

Registered Charity Number: 1159188

York Blind & Partially Sighted Society CIO

Operating as MySight York

Independently Examined

Annual Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO

CONTENTS

Charity Information	1
Trustees' Report	3
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities	17
Independent Examiner's Report.....	18
Statement of Financial Activities	20
Balance Sheet	21
Statement of Cashflows	22
Notes to the Financial Statements.....	23

YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO

CHARITY INFORMATION

Charity Name

York Blind & Partially Sighted Society

Charity Number

1159188

(Linked Charity 508914 York Blind and Partially Sighted Society)

Trustees

The following Trustees have held office since 1 April 2020: -

Martin Fawcett	Chair
Jean Haywood	Hon Secretary
Eleanor Tew	
Anna Baldwin	Resigned 31 st May 2021
Marc Taylor	
Annette Gamston	
Paul Broadberry	
Aaron Holmes	Appointed 21 st June 2021
Barbara Capaldi	Appointed 13 th October 2020
David Gawthorpe	Appointed 13 th October 2020
Jim Wallace	Resigned 13 th October 2020
Mark Hudson	

Chief Executive

Karen Froggatt	Resigned 30 th June 2020
Scott Jobson	Appointed 30 th June 2020

YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO

CHARITY INFORMATION (Cont.)

Principal Address and Address for General Enquiries

14 Merchants Place,
Merchantgate,
York, YO1 9TU
Tel: 01904 636269
www.MySightYork.org

Independent Examiner

Laura Masheder FCA DChA
Garbutt & Elliott LLP
Triune Court
Monks Cross Drive
York
YO32 9GZ

Bankers

Unity Bank plc
9 Brindley Place
Birmingham
B1 2HB

HSBC
13 Parliament Street
York
YO1 8XS

Virgin Bank Ltd
46 Coney Street
York
YO1 9NQ

Secure Trust Bank
One Arlestone Way
Solihull
West Midlands
B90 4LH

YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Chairman's Report

The past 12 months since March 2020, must have been one of the most challenging periods in recollection for MySight York. A change of Chief Executive and the start of a lengthy period of operating in a global pandemic, created unique conditions for all of our staff to operate in. This has been an unprecedented period through which MySight York has continued to find new and innovative ways to deliver its services. The Charity continues to operate in very challenging financial circumstances, with an ever-increasing reliance on legacies to maintain the increased demand for our core services, combined with a need to meet our committed costs. This increases the workload on the Charity's excellent staff and volunteers, who continue to show their professionalism, dedication and commitment in these extraordinary times.

Over the year the Trustees witnessed and supported significant developments in the management of MySight York:

- Dealing with the impact of Covid-19 from March 2020 and ensuring we maintained our services whilst keeping our staff safe.
- Enhanced use of technology to allow staff to work remotely (with the office closed for long periods) whilst maintaining high standards of service.
- An AGM which was held via Zoom on 13th October 2020.
- Developed and utilised enhanced risk management skills across staff and Trustees alike to deal with the unpredictable environment, including also utilising (briefly) the governments furlough scheme.

In addition, there were a host of further commendable achievements during the year including:

- The launch of the "Keeping in Touch" project; A team of volunteers, plus three staff members, were matched with clients to maintain regular telephone contact with those who are particularly vulnerable or at risk of isolation.
- The Home Connections project focusing on vital specialist equipment packed up and delivered by City of York Council and MySight York volunteers to people who needed them.
- The Reaching Out project, contacting hundreds of service users to understand how we are performing. This will be vital in shaping our future provision.
- Not least, remaining "open for business" when other similar organisations were unable to do so.

Thanks go to Karen Froggat who retired in June 2020, as CEO and to Scott Jobson

YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Chairman's Report (Cont.)

who replaced Karen and has done such an excellent job in difficult circumstances. My special thanks go to Jim Wallace who stood down as Chairman in October 2020 after a distinguished period of service.

Whilst outside of the period of this report, there were recent changes to the make-up of the Board of Trustees too. In May 2021, Anna Baldwin stood down after 5 years of service with the Board, and Aaron Holmes joined us too in May joining Barbara Capaldi and David Gawthorpe, who both joined in 2020.

As has been repeatedly said, we pride ourselves on being a user led organisation, in touch with the needs of our members and enabling them to have a say in the running of our organisation, and a voice in service provision in York.

As the restrictions driven by Corona Virus lift we will aim to continue to offer four core services:

- An Equipment and Information Centre at our premises in Merchantgate, York, providing individually tailored practical and emotional support and promoting independence and well-being.
- A Volunteer home visiting service providing 1-1 support that enables people to do the things they want to do.
- An Early Intervention, Information and Support Services (ECLO) at York Hospital Eye Clinic helping people with a newly diagnosed sight loss.
- An expanded range of peer support, leisure and learning activities to increase people's confidence, well-being and independence, particularly in their local community.

Our forward aims are to:

1. maintain the level of core services that we currently provide, ensuring service users' needs and voice are at the heart of what we do;
2. generate an increasing amount of non-statutory funding by a mixture of internal and external fundraising;
3. ensure that we have the correct mix and skills from all staff and trustees and conform to the Charity Commission code;
4. be responsive to a rapidly changing environment and requirement for service, particularly following the impact of Covid-19.

YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Chairman's Report (Cont.)

I would conclude by also thanking all our staff, our volunteers, the Trustees, the National Lottery Fund, City of York Council, the Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group, York Hospital Trust, RNIB, all our generous sponsors and in particular those members who have remembered us with legacies. Between them they enable the Society to continue to provide such an excellent service.

Martin Fawcett Chair

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The Trustees have prepared these Financial Statements 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 (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019) as detailed in the accounting policies.

Reference & Administrative Details

The Charity information on pages 1 and 2 forms part of this report.

Constitution

York Blind & Partially Sighted Society (the "Charity") was registered as a CIO on 13 November 2014, number 1159188, succeeding York Blind and Partially Sighted Society (number 508914) which is now a linked Charity. On 1 April 2015, the activity and assets of York Blind and Partially Sighted Society were transferred across to the new CIO which commenced activities on that date.

The Trustees have taken advantage of the Charity Commission concession to link charities which have a common Trustee board allowing preparation of one set of financial statements for both charities.

Our Objectives and Activities

In planning the activities of the organisation, the Trustees have due regard to their duty to meet the Charity Commission's requirements about public benefit. The Trustees ensure that the objective and aims of the organisation are carried out through its activities for the public benefit and details its achievements and activities in this report.

YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021 (Cont)

The object of the Charity is:

- To promote the welfare of people who are blind, partially sighted or substantially and permanently disabled by defective vision.

The aims are: -

- To provide a range of services designed to meet the needs of visually impaired people including an Equipment and Information Centre and Outreach facilities.
- To promote the needs of visually impaired people to statutory and voluntary organisations.
- To maintain an up to date record of visually impaired people, whilst ensuring compliance with the GDPR and ePrivacy regulations.
- Any other activities deemed to be desirable to further the welfare of visually impaired people.

The Society's Mission is to "advocate, develop and provide services and facilities which enable people who are blind or partially sighted achieve independence with dignity, in all aspects of life and sectors of Society".

Our services are available to any visually impaired person in York and surrounding areas, plus his/her supporters and professional staff. Free membership of MySight York is available automatically to anyone registered blind/severely sight impaired or partially sighted/sight impaired, and to any visually impaired person in need of services.

We have almost 1,200 people (members) on our database.

Services are provided free of charge, apart from purchases from the Equipment Centre, and a small charge for some activities.

Achievements and performance

1. Achievements

Background/context:

2020/21 has been a year like no other. Unparalleled. Unprecedented. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, our services were never more needed; whilst organisationally we were never more in need.

YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021 (Cont)

For our members, the immediate impact was considerable. For someone who cannot see, and who therefore has to touch more than a sighted person, navigating the world became ever more challenging. New demands such as social distancing, booking online shopping slots, and negotiating an increasingly digital world, brought a fresh urgency to our services. At the same time, our organisation found itself facing challenges of a kind no-one had ever experienced before. Community fundraising stopped overnight and almost all face to face activity stood still.

Ever-changing guidelines meant our plans had to be fluid, adaptable, responsive and reactive.

Adaptation:

We immediately created online and telephone groups, to connect our members to each other and to up-to-date advice and services. We created a local information guide as a volunteer aide to these essential calls.

We developed a bespoke 'Home Connections' delivery service which supplies specialist equipment direct to people's homes, whilst creating an appointment system for the Equipment & Information Service, enabling face to face assessments.

Our much-valued Home Visiting Service transitioned into the Keeping in Touch project, pairing potentially isolated blind and partially sighted people with trained volunteers for a regular friendly phone call. At the same time our Eye Clinic Liaison Officer continued to work from York Teaching Hospital, offering support and advice to patients from the point of diagnosis.

2021/22 will see us further develop our key priorities for a new future based around shared values, a commitment to collaborate and to build trust by doing what we say we'll do. A future that blends the best of the old with the best of the new:

- To retain telephone befriending service whilst re-engaging people in their homes.
- To provide specialist equipment direct to peoples' homes whilst offering a place for a face to face appointment.

YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021 (Cont)

- To connect members together (face to face and digitally) and form peer to peer thematic groups, and drive societal change.

All of this was achieved through the efforts of the most dedicated, hard-working, professional and creative team of staff and volunteers. With each member building upon the shared experiences of those with sight loss in York, each experiencing a visual world in a different and personally unique way.

We are very proud to be part of an extremely talented organisation, which truly never stands still.

2. Performance Equipment and Information Centre

Our Equipment and Information service allows people to discuss their sight needs, at their own pace, with a trained, specialist advisor. This service provides uniquely valuable support for clients' practical and emotional needs, throughout their sight loss journey.

In a recent survey:

- 100% of Equipment and Information service users would recommend the service to someone in a similar position.
- 97% said they could make use of helpful aids and equipment at least some of the time, 6 weeks after visiting us.
- Over 2/3 said they could use helpful aids and equipment either 'Often' or 'All of the time'.
- Overall, clients reported a statistically significant positive change in their mental wellbeing 6 weeks after their visit.

"Until you go to somewhere like MySight you don't know what is out there. The quality of staff is superb – they know what they are talking about."

YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021 (Cont)

“It’s an absolute Godsend. I’ve never known people to care so much. They’ve helped me overcome something that could have led to depression and isolation. Nothing’s too much trouble.”

“Without them there would be a lot of lost and lonely people.”

“It is life changing.”

As the first lockdown set in, it became clear that we needed to find a way to support our clients with ongoing advice, information and equipment to help manage the daily challenges of living with sight loss. Our Home Connections service was born out of that need. Clients spend time discussing their needs with an expert advisor. Equipment is then posted or delivered to their doorstep by a volunteer, enabling the client to try a range of solutions in their home environment and in their own time. The service is unlimited - clients have benefited from exploring up to 20 different pieces of equipment in the course of the year.

- 189 - Number of clients supported
- 459 - Equipment items sent/delivered
- 490 - Doorstep deliveries/collections

Sight Support Service - delivered by the ECLO (Eye Clinic Liaison Officer) York Hospital Trust

The Sight Support Service has continued throughout the pandemic to provide information, guidance, onward referral and vital emotional support to patients at York Hospital.

Our Eye Clinic Liaison Officer has maintained a regular presence in the clinic, whilst offering patients telephone appointments, in line with government guidelines.

“It was really nice talking to you when you phoned and it really made me feel supported. Thank you again for all your help and thoughtfulness.”

Wife of a patient

YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021 (Cont)

"I didn't think you'd still be working and I'm so grateful to you for ringing and talking to me as I've not seen or spoken to anyone for two weeks. It was really lovely to talk to somebody who understands my sight difficulties and I feel reassured and less anxious about the future now I know about the services available. I would be very pleased to have a follow up appointment in the future so I can put a face to the voice that has helped me to feel so much better. Thank you."

Sight Support Service patient

697 - Patients Supported

538 - Referrals to external organisations

79 - CVI registrations

Home Visiting Service

Our brand-new telephone befriending service was set up in April 2020 with a simple purpose: to pair potentially isolated blind and partially sighted people with volunteer befrienders for a regular friendly telephone call.

Feedback clearly demonstrates that these calls reduce clients' feelings of isolation and maintain their sense of self-confidence. They also provide an opportunity to raise queries or concerns, which can either be dealt with directly by the volunteer or referred to MySight York staff. Queries have included difficulties with daily tasks such as cooking or reading, fear of leaving the house, accessing essential shopping and banking.

"It's been a lifeline - it's been a difficult time. I think I might have disappeared into a black hole if I hadn't been able to keep in touch with people."

"It made me feel part of something, that they were looking out for me. I look forward to talking and having someone to relate my problems to. It's just good to know there is someone I can turn to for help."

- 116 - clients receiving regular befriending calls
- 45 - volunteers
- 1,453 - hours of conversation
- 2,360 - calls made
- 100% of clients/volunteers said they would like to continue with calls as lockdown progressed

YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021 (Cont)

Community Lottery Project

The pandemic impacted greatly on our regular social and support groups. We adapted to continue to run groups both online and via conference call, including:

- Exercise class
- Audio book group
- Discussion group
- Technology support
- Access group
- A support group for people who experience visual hallucinations
- A quiz
- Support with MySight (*3 groups)

This has proved a successful way to ensure that members still have the peer support they need and the opportunity to share ideas and concerns with the people with lived experience.

“I don’t live in York and getting to groups in your office was difficult for me. This is a lovely opportunity for me to take part.”

“I’ve just come off the phone with the discussion group. It was really super. Looking forward to the next time.”

Following the government’s second lockdown announcement we launched a brand-new project called: ‘Reaching Out’. This has three aims:

- to ensure our member data is up-to-date
- to collect information on views, opinions and needs
- to connect to each other and to local services.

As a result of this huge piece of research, we will be better equipped to understand the lived experience of local blind and partially sighted people. From that understanding we will build a picture of how we can indeed enable people in York to live well with sight loss.

Communications

We have continued to (despite lockdowns), send out a quarterly newsletter to all of our members, in different accessible formats.

YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021 (Cont)

We have continued to grow our online presence – we have over 1,500 followers on Facebook and Twitter (combined).

Our Communications are core to our service, enabling us to connect with our members and the wider community in a way that is engaging, timely and accessible.

Our quarterly Newsletter is distributed free of charge to all our members and key professional partners. It includes a mix of information and service updates, news, features and articles by service users. The feedback we receive is universally positive and shows what a vital resource this is:

“Again a splendid Newsletter... It is so wonderful and encouraging.”

“The Newsletter is brilliant – 10 out of 10!”

Our digital channels are also growing in importance. Our website received 5,726 visits from 4,223 users during the year, 73% of whom were new visitors. Positive feedback on the site reflects our continuing commitment to relevant, up-to-date and accessible communications.

Our presence on social media also continued to grow throughout the year:

Facebook increased by +39% and Twitter by +15%.

Fundraising and Income Generation

2021/21 saw an increase in our income on previous years, predominantly due to a large legacy donation, which amounted to 43% of our total.

The more typical 2019/20 figures, by contrast, show the degree to which we remain dependent on donations from individuals and trusts to enable us to continue to provide services.

The last year has presented significant challenges and, with opportunities for fundraising (especially community and events) likely to remain limited for the foreseeable future, the support of donors and trusts will again be crucial in the next 12 months.

YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021 (Cont)

We are deeply grateful to all our funders for enabling us not only to maintain existing services, but to build on those we have developed in response to our clients' needs during the pandemic.

Financial Review

The Society sets an annual budget that is approved by the Trustees prior to the start of the financial year, with a budgeted surplus of £128k anticipated. Our full year income exceeded expenditure by £190k due to legacies of over £241k in the year. Our income and expenditure can be summarised:

- Income of £561k was £195k above that achieved in 2019/2020 and reflected the significantly increased legacies, continued lottery funding and increased trusts and donations. Income exceeded our budget by £69k. A detailed analysis of income is tabled below.
- Costs of £372k were £33k (8%) lower than the previous year with slightly lower staffing costs and that 2019/20 included one off costs relating to the relocation to our new premises. Staffing costs continue to equate to two thirds of our annual costs.

Our recent levels of income can be further analysed as follows:

	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
Local authority / CCG funding	50,553	44,483	49,355
Donations, trusts, community fundraising	161,994	147,133	117,047
Legacies	251,404	56,187	107,356
Equipment sales	6,430	13,502	11,973
Lottery projects	89,401	87,539	4,502
Other	1,630	17,475	32,515
Total	561,412	366,319	322,748

Despite the restriction of our activities through the closure of our office during Covid 19 lockdowns our income generation team, and indeed all staff, we have seen our income excluding legacies maintained above £300k. This coupled with our three-year lottery income provides a significant level of comfort to the Trustees. Particularly as, our level of “contractual funding” reduced to its lowest ever level at nine percent of our 2020/21 revenues.

YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021 (Cont)

The reduction in community fundraising and other income during 2020/21 reflects the impact of Covid-19.

Legacy funding has enabled the Society to deliver the services its users value so highly and our thanks go to members' estates for their particularly significant bequests in 2020/21.

Reserves policy and going concern

Free reserves of £98k were held at 31 March 2021. Free reserves exclude those reserves which are restricted, designated, or which can only be realised by disposing of fixed assets held for Charity use.

The Building Fund of £165k is a designated fund, which is set aside to ensure the organisation has, and will have in future, appropriate premises from which to operate (see note 8).

The policy of the Executive Committee is that the Society should retain free reserves for 3 to 4 months' operating expenditure. This policy is reviewed annually. At the end of this year, the Society held around 3.15 months' operating expenditure in free reserves.

Key Management Remuneration

The pay policy of staff is based on the NJC scales with progression where appropriate. Annual increases are normally in line with the national agreement and subject to affordability at the time. New staff salaries are approved by the Executive Committee and are considered after external benchmarking of the post.

Structure, Governance and Management

We pride ourselves on being a user led organisation, admitting as members anyone who is registered blind or partially sighted living with sight loss and in need of services.

The Charity is managed by an Executive Committee (Board of Trustees) of at least 8, but no more than 15 members. In accordance with the constitution, every effort is made to ensure that many Trustees are visually impaired people. All Trustees are required to retire at the Charity's annual general meeting but can offer themselves for re-election. New Trustees are either elected at the Annual General Meeting or co-opted by the board for the period to the next Annual General Meeting. New Trustees participate in induction training and an annual programme of Trustee training is organised by the Honorary Secretary and staff.

YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021 (Cont)

The Executive Committee meets bi-monthly, with additional meetings as and when required. A between meeting report is issued to Trustees by the Chief Executive. Day to day management of the organisation is delegated to the Chief Executive.

Plans

YBPSS Business Plan sets the future strategy of the organisation, based on Best Practice guidance nationally and local needs. The Trustees thereby wish to:

- deliver the activities identified in our Business Plan;
- continue to provide, develop and enhance the current range of core services and activities;
- consolidate and further develop fundraising activities so we will not be reliant on legacies;
- improve training and development of staff, trustees and volunteers.

Covid-19

As part of their assessment of the going concern basis of preparation, the Trustees have considered the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the charity's activities, staff and the wider economies in which it operates.

STAFF

The Society and the excellent services it provides at the various locations can continue only because of its staff who support all our members throughout all our activities. Once again, our thanks to them all for their contribution over the past year, which has again been challenging. I therefore wish to thank personally all current staff and those who contributed during the year.

YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021 (Cont)

Current staff

Scott Jobson	Chief Executive
Aneta Sunara	Team Administrator
Barbara Fairs	Business Manager
Caroline Robertson	Training and Engagement Manager
Catherine Bamford	Volunteer Manager
Lizzy Powell	Community Fundraising
Christian Waite	Activities and Volunteer Co-ordinator
Deborah Cairns	Research and Communications Officer
Deborah Wheller	Sight Support Service Manager
Jade Burniston	Early Intervention and Sight Support
Michael Hickman	Income Generation Manager
Sally Chignell	Community Engagement Officer
Vanessa Camp	Senior ECLO

This report was approved by the Trustees on.....^{20/09/2021} and signed on its behalf by:



.....

M Fawcett (Chair)



.....

J Haywood (Honorary Secretary)

YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and UK Accounting Standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the Charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable 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 that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provision 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 UK governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the York Blind & Partially Sighted Society for the year ended 31 March 2021.

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My independent examination work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustees as a body, for my independent examination work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity Trustees of the Trust 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 Trust's 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

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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 Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or

YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED

Independent Examiner's Statement (Cont.)

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.

Laura Masheder

.....

20/09/2021

.....

Laura Masheder FCA DChA
Garbutt & Elliott LLP

Chartered Accountants

Triune Court
Monks Cross Drive
York
YO32 9GZ

YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	2	392,432	-	106,338	498,770	275,734
Other trading activities	2	4,734	-	-	4,734	14,601
Investment income	2	697	-	-	697	374
Income from charitable activities	2	16,095	-	41,116	57,211	75,610
Total income		413,958	-	147,454	561,412	366,319
Expenditure on:						
Expenditure on raising funds	3	17,389	-	-	17,389	42,687
Expenditure on charitable activities	3	204,191	-	150,257	354,448	361,817
Total expenditure		221,580	-	150,257	371,837	404,504
Net (expenditure)/income Transfers		192,378 (140,000)	- 120,000	(2,803) 20,000	189,575 -	(38,185) -
Net Movement for year		52,378	120,000	17,197	189,575	(38,185)
Balances at 1 April 2020		45,169	45,000	12,023	102,192	140,377
Balances At 31 March 2021	10	97,547	165,000	29,220	291,767	102,192

The notes on pages 23 – 38 form part of these financial statements.

All of the Charity's operations are classed as continuing.

A fully detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2020 is shown at note 13.

YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	2021	2020
		£	£
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock		5,529	9,162
Debtors	5	4,036	45,413
Cash in bank and in hand		309,498	83,958
		319,063	138,533
LIABILITIES: Amount falling due within one year			
Creditors and accruals	6	(27,296)	(36,341)
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		291,767	102,192
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
	10	291,767	102,192

REPRESENTED BY:

FUNDS

Unrestricted	8	97,547	45,169
Designated – building fund	8	165,000	45,000
Restricted	9	29,220	12,023
	10	291,767	102,192

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on ^{20/09/2021}..... and signed on its behalf by:



.....
J Haywood - Hon Secretary



.....
M Fawcett - Chairman

**YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO
STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS AS AT 31 MARCH 2021**

	Note	2021	2020
		£	£
Net cash provided by:			
Operating activities		224,843	(67,479)

Cash flows from investing activities:

Interest from investments		697	374
Net cash provided by investing activities		697	374

Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		225,540	(67,105)
Cash and cash equivalents at the start of the year		83,958	151,063
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		309,498	83,958

Reconciliation of net income to net cashflows from operating activities:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Net income for the year:	189,575	(38,185)

Adjustments for:

Interest from investments	(697)	(374)
(Increase)/decrease in stock	3,633	(302)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	41,377	(45,011)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(9,045)	16,393

Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	224,843	(67,479)
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Analysis of changes in net funds	At 31 March 2020	Cash flow	At 31 March 2021
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	83,958	225,540	309,498

There was no net debt in the current or prior year.

YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

Charity Information

York Blind & Partially Sighted Society is registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation under the Charities Act 2011. The address for general enquiries is York Blind and Partially Sighted Society, 14 Merchants Place, Merchantgate, York, YO1

Accounting Convention

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis 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 (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015) ("Charities SORP (FRS102)"), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Ireland ("FRS 102"), and the Charities Act 2011.

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

York Blind & Partially Sighted Society meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going Concern

The Trustees have considered the wider economy and COVID-19. At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Income

Income is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities ("SoFA") in the year in which it is receivable. For subscriptions and rental income this is in the year in which it is receivable and for ticket sales and meeting suppers this is in the year in which the event occurs. Deferred income represents grants received specifically for future accounting periods.

YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. Accounting Policies (Cont.)

Expenditure

Expenditure is included in the SoFA on an accrual's basis inclusive of any VAT that cannot be recovered and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

All direct costs have been allocated across the functional categories of resources expended in the SoFA. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to headings, they have been apportioned on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

The costs of generating funds relate to expenditure directly attributable to fundraising.

Costs of charitable activities include those costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities and services. Costs relating to an activity are allocated directly.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Pensions

The Charity operates a defined contribution scheme for employees. Contributions are charged as an expense to the SoFA in the period in which they fall due.

Staff costs

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense where settlement of obligations does not fall within the same period.

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Operating lease agreements

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged against income on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. Accounting Policies (Cont.)

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £2,000 are capitalised at cost.

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets over their expected useful lives. The rates and methods used are as follows:

Equipment - 33% straight line

Computer - 33% straight line.

Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Financial instruments

The Charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

The Charity has only financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments in accordance with section 11 of FRS 102. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and are subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity held for working capital.

Debtors

Other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

Financial assets, other than those held at fair value through profit and loss, are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting end date.

Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset, the estimated future cash flows have been affected. The impairment loss is recognised in the income and expenditure account.

YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. Accounting Policies (Cont.)

Creditors, loans and provisions

Creditors, loans 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, loans and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are only derecognised when, and only when, the Charity's obligations are discharged, cancelled or they expire.

Amounts recognised as provisions are best estimates of the consideration required to settle the present obligation at the reporting end date, taking into account the risks and uncertainties surrounding the obligation.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity.

Designated funds are funds set aside by the Trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which can be used only for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the Charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor.

Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are 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.

YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. Accounting Policies (Cont.)

Critical accounting estimates and judgements (Cont.)

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

The Trustees are of the opinion that there are no estimates and assumptions which have a material impact on the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities.

2. INCOME

As at 31 March 2021	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2021 Total Funds
	£	£	£
Grants			
Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group:			
Equipment and Information Centre	-	11,937	11,937
Lottery Project	-	89,401	89,401
Other	2,500		2,500
Grant support	2,500	101,338	103,838
Donations	138,528	5,000	143,528
Legacies	251,404	-	251,404
Donations and legacies	389,932	5,000	394,932
Total donations, grants and legacies	392,432	106,338	498,770

YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

2. INCOME (Cont.)

As at 31 March 2021 Continued	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021 Total Funds £
Other trading activities:			
Community fundraising	2,194	-	2,194
Income from work	2,540	-	2,540
Total trading activities	4,734	-	4,734
Investment income			
Bank interest	697	-	697
Income from charitable activities:			
Hospital Eye Clinic Service			
Vale of York CCG	-	24,975	24,975
York Hospital	-	11,141	11,141
Sales of equipment and aids	6,430	-	6,430
Social and group activities	75	-	75
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	9,590	-	9,590
Sundry income	-	5,000	5,000
Total income from charitable activities	16,095	41,116	57,211
Total income	413,958	147,454	561,412

During the year donations of £1,123 (2020: £1,310) were received from Trustees of the Society.

YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

2. INCOME (Cont.)

As at 31 March 2020	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2020 Total Funds £
Grants			
Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group:			
Equipment and Information Centre	11,773	-	11,773
Lottery Project		87,539	87,539
Other	1,000		1,000
Grant support	12,773	87,539	100,312
Donations and gift aid	119,235		119,235
Legacies	56,187	-	56,187
Donations and legacies	175,422		175,422
Total donations, grants and legacies	188,195	87,539	275,734
Other trading activities:			
Community fundraising	9,422	-	9,422
Income from work	5,179	-	5,179
Total trading activities	14,601	-	14,601
Investment income			
Bank interest	374	-	374

YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 2021

2. INCOME (Cont.)

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2020 Total Funds
	£	£	£
Income from charitable activities:			
Vale of York CCG	-	21,722	21,722
RNIB “being there”	-	19,722	19,722
York Hospital	-	10,988	10,988
Department of Work and Pensions Access to Work	804	-	804
Sales of equipment and aids	13,502	-	13,502
Social and group activities	2,772	-	2,772
Room hires	2,517	-	2,517
Sundry income	3,583	-	3,583
Total income from charitable activities	23,178	52,432	75,610
Total income	226,348	139,971	366,319

YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

3. EXPENDITURE

As at 31 March 2021	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2021 Total Funds
	£	£	£
Salaries (Note 4)	16,048	-	16,048
Other	1,341	-	1,341
Total expenditure on raising funds	17,389	-	17,389
Expenditure on charitable activities			
Salaries (Note 4)	105,546	127,394	232,940
Rent, rates and service charges	50,497	11,890	62,387
Cost of equipment sold	11,437	-	11,437
Professional fees	6,926	-	6,926
Outreach premises	-	6,000	6,000
Lottery funding: overheads	6,233	-	6,233
Printed material	3,316	-	3,316
Lottery funding: equipment	-	2,747	2,747
Staff It	2,245	-	2,245
Insurance	2,103	-	2,103
Consultancy	1,917	-	1,917
Maintenance	1,798	-	1,798
Stationery and photocopying	1,788	-	1,788
Sundry expenses	1,720	-	1,720
Postage	-	1,114	1,114
CRMS	998	-	998
Bank charges	-	972	972
Newsletter	917	-	917
Phone	870	-	870
All aboard planning	704	-	704
IE fees paid to Independent Examiner	1,000	-	1,000
Other costs	4,176	140	4,316
Total expenditure on charitable activities	204,191	150,257	354,448
Total expenditure	221,580	150,257	371,837

YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

3. EXPENDITURE (Cont.)

As at 31 March 2020	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2020 Total Funds
	£	£	£
Salaries (Note 4)	40,836	-	40,836
Other	1,851	-	1,851
Total expenditure on raising funds	42,687	-	42,687

Expenditure on charitable activities

Salaries (Note 4)	108,084	113,229	221,313
Rent , rates and service charges	39,684	9,605	49,289
Relocation of offices	18,516	-	18,516
Cost of equipment sold	14,711	-	14,711
Professional fees	8,795	-	8,795
IT costs	2,708	5,958	8,666
Social and group activities	5,613	-	5,613
Volunteer expenses	3,677	-	3,677
Telephone	3,304	-	3,304
Tools, equipment and repairs	3,078	-	3,078
Stationery, printing and postage	4,996	2,613	7,609
Newsletter and publications	2,408	-	2,408
Insurance	2,970	-	2,970
Tutors	1,295	-	1,295
General expenses	807	963	1,770
Bank charges	948	-	948
Training and conferences	930	476	1,406
Advertising	780	-	780
AGM costs	651	-	651
IE fees paid to Independent Examiner	1,000	-	1,000
Other costs	3,077	941	4,018
Total expenditure on charitable activities	228,032	133,785	361,817
Total expenditure	270,719	133,785	404,504

YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

4. STAFF COSTS

	2021 £	2020 £
Total staff costs comprise:		
Gross salaries	229,048	238,435
Employer's national insurance	12,373	13,547
Pension contributions	6,536	9,166
Salary charges	1,031	1,001
	248,988	262,149

Average number of employees (full time equivalents)	10.3	10.7
Average number of employees	13.9	14.4

No employee received remuneration more than £60,000 in the year (2020: no employee).

Key management personnel comprise 1 individual (2020: 1 individual) whose aggregate remuneration and benefits totalled £43,627 (2020: £42,647).

5. TRUSTEES AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

No Trustee or any person connected with him or her received any remuneration, expenses or benefits during the year (2020: no Trustee).

No Trustee, or anyone connected with a Trustee, has a material interest in any of the Charity's transactions.

6. DEBTORS

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade debtors	1,015	66
Other debtors	3,021	45,347
	4,036	45,413

YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

7. CREDITORS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	5,565	13,527
Other creditors	21,731	22,814
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	27,296	36,341
	<hr/>	<hr/>

8. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

As at 31 March 2021	Balance at Apr 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer £	Balance at Mar 2021 £
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Unrestricted funds

General funds	45,169	413,958	(221,580)	(140,000)	97,547
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Designated funds

Building fund	45,000	-	-	120,000	165,000
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	90,169	413,958	(221,580)	(20,000)	262,547
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As at 31 March 2020	Balance at Apr 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer £	Balance at Mar 2020 £
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Unrestricted funds

General funds	64,540	226,348	(270,719)	25,000	45,169
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Designated funds

Building fund	70,000	-	-	(25,000)	45,000
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	134,540	226,348	(270,719)	-	90,169
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

8. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS (Cont.)

Designated Building Fund

The purpose of the Building Fund is to enable the Charity to acquire its own premises at some time in the future. The Trustees are aware of their liability in terms of the current and any future lease and feel it prudent that the Building Fund remains as a separate entity.

9. RESTRICTED FUNDS

As at 31 March 2021

	Balances at Apr 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer £	Balances at Mar 2021 £
Eye Clinic Services	3,324	58,053	(45,646)	10,000	25,731
Lottery Fund	8,699	89,401	(104,611)	10,000	3,489
Total	12,023	147,454	(150,257)	20,000	29,220

Eye Clinic Information and Support Services

These services provide practical and emotional support to patients with a diagnosis of permanent sight loss. They operate from within the Eye Clinic Outpatients Department at York and Scarborough Hospitals and other locations commutable from York. The staff members (Eye Clinic Liaison Officers) also work with Hospital staff on issues of service delivery for blind and partially sighted patients.

YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO

9. RESTRICTED FUNDS (Cont.)

Lottery Fund

The Lottery Community Fund was originally conceived to support our members to access activities in their own communities, however, the pandemic meant this became impossible to facilitate. The Community Lottery Fund kindly agreed to divert the funding to the Keeping in Touch project and online activity groups, to ensure visually impaired people were supported and had regular telephone contact, and were still able to engage socially despite the lockdowns and social distancing made necessary by Covid-19.

As at 31 March 2020

	Balances at Apr 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer £	Balances at Mar 2020 £
Eye Clinic Services	5,837	52,432	(54,945)	-	3,324
Lottery Fund	-	87,539	(78,840)	-	8,699
Total	5,837	139,971	(133,785)	-	12,023

10. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

As at 31 March 2021	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2021 Total Funds £
Current assets	29,220	165,000	124,843	319,063
Current liabilities	-	-	(27,296)	(27,296)
	29,220	165,000	97,547	291,767

YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO

10. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS (Cont.)

As at 31 March 2020	Restricted Funds	Designated Funds	Unrestricted Funds	2021 Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Current assets	12,023	45,000	81,510	138,533
Current liabilities	-	-	(36,341)	(36,341)
	12,023	45,000	45,169	102,192

11. LEASE COMMITMENTS

Total commitments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	Land and buildings	
	2021	2020
	£	£
Due within one year	49,875	49,875
Due between two and five years	228,000	228,000
Due over 5 Years	178,125	228,000
	456,000	505,875

12. Contingent Asset

At 31 March 2021, the charity had been notified of its entitlement to 1 (2020: none) residuary legacy with Probate granted, the value of which is uncertain due to either insufficient information being available or due to potential claims on the estate. At the date when the accounts were signed, no further information had been received and so this legacy has not been accrued in full.

YORK BLIND & PARTIALLY SIGHTED SOCIETY CIO

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2021

13. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2020 Total £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	188,195	-	87,539	275,734
Other trading activities	14,601	-	-	14,601
Investment income	374	-	-	374
Income from charitable activities	23,178	-	52,432	75,610
Total income	226,348	-	139,971	366,319
Expenditure on:				
Expenditure on raising funds	42,687	-	-	42,687
Expenditure on charitable activities	228,032	-	133,785	361,817
Total expenditure	270,719	-	133,785	404,504
Net (expenditure)/income	(44,371)	-	6,186	(38,185)
Transfers between funds	25,000	(25,000)	-	-
Net Movement in funds	(19,371)	(25,000)	6,186	(38,185)
Balances at 1 April 2019	64,540	70,000	5,837	140,377
Balances At 31 March 2020	45,169	45,000	12,023	102,192