for continuing to adapt to the situation and maintaining a service throughout this difficult time. Each of them continued to provide core services to our activities, including helping local societies to support their members through Zoom and telephone meetings. Owen Williams, our director, had been on long-term sick leave following a retinal detachment in June. This had an impact on delivery of some workstreams and I would like to particularly thank Richard and Rebecca for all their hard work during this time. Owen returned full-time in December.

I would also like to thank my fellow trustees for their work and support during this time.

Janice Powers  
Chairperson

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

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

**Year ended 31 March 2022**

**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 3.1  
Cardiff  
CF24 0BL

**The trustees**

Mr Peter Curtis  
Mr Brian Mawby  
Mrs Miriam Wright  
Ms J Powers  
Ms J Thomas  
Mr B J Hobart  
Ms C Draper (Retired 28 February 2022)  
Dr R Stiff

**Company secretary** Owen J Williams

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

## **Wales Council of the Blind**

### **Company Limited by Guarantee**

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

**Year ended 31 March 2022**

### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

Wales Council of the Blind's charitable objects are "to promote the welfare of blind and partially sighted persons, and the prevention of blindness".

Wales Council of the Blind (WCB) 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 enables us to act as an impartial observer, 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 on 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.

Our work over the last year has focussed on three strategic priorities:

- 1) Information services
- 2) Network support
- 3) Service improvement

WCB upholds the following principles throughout our work:

- Beneficiaries first
- Integrity
- Openness
- Honesty
- Accountability
- Trust

## Wales Council of the Blind

### Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2022

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

### 1) Information Services

WCB provides information services to our members, professionals, and people with sight loss. In addition to informal support via telephone and email, WCB provides the following information services.

**Website** [www.wcb-ccd.org.uk](http://www.wcb-ccd.org.uk).

This is the focal point of our information provision and hosts, or provides access to, the following media:

**Sylw**: a weekly bulletin distributed via email and on the website. It is also produced in alternative formats monthly and distributed by post. Sylw continues to be extremely well received and its content is distributed further afield by other partners. Our e-bulletin has a readership of over 4,000 recipients whilst the monthly edition was delivered to 577 individuals with sight loss who would not have access via the web or email.

*'I enjoy reading the Sylw newsletter - I find it really informative and useful.'*

Sylw (e-bulletin) is made available through twitter, facebook, instagram and the RNIB Connect Cymru facebook group.

WCB also produces **Roundup**: a quarterly magazine that provides a space for a fuller exploration of themes from the perspective of sight loss. Sent via email, post and available online. We sent out 3 editions last year: '**Conversations that Matter**' focused on the impact of the pandemic; '**Jobense and Sight Village edition**' looked at employment and the range of access technologies available; our final edition was a '**Focus on Glaucoma**'.

Each edition of Roundup was circulated quarterly via email, social media, large print and audio to over 4,680.

**Perspectif**: a database of services and other resources has been overhauled this year. Discussions have taken place with Low Vision Service Wales (LVSU) to develop functionality for accredited low vision optometrists. This project shall form part of our 2022-23 workplan. It has been approved by WECS Joint Committee. We also held conversations with the School of Optometry's proposed NOUSE project and we are awaiting decisions on their funding.

## Wales Council of the Blind

### Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2022

**RESET:** this project, Lottery-funded until April 2021, had the sole purpose of informing service users of changes to retail, education, social care/health, employment and transport under Covid-19 restrictions. WCB continued this into the 2021/22 year to help people - who have limited access to online information – manage the changes arising from the lifting of restrictions. We continued to use the Wales Vision Forum to identify themes to explore, with 4 editions issued, as well as updates online and via Sylw. Now that subtle changes in regulations are the main issue we required a quicker vehicle of communication than the planned bulletins could deliver, so the RESET publications are abandoned in favour of updates channeled through the website, social media and monthly Sylw bulletins.

**Social Media:** we continue to use our Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts to promote the work of the sector. WCB has 1,886 twitter followers, 243 on instagram and 325 Facebook followers.

#### **Accessible media.**

WCB produces its materials, and that of member organisations, in accessible formats - notably large print and audio CDs. We produced newsletters for Visual Impairment Merthyr; Radnorshire Association for the Blind; Visual Impairment Breconshire; Ceredigion Association for the Blind; and the Macular Society (Cymru) – commenced January 2022.

## **2) Network Support**

Wales Council of the Blind has a responsibility to bring the sector together through various forums. Many of these are managed by WCB.

### **Wales Vision Forum**

WCB continued to and provide secretariat for the Wales Vision Forum. The purpose of the Forum is for national, local and specialist organisations representing people with sight loss to come together to share, discuss and outline work programmes and priorities to enhance joint working and reduce duplication to maximise our collective reach and impact.

The Forum is a platform for sharing information, sharing good practice and expertise, consulting and identifying opportunities to support service and campaign planning.

The group focussed on the work of relevant work-streams. Task and finish groups will be established for specific areas of work. A proposed group is Eye Care Collaboration Groups / Optometry reform.

## **Wales Council of the Blind**

### **Company Limited by Guarantee**

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

**Year ended 31 March 2022**

WCB was responsible for establishing weekly emergency meetings during the Covid pandemic, leading to an information resource to ensure that Welsh Government messages go out in an accessible form to people with sight loss. This then became a fortnightly meeting, alternating between broad themes and the work of the Eye Care Collaboration Groups (ECGs). This is now a monthly meeting.

The Rehabilitation Task and Finish Group continues to meet and contributed feedback on the rehabilitation report: addressing a workforce crisis in Wales. We will now focus on the apprenticeship scheme in Wales and have been asked by Welsh Government to prepare a Needs Analysis in this regard.

#### **Visionary**

Visionary is the UK umbrella organisation for local societies serving people with sight loss. WCB is the representative for Wales on Visionary's Members' Consultative Group (MCG). This is an opportunity to extend the reach of the voice of local societies into the UK agenda.

The Member's Consultative Group (MCG) met, initially, on a monthly basis then reduced to quarterly. WCB convenes a Wales division group to feed to and from the MCG meetings. Additionally, there are MCG meetings that include the National partners (such as Thomas Pocklington Trust, RNIB, Macular Society, Blind Veterans, Retina UK and Guide Dogs)

Owen Williams, WCB's CEO, continues as Chair of Visionary.

#### **WCB Membership**

To support our members during the pandemic, WCB did not collect membership during this year.

In addition to ordinary membership support our Engagement Officer sits on a number of local societies and provides a combination of secretarial support, newsletters, accessible media, and governance.

WCB has provided access to our telephone conference facility to Pembrokeshire Blind Society, Radnorshire Association for the Blind and Visual Impairment Merthyr to enable their board meetings and social groups to continue. We will also work with Carmarthenshire Area Blind Society to offer an alternative website.

We have produced and shared sample Covid-19 risk assessment forms with BridgeVis which has given them the assurance to safely reopen their face-to-face

## Wales Council of the Blind

### Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2022

monthly coffee mornings. We also continued to provide governance support and advice to local societies and had recently shared a sample constitution with BridgeVis to adapt and adopt. In addition, WCB exhibited at the Sight Village event in Cardiff, the first to be held in Wales, where we promoted the work of the local societies to over 300 visitors.

Our Engagement Officer supported Visual Impairment Breconshire and Ceredigion Association for the Blind by producing their quarterly newsletters as mentioned above.

Our Engagement Officer has attended 4 executive meetings of the Ceredigion Association for the Blind and 1 executive meeting of Radnorshire Association for the Blind.

WCB also gave advice to Sight Life regarding their options for the future of the organisation following the ending of the relationship with RNIB.

Radnorshire Association were considering folding and leaving their funds to WCB. Instead we offered to act as a Treasurer so they voted to continue as before. Since this time they have found a treasurer locally.

**Regional Forums.** These are where individuals with sight loss are able to share their views and, to some extent, direct WCB's agenda. Under the current Covid restrictions, these have met with some success via telephone. Given the geographical spread of the regions, WCB may continue to convene these meetings via telephone or as virtual meetings. We have valued the input of these groups into our organisational responses to consultations. They have been instrumental in influencing change. As an independent organisation we provide a crucial platform through which people are able to express themselves freely.

We used representatives of our regional forums to create and comment upon a PREMs framework for Low Vision Service Wales. The PREMs was piloted with patients in the Hywel Dda area from November onwards and will be rolled out across Wales next year. This group met 3 times.

**Look.** We worked with LOOK, a charity for children with sight loss. They shall be using our office in 2022 and shall be supporting us to build content for this newsletter.

## Wales Council of the Blind

### Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2022

**Networks.** Wales Council of the Blind ensures that the voice of people with sight loss in Wales is represented in various networks. We sit on a number of networks including:

- Wales Rehabilitation Officers Forum.
- Wales Disability Reference Group.
- Cross Party Groups on Vision (currently inactive)
- Cross Party Group on Disability.
- Disability Equality Framework.
- Low Vision Service Wales Advisory Group: our CEO, in his capacity as Chair of this group, sits on the Wales Eye Care Service Joint Committee.
- Welsh Government's Loneliness and Social Isolation Group.
- All-Wales Sensory Loss Information and Communication Group (inactive). Members have requested that this group be revived.
- Ophthalmic Planned Care Board.
- Hywel Dda Eye Care Collaboration Group.
- Locked Out report steering group.
- All-Wales Learning Disability Group.

#### Other support

We have written letters of support to help member organisations obtain funding.

### 3) Service Improvement

#### Wales-based Rehabilitation Degree

Rehabilitation Work [Visual Impairment] – FdSc (Foundation Degree) is only currently available in Birmingham. Given the changes in delivery of university courses due to Coronavirus measures, there is a strong case for strengthening the prevalence of trained rehabilitation officers in Wales through distance learning combined with placements in Welsh Local Authorities. WCB, WVF and WROF will continue to work together to explore a module-based approach to be delivered in Wales.

A report was sent to Welsh Government highlighting the options for the course and the possibility of this being part of the apprenticeship scheme. We met with Welsh Government and they requested we produce a training needs analysis. This work will be undertaken in 2022. This is a positive step to having a Wales-based rehabilitation degree.

## **Wales Council of the Blind**

### **Company Limited by Guarantee**

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

**Year ended 31 March 2022**

#### **Wales Rehabilitation Officers Forum (WROF)**

WCB continues to fund 30 ROVIs to receive Continued Professional Development training through membership of the Rehabilitation Workers Professional Network (30 hours per person, per year). Ideas for training were listed within the Rehabilitation report. This has largely been delivered online through RWPN website.

#### **Hidden Carers research**

This work is based on our concern that there are large numbers of people actively caring informally for people with sight loss and that they are unaware of any support structures available to them. We hope this research would provide evidence for the need to offer support to a specific group of informal carers. This research has been delayed due to COVID as many participants were unwilling to engage. However, key documents have been drafted by the researcher in preparation and ethical approval has been applied for. The research will be completed during 2022/23.

#### **Referral Pathways**

We will work with WVF, LVSW and the Welsh Government Communications Group to increase and improve referrals between health, social care, and the third sector.

An edition of RESET, giving a list of resources and Welsh Government guidance was sent to Sali Davis of Optometry Wales for distribution through her network and the sensory loss Communications Group.

An initial meeting had taken place with LVSW to explore the potential for an enhancement of their optometry-based referral pathway. This will develop links to rehab and the third sector. This will entail the production of information packs for optometrists from the perspective database. The LVSW signposting project has been agreed and will commence in 2022-23.

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

With the ending of the financial year, the board of trustees report a year-end financial position of a deficit of £22,284 compared to a surplus of £32,769 in 2021. Welsh Government funding has continued through the year.

WCB reserves policy is fully met and we have sufficient funds to plan for the future.

Unrestricted reserves at year-end were £263,061 (2021: £285,345) with free reserves of £27,551 (2021: £57,329).

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

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

**Year ended 31 March 2022**

### **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 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 £235,330. This was a net gain of £7,122 on the previous year. This will continue to be invested.

### **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.

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

### **PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

WCB has been awarded an indicative grant for 2022-23 and the following two years 2023-24 and 2024-25 of up to **£105,000** per annum. We will also discuss restarting the Thomas Pocklington Trust project now that covid restrictions have ended.

WCB is a partner in a Wales-wide project bid led by the Royal Society for Blind Children. The project will provide specialist personal development support that focuses on establishing social connections, empowering families and young people to take control of their lives, link into their communities and equipping local providers with the knowledge, confidence and skills to include children and young people with

## **Wales Council of the Blind**

### **Company Limited by Guarantee**

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

**Year ended 31 March 2022**

sight loss in their existing provision. If successful, WCB will receive £7,000 over the next two-years to promote the project and house an officer.

WCB will explore funding to ensure that all aspects of our work can continue indefinitely.

### **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.

**Wales Council of the Blind**

**Company Limited by Guarantee**

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

**Year ended 31 March 2022**

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

**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 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022. and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

Trustee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Mawby', written over a light blue rectangular background.

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 2022**

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 2022.

**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.

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.

*Carston*

Farzana Ahmed ACCA  
Independent Examiner  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Tudor House  
16 Cathedral Road  
Cardiff  
CF11 9LJ

Dated: 16 December 2022

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

**Year ended 31 March 2022**

		<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>Note</b>	Unrestrict ed funds £	Restricted funds £
		<b>Total funds £</b>	<b>Total funds £</b>
<b>Income and endowments</b>			
Donations and legacies	<b>5</b>	10,641	105,000
Investment income	<b>6</b>	4,425	–
<b>Total income</b>		<u>15,066</u>	<u>105,000</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Expenditure on raising funds:			
Costs of other trading activities	<b>7</b>	1,428	–
Investment management costs	<b>8</b>	3,993	–
Expenditure on charitable activities	<b>9,10</b>	39,051	105,000
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>44,472</u>	<u>105,000</u>
Net gains on investments	<b>12</b>	7,122	–
<b>Net (expenditure)/income and net movement in funds</b>		<u>(22,284)</u>	<u>–</u>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>			
Total funds brought forward		285,345	–
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<u>263,061</u>	<u>–</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 18 to 29 form part of these financial statements.**

**Wales Council of the Blind**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**31 March 2022**

	Note	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible fixed assets	18		180		240
Investments	19		<u>235,330</u>		<u>227,776</u>
			<b>235,510</b>		<b>228,016</b>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	20	4,433		29,690	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>29,160</u>		<u>54,514</u>	
		<b>33,593</b>		<b>84,204</b>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	21	<u>6,042</u>		<u>26,875</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>27,551</u>		<u>57,329</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>263,061</u>		<u>285,345</u>
<b>Net assets</b>			<u>263,061</u>		<u>285,345</u>
<b>Funds of the charity</b>					
Unrestricted funds			<u>263,061</u>		<u>285,345</u>
<b>Total charity funds</b>	23		<u>263,061</u>		<u>285,345</u>

For the year ending 31 March 2022 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 18 to 29 form part of these financial statements.**

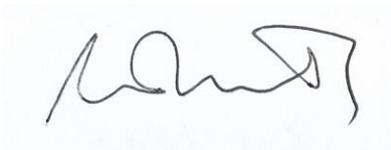
**Wales Council of the Blind**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**Statement of Financial Position** *(continued)*  
**31 March 2022**

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022, and are signed on behalf of the board by:



.....Signed

Trustee: Janice Powers



..... Signed

Trustee: Brian Mawby

Company registration number: 02578918

**The notes on pages 18 to 29 form part of these financial statements.**

**Wales Council of the Blind**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**Year ended 31 March 2022**

**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 3.1, 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**

After making reasonable enquiries and having considered the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and other factors on the financial performance of the charity and its current performance, the Trustee's believe that the charity will be able to continue to fulfil its charitable purpose, will be able to meet its liabilities as they fall due, and will have adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in in preparing the financial statements

**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 2022

### 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 2022

### 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 2022****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 2022

#### 5. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
<b>Donations</b>			
Donations and bequests	4,315	–	4,315
Fundraising	–	–	–
<b>Grants</b>			
Welsh Government	–	105,000	105,000
Local Authority grants	1,437	–	1,437
Wales Council for Voluntary Action	700	–	700
National Lottery Community Fund	–	–	–
<b>Other donations and legacies</b>			
Other income	4,189	–	4,189
	<u>10,641</u>	<u>105,000</u>	<u>115,641</u>
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
<b>Donations</b>			
Donations and bequests	3,500	–	3,500
Fundraising	4,507	–	4,507
<b>Grants</b>			
Welsh Government	30,000	–	30,000
Local Authority grants	3,018	–	3,018
Wales Council for Voluntary Action	56,250	–	56,250
National Lottery Community Fund	49,750	–	49,750
<b>Other donations and legacies</b>			
Other income	9,528	–	9,528
	<u>156,553</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>156,553</u>

## Wales Council of the Blind

### Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2022

#### 6. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	<b>Total Funds 2022 £</b>	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Income from listed investments	4,425	<b>4,425</b>	4,254	4,254

#### 7. Costs of other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	<b>Total Funds 2022 £</b>	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Fundraising costs	1,428	<b>1,428</b>	1,007	1,007

#### 8. Investment management costs

	Unrestricted Funds £	<b>Total Funds 2022 £</b>	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Portfolio management	3,993	<b>3,993</b>	3,719	3,719

#### 9. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	<b>Total Funds 2022 £</b>
Promoting Welfare	19,812	105,000	<b>124,813</b>
Support costs	19,239	–	<b>19,238</b>
	<u>39,051</u>	<u>105,000</u>	<b><u>144,051</u></b>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Promoting Welfare	123,194	3,100	126,294
Support costs	19,105	–	19,105
	<u>142,299</u>	<u>3,100</u>	<b><u>145,399</u></b>

## Wales Council of the Blind

### Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2022

#### 10. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	<b>Total funds 2022 £</b>	Total fund 2021 £
Promoting Welfare	124,813	16,067	<b>140,880</b>	142,049
Governance costs	–	3,171	<b>3,171</b>	3,350
	<u>124,813</u>	<u>19,238</u>	<u><b>144,051</b></u>	<u>145,399</u>

#### 11. Analysis of support costs

	Analysis of support costs		
	activity 1 £	<b>Total 2022 £</b>	Total 2021 £
Staff costs	12,816	<b>12,816</b>	12,430
General office	3,251	<b>3,251</b>	3,325
Governance costs	3,171	<b>3,171</b>	3,350
	<u>19,238</u>	<u><b>19,238</b></u>	<u>19,105</u>

#### 12. Net gains on investments

	Unrestricte d Funds £	<b>Total Funds 2022 £</b>	Unrestricte d Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Gains/(losses) on listed investments	<u>7,122</u>	<u><b>7,122</b></u>	<u>22,087</u>	<u>22,087</u>

#### 13. Net (expenditure)/income

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

	<b>2022 £</b>	2021 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u><b>60</b></u>	<u>80</u>

## Wales Council of the Blind

### Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2022

#### 14. Independent examination fees

	2022	2021
	£	£
Fees payable to the independent examiner for:		
Independent examination of the financial statements	<u>2,640</u>	<u>2,520</u>

#### 15. Staff costs

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

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	103,912	99,608
Social security costs	6,679	6,109
Employer contributions to pension plans	3,190	3,103
	<u>113,781</u>	<u>108,820</u>

The average head count of employees during the year was 3 (2021: 3). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2022	2021
	No.	No.
Project staff	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2021: Nil).

#### 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 £39,812 (2021:£38,547).

#### 16. 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, no trustees were reimbursed during the year (2021: £nil) for travelling costs to attend meetings.

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

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

**Year ended 31 March 2022**

**17. Transfers between funds**

No transfers between general funds and designated funds took place during the year.

**18. Tangible fixed assets**

	Equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>		
<b>At 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022</b>	24,289	<b>24,289</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>		
At 1 April 2021	24,049	<b>24,049</b>
Charge for the year	60	<b>60</b>
<b>At 31 March 2022</b>	24,109	<b>24,109</b>
<b>Carrying amount</b>		
<b>At 31 March 2022</b>	180	<b>180</b>
At 31 March 2021	240	240

**19. Investments**

	Cash or cash equivalent s £	Listed investment s £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>			
At 1 April 2021	9,740	218,036	<b>227,776</b>
Additions	42,065	40,535	<b>82,600</b>
Disposals	(44,528)	(36,285)	<b>(80,813)</b>
Fair value movements	–	5,767	<b>5,767</b>
<b>At 31 March 2022</b>	7,277	228,053	<b>235,330</b>
<b>Impairment</b>			
<b>At 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022</b>			<b>–</b>
<b>Carrying amount</b>			
<b>At 31 March 2022</b>	7,277	228,053	<b>235,330</b>
At 31 March 2021	9,740	218,036	227,776

All investments shown above are held at valuation.

## Wales Council of the Blind

### Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2022

#### 19. Investments *(continued)*

##### Listed investments

The aggregate market value of listed investments is £228,053 (2021: £218,036) and the stock exchange value is £228,053 (2021: £218,036).

##### 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 £215,588 (2021 : £206,783).

#### 20. Debtors

	<b>2022</b>	2021
	£	£
Trade debtors	<b>1,574</b>	11,593
Prepayments and accrued income	<b>2,859</b>	17,977
Other debtors	–	120
	<u><b>4,433</b></u>	<u>29,690</u>

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

	<b>2022</b>	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	–	78
Accruals and deferred income	<b>2,640</b>	5,459
Social security and other taxes	<b>3,402</b>	2,588
Other creditors	–	18,750
	<u><b>6,042</b></u>	<u>26,875</u>

#### 22. 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 £3,190 (2021: £3,103).

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

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

**Year ended 31 March 2022**

**23. Analysis of charitable funds**

**Unrestricted funds**

	At 1 April 2021	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains and losses £	At 31 March 2022 £
General funds	272,845	15,066	(44,472)	7,122	<b>250,561</b>
Designated Fund	12,500	-	-	-	<b>12,500</b>
	<u>285,345</u>	<u>15,066</u>	<u>(44,472)</u>	<u>7,122</u>	<u>263,061</u>

	At 1 April 2020	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains and losses £	At 31 March 2021 £
General funds	236,976	160,807	(147,025)	22,087	272,845
Designated Fund	12,500	-	-	-	12,500
	<u>249,476</u>	<u>160,807</u>	<u>(147,025)</u>	<u>22,087</u>	<u>285,345</u>

**Restricted funds**

	At 1 April 2021	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains and losses £	At 31 March 2022 £
Welsh Government	-	105,000	(105,000)	-	-

	At 1 April 2020	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains and losses £	At 31 March 2021 £
Pontypridd Talking Newspaper	3,100	-	(3,100)	-	-

The Welsh Government grant was received in respect of funding for delivery information services, network support and service improvement for the sight loss sector in Wales.

## Wales Council of the Blind

### Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2022

#### 24. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds
	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	180	180
Investments	235,330	235,330
Current assets	33,593	33,593
Creditors less than 1 year	(6,042)	(6,042)
<b>Net assets</b>	<u>263,061</u>	<u>263,061</u>
	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds
	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	240	240
Investments	227,776	227,776
Current assets	84,204	84,204
Creditors less than 1 year	(26,875)	(26,875)
<b>Net assets</b>	<u>285,345</u>	<u>285,345</u>

#### 25. 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.