

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025
FOR
CROYDON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**

**CROYDON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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**CROYDON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
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**LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity Name

Croydon Voluntary Association for the Blind

Other Working Name

Croydon Vision

Registered Charity number

1165086

Principal Charity Office

Bedford Hall
72-74 Wellesley Road
Croydon
Surrey
CR0 2AR

The Trustees serving during the year and to the date of this report were as follows: -

Trustees

Nigel Gooding CBE	- Chair	
Richard Wragg	- Vice Chair	Resigned 11 th October 2024
Josef Khan	- Treasurer	Appointed 18 December 2024
Frances Cullen	- Trustee	
Kieren Exley	- Trustee	
Jamie Henderson	- Trustee	
Dhruvin Patel	- Trustee	
Swarna Pillai	- Trustee	

Chief Executive

Susanette Mansour	Until 31 December 2024
Nicola Newman	From 1 January 2025

Senior Team

Abiodun Obileye	- Transport and Facilities Manager (until 30 September 2024)
Anca Sahin	- Project Manager (until 31 March 2025)
Colin Aldridge	- Transport and Facilities Manager (from 9 December 2024)

Independent Examiner

Mark Blackwell ACMA
For and behalf of M H R Consultancy Limited
Chartered Management Accountants
Ferneberga House
Alexandra Road
Farnborough
GU14 6DQ

Principal Bankers

Natwest Bank
Croydon Whitgift Centre Branch
40 Whitgift Centre
Croydon
Surrey
CR0 1UQ

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

**CROYDON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

The Trustees present their annual report together with the unaudited financial statements of Croydon Voluntary Association for the Blind for the year ended 31 March 2025. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the accounts on pages 19 and 20 and comply with the Charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing document

Croydon Vision is a charitable incorporated organisation constituted on 8th January 2016 and registered with the Charity Commission on that date. However, the organisation itself has been supporting the blind and visually impaired community for over 100 years. In July 1923, a few visionaries decided to branch out of The Croydon Guild Social Services because it offered limited social activities for people with sight loss. The name of their new organisation was Croydon Voluntary Association for the Blind. Its aim was to promote the welfare of the blind people in Croydon.

The formation of the CIO was set up because of the merger with Bedford Hall, to become one entity. The governance of the charity was restructured and converted from an unincorporated trust to a CIO. On 1st May 2017, all the activities and undertakings of Croydon Vision (registered charity number 200482) were merged with the new Charity. Croydon Vision (registered charity number 200482) was removed from the register of charities on 16th November 2017.

Recruitment and appointment of new Trustees

The Charity's constitution states that the number of Trustees shall not be less than three and not more than eight plus the Chair (9). At least two of the Trustees should, if possible, be members who are visually impaired with skills set that complement the Board. During the year Josef Khan was recruited as Treasurer and Peter Osei-Bonsu as General Trustee. There is a desire to recruit sight loss individuals to the Board with the right set of skills and drive to help our work in transforming lives.

At every annual general meeting of the members of the CIO, one-third of the Charity's Trustees shall retire from office. If the number of Charity Trustees is not three or a multiple of three, then the number nearest to one-third shall retire from office, but if there is only one Charity Trustee, he or she shall retire. The Charity Trustees to retire by rotation shall be those who have been longest in office since their last appointment or reappointment. If any Trustees were last appointed or reappointed on the same day those to retire shall (unless they otherwise agree among themselves) be determined by lot.

The Charity Trustees may at any time decide to appoint a new Charity Trustee, whether in place of a Charity Trustee who has retired or been removed, or as an additional Charity Trustee, provided that the limit on the number of Charity Trustees would not as a result be exceeded. Trustees who retire by rotation are eligible for reappointment. A Charity Trustee who has served for two consecutive terms may not be reappointed for a third consecutive term but may be reappointed after an interval of one year.

Induction and training of new Trustees

The Charity attracts new trustees from a range of sources including central government, medical, legal and business industry. Trustees are involved in various appropriate training to further strengthen their role. A Register of Interests for Trustees, Staff and Volunteers is in place and updated annually. Each Trustee has a champion role, to drive positive change and sustainability of the Charity long term.

Each Trustee undertakes an induction process, consisting of the following: meet and greet the team and understand our culture, Trustee welcome pack which contains policies, procedures and H&S processes. In addition, Trustees are provided a copy of the CIO's constitution and any amendments made to it and a copy of the CIO's latest Trustees' annual report and financial statements. This is to ensure that Trustees carry out their responsibilities effectively; guided by advice provided from the Charity Commission.

Board members are encouraged to spend half a day at the Charity to further understand the operational aspect of the organisation. Furthermore, an annual event calendar is shared with Trustees with encouragement to attend events. At each board meeting, financial and operational information is supplied together with suitable explanations, including front line presentation at Board meetings. Board members are expected to be aware of the various Charity Commission publications that can be obtained to assist them with their duties as Trustees.

Organisation

The Board of Trustees administers the Charity and generally meets every 12 weeks. A People's Committee and Finance Committee are also setup to assist the work of the Board, and various task and finish groups are formed as necessary.

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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

At the end of December 2024, we said farewell to Susanette Mansour, our Chief Executive, who concluded her tenure with Croydon Vision. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Susanette for her dedicated service and the transformational change she led during her time with us. Her leadership has left a lasting legacy, strengthened our organisation and deepened our impact in the community.

On 1 January 2025, we were delighted to welcome Nicola Newman as our new Chief Executive. Nicola is a lifelong Croydon resident and brings with her over 19 years of experience in the voluntary sector. Her deep-rooted commitment to community development and inclusive leadership makes her a valuable addition to Croydon Vision. We are excited about the future under Nicola's guidance and look forward to building on the strong foundations laid in recent years.

Leadership

Leadership and decision making of the Charity is delegated to the Chief Executive by the Board of Trustees. The Chief Executive works closely with management, staff and volunteers to fulfil the Charity's objectives and ensure the smooth and effective running of the organisation. The Chief Executive reports to the Chair and to the Board of Trustees.

The CEO and management team comprise the key management personnel of the Charity in charge of leading or managing the running and operating the Charity on a day-to-day basis.

All Trustees give of their time freely and no trustee received remuneration in the year. One of our Trustees (Frances Cullen) leads an activity at Croydon Vision and charges the organisation at a substantially reduced rate. Details of Trustees' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed on pages 22 and 23 in Notes 9 and 13 of the accounts.

Croydon Vision has fully embraced generational diversity whereby feedback and appraisals are tailored to individual needs rather than just an annual process. The pay structure of staff focuses on staff KPIs (key Performance Indicator), based on a collaborative performance rather than simply focused on individual performance. In view of the nature of the Charity, it is the Trustees' responsibility to benchmark against pay levels within the voluntary sector across London as well as the public sector; with some consideration of National Joint Council for Local Government Services pay scales.

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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

Volunteers

Our volunteering programme offers valuable opportunities for individuals to develop transferable skills, build confidence, and realise their potential as active, engaged citizens. In 2024–25, we generated £112,442 in social value, a 33% increase from £83,922 in the previous year. This growth was fuelled by renewed volunteer enthusiasm, inspired in part by the recognition of the King's Award for voluntary services and by the expansion of meaningful roles across the charity. These roles included Drivers, Braille Support, IT and Digital Transformation, Advocacy, Cultural Tour Guides, support at the Moorfields Clinic, Eye Health Advice and Podcast Editing.

The growth in activities increased recognition of volunteer contributions; the introduction of leadership roles such as Croydon Vision Ambassadors also contributed significantly. We are also fortunate to benefit from the energy and commitment of work experience students from Croydon College of Further and Higher Education and Trinity School.

During the period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 Croydon Vision had the generous support from 72 volunteers of which 24 have some form of visual impairment.

We are grateful to our volunteers, who truly are the backbone of Croydon Vision. Their unwavering dedication and passion continue to drive our mission forward and make a lasting difference in the lives of those we support. The Trustees and Staff Team would like to formally record their sincere thanks to all our volunteers for their invaluable contributions throughout the year.

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

None of our Trustees received remuneration from their work with the Charity as Trustees. However, one Trustee leads an activity at Croydon Vision and charges the organisation at a substantially reduced rate. Any connection between a Trustee, CEO or Management of the Charity with any service user, external contractor or supplier of services must be disclosed to the CEO or Board of Trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Objectives and Activities

Croydon Vision exists to support blind and partially sighted individuals in Croydon in line with our charitable objectives. The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty under Section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit. Our services are designed to empower people with sight loss and those with an interest in visual impairment, helping them to lead independent, fulfilling lives.

Our Culture - At the heart of Croydon Vision is a culture that celebrates people and community.

- **We put people first** – ensuring that every individual feels seen, heard, and valued.
- **We empower our people** – supporting members on their journey to greater independence.
- **We take pride in our vibrant community** – fostering connection, inclusion, and shared purpose.

Our Values - Our values shape how we work and who we are.

- **Awareness** – We invest in a growth mindset.
- **Compassion** – We put people first.
- **Teamwork** – We build more together.
- **Integrity** – We keep our promises.
- **Diversity** – We stand shoulder to shoulder.

Our Vision, Mission and Purpose

- **Our Vision** – To create a community that protects sight and reduces mild to severe sight loss over the next 100 years.
- **Our Mission** – To encourage independence, confidence, and personal development among blind and partially sighted people in Croydon
- **Our Purpose** – To inspire individuals to re-evaluate what's possible—because there is life after sight loss.

Achievements and Performance

In 2024-25, Croydon Vision has continued to deliver high-impact services across six core areas:

Health and Wellbeing

- Over 5,300 attendances at fitness, yoga, cookery and social sessions.
- 4,223 nutritious lunches served, supporting physical and emotional wellbeing.
- 613 counselling sessions delivered to 64 individuals, addressing trauma, anxiety and emotional resilience.
- 71 excursions attended by 615 members, promoting social inclusion and independence.

Employment and Inclusion

- Partnerships with Jobcentre Plus, DWP, and Croydon Works supported members into employment, training and volunteering.
- 52 businesses received Visual Awareness Training.
- 2,389 people reached through 117 outreach events.
- 12 members transitioned into volunteering, 5 into employment and 11 into training.

Digital Empowerment

- 139 individuals supported through over 400 tech training sessions.
- Members gained confidence using accessible technology, improving independence and reducing isolation.

Advice and Advocacy

- Our Advice & Advocacy service secured £120,268 in financial assistance for members, helping them navigate complex benefits systems and maintain independence.

Children and Young People (C&YP)

- Our CYP Officer delivered 73 workshops and 12 excursions with a unique, neuroscience-informed approach.
- On average of 59 attendees per month,

Transport and Excursions

- 60 excursions delivered across 24 wards in Croydon
- 58 round trips provided to 11 voluntary organisations during vehicle idle time

Health and Wellbeing

Our health and wellness activities were a cornerstone of our delivery. The activities delivered throughout the year allowed our members to experience:

Improved Physical Health & Mobility - 2,272 attendances at Keeping Active classes (e.g., keep fit, dance, bowling, kickboxing) show strong engagement in physical activity, helping improve balance, strength, and confidence in movement, key for those with sight loss.

Enhanced Cognitive Function - 1,632 attendances at Mental Aerobics sessions support memory, focus and mental agility, which are especially valuable for maintaining independence and mental sharpness.

Accessible, Gentle Exercise - 640 attendances at Chair Yoga offer a safe and adaptable way to stay active, reduce stress and improve flexibility; ideal for members with limited mobility or balance concerns.

Life Skills & Independence - 177 attendances at Cookery Classes empower members to prepare meals safely and confidently, promoting independence and healthier eating habits that result in improved health outcomes.

Social Connection & Belonging - 912 attendances at Social Sessions highlight the importance of community. These gatherings reduce isolation, build friendships and foster a sense of inclusion.

These activities not only support physical and mental wellbeing but also help visually impaired individuals lead more independent, connected and fulfilling lives.

4,223 nutritious lunches were served to our members over the course of the year. These meals played a vital role in supporting overall wellbeing, improving health outcomes, boosting immunity and fostering social connection through shared mealtimes. For many members, this service was not only a source of nourishment but also a key part of their daily routine and emotional wellbeing.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
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Counselling Provision

Croydon Vision's Counselling provision has provided an additional layer to our wellbeing initiative. It provides the tools, support, and perspective individuals need to regain control and thrive.

Our members can be dealing with grief over losing their sight, seeking relief from anxiety, seeking coping strategies and our counselling provision can improve their emotional health and well-being.

Counselling offers a safe, supportive space to explore emotions, address challenges and develop effective coping strategies. Members are experiencing major life transitions, stress, anxiety and relationship difficulties. With the cost-of-living crisis, members do not have additional funds to prioritise their mental health. Through the lottery funding we were able to offer up to 8 sessions per individual. During these sessions counselling provided tools that improved mental health and overall well-being, using different counselling models including, EMDR, CBT and Solution focussed.

Over the course of three years our counsellor carried out 613 sessions and worked with 64 individuals.

Testimonial by individual who received counselling:

"My experience working with Helen was liberating and rewarding. I was at the lowest point in my life emotionally with anxiety, no hope and confidence in myself. I still had the trauma for the fateful morning when I woke up blind. I did not believe I still had a purpose in life even after the surgery on my left eye. Helen has been a big support as she helped me with different coping mechanisms for my anxiety, worries and emotional break downs. She helped me process and understand all my emotions. Continuously worked with Helen to heal that traumatic moment when I lost my sight. I gained confidence in myself and felt inspired to talk about my sight loss and started to look at the mirror again something I could not do before my counselling because it made me cry. Helen created a safe space for me to express myself which gave me relief, emotional regulations and psychological resilience. I feel empowered, motivated and purposeful and this has helped me on my return to work. I can't thank you enough for the unwavering support you gave to me."

Holistic Therapies

Due to demand and interest, we are incorporating more holistic approaches to mental wellbeing; a service that is growing in popularity is our Indian head massage.

Delivered with skilful sensibility by our Advice & Advocacy Officer (trained in Yoga and Complementary Therapies) our Indian head massage includes breath work, relaxation and meditation techniques, healing sound and self-massage techniques. It is a powerful tool to promote well-being, a sense of peace and calm and a positive outlook. It can alleviate anxiety, low mood, tension and insomnia by triggering the release of endorphins. By relieving tension and improving blood flow to the brain, it enhances mental clarity, improves concentration and focus, which can be particularly beneficial for individuals who rely on their senses more heavily.

"I had been feeling all over the place, worrying and insecure. After my Indian head massage with Stella, I felt calm, not worrying anymore or all over the place. I felt grounded and I can find that positive feeling in myself when I need it now."

Employment and Inclusion

Working Age Group

Croydon Vision developed key partnerships with organisations such as Jobcentre Plus, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and Croydon Works. These collaborations have opened up new routes to employment for our members, supporting long-term economic empowerment. Croydon Vision hosted two job fairs specifically targeting those with disabilities looking for employment.

As a charity we continue to strengthen our corporate partnership with Croydon College of Further and Higher Education. Croydon Vision was invited to showcase opportunities at three job fairs (including a special event with a dual focus on health and wellbeing alongside work).

Croydon Vision hosts weekly sessions for our working age members that focus on employability, CV writing, benefits, assistance and confidence building. We collaborate with an employability adviser from the Job Centre.

During the last year:

- 12 members transitioned into volunteering,
- 5 members transitioned into employment,
- 11 members were supported into training or courses.

Visual Awareness Training

During the last year 52 businesses and organisations received Visual Awareness Training by Croydon Vision, giving them the tools they need to be inclusive employers and disability confident.

Croydon Vision was represented at 117 outreach events, reaching a total of 2,389 people. These events raise awareness, build community connections and bring our services to a wider audience.

Digital Empowerment

Our Tech Trainer reached 179 individuals carrying out over 400 sessions to build confidence in their use of accessible technology.

Through these sessions members felt:

Restored Confidence & Independence - Members who had given up on using technology found renewed hope through assistive software and personalised support, enabling them to re-engage with digital tools.

Accessible, Personalised Support - The ability to receive in-home guidance, especially from a trusted expert like Daniel, makes technology feel approachable and manageable.

Enhanced Communication & Daily Living - Learning to use features like voice interaction has empowered members to navigate their devices more independently, improving their quality of life.

Discovery of New Tools - Visits to the resource centre introduced members and their families to a wide range of assistive gadgets they didn't know existed, expanding their options for support.

Combatting Loneliness - For those living alone, technology becomes a vital connection to the outside world. Restoring access to devices like computers and TVs helps reduce feelings of isolation.

"I arranged an appointment with Daniel, so that I can get back into using my laptop. He was wonderful he showed me how to do a lot of things with my laptop, I was also surprised how he was so patient with me. The most amazing thing is that I am able to talk to my laptop, and it talks back. I was a bit hesitant at first, but I am glad I did it." Member – Mary G.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

Advice and Advocacy

Alongside our varied and multi-layered programme of activities and support services, our Advice & Advocacy services generated £120,268 of financial assistance to enable members to live safely and, in some instances, to effectively survive at a time when socio-economic forces may have caused undesirable results. Primarily through PIP and Attendance Allowance, we empowered members to secure financial assistance while ensuring their voices are heard and fundamental unmet needs considered in a fair and legitimate manner.

Children and Young People

In 2024–25, Croydon Vision's Children and Young People's (CYP) Department delivered an evidence-based programme tailored to the needs of visually impaired (VI) children and young people. Over the course of the year, the CYP Officer ran 73 workshops and 12 excursions, each designed to support cognitive, emotional and social development through multisensory and inclusive learning.

Our *Digital Detectives* programme empowered children to explore technology hands-on, dismantling and rebuilding computers, learning to touch type with assistive software and building confidence in digital navigation. These sessions were complemented by our *Creativity Hub*, which offered tactile art, clay modelling and nature-based projects that encouraged self-expression, fine motor skills and teamwork.

Excursions played a key role in extending learning beyond the centre. From inclusive cycling and kickboxing to trips to Legoland, London Zoo and audio-described cinema outings, each experience was designed to build confidence, independence and social connection. Using our bespoke 5-Step Progression Framework, we tracked measurable growth in areas such as communication, leadership and emotional resilience; over 80% of participants progressed at least one level. Strong partnerships with organisations like Wheels for Wellbeing, VICTA, and Moorfields Eye Hospital further enhanced our reach and impact. The CYP service continues to be a cornerstone of our mission, offering a safe, empowering space where VI children can thrive, learn and lead.

Transport and Excursions

Croydon Vision continued to expand its transport and excursion service, made possible through funding from Motability, delivering 160 excursions. This growth has enabled greater access to activities across 24 wards in Croydon, fostering inclusion, independence and community connection for people living with sight loss. Our fleet of three minibuses provided daily transport to and from our centre, supporting members to attend morning and afternoon sessions, as well as our popular lunch club.

The service also supported 11 voluntary organisations across Croydon, providing 58 round trips during vehicle idle time. These collaborations helped meet urgent needs in areas of deprivation, particularly following the financial collapse of Croydon Council. The transport programme has become a vital lifeline, reducing isolation and improving health outcomes. Member feedback consistently highlight the joy, dignity and empowerment these excursions bring.

"The trip to CryerArts Theatre was amazing! I had so much fun, and sharing the experience with fellow peers from Croydon Vision made it even better. The driver was so supportive... Overall, a worthwhile experience—thank you, Croydon Vision." – Jim S.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Challenges

Throughout 2024–25, Croydon Vision navigated internal and external challenges that tested our resilience and adaptability.

Internal Organisational Challenges

- **Staff Retention and Continuity:** Like many in the sector, we faced difficulties in retaining staff due to short-term funding and sector-wide recruitment pressures. This impacted service continuity and placed additional strain on remaining team members. We responded by strengthening cross-training, improving operational processes and fostering a culture of shared learning.
- **Resource Constraints:** Demand for our services continued to outpace available resources. We maximised volunteer support and streamlined delivery, but the need for sustainable, long-term investment remains critical.
- **Demographic-Specific Needs:** A significant proportion of our members are older adults with additional health conditions or limited digital literacy. This required tailored, often resource-intensive, approaches to ensure accessibility and engagement.

Wider Sector and Local Challenges

- **Oversubscribed Funding Landscape:** The charity sector continues to face intense competition for limited funding. Many grant programmes are oversubscribed, with success rates declining, making it increasingly difficult to secure the resources needed to sustain and grow services.
- **Cost of Living Crisis:** The ongoing cost of living crisis has had a dual impact, exacerbating the needs of our members while also increasing operational costs. Many of those we support are on fixed or low incomes and rising prices have made it harder for them to meet basic needs, increasing reliance on our services.
- **Croydon Council Bankruptcy:** The financial collapse of Croydon Council has had a ripple effect across the borough's voluntary sector. Reduced local authority funding and support have placed additional pressure on charities like ours to fill the gaps in essential services.

Despite these challenges, Croydon Vision has remained steadfast in its mission. Our ability to adapt, innovate and draw strength from our community has been key to our continued impact. However, the current climate underscores the urgent need for stable, long-term investment in community-led services.

Looking ahead – A vision for the future

Our vision is clear and ambitious. We are committed to evolving into a forward-thinking, inclusive organisation that continues to meet the changing needs of people living with sight loss. There are four primary strategic priorities.

1. Tackling Health Inequalities

We will continue to address the disproportionate health challenges faced by people with sight loss, particularly older adults and those from underrepresented communities. By integrating wellbeing, preventative care and advocacy into our services, we aim to reduce barriers and improve quality of life.

The need for this work is growing. By 2032, it is projected that 12,700 Croydon residents will be living with sight loss, up from the current estimate of 10,500, which includes 1,825 people registered with severe sight loss. With 51% of Croydon's population identifying as Black and Minority Ethnic (BME), these projections are shaped by the complex realities of eye health disparities. For example, individuals of Black African and Caribbean heritage are 4 to 8 times more likely to develop certain types of glaucoma and cataracts, while people of South Asian descent face a threefold increased risk of diabetic eye disease.

As a charity, we recognise our responsibility not only to support those already living with sight loss, but also to lead on prevention and education. Raising awareness, sharing knowledge and promoting early intervention will be central to our mission in the years ahead.

2. Championing a Community-Led Model

Volunteers have been the heartbeat of our success. We will strengthen and expand our community-led approach, empowering volunteers to take on leadership roles, co-design services and act as ambassadors for inclusion. This model not only enhances sustainability but also ensures our services remain rooted in lived experience.

3. Investing in Our People

In a competitive and uncertain job market, we recognise the importance of nurturing our staff team. We are committed to providing meaningful learning and development opportunities, fostering a culture of growth and ensuring our team feels valued and supported. This investment is essential to retaining talent and delivering consistent, high-quality services.

4. Expanding Access and Deepening Impact

We are committed to expanding our reach and deepening the impact of our services. We recognise that many individuals with sight loss, particularly those in employment, are currently unable to access our support and services during standard hours. To address this, we aim to secure the resources needed to extend Croydon Vision's opening hours, offering greater flexibility and accessibility.

We are also passionate about enhancing our offer for children and young people. We plan to introduce weekend sessions that provide social, educational and developmental opportunities, tailored to younger members and their families. These sessions will help foster confidence, independence and a sense of belonging from an early age.

These plans reflect our unwavering commitment to inclusion, innovation and community-led growth. With the right support, we are ready to lead Croydon Vision into its next chapter, stronger, more accessible and more impactful than ever.

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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
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FINANCIAL REVIEW

Statement of Financial Activities

The Statement of Financial Activities is shown on page 16, with a more detailed analysis of income and expenditure within the notes to the financial statements.

Income

In the twelve months of 2024-25 total income was £721,506 (2024: £747,895) and was generated through donations and legacies (£17,032), grants funding (£475,575), fundraising events (£10,546) service users and activity income (£66,986), hall hire and rental income (£143,820) and other income, including investment income, (£7,547). More information on projects can be found in Notes 2 - 5, page 21. Most of the grant funding covers multiple years and has therefore changed the income profile of the Charity in the short to medium term.

Expenses

The total expenditure for the year was £766,182 (2024: £815,677). Staff and contract staff costs remain the largest single cost, comprising 55% of costs at £423,268 (2024: £458,237). Our average headcount was 15 (2024 15). Total direct charitable expenditure was £697,485 (2024: £713,327) which includes direct project costs of £101,321 (2024: £77,696) and depreciation costs of £60,204 (2024: £65,217) the majority of which relates to our vehicle fleet. Fundraising costs have reduced by 33% which includes the costs of various fundraising events in the year and the additional resources needed to help us meet the challenges of the current fundraising environment.

Principal funding sources

The Charity is dependent upon grants and donations from individual donors and institutions. Details of the Charity's income is set out in Notes 2 and 3 on page 21 of the accounts.

We would like to thank the following funders for their support during the year:

- Croydon Voluntary Action
- Edward Gostling
- Garfield Foundation
- King Charles III Charitable Fund (KCCF)
- London Borough of Croydon – Croydon Loves You
- Motability
- The City Bridge Foundation
- The National Lottery Community Fund
- The Powell Family Foundation
- The Spectacle Makers' Charity
- Wise Music Foundation
- All other grants funders (some who prefer to stay anonymous), generous donors and of course our members.

Balance Sheet

We had a deficit of £44,676 (2024: £67,782), which has resulted in a combined fund balance of £1,430,948 (2024: £1,475,624) at the year end. The Charity's free reserves are £62,495 (2024: £37,620). An analysis of the funds can be found in Note 18 on page 25, with the movements within each fund detailed in Note 19 on pages 26 and 27.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW - continued

Plan of Action (Diversifying Income)

Our Fundraiser at Croydon Vision continues to engage actively with a wider range of trusts and foundations to secure successful grant awards, supporting both core services and new initiatives. In parallel, we are expanding our income generation strategy by developing and promoting our products and services, particularly the Visual Awareness Workshops, which aim to raise awareness of sight loss across Croydon and surrounding areas.

To further strengthen our financial sustainability, we are exploring opportunities for corporate partnerships that align with our mission and values. These partnerships have the potential to provide both financial support and in-kind contributions, while also increasing our visibility within the business community. This multi-pronged approach to income diversification is central to ensuring the long-term resilience and impact of Croydon Vision.

Investment policy

The Trustees are responsible for the safekeeping of all assets of the Charity and may invest funds as they see fit.

Reserves Policy

Despite continued financial pressures, including the rising cost of living and the absence of financial support from Croydon Council, Croydon Vision has made meaningful progress in rebuilding its financial resilience. Our unrestricted reserves have increased to £62,495 (2024: £37,620), demonstrating our commitment to strengthening the organisation's financial foundation.

This improvement reflects the collective efforts of the Board of Trustees, CEO, fundraising and finance leads and management team, who have implemented a robust contingency programme aligned with our 2023–2026 strategy. This programme accounts for inflation, future financial risks and the need for long-term sustainability.

We continue to diversify our income through targeted engagement with trusts and foundations, expansion of income-generating services and development of potential corporate partnerships.

Rebuilding our reserves is not only vital for operational stability but also for enabling more preventative work, protecting sight and reducing avoidable sight loss for generations to come. Our goal is to ensure Croydon Vision remains a resilient, forward-looking organisation for the next 100 years.

To support this vision, we are working towards building unrestricted reserves equivalent to six months of operating costs, providing a critical buffer against future uncertainties.

Croydon Vision adopts the following principles in relation to on-going project funding:

- Planning for staffing changes will align with project-funding timeline; staffing expenditure will not be met by reserves.
- In exceptional circumstances when Trustees expressly wish that a specific activity continues and have a strong and realistic expectation that new funds will be received, designated funds will be used to sustain posts for a defined period.
- Redundancy for all members of staff for whom redundancy is applicable.
- Staff long-term sickness.
- Contracts and commitments, including Telephones, IT.
- Accountant, HR Contract, and legal costs.
- 6 months core operating costs (£33,197 per month based on our 2025-26 budget, totalling £199,182).

Risk Management

An integrated risk strategy is in place which is overseen by the CEO and management. In addition, a risk management policy and register are in place. The strategy comprises the following:

- An annual review of the risks which Croydon Vision may have to face.
- The establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks.
- The implementation of procedures designed to report on and minimise any potential impact on Croydon Vision should any of those risks materialise.

The Board of Trustees is confident that the planned process will enable them to identify the major risks to which the Charity is exposed and that they have established systems to mitigate those risks.

The Trustees re-appointed Mark Blackwell of MHR Consultancy Ltd to carry out an independent examination of the Charity's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026.

**CROYDON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Board of Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provision of the constitution requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the Charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently,
- observe the methods and principles in the SORP 2019 FRS102,
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the Charity and financial information included on the Charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Nigel Gooding, CBE (Chair)

For and on behalf of the Board of Trustees

15 September 2025

**CROYDON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
CROYDON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND**

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Croydon Voluntary Association for the Blind (the Charity) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('The Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charities accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material 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 Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

Mark Blackwell ACMA
M H R Consultancy Limited
Chartered Management Accountants
Ferneberga House
Alexandra Road
Farnborough
GU14 6DQ

15 September 2025

**CROYDON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

					2025	2024
	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total £	Total £
INCOMING AND ENDOWMENT FROM:						
Donations and Legacies	2	17,032	-	-	17,032	19,297
Charitable activities	3	100,136	442,425	-	542,561	606,495
Other trading activities	4	154,366	-	-	154,366	115,286
Investments	5	2,538	-	-	2,538	1,595
Other Income		<u>5,009</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	5,009	<u>5,222</u>
Total Income		<u>279,081</u>	<u>442,425</u>	<u>-</u>	721,506	<u>747,895</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Raising funds	6	47,833	832	-	48,665	72,509
Charitable activities	7	<u>210,968</u>	<u>491,144</u>	<u>15,405</u>	717,517	<u>743,168</u>
Total Expenditure		<u>258,801</u>	<u>491,976</u>	<u>15,405</u>	766,182	<u>815,677</u>
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)		20,280	(49,551)	(15,405)	(44,676)	(67,782)
Net gains/(losses) on investments		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	-	<u>-</u>
Net Income/(expense)		20,280	(49,551)	(15,405)	(44,676)	(67,782)
Transfer between funds		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	-	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		20,280	(49,551)	(15,405)	(44,676)	(67,782)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
	19/20					
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD		<u>340,971</u>	<u>117,483</u>	<u>1,017,170</u>	1,475,624	1,543,406
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>361,251</u></u>	<u><u>67,932</u></u>	<u><u>1,001,765</u></u>	<u>1,430,948</u>	<u>1,475,624</u>

**CROYDON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**

**BALANCE SHEET
AT 31 MARCH 2025**

		2025	2024
	Notes	£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	14	1,372,334	1,427,633
Investments	15	458	458
		1,372,792	1,428,091
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock		-	-
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	16	73,270	77,019
Cash at bank		220,196	168,487
		293,466	245,506
LIABILITIES			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	17	(235,310)	(197,973)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		58,156	47,533
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,430,948	1,475,624
NET ASSETS		1,430,948	1,475,624
TOTAL FUNDS OF THE CHARITY	19		
Unrestricted funds		62,495	37,620
Designated funds		298,756	303,351
Restricted funds		67,932	117,483
Endowment funds		1,001,765	1,017,170
TOTAL FUNDS		1,430,948	1,475,624

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on **15th September 2025** and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
Nigel Gooding - Chair/Trustee

.....
Josef Khan – Treasurer/Trustee

**CROYDON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>56,614</u>	<u>7,160</u>
	56,614	7,160
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of fixed assets	<u>(4,905)</u>	<u>(1,661)</u>
Cash provided by (used in) investing activities	<u>(4,905)</u>	<u>(1,661)</u>
Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year expended	51,709	5,499
Cash and cash equivalents at the start of the year	<u>168,487</u>	<u>162,988</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	<u>220,196</u>	<u>168,487</u>

CASH FLOW NOTES

	2025 £	2024 £
Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities		
Net (expenditure) income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(44,676)	(67,782)
Adjustments for:		
Add back depreciation charge	60,204	65,217
Decrease/(increase) in stock	-	1,045
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	3,749	7,349
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	<u>37,337</u>	<u>1,331</u>
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>56,614</u>	<u>7,160</u>
	2025 £	2024 £
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents		
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>220,196</u>	<u>168,487</u>
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>220,196</u>	<u>168,487</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A summary of the principal accounting policies adopted judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the accounts are laid out below.

Basis of preparation of the Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

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

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the Charity and rounded to the nearest £.

Judgement and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Charity is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an on-going basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees. Unrestricted funds may include designated funds where the Trustees, at their discretion, have created a fund for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds can only be used for restricted purposes within the objects of the Charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for restricted purposes. Where required, a monitoring report is sent to the donor or funder detailing expenditure. Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in Note 20 on page 28.

Income

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the Charity is legally entitled to the income, and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met.

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Costs of raising funds is detailed on Note 6 on page 22 and comprises the costs associated with attracting voluntary income and any fundraising events. Charitable expenditure is detailed in Note 7 on page 23, and comprises those costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature to support them.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES – continued

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements and consider these sufficient for the Charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or valuation less depreciation. Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Asset Category	Annual Rate
Motor Vehicles	25% on cost
Specialist Equipment	25% on cost
Computer Equipment	33.33% on cost
Fixtures and Fittings	20% on cost
Freehold Buildings	2% on cost
Land	No depreciation

Investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price when the amount is material. The income arising on the investments is shown under investment income in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Gains and losses on investment assets disposed of are shown as gains and losses in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand represents bank accounts where funds are available on demand.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making allowance for obsolete and slow-moving items.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are recognised at the invoiced cost prepaid.

Creditors and Provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the Charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Taxation

The Charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010. Accordingly, it is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income and capital gains received to the extent that such income or gains are applied to exclusively charitable purposes. No provision for taxation has been made in these financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and was offered to all staff. Contributions payable to the Charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

**CROYDON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Donations	<u>17,032</u>	<u>19,297</u>
	<u>17,032</u>	<u>19,297</u>

Income from donations and legacies was £17,032 (2024: £19,297) of which £17,032 was unrestricted (2024: £19,297) and £nil was restricted (2024: £nil).

3. INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

		2025	2024
	Activity	£	£
Grants – unrestricted	Core Services	33,150	75,330
Grants – restricted	The Lost 500 – Big Lottery	148,812	148,989
Grants – restricted	The Lost 500 – City Bridge Foundation	52,600	51,433
Grants – restricted	The Lost 500 – Edward Gosling	-	12,500
Grants – restricted	The Lost 500 – Vision Foundation	-	34,874
Grants – restricted	Children and Young People's Programme	16,250	8,250
Grants – restricted	Community Organisations Cost of Living Fund	-	35,992
Grants – restricted	Community Transport Project	180,993	165,785
Grants – restricted	Croydon Loves You Community Events	4,770	-
Grants – restricted	Croydon Vision Community Events	-	10,000
Grants – restricted	Outreach Projects	39,000	-
Grants – restricted	We can create too	-	7,364
Service users Income	Core Services	<u>66,986</u>	<u>55,978</u>
		<u>542,561</u>	<u>606,495</u>

4. INCOME FROM TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Fundraising	10,546	8,821
Hall hire	96,834	58,758
Rent received	46,986	47,622
Other	-	85
	<u>154,366</u>	<u>115,286</u>

Income earned from trading activities was £154,366 (2024: £115,286) all unrestricted.

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2025	2024
	£	£
Investment income	<u>2,538</u>	<u>1,595</u>

All the Charity's investment income of £2,538 (2024: £1,595) is unrestricted.

**CROYDON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

6. RAISING FUNDS

	2025	2024
	£	£
AGM, Marketing costs and rebrand	2,718	6,400
Direct fundraising costs	43,452	45,975
Fundraising events	2,495	20,134
	<u>48,665</u>	<u>72,509</u>

Of the total raising funds expenditure of £48,665 (2024: £72,509), £832 was in respect of restricted funds (2024: £8,749) and £47,833 was in respect of unrestricted funds (2024: £63,760).

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct costs	Governance (See note 8)	2025	2024
	£	£	Totals £	Totals £
Children and Young People's Programme	15,903	-	15,903	8,250
Community Organisations Cost of Living Fund	-	-	-	34,971
Community Transport Assets	35,500	-	35,500	35,500
Community Transport Project	189,517	2,340	191,857	160,272
Core Services	212,047	14,326	226,373	245,448
Croydon Loves You Community Events	4,758	-	4,758	-
Croydon Vision Community Events	-	-	-	7,214
Outreach Projects	39,000	-	39,000	-
The Lost 500 Project	200,760	3,366	204,126	243,519
We can create too Project	-	-	-	7,994
	<u>697,485</u>	<u>20,032</u>	<u>717,517</u>	<u>743,168</u>

Of the total charitable activities' costs of £717,517 (2024: £743,168), £491,144 was in respect of restricted funds (2024: £497,719), £210,968 was in respect of unrestricted funds (2024: £230,044) and £15,405 in respect of endowment funds (2024: £15,405).

8. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accountancy fees	9,976	13,597
Health & Safety	3,972	5,270
HR fees	4,354	9,364
Independent Examiner fee	1,320	1,200
Payroll fees	410	410
Professional fees	-	-
	<u>20,032</u>	<u>29,841</u>

Of the total governance costs of £20,032 (2024: £29,841), £5,706 was in respect of restricted funds (2024: £6,904) and £14,326 was in respect of unrestricted funds (2024: £22,937).

9. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

The Charity Trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the Charity in the year (2024: £nil) neither were they reimbursed expenses during the year (2024: £nil).

**CROYDON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

10. STAFF COSTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	315,766	372,754
Social security costs	21,032	26,509
Pension costs	13,364	15,924
	<u>350,162</u>	<u>415,187</u>

One employee had employee benefits in excess of £60,000 in the £60,000- £70,000 band (2024: 1).

Pension costs are allocated to activities in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred.

The Senior Management Team of the Charity comprises of the Trustees and those detailed on page 1 of the Trustees report. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Charity were £134,280 (2024: £160,828).

11. STAFF NUMBERS

The average monthly number of employees (including casual and part time staff) during the year was as follows:

	2025 Numbers	2024 Numbers
Senior Management Team	3	3
Other Direct Charitable Staff	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>
	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>

12. PENSION COSTS

The company has a defined contribution pension scheme, which all employees are entitled to join. The company contributes 5% and the employees contributed 5% and employees may make further additional voluntary contributions.

During the year ended 31 March 2025, the Charity's total contributions amounted to £13,364 (2024: £15,924).

The Trustees are satisfied that any foreseeable change in employer's contributions can be budgeted for without detriment to the Charity's on-going activities.

13. TRANSACTIONS AND RELATED PARTIES

None of the Trustees received remuneration from their work with the Charity as Trustees. However, one of our Trustees (Frances Cullen) leads an activity at Croydon Vision and charges the organisation at a substantially reduced rate. Any connection between a Trustee or Senior Manager of the Charity with Service User, external contractor or supplier of services must be disclosed to the full Board of Trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party.

There were no other material related party transactions during the period.

**CROYDON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

14. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Property Unrestricted £	Freehold Property Endowment £	Other Assets £	Totals £
COST/VALUATION				
At 1 April 2024	344,581	1,155,419	237,030	1,737,030
Additions	-	-	4,905	4,905
Disposal	-	-	-	-
	<u>344,581</u>	<u>1,155,419</u>	<u>241,935</u>	<u>1,741,935</u>
At 31 March 2025				
	<u>344,581</u>	<u>1,155,419</u>	<u>241,935</u>	<u>1,741,935</u>
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 April 2024	41,230	138,249	129,918	309,397
Charge for year	4,595	15,405	40,204	60,204
Eliminated on disposal	-	-	-	-
	<u>45,825</u>	<u>153,654</u>	<u>170,122</u>	<u>369,601</u>
At 31 March 2025				
	<u>45,825</u>	<u>153,654</u>	<u>170,122</u>	<u>369,601</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 March 2025	<u>298,756</u>	<u>1,001,765</u>	<u>71,813</u>	<u>1,372,334</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>303,351</u>	<u>1,017,170</u>	<u>107,112</u>	<u>1,427,633</u>

Valuation of the Freehold Property

A revaluation of the freehold property was carried out in May 2015 by an external firm of valuers and property was valued on an “existing use” basis at £1,500,000. This was split between £500,000 land and £1,000,000 buildings.

Endowment Funds

In previous years, £500,000 of the freehold property was originally regarded by the Charity Commission as a permanent endowment and therefore restricted. At the time of the last valuation before May 2015, the freehold buildings had a total net book value of £649,115. So, using the fraction £500,000/£649,115 the restricted proportion is calculated at £1,001,765 net book value as at 31 March 2025 (2024: £1,017,170).

15. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	£ Listed Investments	£ Totals
MARKET VALUE		
At 1 April 2024	458	458
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
Revaluation	-	-
	<u>458</u>	<u>458</u>
At 31 March 2025		
	<u>458</u>	<u>458</u>

The remaining non-UK listed investments are 135 shares in Banco Santander, S.A. shares of €0.50 nominal value. Revaluation was considered to be immaterial due the small value of the shares held.

**CROYDON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

16. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	9,425	10,071
Other debtors	31,797	30,764
Accrued income	32,048	36,184
	<u>73,270</u>	<u>77,019</u>

17. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	18,004	20,651
Deferred income	200,747	156,944
Tax and social security	6,860	6,332
Other creditors and accrued expenses	9,699	14,046
	<u>235,310</u>	<u>197,973</u>

18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Current year information for the net assets between funds:

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2025 Total Funds	2024 Total Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	305,486	65,083	1,001,765	1,372,334	1,427,633
Investments	458	-	-	458	458
Current assets	89,605	203,861	-	293,466	245,506
Current liabilities	<u>(34,298)</u>	<u>(201,012)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(235,310)</u>	<u>(197,973)</u>
	<u>361,251</u>	<u>67,932</u>	<u>1,001,765</u>	<u>1,430,948</u>	<u>1,475,624</u>

Comparative year information for the net assets between funds:

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2024 Total Funds	2023 Total Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	309,880	100,583	1,017,170	1,427,633	1,491,189
Investments	458	-	-	458	458
Current assets	75,469	170,037	-	245,506	248,401
Current liabilities	<u>(44,836)</u>	<u>(153,137)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(197,973)</u>	<u>(196,642)</u>
	<u>340,971</u>	<u>117,483</u>	<u>1,017,170</u>	<u>1,475,624</u>	<u>1,543,406</u>

**CROYDON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS – Current Year

	At 1/4/24 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31/3/25 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund – Free reserves	37,620	24,875	-	62,495
Designated funds				
Designated fund – Freehold building	303,351	(4,595)	-	298,756
	340,971	20,280	-	361,251
Restricted funds				
Children & Young People Fund	-	347	-	347
Community Transport Assets	100,583	(35,500)	-	65,083
Community Transport Project	11,179	(11,029)	-	150
Lost 500 Project	5,721	(3,369)	-	2,352
	117,483	(49,551)	-	67,932
Endowment funds				
Freehold Building	1,017,170	(15,405)	-	1,001,765
	1,017,170	(15,405)	-	1,001,765
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,475,624</u>	<u>(44,676)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,430,948</u>

Net movement in funds for the current year are as follows:

	Income £	Expenses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	279,081	(254,206)	24,875
Designated fund – Freehold building	-	(4,595)	(4,595)
	279,081	(258,801)	20,280
Restricted funds			
Children & Young People	16,250	(15,903)	347
Community Transport Assets	-	(35,500)	(35,500)
Community Transport Project	180,993	(192,022)	(11,029)
Croydon Loves You	4,770	(4,770)	-
Lost 500 Project	201,412	(204,781)	(3,369)
Outreach	39,000	(39,000)	-
	442,425	(491,976)	(49,551)
Endowment funds			
Freehold Building	-	(15,405)	(15,405)
	-	(15,405)	(15,405)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>721,506</u>	<u>(766,182)</u>	<u>(44,676)</u>

**CROYDON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS – Previous year

	At 1/4/23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31/3/24 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund – Free reserves	54,121	(16,501)	-	37,620
Designated funds				
Designated fund – Freehold building	307,946	(4,595)	-	303,351
	362,067	(21,096)	-	340,971
Restricted funds				
Children & Young People Fund	-	-	-	-
Community Organisations Cost of Living Fund	-	-	-	-
Community Transport Assets	136,083	(35,500)	-	100,583
Community Transport Project	6,086	5,093	-	11,179
Lost 500 Project	5,965	(244)	-	5,721
We can create too	630	(630)	-	-
	148,764	(31,281)	-	117,483
Endowment funds				
Freehold Building	1,032,575	(15,405)	-	1,017,170
	1,032,575	(15,405)	-	1,017,170
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,543,406</u>	<u>(67,782)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,475,624</u>

Net movement in funds for the current year are as follows:

	Income £	Expenses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	272,708	(289,209)	(16,501)
Designated fund – Freehold building	-	(4,595)	(4,595)
	272,708	(293,804)	(21,096)
Restricted funds			
Children & Young People	8,250	(8,250)	-
Community Organisations Cost of Living Fund	35,992	(35,992)	-
Community Transport Assets	-	(35,500)	(35,500)
Community Transport Project	165,785	(160,692)	5,093
Croydon Vision Community Events 2023	10,000	(10,000)	-
Lost 500 Project	247,796	(248,040)	(244)
We can create too	7,364	(7,994)	(630)
	475,187	(506,468)	(31,281)
Endowment funds			
Freehold Building	-	(15,405)	(15,405)
	-	(15,405)	(15,405)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>747,895</u>	<u>(815,677)</u>	<u>(67,782)</u>

20. FUND DESCRIPTION

Unrestricted Funds

General Fund

This fund is held to meet the day-to-day activities of the Charity in line with the Charity's objectives. This fund has been raised through donations, legacies and grants from Trusts and Foundations

Designated Funds

Freehold Building

This fund is held to match the unrestricted element of the Charity's freehold buildings. The unrestricted portion of the building has a net book value at 31 March 2025 of £298,756 (see note 14, page 24 for further details).

Endowment Funds

Freehold Building

In previous years, £500,000 of the freehold property was originally regarded by the Charity Commission as a permanent endowment and therefore restricted. At the time of the last valuation before May 2015, the freehold buildings had a total net book value of £649,115. So, using the fraction £500,000/£649,115 the restricted proportion is calculated at £1,001,765 net book value as at 31 March 2025 (2024: £1,017,170).

Restricted Funds

Children and Young People Fund

With grant funding from The City Bridge Foundation, The Powell Family Foundation and other smaller grants and donation we are able to provide services to our younger members. Croydon Vision's younger members, who range from 3 years old to 18, are all visually impaired or blind and some also have additional needs, such as physical or learning disabilities.

Our focus is helping them to live without being defined by their sight loss. The activities our younger members participate in through Croydon Vision are designed to challenge and stimulate them, while meeting their specific needs.

- Building self-esteem, independence and confidence.
- Boosting social and communication skills.
- Making new friends who have shared experiences and challenges.

Community Transport Assets and Project

Motability grant funding has enabled Croydon Vision to grow our community transport services. The project is directly aimed at improving community transport options in the London Borough of Croydon for people living with the disability of sight loss and sometimes other complex health conditions.

Croydon Loves You

Funding was received last summer from the London Borough of Croydon to support our summer programme of community well-being events. We were able to run a series of activities during the period for people with sight loss and for them to try new things and foster a love of well-being activities.

Lost 500 Project

Over the past three years, The Lost 500 project, funded by the Big Lottery Community Fund, Edward Gostling Foundation, City Bridge Foundation, The Vision Foundation other funders, has significantly transformed the lives of individuals living with sight loss in Croydon. Through a holistic and person-centred approach, we exceeded our original target of reaching 500 individuals, engaging 696 new members and delivering over 500 home visits to ensure inclusive, accessible support.

Outreach Project

Funding was received from the Garfield Weston Foundation, King Charles III Charitable Fund and other funders and donors to support out outreach service. These services are central to our mission and include our Working Age Group programme, Accessible Technology Support Hub, Advice and Advocacy services, home visits for prospective members, and the delivery of Visual Awareness Training to local organisations and businesses. Over the past year, this funding has enabled us to reach 178 new members and carry out 125 home visits, helping us connect with individuals at the earliest stages of their sight loss journey and provide tailored, impactful support.

21. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

The Charity has authorised and contracted for expenditure of £Nil. The Charity has authorised but not contracted for expenditure of £Nil in its capital budget for the upcoming year.

22. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENT

There have been no post balance sheet events to report.

**CROYDON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	2025	2024
	£	£
Voluntary income		
Donations	<u>17,032</u>	<u>19,297</u>
	17,032	19,297
Incoming resources from charitable activities		
Service users' income	66,986	55,978
Grants	<u>475,575</u>	<u>550,517</u>
	542,561	606,495
Activities for generating funds		
Fundraising events	10,546	8,821
Hall hire	96,834	58,758
Rent received	46,986	47,622
Other	<u>-</u>	<u>85</u>
	154,366	115,286
Investment Income		
Bank Interest	2,538	1,589
Dividends	<u>-</u>	<u>6</u>
	2,538	1,595
Other Income		
Sundry income	<u>5,009</u>	<u>5,222</u>
Total incoming resources	721,506	747,895
Fundraising costs		
AGM, Marketing costs and branding	2,718	6,400
Direct fundraising costs	43,452	45,975
Fundraising events	<u>2,495</u>	<u>20,134</u>
	48,665	72,509
Charitable activities		
Staff Salaries	350,162	415,187
Team Training (staff and volunteers)	756	2,833
Staff Recruitment	13,746	758
Contract Staff	54,790	36,529
Staff Travelling and Meetings	2,092	1,203
Staff Welfare	1,722	1,727
Consultancy	1,575	5,561
Depreciation	60,204	65,217
Direct Projects expenses	101,321	77,696
Flat expenses	12,457	10,155
Hall expenses	12,552	6,198
IT and website	9,816	11,870
Office Administration	23,169	26,414
Premises expenses	45,519	46,843
Volunteer expenses	<u>7,604</u>	<u>5,136</u>
	697,485	713,327

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

**CROYDON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	2025	2024
	£	£
Governance costs		
Accountancy fees	9,976	13,597
Health & Safety	3,972	5,270
HR fees	4,354	9,364
Independent Examiner fee	1,320	1,200
Payroll fees	410	410
Professional fees	-	-
	<u>20,032</u>	<u>29,841</u>
Total resources expended	766,182	815,677
	<u></u>	<u></u>
Operating (Deficit)	<u>(44,676)</u>	<u>(67,782)</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements