

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 00986407 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 262119

Report of the Trustees and
Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021
for
BLINDAID

Supporting Londoners with Sight Loss



BLINDAID

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**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

MISSION STATEMENT

As London's oldest sight loss charity, BlindAid works to improve quality of life and promotes independence for blind and visually impaired Londoners. We provide individualised practical and emotional support to reduce the social isolation that many people living with sight loss can experience.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives

The charity seeks to alleviate loneliness and social isolation affecting visually-impaired people. It aims to empower service users to encourage and support independent living. The charity also supports people suffering the emotional consequences of visual impairment. Services are provided free of charge.

The charity's strategic objectives are:

- To develop the charity's Community Sight Support Service to reach blind and visually impaired people with a support service that takes account of their feedback.
- To develop a central Community Project Hub at Camden Living centre, and also Online Community Programmes.
- To improve the charity's ability to identify and help those who can benefit from its services in the most effective way.
- To implement the charity's funding strategy to secure future sources of income to allow expansion of its activities.
- To develop the infrastructure and charity's capacity necessary to achieve these aims.

Public benefit

The activities to achieve the charity's objectives are all carried out for the public benefit as described by the Charity Commission. The beneficiaries of the charity are members of the public who are in need because of health, disability or other problems arising from visual impairment and the activities of the charity seek to ensure these people can be supported by better services. The charity sets out in this report the charitable public benefit of its activities. The Board members have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

COVID-19 Global Pandemic 2020-2021

In February 2020, the senior management team made essential risk assessments in relation to the impact the COVID-19 virus may have on all aspects of the charity's operations, and those risk assessments have been continued throughout 2021. BlindAid has attained more days working in the community with our service users than in 2020, but service was still disrupted, as dictated by the virus and surges in case numbers, a further lockdown period early in the year, and the arrival of the Omicron variant causing higher case numbers toward the end of 2021.

BlindAid delivers service to blind and visually impaired people age 18+ however, the majority profile of our beneficiaries is 50+: with a high percentage of those people also having more complex health conditions in addition to a sight impairment. Therefore, a proportionate number of our beneficiaries were themselves instructed to shield from exposure to C-19 periodically. Our Community Sight Support Service normally provides regular outreach visits to service users in their own homes. Each Sight Support Worker has historically, prior to C-19, visited approximately 5-6 service users per day, travelling on public transport in between visits. The proximity for people within those homes, with no opportunities to affect/manage conditions was determined to be high risk for both service users as well as our staff.

For 7 years prior to March 2020, BlindAid operated three Community Projects in London locations within our area of operation. Service users travelled to the Community Projects venues on public transport or Dial-a-Ride to share classes on a variety of subjects; our Community Projects were therefore also determined to be high risk for service users, staff, tutors and volunteers and so they were closed as a direct result of the pandemic. In 2021 BlindAid was awarded funding from The City Bridge Trust to provide a Community Project hub centrally placed at Kings Cross for the next three years from April 2022-2024. BlindAid has taken the prudent decision to only reopen additional Community Projects if external funding can be secured to do in the future.

BlindAid operates a social project called Share London, where fully trained sighted guide volunteers are matched with service users to enable them to get out to enjoy a variety of social outings around London; this service also was determined to be high risk, and with agreement from our funder, Big Lottery Reaching Communities, we converted the project to provide social telephone calls during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021 during periods where C-19 cases were considered too high to safely continue to support accompanied social outings in London.

The UK Government determined that C-19 virus was most highly transmissible indoors in enclosed areas. From Monday 16 March 2020 all community based BlindAid services were ceased, and as all staff began working from home, there was no requirement to furlough any staff. All relevant operating policies, Job Descriptions, Work Instructions were redrafted, and some new documents specifically relating to working from home during COVID-19 were issued. Senior management devised a work plan and an initial 'scripted framework' for Sight Support Workers to work through as they began calling service users, during a time of national pandemic. Calls were made initially, a minimum of once per week to offer company, conversation, and as much practical assistance as and where possible. BlindAid made significant contributions during the lockdowns of 2020 by making a significant number of safeguarding reports to local authorities throughout its area of operation. The safeguarding reports alerted local authorities to people who were previously otherwise unknown to social services but were now in immediate need of assessment for essential services to be set up for them such as medication deliveries. Our team worked tirelessly to connect people to food deliveries and for those in dire financial need to food banks and free food delivery services.

Throughout 2020/2021 we have continued to risk assess and monitor the situation carefully throughout peaks, troughs, and new surges of the virus. Regular risk assessments and all reasonable precautions such as gloves and mask wearing for all face to face work, will continue until BlindAid is confident that these precautions are no longer needed for the protection of our staff, their families, volunteers, including trustees, and naturally our vulnerable service users.

Until that time, BlindAid remains agile, adaptable, and flexible. We are keeping under review all other means of connecting with our beneficiaries to continue to deliver meaningful support for them throughout this difficult time. The sight loss world is particularly tactile and therefore many of our service users are experiencing additional anxiety which we can and must help to mitigate.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

COVID-19 Global Pandemic 2020-2021 (continued)

In September 2020 BlindAid bid for and was awarded £100K funding by Big Lottery to develop a 'Hybrid Sight Support Service' which was part of their COVID Response Programme. There was a stipulation that this funding should be expended within the year and activities in this respect are detailed in the achievements section of this report.

In 2020 the Sight Support Workers way of working alongside our service users was largely disrupted by the C-19 pandemic, in 2021 it was disrupted too but to a lesser degree. In addition, and due to the pandemic, referrals to our charity increased significantly and because all staff were working from home, our Sight Support Workers were able to support substantial numbers of additional blind and visually impaired people who were in need. During 2021 this additional capacity became an additional challenge, it was a delicate management balance to ensure we could continue to provide service to all the blind and visually impaired people we already had a commitment to, and to avoid the need to withdraw service as we made the return to working in the community face to face again. This took skilful management by our Operations Director and our service team leader to achieve, but we have carefully realigned service users with SSWs with capacity and we have not needed to withdraw any service already pledged, which is a real accomplishment and an excellent example to teamwork.

Financial Mitigation:

In March-April 2019 the trustees acted prudently to de-risk the charity's investments by moving to safer investment funds. This action was primarily taken due to the then financial climate and impending Brexit and was completed before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been and continues to be impossible whilst the pandemic continues, to speculate on the eventual financial impact of COVID-19 on the charity's investments.

Senior management decided the charity had no need to furlough staff, and alternatively we elected to totally redesign the way BlindAid operated due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and we completed this huge task ahead of the UK first lockdown, moving to a work from home status on Monday 16 March 2020. Simultaneously, we needed to focus upon making sustained efforts throughout 2020/2021 to mitigate the pandemic's financial impact on BlindAid and we did this by:

1. Making cost savings where appropriate and possible.
2. Not replacing staff who retired/resigned and reallocating duties to other staff.
3. Renegotiating supplier contracts.
4. Making significant numbers of applications for grant funding to support our core services.
5. Applying for specific Government COVID-19 funding. (2020 - £174K).

The prevailing circumstances relating to the global COVID-19 pandemic naturally remain under constant review by the board of trustees and senior management. BlindAid's approach will continue to be prudent, conservative, and cautious in its fiscal management as always, but especially throughout this unprecedented and challenging time for all organisations.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable Activities and Achievements

The core activity of the charity for over 188 years has been to visit predominantly isolated, blind and visually-impaired people across the twelve inner London boroughs in their own homes.

Latest RNIB statistics findings related to visual impairment and sight loss are:

- Children 0-25 years = 0.2% approx 2 in every 1,000 children
- 48% of all adult sight loss is attributable to Age Related Macular Degeneration.
- In 2013 there were an estimated 1.93 million people living with sight loss in the UK.
- By 2050 with the number of people living with sight loss increasing year on year 1.93 million will grow to 4 million.

BlindAid provides service for adults aged 18+, but the largest cohort of BlindAid beneficiaries are aged 50 years and above. BlindAid specialises in reaching this largely hidden community of blind and visually impaired Londoners, to alleviate the isolation that can result from sight loss. Our Community Sight Support Service is free of charge, for anyone with any type of visual impairment, resident in any of the 12 inner London Boroughs which is BlindAid's area of operation. Beneficiaries do not need to be registered to qualify for our support. BlindAid is the only specialist outreach charity based in central London offering a defined pathway of support and social connection, that prioritises Londoners who are older and isolated in the community.

In previous years, each of BlindAid's Sight Support Workers (SSWs), was responsible for supporting approximately 45-50 service users, visiting typically every fortnight. The frequency of visits may be varied to meet individual needs. SSWs typically focus on a particular borough, for ease of logistics but will also visit individuals in other boroughs to optimise coverage, where capacity permits. Service users are visited at home, in sheltered accommodation or residential/nursing homes.

BlindAid's ethos is to treat each service user as an individual, prioritising those who are isolated and living alone, and delivering support as required and valued. The majority of service users have been diagnosed with sight loss in adulthood; this can be traumatic, and the individual period of adjustment can vary enormously depending upon personal resilience.

Referrals for our support are received from various sources; specialist sensory, social work and community mental health teams of local authorities; hospital eye clinics, and GPs, as well as from people who experience loss of vision (or their friends or family). An initial assessment visit is made to understand first hand individual needs, coping abilities and to determine whether the charity can be of assistance to meet those needs.

During a visit, the SSW will offer company and conversation to help alleviate loneliness and reduce isolation; practical help and guidance will also be offered where needed, appropriate and welcomed. The SSW will also encourage participation in, and signpost to both BlindAid Community & Online Projects and other suitable local social activities. Many service users who are extremely isolated have been visited consistently over many years. In some instances, the SSW will be one of the few social contacts some people have. Reaching out to people in the community is therefore very important to many service users and good relationships are usually established over time.

All SSWs are employed by BlindAid and are carefully selected; they all hold current enhanced Disclosure and Barring Certificates. Although many other charities use volunteers to undertake similar visits, BlindAid believes that deploying salaried, full-time staff; provides greater consistency, reliability, and quality of support. SSWs receive regular vocational training, and the level and quality of service is regularly monitored through supervision meetings as well as through key performance indicators and annual audit telephone calls and Focus Groups with service users.

Between 1 January and 13 March 2020 inclusive, SSWs visited service users at home primarily fortnightly. Thereafter, all SSWs began working from home due to lockdown restrictions imposed by the UK Government and BlindAid complied throughout 2020 and 2021 with these restrictions. As there was no reason to furlough any staff, SSWs made regular weekly telephone calls to all service users in place of visits.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

Core Service: Community Sight Support Service:

Big Lottery Reaching Communities - C-19 Response Fund Award £100K

BlindAid applied to Reaching Communities to support our core work, our Sight Support Service, and to design a new hybrid service structure that would facilitate BlindAid services to be delivered during and post pandemic.

A proportion of this funding (£76K) was awarded specifically to support our Community Sight Support Service. Our trained, skilled Sight Support Workers are employed by the charity to deliver a valuable service for blind and visually impaired Londoners. We believe our service is unique and meets a clear, otherwise unmet need in society. No other charity in London provides the type of outreach support that BlindAid does for its beneficiaries.

The balance of this funding (£24K) was specifically awarded to reimagine the ways we have previously provided support and to design our Hybrid Sight Support Service. We won this significant support in September 2020 and we were required to expend the funding before the year end. BlindAid is a small charity and the timing of this win presented additional challenges for the management team in resourcing both this important project whilst at the same time, dealing with the huge spike of general operational activity produced as a result of the C-19 virus.

When we worked on the design of the new Hybrid Sight Support Service, as always, we consulted with our service users, as well as our staff team who deliver the service. We organised 14 online Focus Groups and each group was made up of service users from all the 12 Boroughs in which we work. Groups consisted of between 8 and 20 people and each group were asked a detailed selection of questions about our previous, current, wished for and future services. In total we consulted with approximately 300 beneficiaries. Our service users' responses were illuminating, informative, and honest. Most importantly, working together we defined a new way of operating more flexibly which has allowed us to reach more people than ever. It also assists us to remain agile and to dial up/down our outreach community work, which benefits us because we are able to respond in an agile way to the virus as it peaks and troughs. The service users' bright ideas for how our service could be re-shaped were collated and are now built into our new service model. We also held online consultations with our staff team to feedback service users opinions and aspirations, encouraging open dialogue and welcoming staff opinions and ideas which are also incorporated into our improved service model.

The Big Lottery COVID-19 Response Funding, was expended within the six month allocated deadline and produced a new style service that we know is a future asset for BlindAid.

BlindAid's Hybrid Sight Support Service has been operating throughout 2021 as a pilot, with the exception of lockdown January - March 2021. Due to the Omicron variant of the C-19 virus, in December 2021 BlindAid did not operate its outreach service due to the very high transmission numbers for safety reasons. The C-19 virus is not yet over, and so we are still working with our staff team as well as listening to the voices our beneficiaries as we finesse our new service to ensure that this hybrid service provides the best overall performance outcomes possible for beneficiaries.

Our gratitude and thanks go to the Big Lottery Reaching Communities grant panel who assessed our bid and awarded this substantial funding that enabled BlindAid to revolutionise our core service. This key funding helped to sustain our vital core service throughout a truly difficult period and has helped BlindAid to reach more people than ever before. The difference in our operating practices runs throughout our entire service process from the first assessment meeting, which ensures we are mindfully reassessing our interventions, and we have developed a greater agility in our practice which delivers increased capability to meet all the challenges the C-19 virus brings.

Reduction in Resources 2019-2020 and 2021: Increase in Service Provision:

For comparison, pre-pandemic, in 2019 BlindAid Sight Support Workers totalled 17: 14 full time and 3 part time workers. At the end of December 2019 one full time SSW retired. In 2020 we recorded 2 further part time staff retirements and one full time resignation from our SSW team, leaving a total of 13 full time SSWs and 1 part time. None of the roles were replaced to save costs due to the uncertainty of the pandemic. Fortunately, the beneficiaries who were supported by the members of staff who left BlindAid, were absorbed by all other members of the team and we did not withdraw any support already allocated. This was made possible because all staff were working from home initially and there were no journeys between service users.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, BlindAid continued both purposefully and successfully to increase in the charity's reach, by developing the new Hybrid service standards, which has optimised visiting logistics, by reassessing all service users and agreeing with them their need for visits at home. In this way we have reduced the number of days spent visiting in the community each week, whilst in addition maintaining a smaller number of beneficiaries being called by an experienced SSW, who can also be connected with a Share London volunteer for social outings if they choose. We have also reviewed our initial assessment procedure and introduced key milestone re-assessments to ensure we are delivering service mindfully. We continue to review all service processes to optimise lean activity.

For comparison:

Pre COVID-19: In 2019 BlindAid's Sight Support Service made c13,000 individual visits to service users at home, with each SSW supporting c48. Service users, which had been a high capacity standard we have maintained across the past few years.

In 2020 visiting service users was consistent up until 16.03.2020, when staff started working from home and service users were supported by their SSW via weekly calls and therefore each SSW was supporting c65 people.

In 2021 we rolled out our new Hybrid Sight Support Service and the number of service users being supported by each SSW was defined at 70 people per SSW which is manageable due to more agile ways of working.

The total number of COVID-19 specific activities undertaken during 2021 was 4,624.

In 2021 the total number of contacts made with service users was a total of: 36,502 (Staff: 30,555 and Volunteers: 5,947) which includes Share London activities conducted by volunteers.

This remarkable uplift was accomplished with significantly fewer resources in 2021 and during C-19 in addition to:

An increase in the number of referrals for our services of 388 (2020 256).

Working Differently in 2021: Rolling out the New Hybrid Sight Support Service:

Resourcing: There were 3 SSWs fewer than in 2020 plus a 2 month gap in service provision in one Borough due to the need for a recruitment campaign.

1,644 visits were made to service users when working in the community to December 2021 except for the lockdown regulations when the Omicron variant caused numbers of cases of COVID-19 to spike, and staff temporarily worked from home once again.

In 2021: 28,891 regular support calls were made to service users.

The total of contacts with service users throughout 2021 was 30,555, a productivity increase of 6%.

4,613 instances: providing information about government C-19 guidelines and vaccinations programme (2020 4,062).

2,548: referrals to other appropriate local organisations (2020 2,645).

80 referrals to food banks or registered for new food sources significant decrease (2020 406).

878 referrals to social services requested by beneficiaries (2020 768).

1,001 contact with housing depts/associations requested by beneficiaries a significant increase (2020 727).

128 additional beneficiaries were referred and served by the Sight Support Pathway and 1,115 people were supported in 2021.

Across all services 1,212 people were supported by BlindAid in 2021.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

Vocational Training:

BlindAid remains keen to actively develop a broad specialist skill base for all SSWs to ensure maximum benefit for our beneficiaries. BlindAid invests in its employees and therefore, the charity offers staff four full day training sessions each year. The curriculum offers a variety of relevant vocational training programmes providing SSWs with the practical tools they need to enjoy and fulfil their roles to the best of their abilities and to ensure that service users derive tangible benefits.

Core Service: Community Projects:

In March 2020, the charity's well known network of three well established Community Projects were all closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and it was decided that the charity could no longer afford to fund these projects from its reserves going forward. For blind and visually impaired people Community Projects are a vital stage in regaining and strengthening their personal resilience and confidence to get out into society. They also offer critical social contact with the ability to establish a network of friends and additional support. Unfortunately, they are expensive to operate, costing between £30,000 to £50,000 per annum, this difference being the cost of renting space from local authorities.

The curriculum of courses offered have always included healthy eating and safe-cooking skills; yoga or other exercise classes; art and craft; creative writing and importantly IT training at both beginner and intermediate levels. The classes typically run over 16-week terms and participants are encouraged to attend for a minimum of one full day each week. There is a strong social focus to the activities to encourage participants to get to know each other both during classes and over lunch. It is an intended outcome that people form independent peer support groups and continue to meet and communicate after their courses have ended.

All three community projects were open to BlindAid service users, but also welcomed other people with sight loss who were referred by local authority, NHS or other local services or charities. BlindAid has always encouraged attendees to travel independently to the centres and has provided sighted guide support, from travel points to the project hubs. We have consistently worked in partnership with Dial-a-Ride for many years, to provide transport where independent travel is not possible.

During COVID-19 2020/2021 BlindAid converted classes that had been available at community based projects. Several pilot classes were made available initially to service users online including yoga and mindfulness, creative writing; and art. The pilot classes were so successful that BlindAid has already determined that post COVID-19 we will retain online classes, because the service users attending online sessions, for the first time, included a cohort of people who have been previously excluded due to extremely limited mobility and who were not able to travel to in person classes. Our 2020 art project was called Sterognosis and was sponsored by John Lewis. At the end of 2020 we were delighted to host an online Art Exhibition entitled 'Blue Postcards'. It was a simple but powerful concept; each service user was given a postcard size canvas together with only blue paint. The standard and sheer variety of work was both inspired and excellent. The artist and course tutor, Scott, narrated an audio description for the 50 people who attended online. The artists were invited to talk about their individual pieces of art, the comradery between artists was tangible, as was the positivity about the weekly art sessions. We acknowledge the talent of our tutor, who rapidly adapted his teaching style, most remarkably to work with blind and visually impaired people via an online platform, gently guiding and encouraging our service users emerging artistic talents.

Pre COVID-19 pandemic: All BlindAid Community based Projects were managed by a project manager and supervised day to day by project coordinator based at each of the community venues. Classes were delivered by qualified subject tutors together with several dedicated volunteers who were on hand to assist service users where needed. Some of the charity's volunteers are themselves visually-impaired who, having joined the projects as service users, have chosen to return as volunteers to offer peer support for newcomers to the Projects subsequently.

The charity listens to service users' voices regularly during the time they are attending Community Projects. We create three structured purposeful engagements with service users allowing for feedback and the measurement of progress for all stakeholders. Service Users aspirations and abilities are noted during a pre-programme assessment; benchmarked again midterm and again finally before they leave the project. Service users' opinions, therefore, are fed into BlindAid's planning, preparation and inform the final choice of classes offered, helping the charity to meet the needs of the people attending as closely as possible.

**Report of the Trustees
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During the seven years our Community Projects have been part of our core service programme, all three project locations operated at full capacity. During the first three months of 2020 all three of the Charity's Community Projects were extremely popular and oversubscribed as always.

Some online classes piloted in 2020 and have successfully continued throughout 2021. These proved very popular and defined another agile way of working for BlindAid in the provision of online classes which appealed to an extended cohort of BlindAid service users.

Feedback from participants' who have attended BlindAid Community Projects in previous years has remained consistently and overwhelmingly positive; since 2014 and again in this year to date 100% of service users have met/connected with at least one new friend that they maintain connection with from attending our classes. The total cost of the provision of our Community Projects from inception to date has been borne by BlindAid from its reserves.

During 2021 BlindAid successfully applied for a grant to fund one centrally based Community Project and was successful. The City Bridge Trust awarded BlindAid £81,300 to fund a three year project which will be available from 22 April 2022 located at The Living Centre which is a community hub located in the Francis Crick Institute in Ousulton Street NW1 1DF, close to Kings Cross Station.

BlindAid is grateful to The City Bridge Fund for their financial support of this vital Camden Community Project, and we are also grateful for the team at the Living Centre for hosting our project free of charge. BlindAid appreciates the external acknowledgment of the intrinsic value our Community Projects offer blind and visually impaired Londoners. We believe both these organisations recognise the need for this tangible support for our beneficiaries is a vital part of our Sight Support Pathway:

BlindAid is now actively seeking third party financial support to enable these valuable activities to continue, expand and benefit a wider cohort of Londoners with lived experience of sight loss.

Additional BlindAid Support Services:

Telephone Support Service:

The charity offers a telephone support service for:

- service users who prefer to have a regular social call in place of a visit.
- service users who are on the waiting list for the Community Sight Support Service.
- service users who wish to participate in peer support on the telephone.

In the past two years BlindAid has made Telephone Support more widely available to service users by delivering this via an ever-growing number of volunteers, and the combined number of volunteers registered in the past three years is just over 300. BlindAid has two types of volunteers:

1. Volunteers who are themselves experiencing poor sight, registered severely sight impaired or blind, and so deliver peer to peer telephone support and guidance. The charity has a good number of service users who are competent and willing to offer peer support for others. Volunteers are primarily matched with people who share similar interests and for whom they are well placed to offer a regular social and support call.
2. BlindAid uses a bespoke web-based Telephone Contact System that facilitates a safe telephone connection that ensures confidentiality for both volunteers and service users. Volunteers received a short training on how to use the software as part of their induction, and both contact numbers are recorded in the software. The volunteer is then able to call the service user without either person sharing personal telephone numbers for safeguarding purposes.

For comparison:

During 2019 the number of service users enjoying our telephone service was 67.

During 2020 the number of service users enjoying our telephone support was 110.

During 2021 the number of service users enjoying our telephone support was 120.

**Report of the Trustees
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In part due to the COVID-19 pandemic a particular 'currency of kindness' was more prevalent throughout 2020 and 2021. As a result, BlindAid experienced a much higher number of service users being referred to the charity for support, and also people self-referring, independently reaching out for support during exceptionally difficult times. At the same time higher numbers of new volunteers were contacting the charity wanting to provide help and support for our community. Therefore, we were able to recruit, train and match a significantly increased number of volunteers, and so the total number of calls to service users recorded in 2021 was 5,947.

Almost all, isolated service users have been receiving regular weekly social calls during the pandemic from their peer group volunteer. Some volunteers have also supported more than one service user.

During periods of restrictions and lockdowns, when our Share London Volunteers were not able to socialise and take service users out to enjoy the City, they too called their service users each week to ensure that no service users was isolated throughout those difficult times.

BlindAid intends to continue to promote our telephone support service to continue to grow the number of service users who can enjoy this valuable source of contact.

Share London Project - funded by Big Lottery Reaching Communities in 2019 BlindAid was awarded £99,250

In late 2019 BlindAid launched a new purely social project called Share London, which has operated throughout 2020-2021 and is funded through until October 2022.

Share London was designed by BlindAid to recruit 240 volunteers across the three-year life of the project and to recruit, induct, train and match them with likeminded blind and visually impaired Londoners to experience social activities and literally 'Share London' together. This project ensures that service users can enjoy all the culture, open spaces, galleries, and other interesting experiences that London offers with the security of a trained sighted guide alongside them.

This unique social project offers beneficiaries a powerful combination of the confidence to leave home knowing their sighted guide will provide support if difficulties are encountered during the outing, as well as someone to share their interests with. In the first year (Share London attracted over 132 new volunteers who applied to join the project and BlindAid recorded a total of 682 (2019) varied activities undertaken by volunteer and service user partnerships. The nature of activities varied widely and included outings such as visits to museums and galleries, a walk in the park, going for a coffee or a trip to the theatre.

In 2020, external outings took place between 01.01.2020 and 16.03.2020, when social outings using sighted guide volunteers were suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic the Share London Project was not able to operate in the usual way in matching volunteers with service users face to face, and to allow them to enjoy the varied range of activities London has to offer together. The project is funded by Big Lottery Reaching Communities, who reached out to BlindAid early in 2020 to offer us an opportunity to repurpose our project, without loss of funding already awarded or funding due to be paid in 2021/22. BlindAid is grateful to Big Lottery for this opportunity as our volunteers stepped up and wasted no chances to support the service users that they had been matched with throughout 2020 and 2021.

In 2020 BlindAid's Volunteer Specialist, recruited, trained and deployed the remaining 108 volunteers needed to attain the total of new volunteers we were aiming to recruit at the start of this project. Our 240th volunteer was registered one year and three months ahead of our project target. BlindAid thanks each of the wonderful Volunteers who stepped forward during an extremely difficult year to gift their time in providing support for BlindAid service users as this year you all achieved so much for our beneficiaries who have found themselves in need of new friends. Our volunteers collectively achieved a total during 2020 of 5,055 individual social contact calls with service users, with some volunteers offering to make a bigger difference and call more than one person each week.

**Report of the Trustees
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BlindAid's Annual Celebration:

The charity's Annual Celebration had been held for many years prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was the largest social event for people with sight loss in the country, and very sadly our last Annual Celebration was held in September 2019 as it was cancelled in 2020 due to C-19. This wonderful event previously gathered over 400 service users from across all 12 inner London Boroughs that the charity serves. We were graciously offered the Grand Hall at Westminster Central Hall for many years free of charge, which we have always fully appreciated, and we are enormously grateful that the senior team at this prestigious venue have extended their offer to host our event in the future when it is safe to do so.

Social Events and Activities:

Prior to the COVID-19 virus pandemic, BlindAid was particularly fortunate to have been sponsored to provide many wonderful social events, which were free of charge for our beneficiaries, which were incredibly popular and well attended.

Corporate Sponsor: Ernst & Young (EY) based at More London on Tooley Street, which is very local to our head office in Bermondsey Street SE1 3UB, with whom we have enjoyed a warm 8-year relationship: Collaboratively we have organised such events as:

Annual Christmas Shopping Trips: For those service users who would otherwise not be able to shop independently, over 8 years over 1,000 service users have enjoyed this special day out, shopping with EY volunteers and having refreshments before being taken home.

River Walks: From London Bridge to the Royal Festival Hall. So many service users have enjoyed walking along the Southbank, with their EY volunteer alongside them, audio describing the buildings either side of the River Thames as well as what was happening on the river itself. Many service users especially like to stop where there is a shoreline to listen to the waves.

We have trained c40-50 annually in Sighted Guiding techniques and issued them with certificates. Approximately, 360 EY employees have another significant skill because of their involvement with BlindAid. In 2020 and 2021 EY corporate sponsorship team have donated to BlindAid in place of holding in person events due to C-19. We plan to organise new events in 2023.

Corporate Sponsor: Williams Grant Distilleries:

We have also trained many of WG employees in Sighted Guiding techniques to date and we have collaborated in organising some exciting social events including such as:

An early evening cocktail event, where specially designed cocktails and mocktails were available for service users and volunteers to try. Part of the cocktail experience is usually how they look visually, and so our drinks were designed to be especially aromatic and have sounds (popping candy) as well as multi-level flavours.

An evening with WG brand ambassadors, who are showmen/women and particularly skilled at their crafts. This proved to be a very popular event with our service users, who were invited to taste various spirits and learn the stories of how they are distilled.

Early in 2020, prior to COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns; in collaboration with Williams Grant Distilleries, we co-hosted a Sound Meditation session at Sound of Mind Studios in Shoreditch which was enriching. Over 30 service users benefitted from this event and our gratitude goes to Williams Grant for wholly funding these experiences for BlindAid beneficiaries. During the first lockdown of 2020 Williams Grant produced hand sanitiser and graciously provided two large boxes for use by BlindAid staff free of charge. BlindAid are very grateful to Williams Grant for making annual donations to the charity in place of events/activities during the past two years.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

Information and Advice:

The collation and dissemination of relevant information for our beneficiaries has always been an important and integral part of all the charity's activities and services. Community Sight Support Workers have always offered the provision of advice and guidance for service users daily during their work. This may include information relating to specific eye conditions as well as details of other services available in their local area including social or sporting activities. In 2020/2021 this connection became a vital service for our beneficiaries especially in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic and we began tracking the SSWs activities particularly in this respect and so in 2021 we recorded 4,426 (2020 4,062) instances of information provision relating to C-19 pandemic and vaccine roll-out. This being a total of 8,488 individual engagements with service users specifically to information relating to the pandemic and equals an increase of over 600 additional calls made by each Sight Support Worker.

As a result, BlindAid has earned a reputation for solid unbiased quality information relating to many aspects of the pandemic and this feedback was gifted to us from many of the individual services users who participated in our 14 Focus Group calls undertaken in October and November 2020 and included between 8 and 20 service users in each group who were representative of all Boroughs in the charity's area of operation.

In February and March 2020, SSW's called every service user registered with BlindAid to ascertain their personal situation relating to food and medication arrangements. SSWs registered those service users who had never previously registered themselves for supermarket home deliveries of food as priority customers. SSWs also registered those service users in financial difficulties with free food delivery services and food banks where necessary. SSWs registered service users who had not previously had their medication regularly delivered to them at home with their local NHS pharmacy to ensure that there was no hiatus in them receiving the medication they needed throughout numerous lockdowns. In 2021 this work has continued with in relation to new beneficiaries being referred to BlindAid for support.

Since 2020 and throughout 2021, the UK's vaccination programme has been a key subject of conversation for service users and SSWs have been able to ensure that all service users had adequate access to NHS sources of information to ensure they were reading or being read the most appropriate sources of information to support them in their personal decision making about having a vaccination where at all possible.

BlindAid assists people with sight loss to obtain local authority and other statutory services or concessions to which they are entitled, and additionally acts as a broad information and advice hub for all visually impaired people who contact the charity. For callers' resident elsewhere in the UK the charity will make referrals to other local sight loss charities through our membership of Visionary, an umbrella organisation for all small sight loss charities across the UK.

BlindAid has also provided Coffee mornings in both Tower Hamlets and Lambeth which are open to any blind or visually impaired residents in the area who wishes to attend. These social events have proved an ideal forum through which we are able to disseminate a variety of relevant information and connect service users with other local agencies regarding a variety of topics. Our well-established coffee mornings were closed in March 2020, however, they continued seamlessly as online line events for the remainder of 2020 and in 2021 proved even more popular as a great number of attendees were able to join online than do usually in person.

BlindAid provided several social events online during 2020 and 2021.

During the first quarter of 2020 we ran 12 sessions of our very exciting Hearing Differently Project tutored by the composer Roberto David Rusconi and hosted by The Bloomsbury Theatre. Through the passion and dedication of both Roberto and our Project Manager, Clarissa, this project was rapidly converted to an online provision, and so our service users did not lose access to this valuable project for the remainder of the year.

Similarly, our Art Project, named Stereognosis, is tutored by Scott Atkins, a sculptor and artist who has exhibited in both London and Venice and the project was initially sponsored by John Lewis. Due to Scott's enthusiastic tuition, this was an exceptionally popular class.

Converting the art project to an online practical class that could continue to offer demonstrable tutoring for blind and visually impaired service users only via an online platform was challenging, but so successfully achieved.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

As a result, an online Art Exhibition was held in December 2020 to showcase the exceptional standard of creativity attained by our service users. The exhibition was entitled Blue Postcards, based upon a simple concept of a postcard size canvas and the use of blue paint. The diversity of artistic interpretation using the limited concept was impressive. Around forty people attended the evening Art Exhibition, which provided a forum for social connection in addition to formally showcasing and providing an audio description of individual pieces of work as they were shown on camera.

When we closed our Community Project venues in 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic, our Creative Writing class tutor decided to gift her time to BlindAid, so that the class could continue online throughout 2021. The attendees from this class created some of the most poignant and beautifully crafted written work and poetry this year. It has undoubtedly provided a much-needed creative outlet for our vulnerable service users, most of whom were shielding for the greater part of 2020/2021 due to additional health conditions. We thank our tutor Nichola and respect the gift of time on behalf of our service users during a very difficult year.

Aids and Equipment:

The charity aims to improve the quality of life of visually impaired people by assisting them to secure practical aids and equipment that facilitate independent living. BlindAid maintains a small stock of the most popular visual aids and equipment for demonstration or distribution to service users and upon request, orders for other products from various specialist suppliers are made where needed.

The Clothworkers Foundation Grant Award:

BlindAid has enjoyed an enduring relationship for many years with The Clothworkers Foundation and receives an annual grant of £50,000 each year for distribution to beneficiaries who are nominated for a grant award by SSWs, or other professional workers who know the individual service user's circumstances. Applications for grants are made for aids and equipment that specifically support independent living. In 2019 Clothworkers changed the grant award and reporting timing to run from April to March the following year. In previous years this had run between January and December. This grant funding enables the charity to provide financial support and the purchase of a variety of aids, equipment (not provided by statutory services) and other items that assist independent living.

In 2020 Clothworkers Foundation awarded BlindAid £50,000 and due to COVID-19 pandemic Clothworkers Foundation awarded an additional £6,000 to BlindAid as a one-off contribution toward the increasing costs of distributing their funding during the pandemic.

It was noted that in 2020, for the first time and due specifically to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, BlindAid encountered timing and practical difficulties in getting aids and equipment delivered and installed as seamlessly as in previous years. Many deliveries required rearranging and some several times, due to numerous lockdowns, and many beneficiaries were also anxious about having workmen in their homes to remove/install equipment. Even though additional BlindAid resources were invested which increased cost of distribution of the funding to BlindAid. The funding simply could not be expended as efficiently as usual and therefore, £22,476 was pledged but not spent by 31 March 2021. In 2021 BlindAid experienced similar patterns of difficulties resulting in an amount of funding being pledged but not delivered at the time of reporting amounting to: £12,420. BlindAid provides financial assistance for beneficiaries from this grant in various ways.

Small grants are awarded for items such as talking aids, microwaves and talking scales for instance, and other small items under £50.00. The total in 2021 was £2,544 (2020 £3,420).

The charity makes small awards to local organisations to help fund other social activities for visually impaired people.

- BlindAid awarded £2,000 to Blackfriars Settlement paid in 2021 (2020 £2,000).
- BlindAid also awarded a grant to Lewisham Talking News of £2,000 paid in early 2022 from 2021 funding.
- BlindAid awarded a grant to The VIP Singers of £2,000 paid in early 2022 from 2021 funding.

The charity awarded 114 individual grants totalling £29,063 (2020 98 grants £22,106).

**Report of the Trustees
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The total for individual grants, includes costs for sending out 500 BlindAid large print calendars to beneficiaries who register to receive one each year and who rely upon them, and over 500 Christmas Cards to beneficiaries who would otherwise not receive a card.

British Wireless for the Blind:

BlindAid enjoyed a significant, longstanding relationship with BWFB, acting as the agent for BWFB across all 12 Inner London Boroughs which is a wide operating area. The charity held stocks of equipment and recorded/audited stock movement through many years. We also delivered and demonstrated how to use, listening devices (radios, cassette players, CD players) for registered blind or partially sighted people. All equipment is maintained or exchanged free of charge subject to BWFB criteria.

In 2020 BlindAid resigned as a BWFB Agent in 2020 and in order that BlindAid beneficiaries are not deprived of the services of BWFB, the charity subsequently has continued to make referrals to BWFB, who then arrange to deliver and demonstrate the various listening devices they offer, using their own team of volunteers.

Vision Foundation: (previously Greater London Fund for the Blind)

BlindAid was a member charity of the Greater London Fund for the Blind (GLFB), together with 9 other local charities serving blind and visually impaired within the M25 area for many years. GLFB acted as an umbrella fundraising organisation on behalf of its member charities and made allocations to members as contributions toward the provision of their core services. In October 2019 Greater London Fund for the Blind repurposed and renamed their charity to The Vision Foundation at a formal launch event on 16 October 2019, which senior management from BlindAid were in attendance. A consultation period followed, and on 11 March 2020 representatives of the member charities attended a meeting to vote on the dissolution of the membership. Each member charity was paid a proportionate settlement grant following this vote and the acceptance of the grant precluded any further regular allocations toward the delivery of core services for blind and visually impaired people in London.

BlindAid is a partner organisation with Vision Foundation and continue a cordial and productive working relationship, and we will apply to Vision Foundation from time to time for funding for specific projects. BlindAid has subsequently established its own inhouse fundraising team.

Collaboration and Consultation:

Throughout 2021 BlindAid has continued to actively seek and remain open to opportunities to collaborate with other charities and organisations where it is mutually beneficial and serves the charity's aims. This has remained more challenging during the COVID-19 pandemic; however, we have also joined more online webinars, and some online conferences which have been both informative and useful.

The charity, primarily through its Chief Executive, Operations Director, and our Fundraising Manager, maintains relationships with key visual impairment forums and many other charities both local and national, within and outside the visual impairment sector. BlindAid is also a member of Visionary, ACEVO and the Association of Chairs amongst others.

During 2021 as in previous years we have continued to work in some capacity with numerous other charities either working in the sight loss sector and/or those also supporting elderly people in the community.

BlindAid regularly consults service users using structured methods to ensure that their voices are heard, and their needs are being met effectively, and this has occurred more frequently during 2021 with Focus Groups, as previously described above. This has included providing service users with an independent voice through our day-to-day contact with service users.

In 2020 BlindAid was approached to work with Healthwatch in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets in relation to their Community Insights Repository. Healthwatch needed additional assistance to reach specifically blind and visually impaired residents within the Borough of Tower Hamlets to complete online questionnaires relating to the digitalisation of healthcare services in the Borough. BlindAid SSWs played a key role in assisting c40 service users who wished to participate in the provision of feedback questionnaires to have their views and voices heard by the local authority. In 2021 BlindAid was approached to work alongside Healthwatch Wandsworth in similar joint working ventures benefiting our beneficiaries.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Strategy Review

In 2016 the findings of significant independent research commissioned by BlindAid were carefully considered and almost all recommendations were included by the Strategy Committee in 2017. This resulted in a significant review of all the charity's activities. BlindAid continues to diligently deliver to the agreed five-year strategic plan. To ensure relevance and continuity strategy is reviewed annually by trustees and senior management, taking account of beneficiaries' feedback, but regularly throughout 2020 exceptionally.

BlindAid supports a total of c1,800 people throughout 2020, who are living with varying degrees of sight loss and are resident in London, with the provision of various services ranging from guidance and information to complex practical support. An analysis of the charity's database evidenced that on average service users most typically access two of the charity's services, Sight Support Service and Community Projects. These two services accessed concurrently provide a holistic and beneficial development pathway for many of our beneficiaries.

RNIB Statistics (2021) indicate there are c65,000 people resident in the 12 inner London Boroughs who are registered blind and visually impaired, however, it is also accepted, there are many more people living with sight impairment who are not registered. BlindAid consistently seeks to increase the charity's reach with the trustees' endorsement of this charitable aim.

The trustees determine that the charity's core activity should continue to be the alleviation of the social isolation suffered by many people with sight loss, and to serve this aim the trustees have endorsed substantial investment from reserves into our core services in previous years. To balance this planned expenditure; a key pillar of the strategic plan was that in conjunction with the investment from reserves to provide service for more beneficiaries year on year, the charity must also develop its own ability to generate income and identify significant sources of sustainable new funding for the future.

In 2018 a fundraising consultant was commissioned to contribute to the charity's fundraising strategy, and to work with the senior management team to support learning and generate additional income for the charity. This collaboration was concluded in 2019, with trustees endorsing training investment in BlindAid staff to realise the development of the internal capacity to generate additional income for BlindAid. From January 2020 three senior staff adopted responsibility for fundraising, and whilst there is a resource/time cost to offset, this is significantly less than using external fundraisers. It is imperative the charity raises sufficient external funding eventually to wholly support its vital core services going forward and we aim to attain this within 2-3 years. The revenue generated in 2020 made a positive impact upon the charity's income for the year with a total of £240,000 secured to support core services.

The charity continues to invest the time essential for pursuing referrals proactively and so engages with other organisations in its area of operation as well as local authorities to secure as many referrals on behalf of people in need as possible. BlindAid welcomes referrals from any organisations across its area of operation. People living with sight loss do not need to be registered to be supported by BlindAid and beneficiaries may also self-refer, or their family/friends may make referrals on their behalf with their permission.

Throughout the past few years, the charity has undertaken specific analysis with both beneficiaries and staff to evidence and identify primary categories of beneficiaries. Whilst four broad groups were established for practical working methodologies; these can be generically split into two main cohorts of beneficiaries.

1. People (18-60) who may be newly diagnosed and/or suffering acute impacts from sight loss and who, with guidance and support can work with their Sight Support Worker toward establishing and regaining a greater range of independent living.
2. People (60-100+) who have significant/severe sight loss; but also suffer from additional complex health conditions, who because they are also particularly isolated, will have need of long-term support from BlindAid, some to the end of their lives. It is for this second category of beneficiaries who are living with chronic sets of circumstances that whilst they may be improved, may not be readily resolved that BlindAid must retain some more substantial reserves to continue to offer longer term service where there is enduring identified need in the community. For these people, we mindfully reassess at regular milestone intervals to determine if it continues to be appropriate that service is not time limited.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE *(continued)*

In addition to serving our beneficiaries, BlindAid's key strategic objective is to continue its best endeavours to source sufficient external funding to finance its vital Sight Support Service.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Total incoming resources for 2021 were £285,012 this being a decrease of 103% from 2020. (2020 - £580,846).

2021 was the second year of the COVID-19 virus global pandemic. In 2020 the Government made grants available for the support of charities and BlindAid benefitted from the specific C-19 funding as we successfully secured £174,200 for BlindAid.

For many years BlindAid was a member of the Vision Foundation, previously Greater London Fund for the Blind (GLFB) which used to undertake public fundraising on behalf of its members; 9 smaller visual impairment charities. As a member, BlindAid received 10% of Vision Foundation's income each year. In 2020 The Vision Foundation dissolved the membership and paid each member charity a transition grant, which for BlindAid was £180,000. This was a final settlement figure. Therefore, 2021 is the first year that BlindAid did not receive any allocations toward BlindAid's core Sight Support Service.

The charity receives income from legacies, often from former service users. By its nature, such income is not possible to predict and thus can vary significantly from year to year. In 2020 the charity received a small legacy of £200, from the son of a service user. (2020 - £1,000)

The charity also received donations totalling £221,753 an increase of 52% on (2020 - £146,080). This figure includes a grant of £50,000 from The Clothworkers' Foundation. BlindAid disburses this funding in grants for visually impaired people and some small organisations for people with sight loss on behalf of Clothworkers Foundation annually.

The other source of income for BlindAid is from the charity's investment portfolio. In 2021 the charity received £63,059 in dividends, this being a small decrease (2020 - £68,366).
The reduction in income yield is threefold:

1. It reflects the trustees' decision to move the charity's investment funds to more secure holdings presenting less financial risk which was completed in Spring 2019. This decision which was promoted by the prevailing financial climate driven by the then impending Brexit; the UK left the EU on 31 Jan 2022.
2. The prevailing global COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting financial uncertainties.
3. BlindAid sells some of its investments annually to fund its ongoing operational activities; in 2021 £460,000 investments were sold to fund the charity's operations. For comparison: in 2020 £200,000 and in 2019 £600,000 - this being the more typical amount sold in the previous few years.

In 2020 the investment portfolio saw a net gain on investments of £273,549 and improvement on the 2020 net loss of £50,688.

In the past two years BlindAid has significantly reduced the element of reserves invested in the direct furtherance of the charity's strategic objectives. At the outset of our previous five-year strategic financial plan, it was acknowledged, that by 2019/20 the charity would commence its own fundraising campaigns. This point in our fiscal planning was both expected and planned for. However, at this important transition point for BlindAid we also saw the impact of the onset of the COVID-19 global pandemic, which naturally brought the charity's finances into to sharp focus.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

FINANCIAL REVIEW *(continued)*

During 2020 and again in 2021 the trustees and senior management have scrutinised the charity's finances regularly. It was established early in 2020 that BlindAid would employ conservative fiscal management, throughout the period of the pandemic and that this would be intentionally pursued to achieve prudent costs savings, which have been attained. It was further determined that due to the long-term financial consequences/impact that may result from the COVID-19 pandemic, that the charity must now resolve to work to actively reduce its deficit expenditure year on year until the charity attains a breakeven point.

Operational stability is vital and crucially underpins our increasingly important fundraising campaigns and it was therefore acknowledged that transition to breakeven operational status cannot be attained in the immediate term.

Therefore, in 2021 the deficit was £171,061 was a decrease in expenditure of 39% (2020 £280,326) and is a saving of £109,265 on the previous year. This reflects in part the continuation of the charity's investment in its services, but also cost savings being attained year on year.

Total resources expended were £729,622, a decrease of 10% (2020 £810,484), and (2019 £1,036,567).

The approved budgeted expenditure for 2021 at £710,446 and so the year closed ahead of budget by £19,176, much of which can be offset by unlooked for and therefore not budgeted for repairs at Lantern House.

Investment policy

The charity's policy is to invest its assets across a range of asset classes to generate returns, through income and capital appreciation, to support its activities over the longer term.

The Charity's trustees determined to move some of the charity's investments funds to avoid undue risk which was completed in April 2019 as previously stated. For clarity, investments previously held in Charifund, a UK equities trust managed by M&G were transferred to L&G and invested in both UK and International Index Trusts. Investments managed by CCLA in COIF (Charities Official Investment Fund) were transferred to CCLA's new Diversified Fund.

Given that we have emerged from the pandemic into a more inflationary environment, which creates more investment volatility, the investments with both CCLA and L&G have been reviewed in 2022 with a view to reducing risk within the investment portfolio by holding more in liquidity funds (i.e. cash alternatives).

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

BlindAid maintains a restricted endowment fund in accordance with donors' requirements. We are currently analysing whether the excess funds held in the endowment funds (i.e. above the level of indexed funds required to stay in the endowment) may be withdrawn to fund some of the increased cash/liquid asset requirement.

In previous years the trustees established designated funds to cover: fixed assets (including the refurbishment costs of the charity's offices completed in 2017); and projected costs of operating the community projects.

On 16 March 2020 all three of BlindAid's Community Projects were closed due to COVID-19 pandemic. During the year, it was decided that BlindAid cannot continue to cover the cost for all three Community Projects from its own reserves. Therefore, the charity began fundraising to secure external funding to sustain its centrally located Camden Community Project over a further five-year period. In 2021, BlindAid was awarded funding from The City Bridge Trust of £81,300 to support the Camden Community Project for a three year period, with an option to then apply for 2 years extension funding.

For many previous years, trustees agreed BlindAid should operate a strategic deficit budget to invest surplus reserves to expand the charity's services in support of Londoners living with sight loss. As a result, an operating deficit (i.e. before gains or losses on investments) has been made for the past 16 years or so.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

Reserves policy *(continued)*

The trustees acknowledge that building and attaining the capacity inhouse to secure sufficient external income streams to support BlindAid's core services, will take time. This financial transformation cannot be achieved quickly without substantial impact to BlindAid's prevailing excellent reputation for consistent, quality service delivery. Therefore, it is agreed that the charity will work consistently to reduce costs resulting in substantial reductions in the size of the deficit budgets year on year to support this transition which is now BlindAid's financial goal. It is our aim to reduce our expenditure where possible year on year whilst simultaneously increasing external funding, making the operational transitions essential to attain first, a breakeven budget and second a surplus.

The trustees have considered the minimum level of free reserves i.e., total reserves excluding restricted, endowment funds required to support the charity's operations. Relevant factors include projected financial performance and an assessment of the risks to the charity's existing income streams.

It has been determined that, given the reliance of BlindAid on its investments to fund operating expenses, along with the more volatile investment environment as a result of higher inflation (which is also likely to increase BlindAid's costs), a higher cash/liquid asset buffer should be maintained of around 12-24 months of required expenditure (based on the average deficit of the last few years). This is to be actioned following the trustee meeting if a majority are in agreement.

The policy and underlying factors are considered annually, and the minimum reserves requirement is, therefore, expected to change over time, as the investment outlook and funding position changes.

Going concern

The trustees consider the charity a going concern. There are sufficient reserves to support the planned operating activities of the charity.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Specific objectives for 2022 are:

1. To continue to guide BlindAid through the legal, economic, emotional, and practical factors that the COVID-19 global pandemic will present to the charity throughout 2022 and beyond.
2. Continue to review finance and investment strategy to move to a financial breakeven from 2023 forward.
3. To support succession planning, recruit a number of new trustees.
4. Launch BlindAid's Sight Support Pathway in collaboration with partner organisations.
5. Develop BlindAid's fundraising capability to source external funding for the Sight Support Service.
6. Continue to recruit and deploy volunteers delivering ancillary services.
7. Monitor BlindAid's new Hybrid Sight Support Service.
8. Secure extension funding for SHARE LONDON.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Directors/Trustees

The Members of the charity's Board who served during the year are the Directors of the Company under the Companies Act 2006. Current Members are listed on page 19.

Board Members are trustees within the meaning of the Charities Act 2011. Members are appointed by the Board; details regarding the method of appointment and removal of Members are in the Charity's Articles of Association.

New Board Members receive induction and training appropriate to their experience of trusteeship and knowledge of the field of visual impairment. All are encouraged to invest time visiting head office to understand each employee's work, and to spend time out each year with any of the Sight Support Workers meeting some of our Service Users first hand. Trustees are encouraged to attend the annual celebration of the Charity's work, to join staff training days, to visit BlindAid community projects to engage with service users and to understand the work the Charity undertakes to provide skills for blind and visually impaired people to maintain their independence.

The powers of the Board are described in the Articles of Association. The Board holds four meetings each year. Each Board Meeting is preceded by a meeting of the Finance & Resource Committee Chair: Honorary Treasurer and including the Vice Chair and the Chief Executive.

The day-to-day management of the charity is delegated to the Chief Executive under the Board's supervision.

Risk management

The Board reviews the charity's risk register quarterly currently, but at least annually. The work of Sight Support Workers (SSWs) in providing guidance and support to vulnerable people implies a duty of care. Safeguarding is of paramount concern and features annually in the training schedule. The Operations Director has oversight for the planning of the curriculum for the on-going vocational training for the whole team, including volunteers. The charity recognises the importance of staff supervision, and all SSWs attend supervision meetings every two weeks. The Sight Support Team Leader focuses on induction training for new Sight Support Workers, as well as fortnightly staff supervision meetings. The Team Leader also supervises performance management to ensure that all SSWs operate within agreed quality standards. The charity also acknowledges its duty of care to its staff in relation to remote working in the community. The charity has reviewed administration and finance functions (last in February 2021) and is satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate its exposure to its major risks.

BLINDAID (REGISTERED NUMBER: 00986407)

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
00986407 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
262119

Registered office
Lantern House
102 Bermondsey Street
London
SE1 3UB

Trustees
A Pankhania – Chair
M Gaffar – Hon. Treasurer
T Barnard
F M Hibbert
K Ramo
A Saunders
R Holdsworth (appointed 24.11.21)
D Brecker (resigned 24.2.21)
K Cox (resigned 30.6.21)

Company Secretary
S O'Hara – Chief Executive Officer

Auditors
Knox Cropper LLP (Statutory Auditor)
65 Leadenhall Street
London
EC3A 2AD

Bankers
Lloyds Bank PLC
Camberwell Green Branch
25 Camberwell Green
London
SE5 7AB

Accountants
Brayne, Williams & Barnard Limited
Rosemount House
Rosemount Avenue
West Byfleet
Surrey
KT14 6LB

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Blindaid for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the 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.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- 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.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on Sep 20, 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Sue O'Hara

Sue O'Hara (Sep:20,2022:35:06:GMT+1).....

S O'Hara – Chief Executive

Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of Blindaaid

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Blindaaid (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement 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 (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its 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 Auditors' 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 information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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 Report of the Trustees for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of Blindaid

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 Report of the Trustees.

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the 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; or
- the trustees were not entitled to take advantage of the small companies exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report or in preparing the Report of the Trustees.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, 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 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.

Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of Blindaid

Our 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 a Report of the Independent Auditors 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:

-We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the charitable company and determined that the most significant are the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (SORP), in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

-We understood how the charitable company is complying with those frameworks via communication with those charged with governance, together with the review of the charity's documented policies and procedures. The charitable company is required to comply with both company law and charity law and, based on our knowledge of its activities, we identified that the legal requirement to accurately account for restricted funds was of key significance.

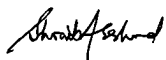
-The audit team, which is experienced in the audit of charities, considered the charitable company's susceptibility to material misstatement and how fraud may occur. Our considerations included the risk of management override and allocation of costs to charitable activities and restricted funds.

-Our approach was to check that the income from donations, grants and legacies were properly identified and accurately disclosed, that expenditure complied with the control procedures and was appropriately charged. We confirmed the movements and income from investments, including unrealised gains/losses. We also reviewed journal adjustments and unusual transactions and considered the identification and disclosure of related party transactions.

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 Report of the Independent Auditors.

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 matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' 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.



Shoaib Arshad (Senior Statutory Auditor) ✓
for and on behalf of Knox Cropper LLP (Statutory Auditor)
65 Leadenhall Street
London
EC3A 2AD

Date: Sep 20, 2022

BLINDAID

**Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment fund £	31.12.21 Total funds £	31.12.20 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM						
Donations and legacies	2	171,953	50,000	-	221,953	338,280
Investment income	3	63,059	-	-	63,059	68,366
Other income	4	-	-	-	-	174,200
Total		235,012	50,000	-	285,012	580,846
EXPENDITURE ON						
Raising funds	5	62,793	-	-	62,793	57,156
Charitable activities						
Community Sight Support service	6	562,963	-	-	562,963	589,202
Southwark Community Project		-	-	-	-	24,821
Camden Community Project		-	-	-	-	18,894
Tower Hamlets Community Project		-	-	-	-	20,854
Grants		11,431	33,607	-	45,038	39,681
Big Lottery Share London		58,828	-	-	58,828	59,876
Total		696,015	33,607	-	729,622	810,484
Realised & unrealised gains / (losses) on investments		265,599	-	7,950	273,549	(50,688)
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(195,404)	16,393	7,950	(171,061)	(280,326)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward		2,380,519	32,662	434,443	2,847,624	3,127,950
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>2,185,115</u>	<u>49,055</u>	<u>442,393</u>	<u>2,676,563</u>	<u>2,847,624</u>


The notes form part of these financial statements

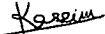
Balance Sheet
31 December 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment fund £	31.12.21 Total funds £	31.12.20 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible assets	14	313,564	-	-	313,564	324,839
Investments	15	<u>1,785,043</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>442,393</u>	<u>2,227,436</u>	<u>2,413,887</u>
		2,098,607	-	442,393	2,541,000	2,738,726
CURRENT ASSETS						
Stocks	16	1,563	-	-	1,563	1,563
Debtors	17	101,907	-	-	101,907	47
Cash in hand		<u>6,576</u>	<u>49,055</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>55,631</u>	<u>135,304</u>
		110,046	49,055	-	159,101	136,914
CREDITORS						
Amounts falling due within one year	18	<u>(23,538)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(23,538)</u>	<u>(28,016)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>86,508</u>	<u>49,055</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>135,563</u>	<u>108,898</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>2,185,115</u>	<u>49,055</u>	<u>442,393</u>	<u>2,676,563</u>	<u>2,847,624</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>2,185,115</u>	<u>49,055</u>	<u>442,393</u>	<u>2,676,563</u>	<u>2,847,624</u>
FUNDS	19					
Unrestricted funds:						
General fund					1,871,551	1,155,680
Fixed assets					313,564	324,839
Strategic planned deficit					<u>-</u>	<u>900,000</u>
					<u>2,185,115</u>	<u>2,380,519</u>
Restricted funds					49,055	32,662
Endowment funds					<u>442,393</u>	<u>434,443</u>
TOTAL FUNDS					<u>2,676,563</u>	<u>2,847,624</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on Sep 20, 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:


.....
A Pankhania – Trustee


.....
K Gaffar – Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

BLINDAID

**Cash Flow Statement
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

	Notes	31.12.21 £	31.12.20 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	<u>(594,026)</u>	<u>(279,750)</u>
Net cash used in operating activities		<u>(594,026)</u>	<u>(279,750)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(8,706)	(2,815)
Sale of fixed asset investments		460,000	200,000
Dividends received		<u>63,059</u>	<u>68,366</u>
Net cash provided by investing activities		<u>514,353</u>	<u>265,551</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		<u>(79,673)</u>	<u>(14,199)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		<u>135,304</u>	<u>149,503</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u><u>55,631</u></u>	<u><u>135,304</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

BLINDAID

Notes to the Cash Flow Statement for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET EXPENDITURE TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	31.12.21 £	31.12.20 £
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(171,061)	(280,326)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	19,981	21,533
Dividends received	(63,059)	(68,366)
Realised and unrealised (gains)/loss on	(273,549)	50,688
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(101,860)	12,864
Decrease in creditors	<u>(4,478)</u>	<u>(16,143)</u>
Net cash used in operations	<u>(594,026)</u>	<u>(279,750)</u>

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.1.21 £	Cash flow £	At 31.12.21 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>135,304</u>	<u>(79,673)</u>	<u>55,631</u>
	<u>135,304</u>	<u>(79,673)</u>	<u>55,631</u>
Total	<u>135,304</u>	<u>(79,673)</u>	<u>55,631</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

BLINDAID

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention with the exception of investments which are included at market value. They have been prepared in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards, the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (SORP 2015), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Income

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

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 Trust 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.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

Raising funds

Raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the charity to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities, events and non-charitable trading.

Governance costs

These represent those costs attributable to the management of the charity's assets, organisational administration and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's programmes and activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 8.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life. Freehold property is accounted for on a component cost basis with each component being depreciated over its economic life as shown below.

Freehold Property

Fabric of building - Over 70 years
Doors and windows - Over 20 years
Partitioning - Over 10 years

Other Assets

Fixtures & fittings - 15% on cost & 4% on cost
Computer & office equipment - 25% on cost

BLINDAID

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Stocks

Stocks consist mainly of small items of aids and equipment and are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

General funds - These are funds which can be used in accordance with the charity's charitable objects at the discretion of the board.

Designated funds - These comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds - These funds are subject to specific restrictive conditions imposed by donors or funds received for specific purposes and projects.

Endowment funds - These are represented by a permanent endowment fund, the BlindAid Fund, which stipulates that the capital of the fund must be retained and cannot be spent. The BlindAid Fund is wholly invested in Legal & General International Index and Legal & General UK Index units (see note 15) and income arising from the Fund is used for charitable activities.

Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for the benefit of its employees and directors. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity. Contributions payable are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year they are payable.

Termination benefits

Termination benefits are payable when employment is terminated before the normal retirement date, or whenever an employee accepts voluntary redundancy in exchange for these benefits. The charity recognises termination benefits when it is demonstrably committed to either (i) terminating the employment of current employees according to a detailed formal plan without possibility of withdrawal or (ii) providing termination benefits as a result of an offer made to encourage voluntary redundancy.

Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item 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), the general volunteer time given to the charity is not recognised and refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

Investments

Investments are included in the Balance Sheet at bid-market value. Gains and losses on disposal and revaluation of investments are credited or charged to the Statement of Financial Activities. Investment income and gains arising on endowment funds are accounted for on a total return basis.

BLINDAID

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	31.12.21	31.12.20
	£	£
Allocations by Greater London Fund for the Blind	-	191,200
Clothworkers funding	50,000	56,000
Big lottery funding	28,898	30,098
Corporate donations	1,683	14,865
General donations, grants and trusts	141,172	45,117
Legacies	200	1,000
	<u>221,953</u>	<u>338,280</u>

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	31.12.21	31.12.20
	£	£
Investment income from listed investments	<u>63,059</u>	<u>68,366</u>

The shares in Lantern House Management Limited produce no income.

4. OTHER INCOME

	31.12.21	31.12.20
	£	£
COVID-19 Grants	<u>-</u>	<u>174,200</u>

5. RAISING FUNDS

Raising donations and legacies

	31.12.21	31.12.20
	£	£
Staff costs	51,459	46,367
Advertising for legacies	675	-
Professional fundraising	249	532
Support costs	<u>10,410</u>	<u>10,257</u>
	<u>62,793</u>	<u>57,156</u>

BLINDAID

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs £	Grant funding of activities (see note 7) £	Support costs (see note 8) £	Totals £
Community Sight Support service	343,317	-	219,646	562,963
Grants	-	33,607	11,431	45,038
Big Lottery Share London	30,155	-	28,673	58,828
	<u>373,472</u>	<u>33,607</u>	<u>259,750</u>	<u>666,829</u>

	Direct Costs £	Grant funding of activities (see note 7) £	Support costs (see note 8) £	Totals £
2020 Comparative				
Community Sight Support service	368,378	-	220,824	589,202
Southwark Community Project	10,423	-	14,398	24,821
Camden Community Project	4,496	-	14,398	18,894
Tower Hamlets Community Project	6,456	-	14,398	20,854
Grants	-	27,526	12,155	39,681
Big Lottery Share London	29,253	-	30,623	59,876
	<u>419,006</u>	<u>27,526</u>	<u>306,796</u>	<u>753,328</u>

7. GRANTS PAYABLE

	31.12.21 £	31.12.20 £
Grants	<u>33,607</u>	<u>27,526</u>
The total grants paid to institutions during the year was as follows:		
	31.12.21 £	31.12.20 £
1 grant to VI organisations for community projects (2020 - 1)	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>
The total grants paid to individuals during the year was as follows:		
	31.12.21 £	31.12.20 £
114 grants for general purposes (2020 - 98)	29,063	22,106
Small grants (not greater than £50)	<u>2,544</u>	<u>3,420</u>
	<u>31,607</u>	<u>25,526</u>

The grants to individuals and grants to organisations were funded by a grant of £50,000 received in the current year from The Clothworkers' Foundation (2020 - £56,000).

BLINDAID

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

8. SUPPORT COSTS

	Other	Governance	Totals
	£	costs £	£
Raising donations and legacies	6,262	4,148	10,410
Community Sight Support service	142,621	77,025	219,646
Grants	8,318	3,113	11,431
Big Lottery Share London	<u>22,209</u>	<u>6,464</u>	<u>28,673</u>
	<u>179,410</u>	<u>90,750</u>	<u>270,160</u>

	Other	Governance	Totals
	£	costs £	£
2020 Comparative			
Raising donations and legacies	6,016	4,241	10,257
Community Sight Support service	148,160	72,664	220,824
Southwark Community Project	12,276	2,122	14,398
Camden Community Project	12,276	2,122	14,398
Tower Hamlets Community Project	12,276	2,122	14,398
Grants	8,972	3,183	12,155
Big Lottery Share London	<u>23,738</u>	<u>6,885</u>	<u>30,623</u>
	<u>223,714</u>	<u>93,339</u>	<u>317,053</u>

The charity initially identifies the costs of its support functions. It then identifies those costs which relate to the governance function. Having identified its governance costs, the remaining support costs together with the governance costs are apportioned between the charitable activities on the basis of time expended on each activity.

9. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

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

	31.12.21	31.12.20
	£	£
Auditors' remuneration	5,680	5,153
Depreciation - owned assets	<u>19,981</u>	<u>21,533</u>

10. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2021 nor for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Trustees' expenses

There were no expenses reimbursed to trustees for the year ended 31 December 2021 nor for the year ended 31 December 2020.

BLINDAID**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021****11. STAFF COSTS**

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	509,027	556,280
Social security costs	42,995	46,182
Pension costs	<u>38,005</u>	<u>41,835</u>
	<u>590,027</u>	<u>644,297</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	31.12.21	31.12.20
Office staff	4	6
Community Support Services staff	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>
	<u>19</u>	<u>22</u>

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	31.12.21	31.12.20
£70,001 - £80,000	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

The amount of employer's pension contribution for the highest paid employee was £5,427 (2020 - £5,318).

There are two employees included in office staff that are considered to be key management personnel. Their aggregate emoluments for the year was £127,985 (2020 - £124,995).

BLINDAID

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

12. 2020 COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM				
Donations and legacies	288,280	50,000	-	338,280
Investment income	68,366	-	-	68,366
Other income	174,200	-	-	174,200
Total	530,846	50,000	-	580,846
 EXPENDITURE ON				
Raising funds	57,156	-	-	57,156
Charitable activities				
Community Sight Support service	589,202	-	-	589,202
Southwark Community Project	24,821	-	-	24,821
Camden Community Project	18,894	-	-	18,894
Tower Hamlets Community Project	20,854	-	-	20,854
Grants	12,155	27,526	-	39,681
Big Lottery Share London	59,876	-	-	59,876
Total	782,958	27,526	-	810,484
Realised & unrealised gains / (losses) on investments	(46,804)	-	(3,884)	(50,688)
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(298,916)	22,474	(3,884)	(280,326)
 RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	2,679,435	10,188	438,327	3,127,950
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>2,380,519</u>	<u>32,662</u>	<u>434,443</u>	<u>2,847,624</u>

13. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the charity to the fund and amounts to £38,005 for the year (2020 - £41,835). There were £4,293 of contributions outstanding at the balance sheet date (2020 - £4,564).

BLINDAID

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

14. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer & office equipment £	Totals £
COST				
At 1 January 2021	192,325	238,112	51,063	481,500
Additions	-	-	8,706	8,706
Disposals	-	-	(3,312)	(3,312)
At 31 December 2021	<u>192,325</u>	<u>238,112</u>	<u>56,457</u>	<u>486,894</u>
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 January 2021	79,171	33,838	43,652	156,661
Charge for year	3,846	9,462	6,673	19,981
Eliminated on disposal	-	-	(3,312)	(3,312)
At 31 December 2021	<u>83,017</u>	<u>43,300</u>	<u>47,013</u>	<u>173,330</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 December 2021	<u>109,308</u>	<u>194,812</u>	<u>9,444</u>	<u>313,564</u>
At 31 December 2020	<u>113,154</u>	<u>204,274</u>	<u>7,411</u>	<u>324,839</u>

15. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

Listed Investments

	2021 (£)	2020 (£)
MARKET VALUE		
At 1 January 2021	2,413,887	2,664,574
Disposals	(460,000)	(200,000)
Gains / (losses)	<u>273,548</u>	<u>(50,687)</u>
	<u>2,227,435</u>	<u>2,413,887</u>

Investments included in Unrestricted Funds are:

COIF Income Units of £8,780 (2020 - £238,520) and Diversified Income Fund - Class 3 of £1,183,827 (2020 - £1,105,960), which are invested in the COIF Charity Funds managed by CCLA Investment Limited.

L&G International Index Trust of £193,703 (2020 - £295,171) and L&G UK Index Trust of £194,268 (2020 - £224,908).

Shares of £1,100 (2020 - £1,100) in Lantern House Management Limited, an unlisted company.

Investments included in Endowment Funds are L&G International Index Trust of £376,097 (2020 - £311,147) and L&G UK Index Trust of £269,660 (2020 - £237,081), less an amount allocated to General Unrestricted Funds under Total Return Accounting.

BLINDAID

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

16. STOCKS

	31.12.21	31.12.20
	£	£
Stocks	<u>1,563</u>	<u>1,563</u>

17. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.12.21	31.12.20
	£	£
Other debtors	<u>101,907</u>	<u>47</u>

18. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.12.21	31.12.20
	£	£
Trade creditors	960	2,831
Social security and other taxes	11,716	11,983
Other creditors	5,387	8,067
Accruals and deferred income	<u>5,475</u>	<u>5,135</u>
	<u>23,538</u>	<u>28,016</u>

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.21	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	At 31.12.21
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	1,155,680	(175,423)	891,294	1,871,551
Fixed assets	324,839	(19,981)	8,706	313,564
Strategic planned deficit	<u>900,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(900,000)</u>	<u>-</u>
	2,380,519	(195,404)	-	2,185,115
Restricted funds				
The Clothworkers' Foundation	32,662	16,393	-	49,055
Endowment funds				
Endowment fund	434,443	7,950	-	442,393
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>2,847,624</u>	<u>(171,061)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,676,563</u>

BLINDAID

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS *(continued)*

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	235,012	(676,034)	265,599	(175,423)
Fixed assets	-	(19,981)	-	(19,981)
	235,012	(696,015)	265,599	(195,404)
Restricted funds				
The Clothworkers' Foundation	50,000	(33,607)	-	16,393
Endowment funds				
Endowment fund	-	-	7,950	7,950
TOTAL FUNDS	285,012	(729,622)	273,549	(171,061)

Designated funds comprise the following:

- A fixed asset reserve, including the refurbishment costs for the charity's premises in 2017;
- A community projects reserve that was created to cover the projected costs of the four community projects over the next 4 years up to 2023. Due to COVID-19 these projects were forced to cease and remaining reserve balance transferred to the general fund during 2020 year.
- A strategic planned deficit reserve to cover projected deficits over the next two years, reflecting the trustees' decision to use surplus reserves to expand charitable activities. The fund balance was revised following the impact of COVID-19. The strategy is to secure third party income to fund ongoing charitable activities and therefore the strategic planned deficit has been transferred back the general fund.

BLINDAID

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

20. ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	Unapplied Total Return £	Trust for Investment £	Total Endowment £
Balances as at 1 January 2021	219,443	215,000	434,443
Return for the year			
Investment gain	97,529	-	97,529
Allocated to Unrestricted Income Fund	<u>(89,578)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(89,578)</u>
Net movement for the year	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Balance as at 31 December 2021	<u>227,393</u>	<u>215,000</u>	<u>442,393</u>

	Unapplied Total Return £	Trust for Investment £	Total Endowment £
2020 Comparative			
Balances as at 1 January 2020	223,327	215,000	438,327
Return for the year			
Investment loss	(3,884)	-	(3,884)
Allocated to Unrestricted Income Fund	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement for the year	<u>(3,884)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,884)</u>
Balance as at 31 December 2020	<u>219,443</u>	<u>215,000</u>	<u>434,443</u>

The Trustees have exercised their powers under Section 104A(2) of the Charities Act 2011 to apply a total return basis for endowment funds.

21. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2021.