
DEAFBLIND SCOTLAND
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

DEAFBLIND SCOTLAND
(A company limited by guarantee)

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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE COMPANY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020**

Trustees

Robert Nolan, Chair (resigned 24 June 2019)
Alison Brownlie, Vice Chair (resigned 5 March 2020)
Twimukye Mushaka
Isabelle Mcgrath-Mccutcheon
Colin Smith
Alison Dunbar (appointed 13 November 2019, resigned 28 November 2020)
John Owens
James Orr Ross
Michael Rooney
Deborah Wherret (appointed 13 November 2019)
John Rogan Welsh (resigned 14 July 2019)

Company registered number

SC216974

Charity registered number

SC031167

Registered office & principal address

1 Neasham Drive
Kirkintilloch
Glasgow
G66 3FA

Company secretary

Isabella Goldie (appointed 15 April 2019)

Chief executive officer

Isabella Goldie (appointed 15 April 2019)

Key Management Personnel

Margaret Stygal, Head of Finance
Suzanne Abbate (resigned 19 April 2019), Head of Operations
Isabella Goldie (appointed 15 April 2019), Chief Executive Officer
Elaine Henson, Head of Operations

Independent auditors

French Duncan LLP
133 Finnieston Street
Glasgow
G3 8HB

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE COMPANY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS
(CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

Bankers

Royal Bank of Scotland
110 Cowgate
Kirkintilloch
Glasgow
G66 1JX

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TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

The Trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the company for the year 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. The Annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report under company law. The Trustees confirm that the Annual report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Since the company qualifies as small under section 382 of the Companies Act 2006, the Strategic report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

Objectives and activities

Policies and objectives

To help deafblind people in Scotland live as rightful members of their communities and to encourage and support, contact and friendship between deafblind people and sighted hearing people.

To liaise with health and social service providers to make appropriate support available for deafblind people in Scotland.

To provide and encourage the provision of facilities for the support, education and personal development of deafblind people in Scotland.

To develop and maintain appropriate accommodation for the benefit and use of deafblind people.

To advance the education of the public in the needs and abilities of deafblind people and thereby raise the awareness of these needs and abilities.

Strategies for achieving objectives

Our Vision

"A society in which deafblind people have the permanent support and recognition necessary to be equal citizens". (From Deafblind Scotland's Five Year Plan 2016 - 2021).

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

Objectives and activities (continued)

Activities for Achieving Objectives

THE LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Within 2019/20 Deafblind Scotland held a from inception 30th Anniversary Event inviting all supporters, funders, donors, public bodies and deafblind people to come together to celebrate the achievements of becoming an independent charity and realising the 2017 opening of the Learning and Development Centre, previously referred to as the "Field of Dreams". This event was launched by the Minister for Children and Young People who holds responsibility for the enactment of the BSL (Scotland) Act 2015. The specialist equipment which is essential for equality of access to information for deafblind people was highlighted at the event and most importantly members showcased the skills that they had built whilst attending the centre or receiving outreach support, including learning to play musical instruments such as Taiko Drums, adopting a new life skill through the cooking, art and gardening programmes and creating greater opportunities for connectivity through increased IT literacy and greater competency in alternative forms of communication such as BSL and Braille. Over the course of the year Programmes have developed significantly in the centre guided by the newly formed Development Group and implemented by a full-time Development Officer.

Deafblind Scotland leases a Charity Shop in Kirkintilloch. Over the past year a review of the Charity Shop began to look at ways to maximise the potential of the shop to ensure that income generation grows but that it also provides further opportunities for Deafblind members and realises its potential as a recognised hub for the local community. Charity shop developments continued at pace in the latter part of the year with the shop being selected for support by Revolve Programme (Scottish Government's Zero Waste Initiative). In the coming year this will provide an improvement framework and access to individualised expert retail support. The shop was also successful in gaining funding to create a Blether Bench an approach based on the well evidenced Friendship Bench model for reducing isolation. This is in recognition that many of the customers of the shop are older people who often see the shop as a place to make social contact. This project will be peer led, exposing the public to deafblind people who are being trained to hold 'helpful conversations' with the public.

POLICY IMPACT

During 2019/20 SAGoD organising group comprising Deafblind Scotland members, has continued to facilitate and chair the quarterly SAGoD meetings. Numbers in attendance at meetings have increased over the year to approximately 30-40 deafblind people. Sessions at SAGoD meeting have included presentations from Social Security Scotland, who as a result of attending have developed factsheets in a variety of formats including Braille and have an Inclusive Communication Group on which Deafblind Scotland is represented. Mobility Access Committee Scotland (MACS) also presented at a SAGoD enabling deafblind people to feedback on personal experiences of barriers to safe and accessible travel. This resulted in Deafblind Scotland being asked to support a local community walk around by MACS and to input into a new travel mobile application for Queen's Street Station. Scottish Government provided a grant for the administrative support needed to facilitate SAGoD meetings during 2019/20.

During the year Deafblind Scotland entered the third and final year of funding within the Government's BSL Partnership Programme, where Deafblind Scotland are one of now 4 partners working with the Government to support the implementation of the BSL National and Regional Plans. This programme is due to complete in June 2020/21. Achievements within the partnership over the year include:

- Completion of the Deafblind Inclusive Communication Support Toolkit for public bodies.
- Undertaking a survey to ascertain Deafblind awareness amongst public sector bodies which highlighted a strong level of awareness of Deafblindness and Deafblind Scotland but a low level of confidence in putting this awareness into inclusive communication action to support deafblind people.
- Providing public bodies with training and hospital-based road shows involving over 1,500 participants.
- Supporting SHHELS (See Hear Highland Education and Learning Services) to produce an online deafblind awareness training module.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

Objectives and activities (continued)

Training and Participation Officer who has a lived experience of deafblindness continues to hold ongoing membership of the Government's Mobility Access Committee where during the report period Deafblind Scotland participated in their health transport review. Deafblind Scotland provided an input into the Poverty Alliance Health Inequalities Review and other disability and equality networks to ensure that work of Deafblind Scotland is connected and influential across wider poverty and equality initiatives in Scotland.

The Minister for Equalities and Older People visited the Centre in early March, meeting SAGoD organising committee alongside experiencing Share and Share Alike Project and rehearsals for the Big Lottery funded Community Sign/Sing along. The local MP also spent a morning earlier in the year in the Centre finding out about the travel issues impacting members and thereafter championed this cause with local transport providers.

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND TRAINING

- A strategic partnership with the Clyde College Campuses has been emerging over 2019/20 with the aim of further enhancing Deafblind Scotland's unique accredited Guide Communicator training and promoting the development of a sensory impairment literate social care workforce.
- Having established a strategic partnership with Fife Health and Social Care Partnership including to provide public sector training there has been a need to reschedule the first programme of training due to Covid-19.
- Deafblind Scotland continue to be commissioned to provide Deafblind awareness training and roadshows through Service Level Agreements within 3 areas: NHS Lothian, NHS GGC and Aberdeen Council as well as public sector training funded within BSL partnership.
- Success in funding of the TLT2 – Touching Lives Take 2, programme through the Big Lottery and Robertson Trust has enabled Deafblind Scotland to continue to grow community based Deafblind awareness but with a particular emphasis on older Deafblind people and for the first time to significantly extend beyond the central belt to reach the public in Fife. This is peer led public awareness training.
- More in-depth specialist Guide Communication training is being explored with Network Rail. If, successful this will be the first commercial body to move beyond awareness training to building a depth of practical support skills amongst staff who engage with people with sensory impairments travelling through stations.
- Deafblind Scotland team have joined the National See Hear Training Group which is focused on drawing together all the elements of sensory impairment training being offered.

INVOLVING DEAFBLIND PEOPLE

SAGoD remains a key vehicle for involving deafblind people in the strategic influencing and public affairs role of Deafblind Scotland. To engage deafblind people in the strategic development of the company a Development Group was set up early in 2019/20 and held quarterly meetings across the year. The emphasis of these meetings has been to set priorities for programme development and fundraising alongside overseeing the review of the Charity Shop and the development of the Community Fundraising Operational Plan 2020/21 including the programme for Deafblind Awareness week (DBAW). Deafblind Scotland continue to aim to engage with the fullest possible membership and has an annual AGM that engages members in the governance of the company. However only a very small percentage of the membership attend these meeting, around 3%, therefore towards the end of the report period efforts increased to reach a higher proportion of members via surveys. Quarterly formatted newsletters, weekly football and lottery results are sent to members.

SERVICES AND PROGRAMMES

Programmes:

Deafblind Scotland continues to build a range of programmes focused on reducing health and socio-economic inequalities that deafblind people all too often experience. Becoming deafblind brings with it a series of losses,

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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Objectives and activities (continued)

affecting role and status, independence including financial and importantly a reduction in chances to learn new skills and to take on challenges. Without opportunities to grow and learn deafblind people often see their lives becoming increasingly limited without hope of the achievements big and small that lend meaning to life. For many older deafblind people, which are in the highest proportion amongst Deafblind Scotland membership, loneliness is a profound daily experience. To deepen impact on these significant issues, Deafblind Scotland have sought to access longer term funding for programmes with a more strategic focus rather than short life projects. Where possible a peer led component has been embedded to enable deafblind people to take on leadership roles and to share their skills and coping strategies with others. There has been strong progress in 2019/20 in the growth of smaller 'pilot' projects which remain important in allowing us to try out innovative new ideas alongside creating more substantial, impactful programmes. This could not be achieved without gaining longer term funding and good progress has been made in this area. An ambition set out in last year's report was recruitment of activity volunteers and project focused Guide Communicators to support the growth and reach of programmatic activities. This has been a highly successful as evidenced in the case study below.

Case Study - OUT Project: a Guide Communicator was recruited from our Services function and is working part-time as a support worker within the OUT project helping to upskill members in digital technology. This involves helping members to access grants to make technology affordable and to provide group and one to one training within the digital cafe and for those unable to attend the centre, within their own homes. This has enabled people to get more out of their own devices or to learn how to use assistive technology for the first time. This growing cohort of digitally skilled members has helped reduce isolation and loneliness for deafblind people. This is a promising development that may well be an important link to the outside world for deafblind people if lockdown measures are implemented due to the pandemic.

Projects ended by 31/03/2020

- In Safe Hands: was funded by the Alliance as a partnership with The Scottish Centre for Personal Safety to deliver free Personal Safety and First Aid classes to sensory impaired individuals. Both courses were delivered in 3 locations throughout central Scotland: Paisley, Lenzie, Ardrossan. On completion of the course all participants were gifted an accessible self-defence DVD and offered 3 refresher workshops after 3 months, 6 months and 9 months on completion of the initial course.
- The Trips Ahoy project funded by D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust promoted equality of access for deafblind people as audience members within cultural and heritage events. Throughout the course of the project, members benefited from attending Theatre trips, a Deaf stand up comedy show, art exhibitions, a trip to a local museum, an immersive light experience and an art experience on a canal boat. Deafblind awareness training was provided to improve front of house capacity at cultural venues.
- The Touched by a Mosaic Initiative, funded by Mickel Fund, saw the creation of mosaics inspired by the experiences of older deafblind people. Nine mosaic panels are displayed on outside and within the Centre.

Continuing Projects

- NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde continued to fund the organisation to provide individual guide/communicator support to enable equitable access to health and wellbeing services for deafblind people.
- BSL partnership of 4 third sector organisations is funded by Scottish Government Equalities Unit. This partnership enables BSL/Tactile BSL users to contribute to implementation of National and local BSL plans alongside supporting public sector to meet their duties under the Act. As part of a newly forming relationship with British Deaf Association a fully accessible trip to Hill House was enjoyed by 45 D/deaf and Deafblind people, bridging the social distance that can exist between the groups.
- Taiko Drumming: This project initially funded by Hobson Trust received funding to continue into 2019/20.
- The Dawn after Darkness project funded by Merchants House is enabling deafblind people to fully engage with a work of art at our Centre. Importantly the art is being created by a deafblind artist.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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Objectives and activities (continued)

- Share and Share Alike project, funded by National Lottery Community Fund Awards for All, offers a programme of workshops facilitated by deafblind people. Enabling deafblind people to build leadership skills whilst contributing to improving the lives of others.
- The Charity shop Blether Bench funded by the Miss Christina Mary Hendrie Trust, aims to address loneliness experienced by local older sighted/hearing people and deafblind people.
- Inner Calm, Inner Strength project funded by Steel Charitable Trust has 2 elements –aromatherapy and 1-2-1 holistic support for wellbeing. Both elements are accessible and delivered using British Sign Language.
- The Common Ground project, funded by Merchants House aims to address isolation, wellbeing and mental health of deafblind people by bringing them together through the outdoor pursuit of gardening.
- The I Have a Dream Community Sign/Sing Song, funded by #Celebrate National Lottery 25 was due to take place in June 2020 as part of the Big Lunch celebrations. Our sign/sing-along involves local primary schools, community choirs and deafblind people. Practice began on this during 2019/20.

New Strategic Programmes

Four new areas of support were identified at the beginning of 2019/20 as priorities for service development by members within the Development Group and through a member consultation process. These now form 4 major strategic programmes:

1. Peer Leadership - opportunities for members to share their skills with others and to lead activities through volunteering as peer facilitators;
2. Support through Transitions - for the many members who were beginning to experience a worsening of their sensory loss to support them to adapt through skills development including new methods of communication;
3. Advice and Information - practical support to improve access to rights and to reduce socio-economic inequalities;
4. Health and Mental Well-being – aimed at improving physical and mental health outcomes for deafblind people, providing healthier lifestyle choices and reducing loneliness and distress.

These have been prioritised for funding across the year and with the success of an increased number of small and some larger grant applications these programmes have now been established:

- Peer Leadership - With the new funding for TLT2 there is now a substantial programme focused on creating Deafblind awareness across Fife and East Dunbartonshire which will run for the next 3 years.
- Support through Transitions - In total 25 people have benefitted from weekly communication support programmes learning Braille, Moon and BSL. These are in part peer led. More intensive individual support has been provided to 2 Deafblind people to learn Tactile BSL. A BSL café has been developed to give members who may in the future be unable to use existing communication methods the opportunity to learn BSL. Twelve Members have signed up to learn to sign-a-long as part of our Big Lunch performance. Two grants have enabled members to gain skills in the use of assistive technology such as iPads, smart phones and Rodger Pens and to access grants to purchase this equipment. Furthermore, a digital café has been running in the centre, giving members an opportunity to try new equipment, get support to better utilise existing technology and to gain support to keep safe online. There has been 77 hours home based technical support provided and 10 successful assistive technology grants for equipment for members.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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Objectives and activities (continued)

- Advice and Support - The Welfare rights project, Connect 2 Support (C2S) has a team of two workers supporting deafblind adults across Scotland. This project received several small grants across 2019/20 but now has gained three year funding from Henry Smith which will mean that two highly experienced advice staff members will be available to support deafblind people to access benefits, address housing and transport access issues and navigate the many other benefit packages available to people living with disabilities. Blindcraft funded the project during 2019/2020 along with Peoples Postcode, Bank of Scotland, Dunhill Medical and Agnes Hunter Trusts.
- Mental Health and Wellbeing - As part of Deafblind Scotland's mental well-being programme members have been supported through group and individual solution focused support sessions and the practice of mindfulness and yoga. A mental health and Well-being DVD has been developed by members and will be distributed during the lockdown period. There has been regular participation of 40 deafblind people within the centre engaged on activities focused on reducing loneliness, from cooking and knitting to adaptive games sessions. A health and wellbeing programme is being developed with professionals for Deafblind people aged 50+ to address health inequalities such as lack of access to: falls prevention advice, health improvement support and diet and exercise guidance as well as accessible 50+ cancer screening programmes

Case Study - Reducing Loneliness during the Festive Period: During the Christmas period there were a number of very well attended events and activities running for members including: a member led pantomime where 5 members performed Jack and the Beanstalk to an audience of 70 people using BSL, Lip Speaking support and Tactile BSL. 40 members and 8 family members also enjoyed Christmas lunch and party which was held over 2 days to allow for sufficient communication support to enable each member to fully participate in the sing/ sign along songs, games and quizzes. Two BSL supported day trips were enjoyed by 12 members to the Christmas pantomime at the Tron Theatre and to Holyrood Palace.

THE GUIDE/COMMUNICATOR SERVICE:

In 2019/20, approximately 44,000 hours of specialist communication and guiding support were provided throughout Scotland to more than 193 deafblind people in over 11,435 individual assignments including; medical, business, independent living, learning and social needs. The role of a guide/communicator is a complex one which requires guides to be competent in a range of communication methods in order to enable deafblind people to participate and to meaningfully contribute within any situation. Recruitment of staff for this service is a priority but finding those who have existing alternative communication and guiding skills or who are willing and able to learn these to sufficient standard can be challenging. Development opportunities and career pathways for this service have been considered across the year in order to ensure retention of staff and to attract future staff. Guide/communicators once recruited are trained in the Level 2 Award in Communicating and Guiding with Deafblind people. They are also supported to undertake BSL Level 1,2 as part of building proficiency for this role.

With the move towards greater choice and control for people requiring social care, the continued implementation of Self Directed Support (SDS) has meant that there are members who are able to access the Guide Communicator service as part of their assessed package of care. However, a very large proportion of members are not in receipt of this funding support and either must pay for Guide Communication where this is affordable or most often rely on fundraising within the organisation to provide this service to enable them to attend programmes and opportunities such as SAGoD. More than 85% of Deafblind Scotland membership do not receive SDS and there has been a concerning pattern of hours being cut for those that do due to competing priorities within social care funding. Key Achievements of the service include:

- The service holds dual registration with the Care Inspectorate to deliver Housing Support services and Support Services (Care at Home) with the last Care Inspection awarding a grade 5 'Very Good' which is an improvement for the previous grade of 4 "Good" in the previous year. This was awarded in the areas Care and Support and Management and Leadership. Feedback from this inspection highlighted overall that people experienced very positive outcomes from using the service and described the service as their

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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Objectives and activities (continued)

- 'lifeline', 'invaluable', without it, people felt very isolated and alone.
- Deafblind Scotland has been successful in applying for inclusion on the National Flexible Framework. In total 22 Local Authorities signed up to this framework, inclusion will secure future services in these areas.
- To support Guides in the registration processes required by SSSC DbS was successful in securing funding for 15 Guides to undertake SVQs equating to almost £18,000 of training.

STAFFING

During 2019/20, we had 68 active sessional Guide Communicators and 18 members of programme staff. All staff members communicate with deafblind people on a regular basis and are trained in deafblind communication and guiding through our Signature accredited training. Deafblind Scotland proactively supports the continuous professional development of its staff group and has supported them to attain additional qualifications in British Sign Language, Deafblind Manual Interpreting, Management and other relevant courses and qualifications. Guide Communicators received a wide range of training at their quarterly in service meetings. The purpose of these sessions is to support standards, work practice and personal development including Supporting deafblind people Living with Dementia, Open Badges – SSSC online training resources, Adult Support and Protection Training, Lone Working and Safety, Hate Crime and Third Party Reporting and training from the Care Inspectorate on the updated Health and Social Care Standards My Support, My Life. Successful Voluntary Sector Development Funding secured 15 places for guide/communicator service staff to undertake SVQ Level 2 or Level 3 qualification. At the end of the financial year 61% of our total service staff compliment were qualified and 89% of staff registered with Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). A further tranche of 15 commenced SVQ Level 2 studies with an aim to complete within 6 – 9 months. The main change to the staffing compliment was the recruitment of a Community Fundraiser, however this was not an entirely new investment rather a change of role from the previous vacant Events Coordinator post.

Review of activities

The results for the period are disclosed in the Statement of Financial Activities. The statement shows a net surplus for the year of £440 (2019 - £32,282). Deafblind Scotland's income for the financial year 19/20 is £1,373,821 (2019 - £1,473,477). The expenditure for the period was £1,373,381 (2019 - £1,441,195).

The income and expenditure attributable to the Scottish Government is shown separately.

Significant Achievements in 2019/20

- Holding a highly successful 30th Anniversary celebration to mark the many achievements of Deafblind Scotland and in particular deafblind people, attended by dignitaries such as Maree Todd MSP.
- The increased number of opportunities being offered to members within the Learning and Development Centre to support independent living and communication skills training.
- Development of a peer led approach giving deafblind members opportunities to mentor and coach other deafblind people in projects such as TLT2, Share and Share A Like and the Bletcher Bench.
- Increased focus on Trust and Foundation fundraising resulting in longer term funding for programmes such as C2S and TLT2 bringing the potential to deepen impact and extend reach into new areas such as Fife.
- Success in applying for inclusion on the National Flexible Framework.
- Scottish Government recognising the important role of the Scottish Advisory Group on Deafblindness by providing a further year of funding to support the administration of this.
- Achieving a very positive Care Inspection Report improving from grade 4 "Good" to Grade 5 'Very Good'.
- Building strategic training partnerships with academic and corporate partners, to significantly extend the reach and impact of Signature and SQA accredited training.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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Objectives and activities (continued)

- The continued development of the BSL Sector partnership and associated role in supporting the implementation of the ground breaking BSL (Scotland) Act 2015 and national and locality plans.
- Acceptance for specialist 're-use' support by Revolve to undertake improvements within the Charity shop.

Financial review

Going concern

Since the early months of 2020, the UK and the world has faced unprecedented uncertainty and disruption as a result of Covid-19. The effects of the pandemic on the organisation started in the last month of the financial year, and the trustees and management took early action to maintain the health of staff and service users and pivot operational activity and services to be delivered online.

Since the start of this pandemic, the trustees have and continue nine months later, to closely monitor the risks, challenges and opportunities ahead. The trustees consider the charity to be in a relatively strong position given the level of unrestricted reserves which are reflected in the Reserves Policy. The effects of this pandemic are continually monitored for operational and going concern implications for the charity post year end, and any going concern implications are noted in section 2.2 of accounting policies.

Reserves policy

Our reserves stand at £2,357,432 (2019 - £2,356,992). This includes fixed assets of £2,020,673, the value of the property from which the Charity operates, (i.e. the head office of Deafblind Scotland). £272,801 is the free reserves of unrestricted funds which is below 3 times our monthly expenditure and which is below our goal of three to five months set in our reserves policy. The Trustees are aware of this and are continuing to monitor the position.

Principal funding

Funding

In this report period approximately 63% of funding was for the provision of a Guide Communication Service. Funding for this service is from a range of sources including Local Authorities/ Social Services and NHS Boards, Health and Social Care Partnership and Scottish Government. The hourly rate charged for the service, continues to cover basic costs, which are strictly controlled, although full cost recovery is not always achieved. Following negotiations this year there have been improvements in cost recovery, however a key consideration within the fundraising strategy has been that over the past few years this service funding has contracted due to the rationing of services whereby many deafblind people have seen their funded hours reduced. Therefore across 2019/20 diversifying funding to spread this risk has been a priority. In doing so this has created new sources of unrestricted funding to enable us to reach out to the many deafblind people without statutory funded service provision. To this end a Community fundraiser was appointed to help to build awareness of the cause which is often little understood and prevalence of deafblindness greatly underestimated. From this increased awareness the focus in the coming years will be to convert this interest into financial support from donors, corporate partners or through legacies. The other area of fundraising focus has been on translating small 'pilot' projects into more substantial programmes that have the potential to achieve deeper and more sustainable improvements in deafblind people's lives. This has required an increased effort on Trust and Foundation applications. In 2018/19, 29 funding applications to a value of £431,448 were submitted. In 2019/20, 39 funding applications were submitted to a value of £1,945,465. Fundraising Achievements include:

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Financial review (continued)

- A match funded application was submitted to Big Lottery Fund and Robertson's Trust to redevelop the successful Touching Lives member led Deafblind awareness training. Both applications have been successful.
- Assessment day took place with Henry Smith for 3 years funding for C2S and in late 2019 notification was received that this programme is being funded which provides for the specialist welfare rights service.
- Overall, 7 small grants were successful for projects including:
 1. The Trips Ahoy project funded by D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust.
 2. The Touched by a Mosaic Initiative, funded by the Mickel Fund.
 3. The Dawn after Darkness project funded by the Merchants House.
 4. A new server funded by the Kilpatrick Fraser Trust.
 5. The Charity Shop Blether Bench, funded by the Miss Christina Mary Hendrie Trust.
 6. Inner Calm, Inner Strength project funded by the Steele Charitable Trust.
 7. The Common Ground gardening project, funded by the Merchants House.
- Within Community Fundraising Amazon smiles and Give as you Live are being promoted. The annual Santa Dash took place as planned at Victoria Park for the second time and was successful in attracting 120 participants. The Annual Millport Cycle attracted 29 cyclists supported by E Macbus and Royal George Hotel.
- Funding was received from Community Jobs Scotland for an administration support post.
- Deafblind Awareness Week activities included 'red and white' day, a photography competition, a quiz night at Old Gatehouse; a tea party at Charity Shop, a fun afternoon for schoolchildren featuring our new fairground games and an auction of concert tickets held by Corporate partners at the Old Gatehouse and auctioned by our ambassador Gordon Smith. Refreshments for events provided by Morton Rolls and McGhee's doughnuts.
- A Deafblind Scotland first family fun day was hosted by the Old Gatehouse in July. Activities included the fairground games, a silent auction, deafblind penalty kicks, a raffle and a mini Crufts.
- We organised series of Christmas choir collections at Central Station and at the Old Gatehouse in December featuring choirs that included, the Songsters, the Jazz choir and St Aloysius choir.
- We have been working a food the year with our partner McClures Solicitors to promote their free will service.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

Deafblind Scotland is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association.

Methods of appointment or election of Trustees

The management of the company is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Articles of Association.

Trustees of Deafblind Scotland receive an Induction Pack including Deafblind Scotland's Policy & Procedures, Memorandum of Association, which sets out how the company is run, governed and owned and also the Articles of Association which includes the responsibilities and powers of all Trustees within Deafblind Scotland. Governance training is also provided on a regular basis to ensure all Trustees roles and responsibilities are clear, in order for all Trustees to make informed decisions and carry out their duties effectively in the interests of the Charity. Regular Board meetings are also held throughout the Financial Year, to ensure all Trustees are monitoring and reviewing all aspects of the organisation on a regular basis.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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Structure, governance and management (continued)

Organisational structure and decision-making policies

Deafblind Scotland was formed in April 2001 and a company limited by guarantee on 1 April 2001. Prior to April 2001 Deafblind Scotland were the Scottish branch of Deafblind UK and previously known as the National Deafblind League which was established in Scotland in September 1989.

Deafblind Scotland is a registered Scottish Charity (Charity Number SC031167), governed by our Memorandum and Articles of Association, which gives deafblind people full voting rights as Members of the Company.

The Board of Directors, who are termed Trustees in Charity Law, is composed of elected individuals. Following appointments at 2019/20 AGM 50% of Directors are dual sensory impaired. Specialist communication, including formatted documentation, additional briefing sessions, electronic note takers and British Sign Language interpreters is provided to enable the Directors' full participation. Board documents are modified and provided in Braille, Moon, Large Print, Audiotape, and CD to meet the needs of individuals.

Deafblind Scotland serve uniquely disadvantaged people who live with a dual sensory impairment of which the general public has little knowledge or understanding. Raising awareness of the inequalities and daily life challenges experienced by the approximated 34,000 people living in Scotland with a dual sensory impairment is a priority. In raising public awareness and concern Deafblind Scotland aim to increase public support including income generated through a wide range of sustainable funding sources. This is with the aim of facilitating further maintenance and growth of services that provide a vital lifeline for deafblind people including those who do not receive statutory funding to enable them to access support and to afford them access to new opportunities and the potential to achieve in life. Deafblind Scotland continue to monitor and control expenditure to ensure that support for services that directly improve the lives of deafblind people is maximised. Following celebration of a landmark anniversary this year the Board is pleased with the financial position of the organisation and is grateful to the staff team for its hard work in what has been a year of transition as Deafblind Scotland raises its profile and ambitions towards a new emerging 5 year Strategy 2021-26 Dare to Dream but alongside this is facing a future that may be impacted by a pandemic and has required much contingency planning towards the end of this financial year.

The following people comprised the Board of Directors on 17 December 2020 when the accounts were approved:

Deborah Wherrett
Michael Rooney
James Orr Ross
John Owens
Twimukye Mushaka
Isabelle Mcgrath-Mccutcheon
Colin Smith

DEAFBLIND SCOTLAND
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

Structure, governance and management (continued)

Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

The Board regularly considers all areas of governance at 6 Board meetings per year, including: strategic direction and planning; financial management and probity; personnel and health and safety issues; key policies focused on areas such as safeguarding, fundraising, contingency planning and infection control; and the risk register. In addition, a Finance Sub Committee meets Quarterly to consider management accounts. Minutes of the Finance Sub Committee meetings are distributed to all Board members. Prior to the 2019/20 AGM two Directors stepped down, Robert Nolan and Rogan Welsh. During the AGM in accordance with the Memorandum of Association one further Director Twimuyke Musaka stepped down. Twimuyke Musaka was re elected to another term and two further Directors Debra Wherret and Alison Dunbar were duly elected to the board of trustees. Towards the end of the year Director Alison Brownlie stepped down from her role as Chair and her position as Trustee. A review of the Articles of Association and Memorandum of Articles has been ongoing across 2019/2020 with amendments will be brought to an EGM for special resolution in 2020/21.

Following the recruitment of a new CEO in 2018/19 Elaine Henson was appointed as the new Head of Operations in early 2019/20. Other departmental restructures were also undertaken bringing together teams into three Departments: Finance, Membership and Resources; Services and Programmes; and Business Development (Training and Fundraising). Key management personnel of the Charity in 2019/20 therefore comprise the CEO and the Heads of Department within the Senior Management Team (SMT) – Head of Finance, Resources and Membership and Head of Operations. Deafblind Scotland currently benchmark salary expectations against the Charity Sector and compare accountability levels with roles in other similar organisations, aiming to set the salary and delegated authority at the correct level. Final decisions on SMT pay will be made by the Chief Executive. The pay of the Chief Executive is set by the Board of Trustees.

Risk Assessment and Management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the company is exposed and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks. Towards the end of 2019/20 this has included the creation of a Contingency Plan in anticipation of the emerging Covid-19 pandemic. The Senior Management Team identifies key risks facing Deafblind Scotland. These are documented within a Risk Register, which is approved by the Board of Trustees. The risk register is in place to ensure that reputational, legislative, financial, service provision and strategy risks of the Charity are identified and mitigating action taken to enable the charity to achieve its Charitable objectives and fulfil legislative and regulatory requirements.

Legislation/Compliance, Reputational and Health and Safety risk are potentially the highest category of risk to the organisation identified in 2019/20.

Legislative/Compliance - Failure to meet constitutional or statutory requirements, employment regulations and governance responsibilities.

Mitigating Actions – Trustees are provided with full induction and training analysis applied through a Skills Matrix. The Chief Executive acts as company secretary and oversees constitutional requirements taking legal advice as required. The company is registered with the Care Inspectorate and annually inspected and staff members providing individual services registered with the SSSC. Chief Executive has been vetted by Disclosure Scotland and by the Care Inspectorate for suitability as Chief Executive of Registered Care Services. All staff are members of the PVG scheme. HR support is procured on an annual rolling contract.

Reputation - Damage to reputation resulting from loss of trust amongst services users, funders and commissioning bodies which gives rise to risk of negative press, misrepresentation and funding withdrawals.

Mitigating Actions – Deafblind Scotland has processes in place to ensure needs of members are central and that trust is retained including a Board of Trustees with 50% representation from members with sub

DEAFBLIND SCOTLAND
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

Structure, governance and management (continued)

committees/groups now in place to further engage membership. Deafblind Scotland host the Scottish Advisory Group on Deafblindness (SAGoD) which is member led, providing a direct feedback line to the Chief Executive, and Trustees who attend the quarterly meetings for this purpose. All partnerships for significant programmes have either formal partnership agreements in place or, if more strategic relationships, then a memorandum of understanding. Relationships with funders are maintained through regular funding reviews and contracts and service level agreements are overseen by SMT.

Health and Safety - Failure to protect service users, members, staff and Charity Shop Customers in the emerging Covid-19 public health crisis.

Mitigating Actions – A contingency plan has been developed and relevant policies and procedures such as Infectious Diseases have been reviewed in anticipation of the spread of the virus. This includes: enhancement of health and safety procedures to ensure safe office working environment and effective move to home working if social distancing is required; creation of procedures to facilitate safe home based support for service users who may be at heightened risk of the virus such as the use of Personal Protective Equipment; temporary closure of the Charity Shop till risk to public health reduces; and guidance to staff/members on staying safe.

Other significant risks identified in 2019/20 include:

Finance - Financial mis management and insufficient cash to meet commitments.

Mitigating Actions – Management accounts report on cash levels and deviations from Budget. Finance Sub Committee meetings are held quarterly inclusive of Trustees and Senior Management Team to regularly review Management accounts and risk register. Effective payment processes are in place with regular reviews of aged creditors and debtors by Head of Finance. Appropriate level of cash reserves maintained to meet ongoing needs to comply with Reserves Policy.

Fundraising - Reduction in income sources which would have significant consequences to cash flow and future viability of the organisation.

Mitigating Actions – The fundraising strategy is agreed annually with support of the Fundraising Sub-committee, which includes Trustee representation and is agreed by Trustees within the overall organisational strategy. A main aim in 2019/20 has been to ensure that where possible funding is diversified without significant over reliance on one source. Project funding through Trusts and Foundations, Events and Corporate Partnerships are areas of investment in 2019/20 with the aim of yielding benefits in 2020/21. Within services there is a mixed economy of individual budgets and block contracts that help spread the risk of any one source ending. In, light of Covid-19 early discussions taking place with commissioners aim to ensure that individual budgets and block contracts are honoured even where self-isolation may limit some service provision. Discussions are underway with project funders to offset the risk of under delivery of elements if lockdown limits Centre based activities.

Highly Specialised Workforce - Retaining the right mix of staff skills and experience following high levels of investment in training, in an increasingly competitive sector.

Mitigating Actions – Deafblind Scotland adhere to Fair Work Practice including paying the living wage. Terms and conditions are reviewed regularly in line with the standard of the sector to ensure we recruit and retain skilled staff. Staff who work in services are required to work towards the requirements of SSSC registration and Care Inspectorate and are supported to undertake relevant qualifications such as SVQs, accredited Guide Communicator and BSL training. Fundraising, finance and other core support staff are required to have relevant qualifications and be registered with appropriate professional bodies such as the Institute of Fundraising.

DEAFBLIND SCOTLAND
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

Plans for future periods

Future Developments

With the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic, Deafblind Scotland may now need to enter an immediate response phase with a focus on essential services and maintaining financial security. It is difficult at this stage to ascertain the extent of impact of the emerging pandemic however, once the immediate crisis is over some of Deafblind Scotland activities may need to change quite substantially to accommodate potential ongoing public health measures such as social distancing. This would include our awareness training where it will be unlikely that many community groups, members of the public or public bodies will be in a position, to participate in group settings. This of course will impact on training income generation. Every global indication is that social distancing may need to become a feature of daily life. Many Deafblind members are within the 'vulnerable' or 'extremely vulnerable' groups, which may mean extended self-isolation or enhanced social distancing. This extended period of isolation could potentially have an enormous negative impact on the health and well-being of people that are already amongst some of the most isolated in society. In the first few months of 2020/21 some services will have to be scaled back such as: centre and group-based skills development and health and well-being activities; SAGoD; and face to face welfare rights advice. In place of these the focus will be on:

- o ensuring continuity of existing Guide Communicator service within people's own homes to reduce isolation, anxiety and distress amongst service users.
- o fundraising and negotiating with commissioners to maximise income to secure staff salaries, support retention of staff and protect future service levels.
- o negotiating with project funders to move funding into unrestricted funds to help protect core staff salaries and to support running costs.
- o setting up HR systems to enable access to Job Retention Scheme and to protect lone working staff well-being through this stressful time.
- o establishing home working processes and support.
- o accessing evasive but critical Personal Protection Equipment; and
- o reaching out through well-being checks, regular formatted briefings and home visiting to ensure most vulnerable Deafblind people do not experience undue emotional or social isolation or poverty.

DEAFBLIND SCOTLAND
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report 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. Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

French Duncan LLP were re-appointed as auditors at the last Annual General Meeting.

In preparing this report, the Trustees have taken advantage of the small companies exemptions provided by section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Isabelle Mcgrath-Mccutcheon

Trustee

Date: 17 December 2020

DEAFBLIND SCOTLAND
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DEAFBLIND SCOTLAND

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Deafblind Scotland (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2020 which comprise the Statement of financial activities, the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2020 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, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 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 United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

DEAFBLIND SCOTLAND
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DEAFBLIND SCOTLAND (CONTINUED)

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 Auditors' report 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 there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and proper 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 prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a Strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement, 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.

DEAFBLIND SCOTLAND
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DEAFBLIND SCOTLAND (CONTINUED)

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.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

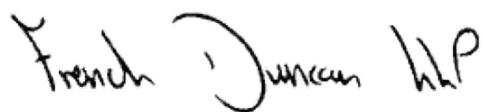
We have been appointed as auditor under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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

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 Auditors' report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, and to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members and Trustees 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, its members, as a body, and its trustees, as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Nicola MacLennan (Senior statutory auditor)
for and on behalf of

French Duncan LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
133 Finnieston Street
Glasgow
G3 8HB

Date: 17 December 2020

French Duncan LLP are eligible to act as auditors in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

DEAFBLIND SCOTLAND
(A company limited by guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies:	4				
Blindcraft		-	14,000	14,000	24,000
Scottish Government - Equality Fund		-	39,549	39,549	42,053
Scottish Government Grants		-	13,806	13,806	13,909
People's Postcode		-	-	-	20,000
Other donations and legacies		299,190	107,897	407,087	451,327
Charitable activities	5	847,603	17,884	865,487	882,963
Other trading activities	6	33,331	-	33,331	38,913
Investments	7	561	-	561	312
Total income		1,180,685	193,136	1,373,821	1,473,477
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds:	8				
Donations and Legacies		64,907	-	64,907	74,959
Charity shop costs		40,372	-	40,372	39,076
Charitable activities	9	1,033,458	234,644	1,268,102	1,327,160
Total expenditure		1,138,737	234,644	1,373,381	1,441,195
Net movement in funds		41,948	(41,508)	440	32,282
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		2,251,526	105,466	2,356,992	2,324,710
Net movement in funds		41,948	(41,508)	440	32,282
Total funds carried forward		2,293,474	63,958	2,357,432	2,356,992

The Statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 23 to 39 form part of these financial statements.

DEAFBLIND SCOTLAND
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: SC216974

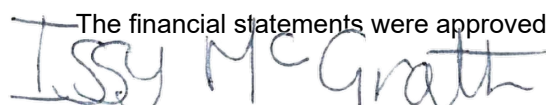
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 31 MARCH 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	2,017,587	2,039,202
Investments		3,086	3,086
		<u>2,020,673</u>	<u>2,042,288</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	16	106,752	110,831
Cash at bank and in hand		269,557	233,112
		<u>376,309</u>	<u>343,943</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(39,550)	(29,239)
Net current assets		<u>336,759</u>	<u>314,704</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>2,357,432</u>	<u>2,356,992</u>
Net assets excluding pension asset		<u>2,357,432</u>	<u>2,356,992</u>
Total net assets		<u><u>2,357,432</u></u>	<u><u>2,356,992</u></u>
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	19	63,958	105,466
Unrestricted funds	19	2,293,474	2,251,526
Total funds		<u><u>2,357,432</u></u>	<u><u>2,356,992</u></u>

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

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

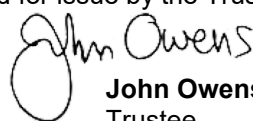
The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Isabelle Mcgrath-Mccutcheon

Trustee

Date: 17 December 2020



John Owens

Trustee

The notes on pages 23 to 39 form part of these financial statements.

DEAFBLIND SCOTLAND
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash used in operating activities	22	35,884	86,380
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends, interests and rents from investments		561	312
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		-	(70,811)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		561	(70,499)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Net cash provided by financing activities		-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		36,445	15,881
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		233,112	217,231
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	23	269,557	233,112

The notes on pages 23 to 39 form part of these financial statements

DEAFBLIND SCOTLAND
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

1. General information

The charitable company is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in the United Kingdom and registered in Scotland (company number SC216974) and is charity registered in Scotland (charity number SC031167). The registered office is 1 Neasham Drive, Kirkintilloch, Glasgow, G66 3FA. The members of the company are the Trustees named on page 1. In the event of the charitable company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charitable company.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

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

2.2 Going concern

The trustees ordinarily review the charities forecasts and projections to ensure that Deafblind Scotland has sufficient resources to enable it to meet its liabilities as they fall due for a period of at least twelve months from the date of signing the financial statements.

In common with other charitable organisations, Deafblind Scotland depends upon income from its donors, grant givers and other supporters in order to ensure its charitable objectives continue to be achieved. The trustees have reviewed and updated the forecasts and projections in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the potential impact upon future income streams and services provided, including the actions that could be taken if income were to reduce. Advantage has been taken of government support and initiatives, and the charity has good relationships with both its funders and suppliers with no reason to believe this will not continue in current and future years. The charity also has a strong cash balance for its size, and the team have adapted and are working well within the Covid-19 restrictions. After taking all these factors into account, the trustees are of the opinion that Deafblind Scotland has and will have adequate financial resources to continue its activities for at least 12 months from when the accounts are approved and hence the accounts are prepared on a going concern basis.

DEAFBLIND SCOTLAND
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.3 Income

All income is recognised once the company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the company has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the company, can be reliably measured.

Grants are included in the Statement of financial activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Statement of financial position. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

2.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, 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 classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the company to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the company's objectives, as well as any associated support costs. Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the company and include project management carried out at Headquarters. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the company and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

2.5 Government grants

Government grants are credited to the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account as the related expenditure is incurred.

DEAFBLIND SCOTLAND
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.6 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the company; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

2.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £15,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

At each reporting date the company assesses whether there is any indication of impairment. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined to be the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. An impairment loss is recognised where the carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Office equipment	- 25% straight line basis
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There is no depreciation charged on heritable property as the residual value of the property is greater than its carrying value.

2.8 Investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Statement of financial position date, unless the value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as 'Gains/(Losses) on investments' in the Statement of financial activities.

2.9 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

2.10 Cash at bank and in hand

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

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.11 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Statement of financial position date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the company anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

2.12 Financial instruments

The company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.13 Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the company to the fund in respect of the year.

2.14 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds 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 are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the company for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

3. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment

The preparation of the financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires the Directors to execute judgement in applying Deafblind Scotland accounting policies. The Directors have reviewed these and concluded there are no areas requiring a higher degree of judgement, or complexity, and no areas where assumptions or estimates are most significant to the financial statements.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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4. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	<i>Total funds 2019 £</i>
Grants				
Blindcraft	-	14,000	14,000	24,000
Scottish Government - Equality Fund	-	39,549	39,549	42,053
Scottish Government Grants	-	13,806	13,806	13,909
People Postcode	-	-	-	20,000
Subtotal detailed disclosure	-	67,355	67,355	99,962
Donations	49,999	2,003	52,002	51,426
Trusts and Legacies	149,405	105,894	255,299	284,660
Grants	39,786	-	39,786	46,165
NHS GG & C SLA	60,000	-	60,000	69,076
Subtotal	299,190	107,897	407,087	451,327
	299,190	175,252	474,442	551,289
<i>Total 2019</i>	353,521	197,768	551,289	

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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5. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Training	9,908	17,884	27,792	17,821
Access to work/ SCVO	10,001	-	10,001	7,954
Guide Communicator fees	793,942	-	793,942	834,016
Service user mileage	33,752	-	33,752	23,172
	<u>847,603</u>	<u>17,884</u>	<u>865,487</u>	<u>882,963</u>
<i>Total 2019</i>	<u><u>881,329</u></u>	<u><u>1,634</u></u>	<u><u>882,963</u></u>	

6. Income from other trading activities

Income from fundraising events

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Fundraising/ Merchandise	7,673	7,673	11,756
	<u>7,673</u>	<u>7,673</u>	<u>11,756</u>
<i>Total 2019</i>	<u><u>11,756</u></u>	<u><u>11,756</u></u>	

Income from non charitable trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Charity Shop	25,658	25,658	27,157
	<u>25,658</u>	<u>25,658</u>	<u>27,157</u>
<i>Total 2019</i>	<u><u>27,157</u></u>	<u><u>27,157</u></u>	

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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7. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	<i>Total funds 2019 £</i>
Bank Interest	561	561	312
<i>Total 2019</i>	312	312	

8. Expenditure on raising funds

Costs of raising voluntary income

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	<i>Total funds 2019 £</i>
Fundraising costs	8,988	8,988	11,180
Field of Dreams costs	-	-	240
Staff costs	55,919	55,919	63,539
	64,907	64,907	74,959
<i>Total 2019</i>	74,959	74,959	

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020**

8. Expenditure on raising funds (continued)

Other trading expenses

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	<i>Total funds 2019 £</i>
Charity trading expenses - Shop	13,888	13,888	9,184
Shop wages	26,484	26,484	29,892
	<u>40,372</u>	<u>40,372</u>	<u>39,076</u>
<i>Total 2019</i>	<u>39,076</u>	<u>39,076</u>	

9. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	<i>Total funds 2019 £</i>
Charitable Activities	1,033,458	234,644	1,268,102	1,327,160
<i>Total 2019</i>	<u>1,153,494</u>	<u>173,666</u>	<u>1,327,160</u>	

10. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2020 £	Support costs 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	<i>Total funds 2019 £</i>
Charitable Activities	1,235,499	32,603	1,268,102	1,327,160
<i>Total 2019</i>	<u>1,301,108</u>	<u>26,052</u>	<u>1,327,160</u>	

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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10. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs

	Activities 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	<i>Total funds 2019 £</i>
Staff costs	954,720	954,720	999,792
Depreciation	21,615	21,615	21,615
Travel	115,250	115,250	119,286
Project Activities	42,410	42,410	26,857
Equipment	18,287	18,287	20,254
Training	5,734	5,734	26,671
Accommodation	42,960	42,960	38,999
Printing, Post and Stationery	10,063	10,063	15,095
Intepreting Costs	(658)	(658)	6,629
General	11,614	11,614	10,757
Professional Fees	8,070	8,070	9,972
Legal Fees	992	992	-
Membership Fees	4,442	4,442	5,181
	<u>1,235,499</u>	<u>1,235,499</u>	<u>1,301,108</u>
<i>Total 2019</i>	<u><u>1,301,108</u></u>	<u><u>1,301,108</u></u>	

Analysis of support costs

	Activities 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	<i>Total funds 2019 £</i>
Governance costs	32,603	32,603	26,052
<i>Total 2019</i>	<u><u>26,052</u></u>	<u><u>26,052</u></u>	

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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11. Auditors' remuneration

	2020	<i>2019</i>
	£	£
Fees payable to the company's auditor for the audit of the company's annual accounts	7,800	<i>7,620</i>

12. Staff costs

	2020	<i>2019</i>
	£	£
Wages and salaries	959,354	<i>1,011,224</i>
Social security costs	63,436	<i>71,144</i>
Other pension costs	14,333	<i>10,855</i>
	1,037,123	<i>1,093,223</i>

The average number of persons employed by the company during the year was as follows:

	2020	<i>2019</i>
	No.	No.
Cost of generating funds	3	<i>3</i>
Charitable activities	41	<i>45</i>
	44	<i>48</i>

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

Total remuneration (including employer NIC and pension contributions) in respect of key management personnel was £144,433 (2019 - £150,671).

13. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2019 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 March 2020, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2019 - £NIL).

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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14. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Office equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 April 2019	2,002,774	86,458	2,089,232
At 31 March 2020	<u>2,002,774</u>	<u>86,458</u>	<u>2,089,232</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2019	-	50,030	50,030
Charge for the year	-	21,615	21,615
At 31 March 2020	<u>-</u>	<u>71,645</u>	<u>71,645</u>
Net book value			
At 31 March 2020	<u>2,002,774</u>	<u>14,813</u>	<u>2,017,587</u>
<i>At 31 March 2019</i>	<u>2,002,774</u>	<u>36,428</u>	<u>2,039,202</u>

15. Fixed asset investments

	Listed Investment s £
Market value	
At 1 of April 2019 and 31 of March 2020	<u>3,086</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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16. Debtors

	2020 £	2019 £
Due within one year		
Operating debtors	105,764	98,940
Prepayments and accrued income	988	11,891
	106,752	110,831
	106,752	110,831

17. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2020 £	2019 £
Trade creditors	10,300	2,486
Other taxation and social security	14,935	15,352
Accruals and deferred income	14,315	11,401
	39,550	29,239
	39,550	29,239

18. Financial instruments

	2020 £	2019 £
Financial assets		
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure	3,086	3,086
	3,086	3,086

Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure comprise of investments.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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19. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2020 £
Unrestricted funds				
Designated funds				
Field of Dreams	11,035	62	-	11,097
General funds				
General Funds	2,240,491	1,180,623	(1,138,737)	2,282,377
Total Unrestricted funds	2,251,526	1,180,685	(1,138,737)	2,293,474
Restricted funds				
Trusts	45,619	139,587	(138,284)	46,922
Blindcraft	24,000	14,000	(24,000)	14,000
Equality Project	15,847	39,549	(52,360)	3,036
People's Postcode	20,000	-	(20,000)	-
	105,466	193,136	(234,644)	63,958
Total of funds	2,356,992	1,373,821	(1,373,381)	2,357,432

Designated Funds

Field of Dreams - Represents monies set aside to fund the new build project.

Restricted Funds

All funds are restricted in respect of the criteria set down by the awarding organisations.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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19. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	<i>Balance at 1 April 2018 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 March 2019 £</i>
Unrestricted funds				
Designated funds				
Field of Dreams	10,595	71,491	(71,051)	11,035
General funds				
General Funds - all funds	2,234,385	1,202,584	(1,196,478)	2,240,491
Total Unrestricted funds	2,244,980	1,274,075	(1,267,529)	2,251,526
Restricted funds				
Trusts	58,195	113,349	(125,925)	45,619
Blindcraft	18,000	24,000	(18,000)	24,000
Equality Project	3,535	42,053	(29,741)	15,847
People's Postcode	-	20,000	-	20,000
	79,730	199,402	(173,666)	105,466
Total of funds	2,324,710	1,473,477	(1,441,195)	2,356,992

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020**

20. Summary of funds

Summary of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2020 £
Designated funds	11,035	62	-	11,097
General funds	2,240,491	1,180,623	(1,138,737)	2,282,377
Restricted funds	105,466	193,136	(234,644)	63,958
	<u>2,356,992</u>	<u>1,373,821</u>	<u>(1,373,381)</u>	<u>2,357,432</u>

Summary of funds - prior year

	<i>Balance at 1 April 2018 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 March 2019 £</i>
Designated funds	10,595	71,491	(71,051)	11,035
General funds	2,234,385	1,202,584	(1,196,478)	2,240,491
Restricted funds	79,730	199,402	(173,666)	105,466
	<u>2,324,710</u>	<u>1,473,477</u>	<u>(1,441,195)</u>	<u>2,356,992</u>

21. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £
Tangible fixed assets	2,017,587	-	2,017,587
Fixed asset investments	3,086	-	3,086
Current assets	312,351	63,958	376,309
Creditors due within one year	(39,550)	-	(39,550)
Total	<u>2,293,474</u>	<u>63,958</u>	<u>2,357,432</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020**

21. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2019 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2019 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2019 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	2,039,202	-	2,039,202
Fixed asset investments	3,086	-	3,086
Current assets	238,477	105,466	343,943
Creditors due within one year	(29,239)	-	(29,239)
Total	<u>2,251,526</u>	<u>105,466</u>	<u>2,356,992</u>

22. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2020 £	2019 £
Net income for the period (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	440	32,282
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	21,615	21,615
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	(561)	(312)
Decrease in debtors	4,079	33,318
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	10,311	(523)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>35,884</u>	<u>86,380</u>

23. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2020 £	2019 £
Cash in hand	269,557	233,112
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>269,557</u>	<u>233,112</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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24. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 April 2019	Cash flows	At 31 March 2020
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	233,112	36,445	269,557
	<u>233,112</u>	<u>36,445</u>	<u>269,557</u>

25. Contingent liabilities

As at the year end date the trustees consider that the charity has a contingent liability in relation to the retention amount payable on the freehold property that was completed in 2018. As a result of negotiations over snagging issues a final settlement is still to be agreed and the trustees currently believe that the final estimation of this figure is not able to be reasonably estimated.

26. Pension commitments

The company operates a defined contributions pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the company to the fund and amounted to £14,333 (2019 - £10,855).

27. Operating lease commitments

At 31 March 2020 the company had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2020	2019
	£	£
Not later than 1 year	2,178	3,462
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	-	428
	<u>2,178</u>	<u>3,890</u>

28. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year.

29. Controlling party

In the opinion of the Trustees, there is no ultimate controlling party.