

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026
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 2026

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

**LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

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	
Josef Khan	- Treasurer	
Frances Cullen	- Trustee	
Kieren Exley	- Trustee	
Jamie Henderson	- Trustee	
Peter Osei-Bonsu	- Trustee	Appointed 1 April 2025
Dhruvin Patel	- Trustee	
Swarna Pillai	- Trustee	
Carolyn Simmonds	- Trustee	Appointed 15 January 2026

Chief Executive

Nicola Newman

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 2026**

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 2026. 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 we welcomed Carolyn Simmonds as a 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.

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

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

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.

2025-26 was a challenging year for Croydon Vision and the wider voluntary sector. Against a backdrop of increasing demand, reduced grant income, rising costs and an increasingly competitive funding environment, Chief Executive Officer Nicola Newman provided strong and compassionate leadership, ensuring that the Charity remained focused on its mission to support blind and partially sighted people across Croydon. Through a combination of prudent financial management, relationship building, service innovation and a focus on member outcomes, Nicola successfully guided the organisation through a period of significant change whilst maintaining high-quality services. Her leadership strengthened partnerships across the borough, secured funding for new initiatives and ensured that Croydon Vision remained resilient, responsive and firmly rooted in the needs of its members.

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 is a proud London Living Wage Employer and is committed to ensuring that staff are fairly rewarded for their contribution to the organisation's success. We recognise and embrace generational diversity within our workforce, with performance management, feedback, and appraisal processes tailored to individual needs and development goals rather than relying solely on an annual review cycle.

Given the nature and size of the Charity, Trustees maintain oversight of remuneration arrangements and regularly benchmark pay levels against comparable roles within the voluntary and community sector across London, while also taking account of relevant public sector pay frameworks, including National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services pay scales where appropriate. This approach helps ensure that Croydon Vision remains a fair, competitive, and values-led employer while maintaining financial responsibility.

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

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

Volunteers

Volunteers continue to be at the heart of Croydon Vision's success and play a vital role in helping us deliver services that improve independence, wellbeing and social inclusion for blind and partially sighted people.

During 2025-26, 76 volunteers contributed their time, skills and experience to Croydon Vision, including 24 volunteers with lived experience of sight loss. Their contribution generated an estimated £156,044 (2024-25: £112,442) in social value, demonstrating the significant economic and social benefit volunteers bring to our organisation and community. Volunteers supported members across a diverse range of roles including transport, advocacy, digital technology support, Braille services, cultural activities, outreach, peer support and administration.

Our volunteering programme continues to provide meaningful opportunities for people to gain confidence, develop transferable skills and contribute to their local community. We are also proactively involved in supporting individuals into employment, further education and higher education through volunteering pathways and strong partnerships with local schools, colleges and employment services. For many people, volunteering acts as a stepping stone towards greater independence, increased confidence and future career opportunities.

The Trustees would like to place on record their sincere thanks to every volunteer whose dedication and commitment has helped transform lives 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. As mentioned above, 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 2026**

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.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

Achievements and Performance

Despite a challenging financial environment, Croydon Vision continued to deliver high-quality services that improved independence, wellbeing and inclusion for blind and partially sighted people across Croydon. During 2025-26, the Charity supported a membership of **1,385 people**. The Charity continues to reach diverse communities, with almost half of members from Black, Asian and Global Majority backgrounds, and more than half living within some of Croydon's most deprived communities. This demonstrates both the scale of local need and Croydon Vision's ability to reach communities experiencing multiple inequalities.

Key achievements during the year included:

- **£274,422 secured in financial assistance** through our Advice and Advocacy Service, supporting 64 individuals through 210 appointments and 36 home visits.
- 208 individuals supported through accessible technology services, **with 434 support sessions and 65 home visits delivered**
- 43 working-age adults supported **through employment, skills and wellbeing programmes, resulting in members progressing into employment, volunteering, self-employment and specialist training opportunities.**
- 1,636 local residents reached through outreach activities, **helping people access support at earlier stages of sight loss.**
- 45 home visits delivered **to introduce isolated individuals to Croydon Vision's services and help reduce loneliness and social exclusion.**
- 3,972 subsidised hot lunches served, **helping address food insecurity, improve health outcomes and provide vital opportunities for social connection.**
- 123 cookery class attendances **supporting independent living skills and healthy lifestyles.**
- 207 Chair Yoga attendances **alongside 3117 attendances across a wide range of wellbeing, fitness and social activities that promoted physical health and emotional wellbeing.**
- 180 participants engaged through the London Marathon Foundation-funded sports programme, **which delivered 1,238 hours of sport and physical activity tailored for people with sight loss.**
- 76 volunteers contributed their time and expertise, **generating an estimated £156,044 in social value, helping Croydon Vision maintain services during a challenging financial period.**
- **Continued delivery of specialist services for children and young people, with a renewed focus on youth participation, leadership development and co-production from January 2026.**

These achievements demonstrate Croydon Vision's continued commitment to empowering people with sight loss to live independent, active and fulfilling lives whilst responding to increasing demand for support across the borough.

Bringing Sport to the Sight Loss Community

Funded by the London Marathon Foundation, the *Bringing Sport to the Sight Loss Community* project has transformed access to sport and physical activity for our community. The project was developed in response to the significant barriers that people with sight loss often face when accessing mainstream sports and leisure opportunities.

During its 1st year, the project engaged **180 participants** and delivered **1,238 hours of sport and physical activity**, providing regular opportunities for members to improve their physical health, build confidence and develop social connections.

The project established a sustainable programme of weekly activities including nature walks, walking football, Wing Chun Kung Fu, seated ballet, Bollywood dance and community-based sports experiences including Showdown, Cycling, Tennis and Rock Climbing.

Members report increased physical activity, improved wellbeing and greater confidence in accessing mainstream community facilities. Importantly, the programme provides opportunities for individuals to try new activities in a supportive and accessible environment, helping to reduce anxiety and build independence.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

Health, Wellbeing and Holistic Therapies

Supporting wellbeing extends beyond practical sight loss services. During the year Croydon Vision continued to invest in activities that support physical health, emotional wellbeing, confidence and social connection.

Members attended a wide range of wellbeing activities including:

- 207 Chair Yoga attendances
- 123 Cookery Class attendances
- Mental Aerobics, Keep Fit, Dance, Music, Art and Social Group activities delivering thousands of additional attendances throughout the year.

The Charity also served 3,972 subsidised hot lunches, helping address food insecurity, improve nutrition and reduce social isolation through shared mealtime experiences.

Alongside our core wellbeing programme, we piloted a number of holistic therapy activities:

- 22 Indian Head Massage sessions
- 3 Creative Writing pilot sessions
- 3 Mat Yoga pilot sessions
- 1 Breathing and Relaxation pilot session

These pilots demonstrated a clear demand for a broader wellbeing offer among members. Participants reported improvements in relaxation, emotional wellbeing, confidence and stress management, whilst the creative therapies provided opportunities for self-expression and social connection.

The success of these pilots formed the basis of a successful funding application to Croydon Relief in Need and helped secure continued support from the Ros Harding Foundation, enabling Croydon Vision to further develop its holistic wellbeing offer during 2026-27.

Counselling Service

Mental wellbeing remains a critical element of living well with sight loss. During 2025-26, Croydon Vision adapted its counselling provision in response to funding challenges, moving from a fully funded counselling model to an innovative placement-based approach using volunteer counsellors undertaking professional training placements. The service was supported by robust clinical supervision arrangements and oversight from accredited training providers, ensuring members continued to receive safe, high-quality support.

Between July 2025 and March 2026, the service delivered **78 counselling sessions to five members**, providing a confidential, person-centred space for individuals to explore the emotional, social and practical impact of sight loss. Demand for the service remained strong, with a waiting list demonstrating the ongoing need for emotional wellbeing support within the sight loss community.

Sessions supported members experiencing a range of challenges including adjustment to sight loss, grief and loss, changing identity, confidence and self-esteem, social isolation, employment-related concerns, life transitions and emotional wellbeing.

Members reported a number of positive outcomes, including:

- Increased confidence and emotional resilience.
- Improved ability to manage the challenges associated with sight loss.
- Greater emotional clarity and self-understanding.
- Reduced feelings of isolation.
- Improved coping strategies and wellbeing.
- Enhanced ability to communicate needs and establish healthy boundaries.

The evidence gathered throughout the year has enabled Croydon Vision to secure support to continue and further develop the service during 2026-27, ensuring members can continue to access vital emotional wellbeing support alongside our broader health and wellbeing offer.

Employment and Inclusion

Working Age Programme

Supporting visually impaired adults of working age remains a strategic priority for Croydon Vision. During the year, the Working Age Programme supported **43 blind and partially sighted adults** through employment support, skills development, wellbeing activities and peer networking opportunities.

Weekly participation regularly exceeded 20 members, with **18 new members joining the programme** during the year. Through a combination of workshops, one-to-one support, employer engagement and community-based activities, the programme helped participants increase confidence, develop employability skills and reduce social isolation.

The programme delivered a broad range of opportunities including employability workshops, confidence-building sessions, benefits advice, peer support activities and a large-scale Job Fair attended by over **150 jobseekers and 14 employers**. As a direct result of support provided:

- At least seven members secured employment or volunteering opportunities.
- Two members established their own businesses.
- Seven members enrolled on specialist IT training programmes.
- Eight members registered with employment support programmes.

Beyond employment outcomes, the programme enabled members to develop resilience, expand social networks and increase independence. Feedback consistently demonstrates that the Working Age Programme provides an essential bridge between sight loss, confidence-building and meaningful economic participation.

Accessible Technology Support

Technology is increasingly essential for accessing information, services, communication and everyday activities. For many people with sight loss, having the skills and confidence to use accessible technology is fundamental to maintaining independence.

During the year, our Accessible Technology Support service delivered **434 individual support sessions**, including **65 home visits**, supporting **208 unique individuals**.

The demographic profile of service users reflects both the growing importance of digital inclusion and the challenges faced by older people navigating an increasingly digitised world:

- **66% were aged over 65**
- **27% were working age adults**
- **7% were children and young people**

Support ranged from setting up smartphones and tablets to training in screen readers, magnification software, voice-activated technology and accessible applications. Through personalised support and practical demonstrations, members gained the confidence to access online services, communicate with friends and family, manage finances, access health information and participate more fully in community life.

The increasing demand from older adults highlights the growing digital divide and reinforces the importance of providing specialist technology support to ensure nobody is excluded from modern society because of sight loss.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

Advice and Advocacy

Our Advice and Advocacy service continues to play a critical role in ensuring that people with sight loss can access the financial support, services and information they are entitled to.

During 2025-26, the service delivered **210 advice appointments** and **36 home visits**, supporting **64 unique individuals**. Through specialist welfare benefits advice, advocacy and practical support, the team successfully secured **£274,422 in financial assistance** for members.

This support helped individuals navigate increasingly complex benefits systems, challenge decisions where appropriate and access financial resources that improved their quality of life. At a time of ongoing cost-of-living pressures, these outcomes have been particularly important in helping members maintain independence, reduce financial hardship and meet essential living costs.

The service continues to provide a trusted source of support for people who may otherwise struggle to access information, understand their rights or advocate for themselves.

Children and Young People

The Children and Young People Service continued to provide specialist support to blind and partially sighted children and young people across Croydon. During 2025, funding from The Powell Family Foundation enabled Croydon Vision to deliver **120 workshops and 23 excursions**, supporting **55 registered visually impaired children and young people** and reaching a further **200 young people through outreach activities and presentations**.

Using Croydon Vision's five-step progression framework, **80% of participants progressed by at least one level in confidence, independence, communication, empowerment or engagement**, with several young people developing leadership skills and supporting their peers. Through accessible technology, creative arts, inclusive sports, independent living activities and community excursions, participants increased confidence, built friendships, developed practical skills and raised aspirations for the future. Strong partnerships with organisations including Wheels for Wellbeing, Polka Theatre and Pizza Express enhanced opportunities and helped create a supportive environment where children and young people could thrive.

From January 2026, continuing support from The Powell Family Foundation enabled the service to evolve into a new phase focused on youth participation, leadership and co-production. Building on the success of the original programme, the service is now embedding youth voice more deeply across the organisation, creating opportunities for young people to influence decision-making, develop leadership skills and help shape future services.

Transport and Excursions

Croydon Vision's transport service continued to play a vital role in reducing isolation and enabling access to support, activities and community life for people living with sight loss. During the year, the service delivered **924 trips**, supporting **2,658 passenger journeys**, enabling members to attend activities, appointments, learning opportunities and social events across the borough.

Accessible transport remains a critical enabler of independence for many of our members, particularly those living with additional health conditions, mobility challenges and limited access to public transport. The service not only enabled participation in Croydon Vision activities but also helped members build confidence, maintain social connections and reduce isolation.

Funding from the Motability Foundation came to an end in November 2025. Despite extensive efforts, replacement funding has not yet been secured. Recognising the essential nature of the service, Croydon Vision has continued to operate transport provision through a combination of increased member contributions and support from unrestricted reserves. While this has enabled continuity of service, securing sustainable funding for the future remains a priority for the Charity.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

Challenges

The year presented a number of significant challenges for Croydon Vision, reflecting the wider pressures facing both the sight loss sector and the voluntary sector more broadly.

A major challenge was the conclusion of our Motability Foundation transport funding in November 2025. The transport service has become an essential part of our delivery model, enabling members to access activities, services and community opportunities that would otherwise be out of reach. Despite extensive efforts, replacement funding has not yet been secured. Recognising the critical importance of accessible transport to the people we support, the Trustees took the decision to continue the service through a combination of increased member contributions and support from unrestricted reserves. While this has protected service provision in the short term, securing sustainable funding for the transport service remains a priority.

Financial pressures across the Charity also required difficult organisational decisions. During the year, one post was made redundant, two management vacancies were not recruited to and, from January 2026, members of the staff team agreed reductions to their contracted hours as part of a wider programme to safeguard the organisation's long-term sustainability. The Trustees wish to place on record their sincere thanks to the staff team for their professionalism, flexibility and commitment during this period. Despite the uncertainty and additional pressures, staff remained focused on delivering high-quality services and ensuring members continued to receive support.

At the same time, demand for services continued to rise. Improved relationships with statutory services, particularly health and social care partners, resulted in increased referrals and greater awareness of Croydon Vision's services. Whilst this demonstrates growing confidence in the quality of our provision, it has also increased pressure on staffing and resources as we seek to meet rising levels of need.

The fundraising environment continues to be challenging, with increasing competition for grant funding and growing demand across the charitable sector. Like many organisations, Croydon Vision must continually balance growing demand with finite resources whilst seeking to diversify income and build long-term financial resilience.

Despite these challenges, Croydon Vision has remained resilient, adapting services, strengthening partnerships and continuing to deliver meaningful outcomes for blind and partially sighted people across the borough.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

Looking ahead

Whilst 2025-26 was a challenging year, we look ahead with renewed optimism and a clear sense of purpose.

Building on the strong relationships established over recent years, we will continue to strengthen our partnership with Croydon's Sensory Impairment Team and wider statutory services. As demand for support continues to grow, we are committed to demonstrating the vital role Croydon Vision plays in helping local health and adult social care partners achieve their objectives, supporting independence, reducing isolation and helping people live well with sight loss.

We will continue to expand our wellbeing offer following the success of our holistic therapy pilots. Funding secured from Croydon Relief in Need will enable us to broaden access to therapies that support emotional wellbeing, resilience and quality of life. These activities complement our traditional support services and recognise the importance of supporting the whole person, not simply their sight loss.

We are also excited to develop our growing Creative Health programme. Support from Creative Health funding and the Ros Harding Foundation will enable us to explore creative approaches that promote wellbeing, reduce social isolation and improve health outcomes through arts, culture and self-expression. We believe creative health has enormous potential to support our members in new and meaningful ways.

Following a particularly demanding year, we are hoping to secure funding from The National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund for Vision Forward, a new three-year programme launching in September 2026. This investment will enable Croydon Vision to expand access to services, strengthen pathways to independence and ensure that more blind and partially sighted people can benefit from the support they need to thrive. We expect to learn about our application for grant in the 2026-2027 financial year and will report on this in our next Annual Report and Accounts.

After a year defined by difficult decisions, resilience and adaptability, we enter the next chapter with confidence. Through strong partnerships, a committed staff and volunteer team, and continued focus on securing investment in our future, Croydon Vision is well placed to continue transforming lives and building a more inclusive future for people living with sight loss.

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

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

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 2025-26 total income was £586,059 (2025: £721,506) and was generated through donations and legacies (£30,637), grants funding (£372,161), fundraising events (£4,929) service users and activity income (£62,389), hall hire and rental income (£111,808) and other income, including investment income, (£4,135). More information on projects can be found in Notes 2 - 5, page 20. 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 £628,798 (2025: £766,182). Staff and contract staff costs remain the largest single cost, comprising 60% of costs at £376,610 (2025: £423,268). Our average headcount was 12 (2025 15). Total direct charitable expenditure was £587,898 (2025: £697,485) which includes direct project costs of £57,605 (2025: £101,321) and depreciation costs of £59,579 (2025: £60,204) the majority of which relates to our vehicle fleet. Fundraising costs have reduced by 61% which mainly is due to the Charity no longer using an external fundraiser to assist with grant applications and fundraising.

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 20 of the accounts.

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

- Croydon Voluntary Action
- Denman Charitable Trust
- King Charles III Charitable Fund (KCCF)
- London Borough of Croydon – Croydon Loves You
- London Marathon Foundation
- Morrisons Foundation
- Motability
- Percy Bilton Charity
- Ros Harding Trust
- The City Bridge Foundation
- The Hospital Saturday Fund
- The Inman Charity
- The National Lottery Community Fund
- The Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust
- The Powell Family Foundation
- Ulverscroft Foundation
- W O Street Charitable 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 £42,739 (2025: £44,676), which has resulted in a combined fund balance of £1,388,209 (2025: £1,430,948) at the year end. The Charity's free reserves continue to increase to £70,438 (2025: £62,495). 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.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

FINANCIAL REVIEW - continued

Plan of Action (Diversifying Income)

Croydon Vision continues to actively pursue funding opportunities from a broad range of trusts and foundations to secure grant income that supports both our core services and the development of new initiatives. Alongside this, we are strengthening our income generation strategy by developing and promoting our products and services, particularly our Visual Awareness Workshops, which raise awareness of sight loss across Croydon and the surrounding areas while generating unrestricted income.

We are also generating income from our existing assets. This includes rental income from our two residential flats and increasing the use of our facilities through the hire of our hall and lounge for community groups, businesses, and events. In addition, we are exploring opportunities to convert underutilised space within our premises into office space for external organisations, creating a further sustainable source of income.

To enhance our long-term financial sustainability, we are building relationships with local businesses and exploring strategic corporate partnerships that align with our mission and values. These partnerships have the potential to provide financial support, in-kind contributions, employee volunteering opportunities, and increased visibility within the local business community.

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 £70,438 (2025: £62,495), 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 three 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.
- 3-6 months core operating costs (£28,034 per month based on our 2026-27 budget, totalling £84,102-168,204).

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 2027.

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

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

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

16 September 2026

**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 2026.

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

16 September 2026

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

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

					2026	2025
	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total £	Total £
INCOMING AND ENDOWMENT FROM:						
Donations and Legacies	2	30,637	-	-	30,637	17,032
Charitable activities	3	70,507	364,043	-	434,550	542,561
Other trading activities	4	116,737	-	-	116,737	154,366
Investments	5	1,815	-	-	1,815	2,538
Other Income		<u>2,320</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,320</u>	<u>5,009</u>
Total Income		<u>222,016</u>	<u>364,043</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>586,059</u>	<u>721,506</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Raising funds	6	18,877	-	-	18,877	48,665
Charitable activities	7	<u>199,790</u>	<u>394,725</u>	<u>15,406</u>	<u>609,921</u>	<u>717,517</u>
Total Expenditure		<u>218,667</u>	<u>394,725</u>	<u>15,406</u>	<u>628,798</u>	<u>766,182</u>
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)		3,349	(30,682)	(15,406)	(42,739)	(44,676)
Net gains/(losses) on investments		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Income/(expense)		3,349	(30,682)	(15,406)	(42,739)	(44,676)
Transfer between funds		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		3,349	(30,682)	(15,406)	(42,739)	(44,676)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
	19/20					
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD		<u>361,251</u>	<u>67,932</u>	<u>1,001,765</u>	<u>1,430,948</u>	<u>1,475,624</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>364,600</u></u>	<u><u>37,250</u></u>	<u><u>986,359</u></u>	<u><u>1,388,209</u></u>	<u><u>1,430,948</u></u>

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

**BALANCE SHEET
AT 31 MARCH 2026**

		2026	2025
	Notes	£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	14	1,312,755	1,372,334
Investments	15	458	458
		1,313,213	1,372,792
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	16	70,250	73,270
Cash at bank		97,348	220,196
		167,598	293,466
LIABILITIES			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	17	(92,602)	(235,310)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		74,996	58,156
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,388,209	1,430,948
NET ASSETS		1,388,209	1,430,948
TOTAL FUNDS OF THE CHARITY	19		
Unrestricted funds		70,438	62,495
Designated funds		294,162	298,756
Restricted funds		37,250	67,932
Endowment funds		986,359	1,001,765
TOTAL FUNDS		1,388,209	1,430,948

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on **16 September 2026** 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 2026**

	2026 £	2025 £
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net cash provided by operating activities	(122,848)	<u>56,614</u>
	(122,848)	56,614
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of fixed assets	-	<u>(4,905)</u>
Cash provided by (used in) investing activities	-	<u>(4,905)</u>
	-	-
Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year expended	(122,848)	51,709
Cash and cash equivalents at the start of the year	<u>220,196</u>	<u>168,487</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	<u>97,348</u>	<u>220,196</u>

CASH FLOW NOTES

	2026 £	2025 £
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)	(42,739)	(44,676)
Adjustments for:		
Add back depreciation charge	59,579	60,204
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	3,020	3,749
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(142,708)	<u>37,337</u>
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>(122,848)</u>	<u>56,614</u>
	<u>2026 £</u>	<u>2025 £</u>
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents		
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>97,348</u>	<u>220,196</u>
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>97,348</u>	<u>220,196</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

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.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

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 2026**

2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2026	2025
	£	£
Donations	24,637	17,032
Legacies	6,000	-
	<u>30,637</u>	<u>17,032</u>

Income from donations and legacies was £30,637 (2025: £17,032) of which £30,637 was unrestricted (2025: £17,032) and £nil was restricted (2025: £nil).

3. INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activity	2026	2025
		£	£
Grants – unrestricted	Core Services	8,118	33,150
Grants – restricted	The Lost 500 – Big Lottery	-	148,812
Grants – restricted	The Lost 500 – City Bridge Foundation	62,673	52,600
Grants – restricted	Bringing sport to the sight loss community	39,109	-
Grants – restricted	Children and Young People's Programme	34,028	16,250
Grants – restricted	Community Transport Project	125,699	180,993
Grants – restricted	Croydon Loves You Community Events	3,915	4,770
Grants – restricted	Let's Cook Courses	10,000	-
Grants – restricted	Nourish our Vision	27,819	-
Grants – restricted	Outreach Projects	59,000	39,000
Grants – restricted	We can create too	1,800	-
Service users Income	Core Services	62,389	66,986
		<u>434,550</u>	<u>542,561</u>

4. INCOME FROM TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2026	2025
	£	£
Fundraising	4,929	10,546
Hall hire	66,775	96,834
Rent received	45,033	46,986
	<u>116,737</u>	<u>154,366</u>

Income earned from trading activities was £116,737 (2025: £154,366) all unrestricted.

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2026	2025
	£	£
Investment income	1,815	2,538

All the Charity's investment income of £1,815 (2025: £2,538) is unrestricted.

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

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

6. RAISING FUNDS

	2026	2025
	£	£
AGM, Marketing costs and rebrand	-	2,718
Direct fundraising costs	18,284	43,452
Fundraising events	593	2,495
	<u>18,877</u>	<u>48,665</u>

Of the total raising funds expenditure of £18,877 (2025: £48,665), £Nil was in respect of restricted funds (2025: £832) and £18,877 was in respect of unrestricted funds (2025: £47,833).

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct costs	Governance (See note 8)	2026 Totals	2025 Totals
	£	£	£	£
Bringing sport to the sight loss community	32,043	-	32,043	-
Children and Young People's Programme	33,774	-	33,774	15,903
Community Transport Assets	35,500	-	35,500	35,500
Community Transport Project	124,273	1,576	125,849	191,857
Core Services	194,749	20,447	215,196	226,373
Croydon Loves You Community Events	3,915	-	3,915	4,758
Croydon Vision Community Events	-	-	-	-
Let's Cook Courses	10,000	-	10,000	-
Nourish our Vision	27,819	-	27,819	-
Outreach Projects	59,000	-	59,000	39,000
The Lost 500 Project	65,025	-	65,025	204,126
We can create too Project	1,800	-	1,800	-
	<u>587,898</u>	<u>22,023</u>	<u>609,921</u>	<u>717,517</u>

Of the total charitable activities' costs of £609,921 (2025: £717,517), £394,725 was in respect of restricted funds (2025: £491,144), £199,790 was in respect of unrestricted funds (2025: £219,968) and £15,406 in respect of endowment funds (2025: £15,405).

8. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2026	2025
	£	£
Accountancy fees	12,089	9,976
Health & Safety	4,485	3,972
HR fees	3,839	4,354
Independent Examiner fee	1,200	1,320
Payroll fees	410	410
	<u>22,023</u>	<u>20,032</u>

Of the total governance costs of £22,023 (2025: £20,032), £1,576 was in respect of restricted funds (2025: £5,706) and £20,447 was in respect of unrestricted funds (2025: £14,326).

9. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

The Charity Trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the Charity in the year (2025: £nil) neither were they reimbursed expenses during the year (2025: £nil).

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

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

10. STAFF COSTS

	2026	2025
	£	£
Wages and salaries	305,730	315,766
Social security costs	25,759	21,032
Pension costs	13,172	13,364
	<u>344,661</u>	<u>350,162</u>

One employee had employee benefits in excess of £60,000 in the £60,000- £70,000 band (2025: 1).

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

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Charity were £65,950 (2025: £134,280).

11. STAFF NUMBERS

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

	2026 Numbers	2025 Numbers
Senior Management Team	1	3
Other Direct Charitable Staff	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>
	<u>12</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 2026, the Charity's total contributions amounted to £13,172 (2025: £13,364).

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 2026**

14. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Property Unrestricted £	Freehold Property Endowment £	Other Assets £	Totals £
COST/VALUATION				
At 1 April 2025	344,581	1,155,419	241,935	1,741,935
Additions	-	-	-	-
Disposal	-	-	-	-
	<u>344,581</u>	<u>1,155,419</u>	<u>241,935</u>	<u>1,741,935</u>
At 31 March 2026	<u>344,581</u>	<u>1,155,419</u>	<u>241,935</u>	<u>1,741,935</u>
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 April 2025	45,825	153,654	170,122	369,601
Charge for year	4,594	15,406	39,579	59,579
Eliminated on disposal	-	-	-	-
	<u>50,419</u>	<u>169,060</u>	<u>209,701</u>	<u>429,180</u>
At 31 March 2026	<u>50,419</u>	<u>169,060</u>	<u>209,701</u>	<u>429,180</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 March 2026	<u>294,162</u>	<u>986,359</u>	<u>32,234</u>	<u>1,312,755</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>298,756</u>	<u>1,001,765</u>	<u>71,813</u>	<u>1,372,334</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 £986,359 net book value as at 31 March 2026 (2025: £1,001,765).

15. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	£ Listed Investments	£ Totals
MARKET VALUE		
At 1 April 2025	458	458
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
Revaluation	-	-
	<u>458</u>	<u>458</u>
At 31 March 2026	<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 2026**

16. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2026	2025
	£	£
Trade debtors	4,623	9,425
Other debtors	35,631	31,797
Accrued income	29,996	32,048
	<u>70,250</u>	<u>73,270</u>

17. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2026	2025
	£	£
Trade creditors	8,246	18,004
Deferred income	69,703	200,747
Tax and social security	5,975	6,860
Other creditors and accrued expenses	8,678	9,699
	<u>92,602</u>	<u>235,310</u>

18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Current year information for the net assets between funds:

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	296,812	29,583	986,359	1,312,754	1,372,334
Investments	458	-	-	458	458
Current assets	92,228	75,371	-	167,599	293,466
Current liabilities	<u>(24,898)</u>	<u>(67,704)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(92,602)</u>	<u>(235,310)</u>
	<u>364,600</u>	<u>37,250</u>	<u>986,359</u>	<u>1,388,209</u>	<u>1,430,948</u>

Comparative year information for the net assets between funds:

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds	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>

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

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS – Current Year

	At 1/4/25 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31/3/26 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund – Free reserves	62,495	7,943	-	70,438
Designated funds				
Designated fund – Freehold building	298,756	(4,594)	-	294,162
	361,251	3,349	-	364,600
Restricted funds				
Bringing sport to the sight loss community	-	7,066	-	7,066
Children & Young People Fund	347	254	-	601
Community Transport Assets	65,083	(35,500)	-	29,583
Community Transport Project	150	(150)	-	-
Lost 500 Project	2,352	(2,352)	-	-
	67,932	(30,682)	-	37,250
Endowment funds				
Freehold Building	1,001,765	(15,406)	-	986,359
	1,001,765	(15,406)	-	986,359
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,430,948</u>	<u>(42,739)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,388,209</u>

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

	Income £	Expenses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	222,016	(214,073)	7,943
Designated fund – Freehold building	-	(4,594)	(4,594)
	222,016	(218,667)	3,349
Restricted funds			
Bringing sport to the sight loss community	39,109	(32,043)	7,066
Children & Young People	34,028	(33,774)	254
Community Transport Assets	-	(35,500)	(35,500)
Community Transport Project	125,699	(125,849)	(150)
Croydon Loves You	3,915	(3,915)	-
Let's Cook Courses	10,000	(10,000)	-
Lost 500 Project	62,673	(65,025)	(2,352)
Outreach	59,000	(59,000)	-
Nourish our vision	27,819	(27,819)	-
We can create	1,800	(1,800)	-
	364,043	(394,725)	(30,682)
Endowment funds			
Freehold Building	-	(15,406)	(15,406)
	-	(15,406)	(15,406)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>586,059</u>	<u>(628,798)</u>	<u>(42,739)</u>

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

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS – Previous 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>

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 2026 of £294,162 (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 £986,359 net book value as at 31 March 2026 (2025: £1,001,765).

Restricted Funds

Bringing sport to the sight loss community

Funding was received from the London Marathon Foundation to fund the Bringing Sport to the Sight Loss Community project which has transformed access to sport and physical activity for our community. The project was developed in response to the significant barriers that people with sight loss often face when accessing mainstream sports and leisure opportunities.

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 was 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. This funding finished at the end of November 2025.

Croydon Loves You

Funding was received from the London Borough of Croydon to deliver weekly creative sessions for people with vision impairments to reduce social isolation and improve wellbeing.

Let's Cook Courses

A grant of £10,000 was received this year from the Ulverscroft Foundation towards the delivery of our weekly cookery courses.

Lost 500 Project

Over the past year, The Lost 500 project, funded by the City Bridge Foundation has continued to significantly transform the lives of individuals living with sight loss in Croydon.

20. FUND DESCRIPTION - continued

Restricted Funds

Nourish our vision

Funding was received this year from The National Lottery Community Fund, W O Street Charitable Foundation and the Inman Charity as contributions towards the provision of our members lunch club service. Through our lunch club, we connect members of all ages through this intergenerational project which provides subsidised hot, balanced lunches, four times per week. Members can connect with each other, have someone to talk to, a reason to leave the house and access to nutritious, hot, homecooked food.

Outreach Project

Funding was received from the King Charles III Charitable Fund and other funders and donors to support our 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.

We can create too

A grant of £1,800 was received from the Ros Harding Trust as a contribution towards our Arts & Craft Programme. This grant has enabled us to continue our programme for another year providing weekly classes for our members.

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 2026**

	2026	2025
	£	£
Voluntary income		
Donations	24,637	17,032
Legacies, Bequests, and in Memory	<u>6,000</u>	<u>-</u>
	30,637	17,032
Incoming resources from charitable activities		
Service users' income	62,389	66,986
Grants	<u>372,161</u>	<u>475,575</u>
	434,550	542,561
Activities for generating funds		
Fundraising events	4,929	10,546
Hall hire	66,775	96,834
Rent received	<u>45,033</u>	<u>46,986</u>
	116,737	154,366
Investment Income		
Bank Interest	1,815	2,538
Dividends	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	1,815	2,538
Other Income		
Sundry income	<u>2,320</u>	<u>5,009</u>
Total incoming resources	586,059	721,506
Fundraising costs		
AGM, Marketing costs and rebrand	-	2,718
Direct fundraising costs	18,284	43,452
Fundraising events	<u>593</u>	<u>2,495</u>
	18,877	48,665
Charitable activities		
Staff Salaries	344,661	350,162
Team Training (staff and volunteers)	567	756
Staff Recruitment	-	13,746
Contract Staff	30,450	54,790
Staff Travelling and Meetings	642	2,092
Staff Welfare	290	1,722
Consultancy	3,825	1,575
Depreciation	59,579	60,204
Direct Projects expenses	57,605	101,321
Flat expenses	14,144	12,457
Hall expenses	7,466	12,552
IT and website	9,744	9,816
Office Administration	20,125	23,169
Premises expenses	38,270	45,519
Volunteer expenses	<u>530</u>	<u>7,604</u>
	587,898	697,485

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 2026**

	2026	2025
	£	£
Governance costs		
Accountancy fees	12,089	9,976
Health & Safety	4,485	3,972
HR fees	3,839	4,354
Independent Examiner fee	1,200	1,320
Payroll fees	<u>410</u>	<u>410</u>
	22,023	20,032
Total resources expended	<u>628,798</u>	<u>766,182</u>
Operating (Deficit)	<u>(42,739)</u>	<u>(44,676)</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements