



Royal Society for Blind Children

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN
TRUSTEES' REPORT & CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

Charity Number: 307892
Company Number: 00139928

**WELCOME TO THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN'S ANNUAL REPORT
AND ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity Name

The Royal Society for Blind Children (RSBC)

Working Name

RSBC

Charity Number

307892 (England & Wales)

Company Number

00139928 (England & Wales)

Registered and Principal Office

Orpington Campus

The Walnuts

High Street

Orpington

Kent

BR6 0TE (effective from 1 October 2020)

Royal Patron

Her Majesty The Queen

President

The Rt Hon Sir Michael Fallon KCB

Patrons

Martin Freeman

Honeysuckle Weeks

Vice-Presidents

Earl of Stockton

John Lafferty

Vivian Lawrence

Harry O'Neill

Philip Bassett

Dr. David Wright MBE

Ambassadors

Souleyman Bah, Youth Ambassador

Jon Culshaw

Anita Dobson

Anne Fine OBE FRSL

Darren Leach

Natalie Lee

Charlotte McMillan, Youth Ambassador

Georgie Morrell

Ben Quilter

Melissa Reid

Sir Richard Stilgoe OBE

Wayne Sleep OBE

Jayne Torvill OBE

Medical Advisory Panel

Mr Wagih Aclimandos MB Bch FRCS FRCOphth DO FEBO
Dr Naomi Dale
Mr Ashwin Reddy MA MBBChir FRCOphth MD
Professor Miles Stanford MD FRCP FRCOphth

Members of the Council of Trustees

Ian Stephenson OBE BSc MSc	Chairman of the Society
Ben Alonso (resigned 12 th April 2021)	
Michael Brignall MA (Oxon)	
Martin Doel CBA MA BEd FRAeS FRSA	
Ian Godwin BSc	
Fazilet Hadi	
John Heller MA (Cantab)	
Peter Knott BA (Hons) FCA CF	Hon. Treasurer
Val May BA (Hons)	
John Miller	
Patrick Plant LLB Solicitor	

Company Secretary

Eileen Harding

Chief Executive

Tom Pey PhD MA FCMA DBS (Retired 5 April 2021)

Deputy Chief Executive

Sue Sharp MA (Hons) MSc (Appointed as Chief Executive on 5 April 2021)

Auditors

Haysmacintyre LLP
10 Queen Street Place
London EC4R 1AG

Bankers

C Hoare & Co
37 Fleet Street
London EC4P 4DQ

Barclays Bank
One Churchill Place
London E14 5H

Legal Advisers

Reed Smith
Broadgate Tower
20 Primrose Street
London EC2A 2RS

Investment Managers

Cazenove Capital Management
12 Moorgate
London EC2R 6DA

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

This document sets out the Trustees' Report and Accounts for The Royal Society for Blind Children for the year ended 31 December 2020. This is done under the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and the Statement of Recommended Practice (2nd edition) 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 2015).

The charity is privileged to have the patronage of Her Majesty The Queen.

RSBC is the working name of The Royal Society for Blind Children. The Royal Society for Blind Children was founded in 1838. It is a charitable company limited by guarantee (Company No. 139928), incorporated on 12 April 1915 with Memorandum and Articles of Association (last amended 20 December 2016), and registered as a charity on 25 April 1963 (Charity No. 307892). The registered and principal office is Orpington Campus, The Walnuts, High Street, Orpington, Kent BR6 0TE (effective from 1 October 2020).

ABOUT US

INTRODUCING THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN

For over 180 years, The Royal Society for Blind Children (RSBC) has been educating and supporting blind and partially sighted children and young people and their families. Our founder, Thomas Lucas, set up a school to teach blind children to read in 1838. Nearly two centuries later, his vision to support blind children to fulfill their potential lives on. Today our team works across a range of services in local communities across England and Wales including family support, reducing isolation and loneliness, increasing independence and employment. We also continue to deliver education through the work of our specialist FE College, Dorton College, based in the London Borough of Bromley. Our work is influenced by world-class child educationalists, psychologists and ophthalmologists.

OUR VISION

No child in the UK will grow up to be poor or lonely just because they are blind.

There are just under 37,000 blind and partially sighted children and young people in England & Wales¹. Every day four more families receive a diagnosis of their child's sight loss.

At RSBC, we understand that the hardest thing about childhood sight loss isn't that children can't see, it is that those children are more likely grow up to live in poverty and isolation.

- 90% of those who lose their sight in youth won't work for more than six months in their lives.

¹ RNIB Sight Loss Tool (2020)

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

- Nearly 70% of blind and partially sighted young people are living on the poverty line.
- Most will never have someone to share their life with.

RSBC believes in a better future for blind children and young people.

We are a national VI charity in the UK where services are designed to support the whole family on this journey and where the parents, whenever possible, are at the centre of their child's development.

OUR STRATEGY

The objectives of the Society's five-year strategy (2015-20) were to:

- **Increase reach and service delivery:** to support 11,000 children and young people and their families in five years and 22,000 in ten years.
- **Achieve major growth in fundraising:** to significantly increase the amount of money we raise to ensure that we can respond to the increasing demand for our services.
- **Establish a hub of excellence:** to build a Life Without Limits Centre from the proceeds of a successful capital appeal within five years.

We have pursued those objectives by:

- **Putting parents first:** Supporting them to gain the skills to best meet the needs of their child and wider family: parents are uniquely placed to support their child's development. RSBC does not replace nor subvert the parent's function - we support them to learn the additional skills they will need to pass on to their blind child. This will strengthen family bonds, allowing child and parents to grow in confidence together.
- **Equipping the child with the skills for life:** Supporting them to make and retain friends, achieve appropriate levels of formal education and gain employability and independent life skills.
- **Innovating and being thought leaders:** Applying the most modern and tested approaches to the development of our services, as well as inspiring others to innovate on behalf of blind children.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees have given due consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit in setting its aims, objectives and policies. The activities undertaken to further this purpose, and the impact that these activities have had, are explained in the following section.

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

WHAT WE DID IN 2020

2020 was the final year of our "No blind child" strategy and we ended the period:

- a leaner, more agile and more efficient organisation;
- serving more children, young people and families than at any other time in our history; and
- with high satisfaction rates for our services, and a highly committed staff and volunteer team

In achieving that, we experienced much change over the strategic period but perhaps none so intense as the changes in 2020. We began the year with little knowledge of COVID-19 and no idea of how deeply it would impact the Society's work. Within a few weeks of the first lockdown, we had moved all of our services on-line, including our education provision at Dorton College, enabling us to continue to support our beneficiaries and students throughout the pandemic. None of our services closed – they simply operated differently.

Recognising the challenge that COVID presented to the staff team we kept a focus on ensuring that RSBC is a great place to work and as a result staff morale remained buoyant. Staff surveys were carried out in the first 6 months and they showed that the staff team felt well-supported by the Society. Whilst we had to place around 18% of our workforce on furlough, we ensured that they were able to remain connected to the Society and, helped by securing additional support from funders, they did not suffer financial hardship whilst on furlough. By the end of October 2020 seven of those furloughed had returned to work and seven others had left the organisation as their posts were made redundant.

The Society

We are deeply grateful to the staff and volunteers of the Society who rose to the challenge to effect the transformation so quickly and efficiently despite having to cope themselves with the impact of the pandemic, a move to home working and complete reliance on digital communication. Their commitment, resilience and flexibility were never tested so much or over such a long period, and they delivered.

We are grateful too to some of our key funders in particular the National Lottery Community Fund, London Funders, City Bridge Trust and Comic Relief for providing relief funding, alongside the Social Investment Business FM Ltd for providing a Business Interruption Loan to the Society. These funding sources helped to address the significant shortfall in our income in 2020. Opportunities to fundraise through Community and Events were denied us, with the cancellation of events and restrictions on our supporters undertaking challenges and fundraising locally. Face- to-face recruitment of new donors to the Society was also halted but we were grateful to our loyal and committed existing donor base who continued to support us throughout the year.

The commitment of our staff team and the generosity of our supporters and funders ensured that we were able to continue to support the blind children and young people, and their families, throughout the year.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

"I don't know [what I would have done without the sessions], I really don't know, RSBC has just like helped me through everything." - Emma, 12 years-old, October 2020

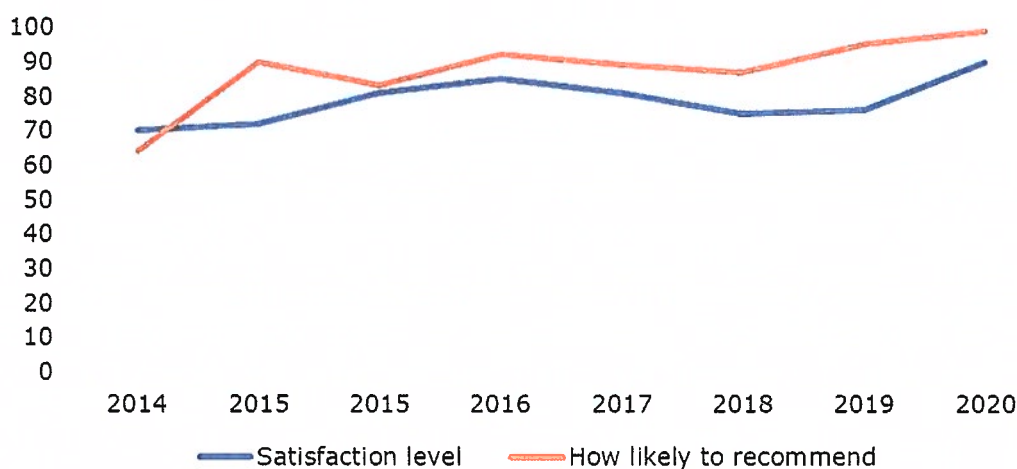
In 2020 we reached more beneficiaries than ever before and the satisfaction with our services was higher than ever (see below).

SERVICES

Overall, in 2020 we:

- worked with over 3000 children and young people and their families;
- had over 8000 contact hours;
- delivered over 3000 sessions;
- provided 1000 instances of advice and support; and
- achieved our highest level of beneficiary satisfaction

Comparing Results of the Satisfaction
Survey from 2014 to 2020 (% scoring 8+)



Graph - Percentage of service users to score more than 8 from 2014 to 2020

With the exception of RSBC's Dorton College (see below) we were prevented from delivering our services face-to-face from the end of March 2020.

In the space of 10 days we had moved to on-line and telephone based delivery, ensuring that we were able to continue to support the children, young people and families.

On-line delivery has enabled many more children and young people to participate in activities and meet new friends regardless of their location:

Elizabeth (22) has been a regular attendee of the Creative Group since October 2020. Based in Sheffield, she said that the virtual sessions have been a great way for her to feel that she still has access to a social life and meet other vision impaired young

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

people, despite lockdown measures being in place. She is a keen member of our Open Mic sessions, which are helping her to develop the confidence to work towards her ambition of singing before a larger audience.

We also grew our network of partners across England and Wales to 45 organisations from within the vision impairment sector as well as the broader youth sector. Through them we have also been able to engage with more children and young people.

One young person took part in one of Henshaws' beatboxing workshops and enjoyed it so much that he signed up for an advanced course with the provider. They were so impressed by his contributions that they have offered him the chance to help deliver future workshops once his training is complete.

He said:

"It was fantastic! the team were brilliant, and so inspiring that I knew I wanted to take it further."

Families First

Our Families First Programme, provides therapeutic and practical support to families, children and young people up to 25 years.

A unique feature of our programme is that we are able to offer face-to-face support – visiting the family in their home, or visiting a child in their school to offer direct therapeutic work, using evidence-based therapeutic interventions to improve mental health and wellbeing, building confidence, self-esteem and resilience, while working in partnership with other professionals within the family network.

In April 2020, that face-to-face support was suspended and replaced by online support via digital video platforms, as well as telephone contact and email communication. We are grateful to our funders for recognising the change to the delivery model and for continuing to support the programme throughout the year.

Overall, in 2020 we more than doubled the number of families we were able to support in year - up from 900 in 2019 to 1976 in 2020.

The digital delivery has enabled us to offer support families in areas across England and Wales which are not yet serving with the face-to-face service. Whilst the way that families engage with the service has been different for much of 2020, it is pleasing to report that feedback from the families demonstrates that they have continued to benefit and that they have appreciated the constant, if virtual, presence of the Family Practitioner in their families' lives.

91% of respondents to our annual beneficiary satisfaction survey rated the service at least 8 out of 10 and 52% gave it a score of 10 out of 10.

We will return to face-to-face engagement as soon as COVID restrictions allow. We fully expect that the demand for the service will be increased as families begin to work through issues that have arisen over the year and as they adjust to the "new normal". We will, however, also retain elements of the online service so that we are able to support more families in ways that work well for them. This will also complement our

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

advice service which already supports families to access benefits and other support to which they are entitled.

In 2020 the advice service supported 213 families helping them to secure benefits, grants and other support to a total value of £193,737. As well as guiding them through the benefits and grants application processes, we helped many of them to secure practical items to make their lives more manageable, for example, a bed for a mother that was sleeping on the floor and some clothing vouchers for children that had no winter coats.

Lucy (16) was coping with a sudden sight deterioration as well as transition to college. she was struggling with high anxiety in part due to the new technology required to access college online. Having online sessions with the Family Practitioner (FP) built up confidence and skills in using technology, and the FP has noticed a change in Lucy's anxiety and confidence levels. She is now better able to engage with online learning and articulate any concerns and this has improved her self-esteem. The FP observed that there has also been an impact on her parents who are feeling more positive and confident. Lucy said,
"I feel proud of who I am now."

Live Life, Go Further

Our Live Life Go Further (LLGF) programme offers a tailored programme of activities that provide opportunities for vision impaired children and young people to build friendships, grow in confidence and develop skills for life. Each participant is able to choose the elements of the programme that most appeal to them and, through their participation, work towards the achievement of their personal goals.

In 2020, as never before, it was vital that we are able to continue to offer this programme to children and young people who found themselves even more isolated from friends and family. All of our activities were delivered using Zoom, Teams and other digital communication platforms to bring the children and young people together and help them stay connected. This approach also provided new opportunities for young people to engage in activities and forge new friendships with others in different parts of England and Wales.

Listening to feedback from young people we were also able to develop the Live Life Go Further programme, introducing new activities, including:

- a weekly audio book club for young people
- Sisterhood – a weekly forum for young vision impaired women to meet to discuss issue relevant to them
- fortnightly gaming and assistive tech session

alongside:

- fortnightly supper clubs where young people can eat together and socialise
- fortnightly create sessions where the young people can express their musical and artistic talents
- weekly health and wellbeing sessions to encourage young people to engage in sport and physical activity

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

By engaging online we were also able to offer activities more frequently than when delivery was only face-to-face. This has been particularly important for the wellbeing of the young people during the periods of lockdown and restrictions that they have faced throughout 2020.

"I did not know RSBC before the lockdown so I did not benefit from the F2F activities before. I would have felt very lonely and bored without the RSBC workshops."

"Jim is out of the usual activity area and doesn't know anyone else in the area with VI, so being able to meet some other VI young people, even though its over Zoom has been great, we would like these sessions to continue!"

"I've had the chance to meet up more than I would doing face-to-face sessions. The main thing is that I applied for and got a job, and RSBC helped me achieve that, building my confidence and getting ready for the interviews."

"The RSBC has helped me endure this pandemic, through the Zoom meetings. Meeting people who I have not met before has been so enjoyable. Every day, I have something to do and to look forward to. While on my own in the house, I am never bored."

"Caitlyn is really enjoying the sessions, it's really bringing her back to her usual self, lockdown has left her a little lost, so the focus is good!"

In all, 1195 children and young people took part in the programme in 2020 including Sarah who has a number of health issues and impairment in addition to being registered severely sight impaired.

Since attending RSBC sessions Sarah has gone from being shy, quiet and reserved to someone who is a confident speaker, has a positive outlook, is supportive of others, modest and not afraid to ask for help. Earlier in the year, she struggled to attend face-to-face sessions regularly because her weak immune system meant that she was unable to use public transport. Our online service provision was, therefore, a welcome development, meaning that she could participate in a number of sessions each week. This was particularly important to Sarah's wellbeing, as she was required to shield at home for most of 2020 and was negatively affected by the lack of social interaction. By attending RSBC activities, Sarah has been able to connect and create friendships with VI young people up and down the country, providing her with the social interaction she was missing.

"They [Virtual Sessions] have been a godsend for us, as Sarah has been shielding at home with myself since March and unable to go into school due to her compromised immune system." – Sarah's Mum

The RSBC Health and Wellbeing Online Morning Workout Group have an age range of 9-25 and each member has individual requirements in terms of their vision impairment, health, mobility and access. At the beginning of lockdown, online home workouts became popular across the country but many of our young people found that these were

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

not accessible because there was no verbal description or introduction to the exercises and the pace of the videos was too fast. Instead of enabling VI young people to be physically active, it became a barrier. We introduced RSBC Online Morning Workouts to provide VI young people with access to regular physical activity that is adapted to suit their needs. We tailor the sessions to suit members' ability, mobility, varying levels of sight loss and home environment, with options to make exercises more difficult for those who would like a challenge! The progress of all individuals in the group is apparent, with some able to work harder for longer periods of time; some introducing weights into their programme, and some moving from modified to full exercises.

"The sessions are great, thank you for taking this [wheelchair] into account when planning the sessions."

"David has gone from, 'I hate fitness' to 'I kind of like fitness' to 'I quite like fitness' to 'I really like fitness'!"

Employability

Gaining employment is challenging for vision impaired young people at any time but 2020 threw up a whole set of new issues. We are delighted therefore that our Employability team were able to help:

- 10 young people into new jobs and apprenticeships;
- 7 young people into training or further education; and
- 5 young people into new volunteering roles.

Achievement

Over the last 4 years we have supported the children and young people who access our services to work towards AQA awards in recognition of their development and participation in new skills and activities. This year we presented over 1000 AQA certificates – the highest number to date to 217 children and young people. The presentations are made at an Annual Awards event and this year, for the first time, that event took place on-line.

"It was fun and different to 'perform' virtually, I quite liked it!"

"I feel like I really have achieved something this lockdown the ceremony has boosted my confidence"

"I enjoy attending sessions but getting a certificate is a bonus"

Education - Dorton College

Dorton College is RSBC's specialist independent FE day College. Based in the London Borough of Bromley, the College offers placements for vision impaired young people 16-25 years up to 5 days/week and 38 weeks/year. All of the students at Dorton College have a tailored and individualized curriculum designed by a Qualified Teacher of (the) Visually Impaired (QTVI). They are supported by our specialist teaching and support

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

staff and have input from a range of therapists covering mobility, independent life skills, and Speech and Language and Occupational Therapy. The College is graded "Good" by Ofsted (Sept 2018).

The 2019/20 academic year was our first year of operating solely as a day provision and was a year in which we dealt with the challenges presented by the COVID crisis. For the last 4 months of the year our students mainly learned remotely, supported by the Dorton College staff via digital platforms, email and telephone.

In July 2020 – 2 graduated, including Joe;

Joe joined Dorton College as a residential student in 2017 to study Music after completing his GCSEs at school. He started on a Level 2 Music and Performing Arts course at one of our partnership colleges and progressed up to Level 3 ('A' Level equivalent), in years 2 and 3. In his final year at Dorton College, Joe became a day student and coped with the transition well. He flourished on his Music course, consistently acquiring top grades and graduated in July 2020 and is now studying music at university in London.

At the start of the 2020/21 academic year the number of students in the College had increased to 14 (up from 12 in the previous year). We also began the new year in a new hub in Orpington: a move completed in the summer whilst restrictions on movements were relaxed.

Interest in the College is continuing to grow. We now have students from 12 local authorities across London as well as Kent, and the satisfaction rates amongst our students is high. In the 2020 satisfaction survey 100% of the students who responded rated the College 8 or above, and all said that they would recommend the provision.

"They've been amazing. Whenever I need help they are there. They give me the help I need."

"[We're] thankful for Dorton College - go through the council which is a pain because you've got to fight for it. But once you've got the funding its 1000% worth it. He's come on leaps and bounds since he started there."

RAISING AWARENESS AND WORKING FOR CHANGE

Youth Forum

Our Youth Forum went from strength to strength during 2020, maintaining its energy and commitment during the lockdown to develop new initiatives for raising awareness and making sure the voice of vision impaired young people is heard.

The Forum's 8 members met 15 times over the year and provided valuable feedback and insight to inform several of RSBC's initiatives and decisions including: creating an evaluation process for the Supper Clubs; advising the steering group for the new website; providing feedback on personal development plans, wellbeing and lifestyle surveys; input to the Youth Voice and Minds In Sight projects and the Lonely Not Alone campaign; involvement in the 2.6 campaign; and helping to host the RSBC Christmas Extravaganza.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

They also published regular Lockdown Diary blogs on the RSBC website and the summer saw the introduction of the Forum's popular monthly podcast, RSBC Unseen, aimed at vision impaired young people.

In addition, Forum members took part in several campaigning and awareness raising initiatives including: panel membership on a Web Roots Democracy, even representing the views of vision impaired young people in discussions on online and accessible voting reform; advising on a campaign to provide a simple method of alerting medical professionals to the needs of their vision impaired patients; and, advising a screenwriter on the accuracy of his portrayal of a fictional VI young person.

The Forum is currently developing a newsletter.

Partnerships

Building and maintaining partnerships across the VI and Youth sectors has been a key element to increasing our reach. In 2019 there were 25 active partnerships across England and Wales and during 2020 we increased these to 45. Through these partnerships we can facilitate VI children, young people and their families accessing local services and support. Mainstream youth organisations have benefited from capacity building and training to enable them to adapt their services to engage VI children and young people. In 2020 VI and sighted young people from the North and South of England came together with decision makers in the fields of transport, local councils and leisure facilities to influence how services operate.

Wayfindr

In 2020 we completed a Big Lottery funded programme to upskill professionals in audio wayfinding, demonstrate the systems and encourage take up by vision impaired people.

MAKING IT HAPPEN

Volunteers

2020 volunteering numbers were impacted by COVID which resulted in the cancellation of a number of face-to-face fundraising participation events and the rapid transition of Live Life Go Further (LLGF) activities in Community Services from face-to-face to online delivery. There was a period between 23 March and 22 June 2020 when only one or two volunteers were being used to support administrative tasks.

During 2020 46 individual volunteers supported 22 opportunities across online LLGF activities, the Society's online Christmas Extravaganza, within Dorton College and the Philanthropy team. They volunteered for a total of 504.5 hours converting to a monetary value of £6,386.97 (based on a sector-agreed formula).

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

We are delighted that whilst all activities have been delivered online those who volunteer with RSBC continue to report positively on their experience. Some feedback from our volunteers:-

"Volunteering online has been a different experience but very worthwhile! The activities remain important and captivating, but the continuing social aspect is also vital! It's great to keep in touch with beneficiaries you've met and know, but also to join up with other people, who you may not have encountered without the online network."

"I enjoyed volunteering for RSBC online a lot. Of course, it is not the same as offline: the experience with the kids, the fun etc. but you have other good sides of it like the flexibility and the comfort of doing it from your sofa. I love how RSBC has tried to deliver the same level of service to children even online, with all the challenges that it represents with kids with disabilities. I can't wait to get involved in some activities offline, but the online volunteering activities have also been inspiring, practical and very "easy" from the volunteer point of view.

"For me online volunteering has been fantastic as it has kept me busy whilst looking for work. It has been great to stay connected."

RAISING THE MONEY WE NEED

Fundraising was hit hard in 2020. The strides we had made in the previous year to engage new supporters through Face-to-Face fundraising were stopped in their tracks with the lockdown and subsequent restrictions. Community and Events fundraising was also stopped with large mass participation events like the London Marathon cancelled and individual supporters unable to complete their planned personal challenge events. As a consequence, and to ensure that we were able to direct as much of our resource to frontline delivery we took the decision to restructure our fundraising department. We combined functions and embarked on new initiatives to support the maintenance of our fundraising and prepare for growth when possible.

Throughout, our existing donors have remained loyal and, overall in 2020, across all our newsletters and cash appeals we saw a 32% increase in the income level.

Although the environment for Corporate fundraising was challenging, we retained and developed our Charity Partnership with Scope Ophthalmic, a manufacturer of eye-care products. Their employees ran a fundraising campaign, #6minutelockdown, where they performed and filmed an everyday task under blindfold.

We were delighted to be appointed Charity of the Year for the Worshipful Company of Cordwainers whose members are finding interesting ways to support fundraising initiatives. We also continue to be supported by Johnson Matthey who have generously supported us since the Society was founded.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Thanks to the generosity of businessman and philanthropist, Richard Desmond, the Society commenced planning and design of its Life without Limits Centre (LWLC). Mr Desmond gave the Society c8000sq ft of riverside space at 10 Lower Thames Street, London. Supported by pro-bono partnerships with EPR Architects, Hollis (Real Estate Consultants) and DP9 (Planning Consultants) detailed plans were prepared and planning permission received. Although major donor fundraising is a new activity for RSBC sufficient funds were raised to commence construction in April 2021.

As part of the Remember a Charity week in September we launched a new look and feel for our legacy literature putting the young people front and centre of the communication with "Your Legacy. My Future". We know the difference that legacy income makes to the lives of blind children and young people and we are enormously grateful to those who choose to leave money to us in their wills. We ended the year with £1.44m (2019: £1.29m) in legacy income.

Trust, statutory and institutional income remains an important source of funding for our services and as funders redirected their resources towards supporting the COVID response it became more difficult to secure funding. At the end of 2020 we had £601k of funding secured over the next 3 years; down 38% on the previous year.

We would like to thank all of our funders, including:

- The National Lottery Community Fund, the Masonic Foundation, Benecare Foundation, The Moondance Foundation and the Heathrow Community Fund for their commitment to our Families First service;
- City Bridge Trust for their commitment to our employment support activities;
- The National Lottery Community Fund, Johnson Matthey; BBC Children in Need, Greater London Authority and Comic Relief, Tower Hamlets Council Local Community Fund, London Borough of Hackney and the Youth Investment Fund for their support for our Live Life Go Further Programme;
- the Co-Op Foundation for supporting our friendship and independence groups;
- the Worshipful Company of Cordwainers for their continued support of our Music Group; and
- Erasmus+ for their support for our Youth Voice projects.

Our Promise to our Donors and Supporters

RSBC supports and is registered with the Fundraising Regulator who works to ensure that organisations raising money do so honestly and properly. The charity undertakes fundraising activity to its donors and supporters via direct mail, telephone, events, fundraising events, sponsored events and gala dinners and email strictly in line with the Fundraising Code of Practice set by Fundraising Regulator.

Our fundraising promise to our donors and supporters is that RSBC will:

- respect their privacy and their generosity
- make it easy for them to contact us by their preferred method
- give them a choice about how often they hear from us
- explain things in plain English and not use jargon

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

- apologise when things go wrong and work as quickly as possible to put them right
- listen to their comments, suggestions, concerns and complaints; deal with them efficiently and respectfully; resolving them in an open and transparent way; and using the feedback to help improve our service
- never sell or share their information with external companies unless those companies are working on our behalf

Supporters registered on the Telephone Preference Service are only called with an appeal if they have agreed to receive such calls. Callers are thoroughly trained and updated on the charity's work and calls are regularly monitored. We have a training programme for all our fundraising staff to regularly reinforce our fundraising ethics. The charity adheres to the standards of the Fundraising Code of Practice. We have a documented complaints process and in 2020 we had 1 complaint about fundraising activity in the year which was promptly resolved.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Review

Group income in the year was £4.35m (2019: £4.15m). In 2020 the level of donations increased from the previous year. The Society received £2.2m compared to £2.1m in 2019. The principal sources of funding continue to be donations and legacies that generated £3.6m (2019: £3.4m). A further £0.60m (2019: £0.62m) was generated in education fees and grants and £0.13m through trading and other income (2019: £0.13m).

In line with the Society's plans to increase the effectiveness of its fundraising, costs on raising funds fell to £0.83m (2019: £1.5m). Expenditure on delivery of Education and Training was £1.0m (2019: £1.03m) mainly attributable to a move to new premises resulting in lower property costs. The changes made to our community service delivery as a result of COVID meant that the cost of service delivery was £1.9m (2019: £2.3m). As previously outlined our reach and beneficiary satisfaction increased. The overall impact on group expenditure was a reduction in costs from £4.9m in 2019 to £3.7m in 2020.

The Group also received pro bono support in the region of £205k in 2020, of which £155k related to work for the construction of the Life Without Limits Centre (LWLC). We would like to extend our thanks to Reed Smith and the LWLC advisers EPR Architects, Hollis and DP9 for their invaluable pro-bono legal and professional services.

The percentage of group total expenditure spent on direct charitable activities was 77% (2019: 69%).

No gains/losses or assets were recognised on the Defined Benefit Pension Scheme. The Scheme was closed in 2001.

Investment Powers, Policy and Performance

The Trustees have the powers to invest the Society's assets as they deem fit. Through its advisors, Cazenove Capital Management the Society invests available money in an investment portfolio in furtherance of its objects. As the Trustees had agreed to

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

liquidate the residual value of the investment portfolio in 2019 in order to bolster the liquidity of the Society, there was no investment gain or loss in 2020 (£60k gain in 2019), and no investment income (2019: £16k).

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have given careful consideration to the current and future needs of the Society's beneficiaries; the risks and opportunities associated with the normal running of the Society's affairs and have decided that the Society:

- Needs to continue maintaining operating reserves of 4.5 months of RSBC's annual projected revenue equivalent to £1.4m. This is because most of the activities of the Society are closely linked with the level of income raised and costs are committed with this in mind.

Any surplus in reserves over the policy set out above will be used to reach more beneficiaries and the Trustees will only permit the operating reserves of the Charity to fall below the approved level if there is a credible plan in place to restore the reserves to the agreed level during a period not to exceed two years.

Free reserves (unrestricted funds not designated or tied to tangible fixed assets) at the year-end were £1.6m (2019: £0.77m).

At the year end, the group held restricted funds of £0.42m (2019: £0.63m). £0.0m (2019: £0.0m) was held in designated funds.

The level of reserves and information available to the Trustees and management indicate that the Society is expected to continue as a going concern.

THE FINANCIAL EFFECT OF COVID-19

Overall, the Society's income increased by over £200k despite the pandemic and we were grateful to Social Investment Business FM Limited for making a £250k Resilience and Recovery Loan available to the Society. This, together with £242k of COVID relief grants awarded to us helped to ease pressure on cash and reserves and to ensure that we were able to continue to serve our community. This was also helped by the National Lottery Community Fund's continued support in releasing project funds in advance.

At the start of the crisis, we placed 18% of our workforce on furlough in areas where activity was suspended or their work was reduced to less than 20% of the normal volume: this did not impact on the service delivery teams. Trustees took the decision that the Society should continue to pay the 20% of salary which was not covered by the furlough scheme. One member of staff volunteered not to avail themselves of that benefit. Additionally, for the first month, the CEO and Deputy CEO took a 20% cut in salary: this was reinstated by Trustees in May when the financial position was clearer. All staff that were returning, were brought back from furlough by 31 October 2020. In all 8 members of staff were made redundant as a direct result of the pandemic.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

In addition to these external support measures, we instigated a strict expenditure plan with all spending requiring sign-off by at least two members of the Senior Leadership Team. We also cancelled office services that were not required whilst staff were working from home.

Throughout the year, and into 2021, the Society's response to the crisis has been overseen by the Senior Leadership Team who initially met daily and continue to meet twice weekly to review the position and consider the impact of developments on a dedicated COVID risk register. The Audit Committee of Council also met weekly and then biweekly in 2020 to ensure that there was rigorous financial and risk oversight.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

We begin 2021 at the start of a new 5-year strategy that will see the Society continue its journey to ensuring that no child grows up to be poor and lonely just because they are blind. By 2025 we will have:

- **Reach:** supported 25,000 blind and partially sighted children across England and Wales since 2015
- **Income:** achieved a turnover of £6M with unrestricted income having increased 10%pa year on year and with the cost of raising those funds representing no more than 20%
- **Education:** an annual cohort of at least 20 students at Dorton College; and have diversified our education offer into the digital space.
- **Quality:** 9 out of 10 beneficiaries to recommend our services to others and to have achieved an Ofsted rating of "Outstanding" for Dorton College.
- **Impact:** engaged with a network of existing service providers, referral agencies and community groups across England and Wales to ensure that there is equality of access to mainstream provision for VI YP and their families.
- **Our People:** a staff turnover 10% less than sector average and at least 75% of staff and volunteers recommend RSBC as a great place to work.
- **Infrastructure:** established the RSBC's Life without Limits Centre as a hub for delivery of our services and a lighthouse for world class innovation; and ensure that our infrastructure supports our overall efficiency and effectiveness
- **Governance:** a Trustee Board that provides first class leadership to the Society and represents the community we serve

The Trustees appointed a new CEO following the retirement of Dr Tom Pey who had held the position since 2010. Sue Sharp, previously the Deputy CEO, took the reins on 5 April 2021. Dr Pey will continue to be involved in the work of the Society on a non-executive basis during 2021 as he completes some strategically significant projects. The Society is grateful to Tom for all he has done over the last 11 years in transforming RSBC to a national charity with vision impaired children, young people and their families at the heart of everything it does.

Significantly, in 2021 we will be moving into our new iconic Life without Limits Centre in Central London from which we will support more blind and partially sighted children, young people and their families than ever before.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

In the new LWLC we will be even better equipped to deliver blended services combining face to face and on-line delivery. We have learned a great deal during 2020 about how we can enhance our services, and reach more children and young people, through on-line engagement. We want to keep what worked and blend it with the face-to-face support with an outcome that is even better for the beneficiaries.

To achieve our income objectives in this new strategy period we will need to continue to explore new ways of Fundraising and in particular, ways of engaging new donors and supporters. An Integrated Marketing and Communications approach will be central to that effort. We are immensely grateful to the CEO of ITG, the Birmingham based marketing agency, for making available his highly talented team to support us in that area.

We will also be implementing new systems in HR and Finance that will improve our operational efficiency and ensure that even more of our funds raised are targeted at delivery.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Our Board of Trustees

The Council of Trustees meets every three months and is supported by regular meetings of committees which between them cover finance and risk, strategy, oversight, property, education, governance, fundraising, the remuneration of the Chief Executive and senior management and supervise the process for appointing Trustees. There is a Board of Governors for Dorton College; this Board acts in an advisory capacity and has no statutory powers.

The recruitment process for Trustees was paused due to COVID. At the end of 2020 just under a fifth of Trustees were women. Recruitment will start in earnest in 2021 as we seek to balance the skills of the Board and build diversity. All recommended persons must be unanimously accepted by the Council and formally proposed at the AGM for ratification.

There is an induction process for all new Trustees.

Leadership

Dr Tom Pey continued to lead The Society throughout 2020. During the year he indicated to Trustees that he was considering retirement. The Society felt that it had a robust succession plan in place following the appointment in 2019 of Sue Sharp as Deputy CEO. In 2020 Tom and Sue Sharp, Deputy CEO, formed the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT).

The CLT was supported by a team consisting of department heads, collectively known as the Senior Leadership Team. This team consisted of Mandy Douglas, Community and Partnerships Director; Josie Grainger, College Principal; Eileen Harding, Head of HR and Volunteering and Company Secretary; Yvonne Lane, Head of Income and Impact;

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Shalni Sood, Director of Philanthropy; and David Roy, Head of Finance (replacing Patrick Pedder, Finance Director who left the Society in June 2020).

GROUP STRUCTURE AND ASSOCIATED SUBSIDIARIES

RSBC has two wholly owned subsidiary trading companies - RSBC Lotteries Ltd, formerly RLSB Enterprises Ltd, (company registration number 05757769), incorporated 27th March 2006 and *Wayfindr.org Ltd* (company registration number 09839997), incorporated 23rd October 2015. RSBC Lotteries Ltd did not trade in the year or the preceding two years.

The Thomas Lucas Academy Trust Limited (company registration number 09206440) is an associated company. The company did not trade in the year or the previous three years.

Additional dormant companies are Vision Charity (company registration number 03737109) and Wayfindr journey (company registration number 09593014).

Kyekus Limited (Formerly the Royal Society for Blind Children): On 31 December 2016, the Royal Society for Blind Children ("old RSBC") transferred its assets and liabilities to its parent charity, the Royal London Society for Blind People (RLSB). Following the transfer and on 1 January 2017, RLSB took on the name "Royal Society for Blind Children" ("new RSBC"). Since no two charities can bear the same name, the old RSBC took the name Kyekus Limited as at that date. Kyekus Limited ceased operations on 31 December 2016 although a shell charitable company (company registration number 05764810) continues to exist.

Wayfindr.org Ltd: In 2015 the Royal Society for Blind Children (RSBC) contracted with ustwo (a global digital product studio) to set up Wayfindr.org Ltd, (company registration number 09839997) a fully owned subsidiary of the RSBC. Ustwo and TfL are members of Wayfindr.org together with RSBC which has the controlling share. The organisation developed an open set of standardised guidelines for audio wayfinding and promotes the installation of audio wayfinding systems worldwide for vision impaired people to travel more independently. RSBC supports the standard development, management, communication, fundraising and finance activities through a service level agreement.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Corporate risk register is updated on a quarterly basis. The Council notes the following specific high-level risks and highlights the actions to address those risks:

Safeguarding is a priority in the risk register and Council considers a safeguarding report as the first work item at its meetings. The Society has a Corporate Safeguarding Committee, which alongside the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Committee, regularly reviews risks, policies and procedures. In the light of COVID, for example, with online delivery of services, additional guidance was issued to staff regarding online safeguarding. All safeguarding incidents are reported to the Chair, Chair of Board of Governors and the Trustee with the safeguarding portfolio.

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

- Extending the reach of the Society's services is central to our Strategy and ensuring that we can meet the needs of those children, young people and families. We have stepped up our engagement activity and continued to build effective delivery partnerships both within and without the vision impairment sector.
- Income growth is critical to our ability to deliver to our growing number of beneficiaries. In 2020 there were pressures on income from trusts, statutory and institutional bodies, as well as fundraised income from events and face- to-face collections. The Society has realigned its income generating resources and is well positioned to benefit from income opportunities arising in the wake of Covid.
- There is a clear focus on outcomes and impact of our services. We continued to invest in learning and development for staff and volunteers and to ensure that staff were rigorous in their monitoring of beneficiary progress.
- The trustees are satisfied that all material risks are properly insured and regularly review risks to ensure that the position is maintained.
- The Audit Committee is notified along with the external auditors of incidents of Fraud or attempted Fraud which could present Risk to the organisation's assets. Any incidents of this nature should be reported to the Chair of the Audit Committee as soon as they are identified. There were no issues identified in the year.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the profit or loss of the charitable company 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 accounting 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 a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

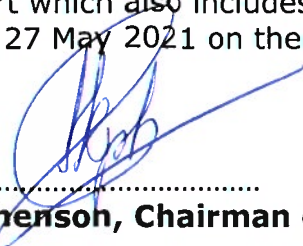
So far as each of the Trustees is aware at the time the report is approved:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- The Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

AUDITORS

A resolution proposing the reappointment of Haysmacintyre LLP as auditors to the charitable company and group will be put to the Annual General meeting.

This Report which also includes the Strategic Report was approved by the Trustees and signed on 27 May 2021 on their behalf by:



.....
Ian Stephenson, Chairman of the Society

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN
AUDITOR'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY
FOR BLIND CHILDREN**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Royal Society for Blind Children for the year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise the Consolidated and Charity Statement of Financial Activities, the Group and Charity Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group and parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2020 and of the group and parent charitable company's net movement in funds, including the income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN
AUDITOR'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

the information included in the Trustees' Annual Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report (which includes the strategic report and the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report included within the Trustees' Annual Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report (which incorporates the strategic report and the directors' report).

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us]; or
- the charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 21 the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN
AUDITOR'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Based on our understanding of the charitable company and the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to care regulations including safeguarding and health and safety, and employment law and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011, and other factors such as income tax, payroll tax and sales tax.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and concluded that the risk was low. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Identifying and testing journals, in particular journal entries posted with unusual account combinations, postings by unusual users or with unusual descriptions; and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN
AUDITOR'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Lee Stokes
(Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Haysmacintyre LLP, Statutory Auditors

Date: 27 May 2021

10 Queen Street Place
London EC4R 1AG

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES for the Year ended 31 December 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	2020	2019
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Income from Charitable Activities						
Fees		518	-	-	518	486
Grants		78	-	-	78	133
		<u>596</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>596</u>	<u>619</u>
Income from investments	2	2	-	-	2	16
Donations and Legacies						
Donations		1,158	-	1,026	2,184	2,077
Legacies		1,444	-	-	1,444	1,292
		<u>2,602</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,026</u>	<u>3,628</u>	<u>3,369</u>
Trading Activities	11	-	-	-	-	132
Other	3	129	-	-	129	11
		<u>129</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>129</u>	<u>11</u>
Total Income and Endowments		<u>3,329</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,026</u>	<u>4,355</u>	<u>4,146</u>
EXPENDITURE						
Expenditure on Raising Funds						
Fundraising Costs		832	-	-	832	1,498
Trading Expenses	11	-	-	-	-	120
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>120</u>
Net expenditure available for charitable application		<u>2,497</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,026</u>	<u>3,523</u>	<u>2,528</u>
Expenditure on Charitable Activities						
Education and Training		999	-	-	999	1,033
Community & Family Support Services		625	-	1,233	1,858	2,299
		<u>1,624</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,233</u>	<u>2,857</u>	<u>3,332</u>
Total Expenditure on Charitable Activities		<u>1,624</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,233</u>	<u>2,857</u>	<u>3,332</u>
Total Expenditure	4	<u>2,456</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,233</u>	<u>3,689</u>	<u>4,950</u>
Net Gains/(Losses) on Investments	10	-	-	-	-	60
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>60</u>
Net Income/(Expenditure)		<u>873</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(207)</u>	<u>666</u>	<u>(746)</u>
Transfers between Funds		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Income/(Expenditure) after Transfers		<u>873</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(207)</u>	<u>666</u>	<u>(746)</u>
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension scheme	18	(90)	-	-	(90)	-
		<u>(90)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(90)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds for year		<u>783</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(207)</u>	<u>576</u>	<u>(746)</u>
Reconciliation of funds:						
Fund balances at 31 December 2019		775	-	629	1,404	2,150
		<u>775</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>629</u>	<u>1,404</u>	<u>2,150</u>
Fund balances at 31 December 2020		<u>1,558</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>422</u>	<u>1,980</u>	<u>1,404</u>

The statement of financial activities has been prepared on the basis that all activities are continuing, other than those indicated above.
All recognised gains and losses are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.
No summary income and expenditure account has been prepared because this information is clearly identified in the above statement.
The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - CHARITY ONLY for the Year ended 31 December 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	2020	2019
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Income from Charitable Activities						
Fees		518	-	-	518	486
Grants		78	-	-	78	144
		<u>596</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>596</u>	<u>630</u>
Income from investments	2	2	-	-	2	16
Donations and Legacies:						
Donations		1,158	-	1,026	2,184	2,077
Legacies		1,444	-	-	1,444	1,292
		<u>2,602</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,026</u>	<u>3,628</u>	<u>3,369</u>
Other		129	-	-	129	11
Total Income and Endowments		<u>3,329</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,026</u>	<u>4,355</u>	<u>4,026</u>
EXPENDITURE						
Expenditure on Raising Funds						
Fundraising Costs		832	-	-	832	1,498
Net income/(expenditure) available for charitable application		<u>2,497</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,026</u>	<u>3,523</u>	<u>2,528</u>
Expenditure on Charitable Activities						
Education and Training		999	-	-	999	1,033
Community & Family Support Services		625	-	1,233	1,858	2,299
Total Expenditure on Charitable Activities		<u>1,624</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,233</u>	<u>2,857</u>	<u>3,332</u>
Total Expenditure	4	<u>2,456</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,233</u>	<u>3,689</u>	<u>4,830</u>
Net Gains/(Losses) on Investments	10	-	-	-	-	60
Net Income/(Expenditure)		<u>873</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(207)</u>	<u>666</u>	<u>(774)</u>
Transfers between Funds		-	-	-	-	-
Net Income/(Expenditure) after Transfers		<u>873</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(207)</u>	<u>666</u>	<u>(744)</u>
Profit on Disposal of Fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	1h	-	-	-	-	-
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension scheme	17	(90)	-	-	(90)	-
Net movement in funds for year		<u>783</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(207)</u>	<u>576</u>	<u>(744)</u>
Reconciliation of funds:						
Fund balances at 31 December 2019		775	-	629	1,404	2,148
Fund balances at 31 December 2020		<u>1,558</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>422</u>	<u>1,980</u>	<u>1,404</u>

The statement of financial activities has been prepared on the basis that all activities are continuing, other than those indicated above.
All recognised gains and losses are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.
No summary income and expenditure account has been prepared because this information is clearly identified in the above statement.
The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

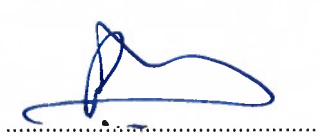
THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN

GROUP AND CHARITY BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	Group 2020 £000	Charity 2020 £000	Group 2019 £000	Charity 2019 £000
Fixed assets					
Tangible Assets	9	295	295	688	688
Investments	10	-	-	-	-
		<u>295</u>	<u>295</u>	<u>688</u>	<u>688</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	12	1,735	1,743	1,280	1,281
Cash and Bank balances		866	858	235	201
		<u>2,601</u>	<u>2,601</u>	<u>1,515</u>	<u>1,482</u>
Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	(916)	(916)	(798)	(767)
Net current (liabilities)/assets		<u>1,685</u>	<u>1,685</u>	<u>716</u>	<u>715</u>
Net assets excluding pension scheme liability		<u>1,980</u>	<u>1,980</u>	<u>1,404</u>	<u>1,404</u>
Defined Benefit Pension Scheme	18	-	-	-	-
Total net assets		<u>1,980</u>	<u>1,980</u>	<u>1,404</u>	<u>1,404</u>
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted funds					
Permanent Endowment Funds	14	25	25	25	25
Other Funds	14	398	398	605	605
		<u>423</u>	<u>423</u>	<u>630</u>	<u>630</u>
Designated funds					
Fixed asset fund	14	-	-	-	-
Unrestricted Funds					
General Funds	16	1,557	1,557	191	191
Revaluation Reserve		-	-	583	583
		<u>1,557</u>	<u>1,557</u>	<u>774</u>	<u>774</u>
Total charity funds		<u>1,980</u>	<u>1,980</u>	<u>1,404</u>	<u>1,404</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on 27 May 2021 and signed on their behalf by:


.....
Ian Stephenson, Chairman


.....
Peter Knott, Treasurer

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	2020 £000	2019 £000
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	a	218	(1,392)
Cash flow from investing activities:			
Dividends, interest and rent from investments		2	16
Purchase of Tangible Fixed Assets		(161)	-
Proceeds from sales of Tangible Fixed Assets		572	-
Purchase of Investments		-	(115)
Proceeds from sale of Investments		-	1,485
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		413	1,386
Financing			
Repayment of loan		-	-
Change in cash in the reporting period		631	(6)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		235	240
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	b	866	235
a Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities		2020 £000	2019 £000
Net income/(expenditure for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		666	(744)
Adjustments for:			
Investment income		(2)	(16)
Depreciation charges		5	7
Profit on disposal of fixed assets		(24)	-
Net pension scheme movements		(90)	-
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors		(455)	(673)
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors		118	94
(Gains)/Losses on Investments		-	(60)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities		218	(1,392)
b Analysis of cash and cash equivalents		2020 £000	2019 £000
Cash in hand		866	235
Notice deposits		-	-
Overdraft facility repayable on demand		-	-
		866	235

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year ended 31 December 2020

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a: Statutory information:

The Royal Society for Blind Children (RSBC) is a charitable company limited by guarantee (company number: 139928) and is incorporated in England and Wales (charity number:307892). The Charity's registered office address and principal place of business is The Walnuts, High Street, Orpington BR6 0TE.

The principal accounting policies, all of which have been applied consistently throughout the year are set out below:

b: Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the inclusion of fixed asset investments at market value, and are in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015), Charities SORP FRS 102 and the Companies Act 2006. The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

c: Going Concern

The trustees have considered the charity's and group's operations and cashflow for at least 12 months from the date of signing these accounts and they believe that there are no material uncertainties about the charity or group's ability to continue in operational existence over the period. Accordingly, they have adopted a going concern basis in the preparation of these financial statements.

d: Group Accounts

These financial statements consolidate the results of the charitable company and its wholly-owned subsidiary Wayfindr.org.uk on a line by line basis. Transactions and balances between the charitable company and its subsidiary have been eliminated from the consolidated financial statements.

Balances between the two companies are disclosed in the notes of the charitable company's balance sheet. A separate statement of financial activities (SOFA), or income and expenditure account, for the charitable company itself is not presented because the charitable company has taken advantage of the exemptions afforded by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

- Wayfindr.org Ltd (Company No: 09839997)

See Note 11 for the results and additional information on the above entities.

The charity also has the following dormant subsidiaries that have not traded to date:

- RLBSB Enterprises Ltd (Company No: 05757769)
- The Alliance for Blind Children (Company No: 07318214)
- Thomas Lucas Academy Trust Limited (Company No: 09206440)
- Kyekus Limited (Charity No: 1131623; Company No: 5764810)

Another subsidiary, Blind Independence Greenwich, (Company No: 07324135 and Charity No: 1139798) ceased trading in September 2015. Kyekus Limited (Charity No: 1131623; Company No: 5764810) also ceased trading on 21 December 2016 following the transfer of its activities and net assets to the parent charity.

All the above mentioned entities are wholly controlled by RSBC and have the same registered office address.

The Charity's incoming resources, excluding the subsidiary companies, were £4,355,000 (2019: £4,026,000), resources expended £3,689,000 (2019: £4,890,000) and net income of £454,000 (2019: £745,000 net expenditure).

e: Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether "capital" grants or "revenue" grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the charity that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

Income received in advance of the provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

f: Donations of gifts, services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over them or received the service, any conditions associated with the donation have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), volunteer time is not recognised so refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

g: Expenditure and Irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Certain expenditure is directly attributable to specific activities and has been included in those cost categories. Central (support) costs which cannot be directly allocated are apportioned across cost categories on the basis of total expenditure which will indirectly relate to volume of transactions, floor area and usage.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be directly allocated to such activities together with an allocation of support costs.

Costs of generating funds comprise those costs associated with attracting voluntary income together with an allocation of support costs.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity to which the expenditure was incurred.

h: Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost.

Depreciation is provided to write off the cost of fixed assets over their estimated useful lives on a straight line basis over the following periods:

Freehold land	None Provided
Freehold buildings	50 years
Fixtures & Fittings	2 - 20 years
Machinery, tools and equipment	2 - 15 years
Motor vehicles	5 years

Change in Accounting policy: During the financial year RSBC owned land as part of the Quinn Estate and at Seal Drive, Sevenoaks. The land which is owned on a fifth share basis as part of Quinn Estate was valued in 2017 at £450,000 (£90,000 RSBC). This Trustees consider this a reasonable valuation of the land in the financial statements to 31 December 2020.

The land owned at Seal Drive, Sevenoaks was sold in August for £574,404. It had been included in the financial statements for 2019 at its existing use revalued estimate of £550,000, realising a gain on disposal of £24,404.

i: Operating Leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to income on a straight line basis over the lease term.

j: Debtors

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

k: Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes all cash balances and short term highly liquid investments with a short term maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year ended 31 December 2020

l: 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.

m: Pension costs

The Society operates a pension scheme in the UK with both defined benefit and defined contribution sections. In addition, contributions are made to the Teachers Superannuation Scheme at rates set by the scheme actuary and advised to the Trustees by the Scheme Administrator.

For the purposes of complying with the relevant accounting standard, the Teachers' Superannuation Scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme as the Society is not responsible for or entitled to receive benefit for any surplus or deficit on the scheme. The amounts included within the statement of financial activities are in accordance with the requirements of Financial Reporting Standard 102 (section 28) with the pension cost charged being the amount of contributions payable in respect of the accounting period.

In respect of the defined contributions section of the Society operated defined contribution scheme, the pension cost charged to the profit and loss account is the amount of contributions payable in respect of the accounting period.

Kyekus Limited (formerly RSBC) participates in the Scottish Voluntary Sector Pension Scheme administered by the Pensions Trust, a multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme. It is not possible in the normal course of events to identify the assets or liabilities that belong to each participating employer and in accordance with FRS 102, the scheme is treated as a defined contribution scheme.

Kyekus Limited (formerly RSBC) also operates a stakeholder defined contribution pension scheme for its employees. Contributions are charged to resources expended when they become payable.

n: Fund Accounting

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions imposed by the donors or grant making bodies or monies raised in response to a specific appeal.

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for a specific purpose.

o: Permanent endowment funds

These represent restricted funds the capital of which should be held in perpetuity.

p: Significant judgements and sources estimation uncertainty

The preparation of these financial statements in compliance with FRS102 requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise judgement in applying the Charity's accounting policies. The Trustees do not consider that there are any key sources of material estimation uncertainty in the preparation of these financial statements.

q: Financial Instruments

With the exception of the listed investments described above, the charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

r: Employee benefits

Short term benefits

Short term benefits include holiday pay are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is received.

Employee termination benefits

Termination benefits are accounted for on an accrual basis and in line with FRS102.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2 INVESTMENT INCOME

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Income from UK listed investments	-	16
Interest received on UK cash deposits	2	-
	<u>2</u>	<u>16</u>

3 OTHER INCOME

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Profit on Disposal of fixed assets	24	2
Sundry income	105	9
	<u>129</u>	<u>11</u>

In 2020, profit on disposal of fixed assets relates to the sale of land at Seal.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year ended 31 December 2020

4 ANALYSIS OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE

	Expenditure	Charitable Activities:			
Basis of Allocation	on Raising Funds	Education & Training	Community Services	Total 2020	2019
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Costs directly allocated to activities:					
Staff Costs	374	423	988	1,785	2,276
Service Costs	203	82	219	504	1,212
Total direct costs	577	505	1,207	2,289	3,488
Support Costs allocation:					
Premises	-	110	12	122	124
Administration (Finance, HR & ICT)	202	302	504	1,008	884
Marketing	17	26	42	85	214
Research & Development	31	47	78	156	88
Governance	5	7	12	24	25
Depreciation	1	2	2	5	7
Total Support Costs	256	494	650	1,400	1,342
Expenditure - parent charity	833	999	1,857	3,689	4,830
Subsidiaries:					
<i>Blind Independence Greenwich:</i>					
Family support	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Kyokus Limited:</i>					
Expenditure on raising funds	-	-	-	-	-
Expenditure on charitable activities	-	-	-	-	-
Family support	-	-	-	-	-
Hotel accommodation/guests	-	-	-	-	-
Expenditure - charity subsidiaries	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditure - Charities	832	999	1,858	3,689	4,830
<i>Wayfindr:</i>					
Expenditure on raising funds	-	-	-	-	-
Trading expenditure	-	-	-	-	120
Total Expenditure	832	999	1,858	3,689	4,950

Support costs relating to central services including management and administration have been allocated over the service areas by way of total expenditure which will indirectly relate to volume of transactions, floor area and usage. Governance costs include the audit fees and an apportionment of corporate team remuneration.

Expenditure on raising funds was £832,000 (2019: £1,618,000) all of which are unrestricted.

Expenditure on charitable activities was £2,857,000 (2019: £3,332,000) of which £1,233,000 (2019: £959,000) was restricted and £1,624,000 (2019: £1,704,000) unrestricted.

PRIOR YEAR COMPARATIVES

	Expenditure	Charitable Activities:			
Basis of Allocation	on Raising Funds	Education & Training	Community Services	Total 2019	2018
	£0	0	0	0	0
Costs directly allocated to activities:					
Staff Costs	716	484	1,076	2,276	2,684
Service Costs	513	147	552	1,212	962
Total direct costs	1,229	631	1,628	3,488	3,646
Support Costs allocation:					
Premises	25	37	62	124	170
Administration (Finance, HR & ICT)	177	265	442	884	769
Marketing	43	64	107	214	420
Research & Development	18	26	44	88	99
Governance	5	8	12	25	125
Depreciation	1	2	4	7	20
Total Support Costs	269	402	671	1,342	1,603
Expenditure - parent charity	1,498	1,033	2,299	4,830	5,249
Total Expenditure - Charities	1,498	1,033	2,299	4,830	5,249
<i>Wayfindr:</i>					
Expenditure on raising funds	-	-	-	-	3
Trading expenditure	120	-	-	120	131
Total Expenditure	1,618	1,033	2,299	4,950	5,383

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)

5 LEASE COMMITMENTS

At 31 December 2020, RSBC had commitments to make the following payments in total under non-cancellable operating leases of:

	Land and buildings		Other	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Operating leases which expire:				
in less than one year	22	84	-	-
between one and five years	-	31	-	-
after five years	-	-	-	-
	<u>22</u>	<u>115</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

6 EMPLOYEES

The average headcount during the year was 69 (2019: 69).

The average number of employees of the RSBC (formerly the RLSB) and the group allocated based on activity were:

	2020	2019
	No. FTE	No. FTE
Education and training	15	16
Community service	23	23
Support to direct charitable activities	15	11
Fundraising	13	16
Management and administration	3	3
	<u>69</u>	<u>69</u>
	2020	2019
	£000	£000
Staff costs comprise:		
Wages and salaries*	2,201	2,557
Social Security contributions	217	251
Other pension costs	87	254
	<u>2,505</u>	<u>3,062</u>

*Total payments related to redundancy totalled £21,705 (2019: £23,702)

In 2019 the key management of the charity group comprised the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and one executive director. Their total employment benefits in the year were £257,967. A decision was made in 2019 to form an expanded Senior Leadership Team (SLT), removing a tier of management in the process. In 2020 the SLT comprised the CEO, Deputy CEO and 5 executive directors or heads of service. Their total employment benefits in the year were £629,281 (2019 £257,967).

The number of employees whose gross pay and value of benefits during their employment within the last 12 months was at a rate in excess of £60,000 pa is:

	2020	2019
£60,001 to £70,000	5	4
£70,001 to £80,000	1	1
£80,001 to £90,000	1	0
£120,001 to £130,000	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

All 8 staff are members of the Scottish Widows defined contribution Group Pension Scheme (2019: 6)

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the Year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)

7 TRUSTEES

No Council member received any remuneration from the RSBC during the year. There were expenses incurred by Council members whilst on RSBC activities of £76 (2019: £37). No members were reimbursed for travel expenses in the year (2019: £0).

8 NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

The net movement in funds for the year is stated after charging:

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Depreciation of Tangible Fixed Assets	5	7
Staff costs	2,505	3,062
Auditors' remuneration:		
Audit services	20	20
Non-audit services	-	-

9 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold properties £000	Freehold properties £000	Fixtures £000	Machinery tools and equipment £000	Motor vehicles £000	Total £000
GROUP & CHARITY						
Cost						
At 1 January 2020	-	674	131	147	42	994
Additions	-	156	-	5	-	161
Disposals	-	(550)	-	-	-	(550)
At 31 December 2020	-	280	131	152	42	605
Depreciation						
At 1 January 2020	-	-	123	144	38	305
Charge for the year	-	-	1	2	2	5
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2020	-	-	124	146	40	310
Net Book Values						
At 31 December 2020	-	280	7	6	2	295
At 31 December 2019	-	674	8	3	4	689

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)

10 INVESTMENTS

Group	2020 £000	2019 £000
Market value at 31 December 2019		1,310
Additions / realised gain	-	115
Open Market Value of disposals	-	(1,485)
Net investment gains	-	60
Market value at 31 December 2020	-	-
Cost	-	-

11 SUBSIDIARIES AND ASSOCIATED UNDERTAKINGS

Trading Subsidiary

RLSB Enterprises Ltd was incorporated on 27 March 2006 and commenced trading on 1 April 2006. RLSB Enterprises did not trade during 2019 or 2020.

Figures for the trading subsidiary are as follows:

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Retained revenue reserves	-	-
Share capital held by RLSB	-	-

Wayfindr.org Limited was incorporated on 23 October 2015 as a company limited by guarantee with no share capital. The financial statements have been prepared for the 12 months ending 31 December 2020. Its unaudited figures are included in these consolidated accounts. The results for the subsidiary for the period are as follows:

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Income	49	261
Expenditure	(50)	(260)
Profit/(loss)	(1)	1
Capital and Reserves at 31 December	-	-

12 DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

	Group 2020 £000	Charity 2020 £000	Group 2019 £000	Charity 2019 £000
Trade debtors	220	220	132	132
Other debtors and prepayments	90	89	133	125
Amounts owed by subsidiary undertaking	-	10	-	10
Accrued income	1,425	1,424	1,015	1,014
	1,735	1,743	1,280	1,281

Included within accrued income are legacies of £1,444,381 (2019: £989,864). At the year end the Society was also due a number of legacies. The amounts due could not be accurately quantified and the receipt was not reasonably certain. However, a reasonable estimate of the total amount due would be £340,000 (2019: £304,948) but these have not been brought into the accounts due to the uncertainty of the amount receivable.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)

13 CREDITORS - amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2020 £000	Charity 2020 £000	Group 2019 £000	Charity 2019 £000
Trade creditors	44	44	259	252
Accrued expenditure	160	160	252	251
Other taxes and social security costs	102	102	58	59
Deferred income	244	244	205	181
Other creditors	366	366	24	24
	916	916	798	767
	2020 £000	2020 £000	2019 £000	2019 £000
Deferred Income				
Balance at 31 December 2019	205	192	102	90
Amounts released to income	(205)	(192)	(102)	(78)
Amounts deferred in the period	244	244	205	180
Balance at 31 December 2020	244	244	205	192

14 STATEMENT OF FUNDS 2020

	1 Jan 2020 £000	Income £000	Expenditure & Losses £000	Transfers £000	31 Dec 2020 £000
Permanent endowment funds					
Fox Musical Scholarship Fund	25	-	-	-	25
	25	-	-	-	25
Other Restricted Funds					
Employment and Adult Services	(2)	-	-	-	(2)
City Bridge Trust	6	39	42	-	3
Erasmus + Employment EMP106	5	14	13	-	6
Fox capital	1	-	-	-	1
Legacies	42	-	41	-	1
ESFA Grants	-	-	-	-	-
Blind Independence Greenwich	-	-	-	-	-
National Lottery Fund Reaching Communities	69	222	169	-	122
BIG Lottery - Wayfindr Grant	-	-	-	-	-
Family Support	175	52	123	-	104
National Lottery Fund UK Portfolio	137	282	387	-	32
Children & Young People	86	172	164	-	94
Youth Investment Fund	67	32	99	-	-
Erasmus + Mind in Sight	11	-	9	-	2
Erasmus + Youth Voice	-	-	-	-	-
Young People's ICT Grants	8	-	-	-	8
INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS	-	213	186	-	27
Restricted Funds - charity and group	605	1,026	1,233	-	398
Total Restricted Funds	630	1,026	1,233	-	423
Unrestricted Funds					
Designated Funds					
Education	-	-	-	-	-
General Funds	774	3,239	2,456	-	1,557
Unrestricted Funds - charity and group	774	3,239	2,456	-	1,557
Total Funds - Group	1,404	4,265	3,689	-	1,980

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)

14 STATEMENT OF FUNDS 2019

	1 Jan 2019 £000	Income £000	Expenditure & Losses £000	Transfers £000	31 Dec 2019 £000
Permanent endowment funds					
Fox Musical Scholarship Fund	25	-	-	-	25
	25	-	-	-	25
Other Restricted Funds					
Employment and Adult Services	24	20	(46)	-	(2)
City Bridge Trust	7	39	(40)	-	6
Erasmus + Employment	31	-	(26)	-	5
Fox capital	1	-	-	-	1
Legacies	42	-	-	-	42
ESFA Grants	9	-	(9)	-	-
National Lottery Fund Reaching Communities	70	155	(156)	-	69
BIG Lottery - Wayfindr Grant	-	89	(89)	-	-
Family Support	62	150	(37)	-	175
National Lottery Fund UK Portfolio	-	443	(306)	-	137
Children & Young People	70	172	(156)	-	86
Youth Investment Fund	39	69	(42)	-	66
Erasmus + Mind in Sight	-	29	(18)	-	11
Erasmus + Youth Voice	5	-	(5)	-	-
Young People's ICT Grants	37	-	(29)	-	8
Restricted Funds - charity and group	394	1166	(959)	-	605
Total Restricted Funds	420	1,166	(959)	-	630
Unrestricted Funds	-	-	-	-	-
Education	387	-	(387)	-	-
General Funds	1,339	2,979	(3,543)	-	775
Unrestricted Funds - charity and group	1,726	2,979	(3,930)	-	775
Total Funds - Group	2,146	4,145	(4,889)	-	1,404

Fox Musical Scholarship Fund - For pupils to receive music lessons.

Employment and Adult Services - These are monies received for our Employability programme and Social & Peer Groups for young adults.

Big Lottery - Grants to improve social interaction and employability for visually impaired people and to help them lead independent lives.

Google Wayfindr Grant - For the development of the Wayfindr Standard to increase the self-confidence of visually impaired people when travelling, leading to increased employment and social opportunities.

Children & Young People – Funds received to support Sport, Social & Peer Groups and creative programmes for young vision impaired people.

Young People's ICT Grants - Funds received to provide IT equipment, reading and literacy aids to young blind and partially sighted persons with methods of accessing texts and recording work to improve their educational prospects.

The Family Support Service Fund - Relates to income received towards the general running costs of the Families First service.

15 LIABILITY OF MEMBERS

The RSBC (formerly the RLSB) is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of the members of RSBC is limited to £1 per member.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)

16 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds £000	Permanent Endowment Funds £000	Total £000
Fixed Assets				
Tangible assets	295	-	-	295
Investments	-	-	-	-
	<u>295</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>295</u>
Current Assets				
Debtors	1,735	-	-	1,735
Cash and Bank balances	443	398	25	866
	<u>2,178</u>	<u>398</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>2,601</u>
Creditors				
Amounts falling due within one year	(916)	-	-	(916)
	<u>1,262</u>	<u>398</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>1,685</u>
Net Current (Liabilities)/Assets				
	<u>1,262</u>	<u>398</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>1,685</u>
Pension scheme deficit	-	-	-	-
NET ASSETS	<u>1,557</u>	<u>398</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>1,980</u>

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS 2019

	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds £000	Permanent Endowment Funds £000	Total £000
Fixed Assets				
Tangible assets	688	-	-	688
Investments	(25)	-	25	-
	<u>663</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>688</u>
Current Assets				
Debtors	1,280	-	-	1,280
Cash and Bank balances	(370)	605	-	235
	<u>910</u>	<u>605</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,515</u>
Creditors				
Amounts falling due within one year	(798)	-	-	(798)
	<u>111</u>	<u>605</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>716</u>
Net Current (Liabilities)/Assets				
	<u>111</u>	<u>605</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>716</u>
Pension scheme deficit	-	-	-	-
NET ASSETS	<u>774</u>	<u>605</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>1,404</u>

The Designated Fund represents amounts earmarked to expand education activities.

17 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Group:		
Financial assets at amortised costs (a)	<u>1,175</u>	<u>499</u>
Financial liabilities at amortised costs (b)	<u>570</u>	<u>536</u>
Financial assets at fair value (c)	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Charity:		
Financial assets at amortised costs (a)	<u>1,166</u>	<u>457</u>
Financial liabilities at amortised costs (b)	<u>570</u>	<u>528</u>
Financial assets at fair value (c)	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

(a) Financial assets measured at amortised cost include: short term deposits, cash in hand trade debtors, other debtors and accrued income

(b) Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost include: trade creditors, other creditors, accruals and deferred income

(c) Financial assets held at fair value include assets held as investments

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)

18 PENSION SCHEMES

a) RLSB PENSION SCHEMES

The employer operates a defined benefit pension scheme in the UK. The disclosures set out below are based on calculations carried out as at 31 December 2020 by a qualified actuary.

The Scheme's assets are held in a separate Trustee administered fund to meet long-term pension liabilities to past and present employees. The Trustees of the Scheme are required to act in the best interest of the Scheme's beneficiaries. The appointment of members of the Trustee board is determined by the trust documentation.

The liabilities of the defined benefit scheme are measured by discounting the best estimate of future cash flows to be paid out of the Scheme using the projected unit method. This amount is reflected in the deficit in the balance sheet. The projected unit method is an accrued benefits valuation method in which the Scheme's liabilities make allowance for future revaluation of deferred benefits and projected future pension increases.

The liabilities set out in this report have been calculated based on the most recent Scheme Funding Assessment being completed at 31 July 2019, updated approximately to 31 December 2020. The results of the calculations and the assumptions adopted are shown below.

At the balance sheet, the employer is required to make contributions to the Scheme at the rates set out in the Schedule of Contributions dated 11 May 2017. The total employer contribution assumed to be made in the year commencing 1 January 2021 is £nil.

All figures in the disclosure are quoted to the nearest £1,000.

Principal Assumptions

	2020 Per annum	2019 Per annum
Discount rate	1.30%	1.95%
Retail Prices index (RPI) inflation	3.20%	3.25%
Retail Price index (CPI) inflation	2.40%	2.25%
Future increases in deferred pensions	2.40%	2.25%
Rate of increase to pensions in payment: RPI, max 5% pa	3.10%	3.15%
	2020	2019
Future life expectancy of male aged 65 at balance sheet date	21.9	21.8
Future life expectancy of male achieving age 65 20 years after balance sheet date	23.2	23.1
Future life expectancy of female aged 65 at balance sheet date	24.1	24.0
Future life expectancy of female achieving age 65 20 years after balance sheet date	25.6	25.5

Asset Breakdown

The major category of scheme assets as a percentage of total scheme assets at 31 December are:

	2020	2019
Corporate bonds	24.3%	24.4%
Gilts	22.8%	21.8%
Insured assets	0.0%	3.6%
Equities and alternatives	29.4%	30.6%
Cash and other	23.5%	19.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

The assets are all quoted in an active market with the exception of the insured pensions.

Net defined benefit asset (liability):

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Fair value of scheme assets	20,646	19,375
Present value of defined benefit obligations	(17,158)	(16,241)
Surplus/(deficit) in the Scheme	3,488	3,134
Restriction to the amount that can be recognised under paragraph 28.22 of FRS 102	(3,488)	(3,134)
Defined benefit asset/(liability) recognised in balance sheet	-	-

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)

18 PENSION SCHEMES (continued)

Total expense recognised in Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA)

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Current service cost	-	-
Administration expenses	-	169
Recognised in arriving at operating profit	-	169
Total recognised in the SOFA	-	169

Total amounts taken to Other Comprehensive Income

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Actuarial return on scheme assets - gains and (losses)	3,023	3,023
Less: amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability	(440)	(440)
Remeasurement gains and (losses)		
- Return on scheme assets excluding interest income	1,696	2,583
Remeasurement gains and (losses)		
- Actuarial gains and (losses) on defined benefit obligation	(1,260)	(361)
Remeasurement gains and (losses)		
- Changes to the restriction under paragraph 28.22 of FRS 102	(586)	(2,053)
Remeasurement gain/(loss) recognised in Other Comprehensive Income	(150)	169

Changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligation

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Present value of defined benefit obligation at the beginning of period	16,241	16,308
Benefits paid including expenses	(885)	(1,037)
Current service costs	-	-
Administration costs	232	169
Interest cost	310	440
Remeasurement gains and (losses)	-	-
- Actuarial gains and (losses)	1,260	361
Employee contributions	-	-
Past service costs including curtailments	-	-
Effects of settlements	-	-
Present value of defined benefit obligation at the end of period	17,158	16,241

Changes in the fair value of assets

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Fair value of scheme assets at the beginning of period	19,375	17,389
Interest income	310	440
Remeasurement gains and (losses)	-	-
- Return on scheme assets excluding interest income	1,696	2,583
Contributions by employer	150	-
Employee contributions	-	-
Benefits paid including expenses	(885)	(1,037)
Fair value of scheme assets at end of period	20,646	19,375

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)

18 PENSION SCHEMES (continued)

b) ROYAL SOCIETY FOR BLIND CHILDREN PENSION SCHEMES

The charity operates a defined benefit pension scheme providing benefits based on final pensionable earnings and a stakeholder scheme for its employees. The employer contributions payable to the schemes for the period totalled £86,988 (2019: £15,858). Employer contributions payable to the schemes were 15.2% and employee contributions up to 10% (dependent on the rate of employee salary). There were no employees contributing to the Scheme in the year (2019: none).

The following disclosures relate to the defined benefit pension scheme as no such disclosures are required for the stakeholder scheme as this is defined contribution only.

The Royal Society for Blind Children participates in the Scottish Voluntary Sector Pension Scheme (the Scheme). The Scheme is a multi-employer defined benefit scheme. The Scheme is funded and was contracted-out of the state scheme until 31 March 2010, when the Scheme was closed to future accrual.

The Scheme operated a single benefit structure, final salary with a 1/60th accrual rate until 30 September 2007. From October 2007 there were two benefit structures available, final salary with a 1/60th accrual rate and a final salary with an 1/80th accrual rate, until the date of Scheme closure on 31 March 2010.

The Scheme closed to future accrual on 31 March 2010. There is currently no intention to wind-up the Scottish Voluntary Sector Pension Scheme and it continues in paid-up form.

It is not possible in the normal course of events to identify on a consistent and reasonable basis the share of underlying assets and liabilities belonging to individual participating employers. This is because the scheme is a multi-employer scheme where the scheme assets are co-mingled for investment purposes and benefits are paid from total Scheme assets. Accordingly, due to the nature of the Scheme, the accounting charge for the period under FRS102 represents the employer contribution payable.

19 POST BALANCE SHEET EVENT

In February 2021, RSBC signed a 12-year lease on premises at Lower Thames Street, which will be the headquarters of the charity. Contracts have been entered into for the construction of the premises, and it is envisaged that the charity will operate from this location from September 2021.

20 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The charity had six subsidiary/associated undertakings during the year, five of which were dormant (see Note 1). Of these, there were transactions with the following entities:

- Wayfindr.org Ltd. Wayfindr.org Ltd owed RSBC £9,981 at the year ended 31 December 2020 (2019: £7,500)

There were no other related party transactions in the year.

21 CORPORATION TAX

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.