Visionary

Visionary

Linking Local Sight Loss Charities

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2026

Visionary is the working name of Visionary - Linking Local Sight Loss Charities, a CIO registered in England and Wales as a charity (1135360), registered in Scotland as a charity (SC044163)

Visionary

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Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisors

Registered charity name	Visionary – Linking Local Sight Loss Charities
Registered charity no.	1135360
OSCR charity no.	SC044163

Principal Address
c/o Royal Blind
2a Robertson Avenue
Edinburgh
EH11 1PZ

Visionary Trustee Board

Mark Upton	(Chair)
Tom Harte	(Vice Chair)
Philip Mills	(Chair of Finance Committee)
Craig Spalding	
Keith Eales	
Lowri Bartrum	(co-opted May 2025, appointed November 2025)
Owen Williams	(retired November 2025)
Sarah French	
Shahina Pardhan	

Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisors (continued)

Finance Committee

Philip Mills (Chair)
Mark Upton
Owen Williams (retired November 2025)
Tom Harte
Fiona Sandford (CEO)

Senior Management Team

Chief Executive Officer	Fiona Sandford
Operations Director	Amy Pearman

Bankers

National Westminster
Cathedral Square
Peterborough
PE1 1XH

Independent Examiner

Brett Nicholls Associates
Herbert House (3rd Floor)
24 Herbert Street
Glasgow
G20 6NB

The Trustees' Annual Report

The trustees present their annual report and the financial statements of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Objectives and Activities

Visionary's charitable object is 'to promote the relief of persons who are blind or visually impaired'. The trustees have paid due regard to Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and are confident that Visionary's aims and activities continue to meet the requirements of public benefit regulation.

Across the UK, blind and partially sighted people continue to face significant barriers to independence, inclusion and opportunity. Access to employment, rehabilitation, transport, technology, health services and community support remains inconsistent, while increasing financial pressures and reductions in statutory provision continue to impact quality of life. At the same time, local sight loss charities are facing growing demand for support within an increasingly challenging funding and operating environment.

Visionary exists to strengthen the organisations working at the heart of local communities so they can continue to provide vital support to blind and partially sighted people. We believe a strong, connected and collaborative sight loss sector is essential if people with sight loss are to access the opportunities, services and support they need to live independently and realise their aspirations.

By working alongside local sight loss charities, national organisations, external partners and people with lived experience, Visionary helps create a stronger and more resilient sector. We connect organisations, encourage collaboration, support leadership and share practical knowledge and expertise across the network. We also help ensure that local voices, experiences and challenges are reflected within national conversations and sector developments.

Our ambition is to inspire change and create opportunities that improve the lives of blind and partially sighted people across the UK. We want blind and partially sighted people to have greater choice, independence and opportunity; for local organisations to have the confidence, knowledge and support to thrive; and for the sight loss sector to work more collaboratively and effectively to influence positive change.

Visionary's long-term goals are that our members have the knowledge, skills and relationships needed to strengthen their organisations and services; that Visionary continues to be recognised as a trusted connector and convenor within the sector; and that local organisations are supported to influence wider systems, policy and practice through collective action and shared expertise. We also work with partners and sponsors to promote accessibility, inclusion and eye health more widely.

Everything we do is shaped around four strategic priorities:

- **Connect** – bringing people and organisations together to strengthen relationships and reduce isolation across the sector.
- **Develop** – creating opportunities for collaboration, learning and joint initiatives with local and national partners.
- **Share** – encouraging the exchange of knowledge, expertise and practical experience to strengthen services and leadership.
- **Inspire** – amplifying member voices, championing innovation and encouraging positive change across the sector.

Our approach is guided by a clear set of principles. We aim to be a trusted organisation known for integrity, bravery, creativity and innovation. We are proactive, member-led and committed to delivering a clear and relevant offer which responds to the changing needs of the sector.

The Visionary Promise sets out how we work with our members and partners. We strive to empower organisations to deliver the best possible services with and for blind and partially sighted people, providing professional support, guidance and expertise in an open, honest and collaborative way. We are committed to communicating clearly and accessibly, engaging with people respectfully and efficiently, and listening carefully to feedback so that our work continues to evolve and improve.

Our values of integrity, trust, creativity and bravery continue to underpin everything we do.

How We Achieve Our Objectives

Visionary's Activities and Purpose

Visionary achieves its aims by supporting local sight loss charities that deliver direct services to blind and partially sighted people in communities across the UK. Our role is to strengthen the organisations at the heart of local support, by creating connections, developing leadership and skills, sharing knowledge and encouraging collaboration across the sector.

We work closely with UK-wide sight loss charities, building stronger relationships between local and national organisations so that expertise, insight and learning can flow more effectively across the sector. Through these partnerships, we help create opportunities for joint working, shared initiatives and more coordinated approaches to the challenges facing blind and partially sighted people.

As part of our commitment to representing a UK-wide network of local organisations, Visionary plays an active role in national partnerships and strategic groups, including the Vision Partnership. Through this work, we help ensure that the experiences, priorities and expertise of local organisations inform wider sector discussions, influencing shared priorities and future developments.

Visionary's membership is made up of 107 local sight loss charities from across the UK. Each member organisation nominates representatives who participate in and vote at our Annual General Meetings, helping to shape the direction, priorities and future development of our collective work.

Achievement and Performance

We are incredibly proud of what Visionary has achieved over the past year with our small and committed team, working alongside the collective expertise, energy and resilience of our members and national partners.

Across the UK, life is becoming increasingly difficult for blind and partially sighted people. Access to employment, transport, benefits, rehabilitation, technology and social opportunities continues to present significant barriers, while inconsistent local provision means too many people experience a postcode lottery in the support available to them.

At the same time, local sight loss charities are facing unprecedented pressure. Demand for services is increasing, funding environments remain challenging, and many organisations are operating with stretched resources whilst trying to respond to increasingly complex needs.

Yet despite these challenges, the sight loss sector continues to demonstrate remarkable expertise, creativity, compassion and determination. Throughout 2025/26, Visionary has continued to play an important role in strengthening this collective effort by connecting organisations, amplifying local voices, supporting leadership and creating opportunities for organisations to learn from one another.

Everything we deliver continues to be shaped by the experiences, priorities and challenges of the organisations we support. By listening carefully to members and responding quickly to emerging issues, we ensure our work remains grounded in the realities of frontline service delivery.

Visionary exists because no single organisation can solve the challenges facing the sight loss sector alone. Smaller organisations may struggle to access specialist knowledge, capacity or influence, whilst larger organisations cannot always fully understand the realities of local delivery. By bringing organisations together, sharing expertise and creating opportunities for collaboration, Visionary helps strengthen the whole sector.

Throughout the year, we have continued to create spaces where organisations can connect openly, share challenges honestly and develop practical solutions together. Whether through our peer support forums, our regular country and regional groups, leadership programmes, national partnerships or our annual conference, Visionary continues to provide a trusted space where organisations feel heard, supported and less isolated.

Our work this year has also reinforced the importance of lived experience, collaboration and collective learning. From developing new leadership opportunities for professionals with lived experience of sight loss, to strengthening engagement with NHS systems and supporting national

conversations around rehabilitation and post-clinical support, Visionary has continued to act as a trusted connector and convenor for the sector.

Highlights from 2025/26 include:

- Delivering a wide-ranging programme of 112 online sessions, peer support forums, leadership events and learning opportunities covering themes including rehabilitation, AI and technology, fundraising, governance, NHS engagement, inclusion and organisational development. These events attracted 802 attendances.
- Launching A Space of Our Own, a new project funded by Fight for Sight, developed in partnership with MyVision Oxfordshire and Vision Support, creating dedicated peer support and leadership spaces for professionals with lived experience of sight loss.
- Continuing to strengthen leadership across the network through our Creating Cohesion leadership programme and masterclass series, supporting 30 existing and emerging leaders to navigate change, build confidence and strengthen organisational resilience.
- Supporting cross-sector collaboration through Vision Partnership activity, including work focused on rehabilitation, post-clinical support and strengthening links between local and national organisations.
- Hosting another successful Visionary Annual Conference, bringing together 221 delegates from across the UK sight loss sector for two days of learning, networking and collaboration.
- Expanding opportunities for members to connect with external expertise through partnerships with organisations including Costello Medical, Motive Agency, the LTA, Rehabilitation Workers Professional Network and Vision Collaborative Scotland.
- Continuing to strengthen regional and country networks by organising and facilitating 24 in person and online meetings across the UK, ensuring local organisations have opportunities to share challenges, exchange ideas and support one another.
- Provided 378 one-to-one support interactions, offering bespoke advice, introductions and solutions to both local and national organisations.

- Welcomed 25 external experts to share their insights across our network, enriching our training sessions and helping members explore new ideas and approaches.

These achievements reflect our strategic priorities to connect, develop, share and inspire. By remaining member-led and values-driven, Visionary continues to strengthen the organisations supporting blind and partially sighted people across the UK.

2025/26 Performance

Introduction

The 2025/26 financial year has been one of collaboration, growth and continued sector leadership for Visionary.

Working alongside our members and national partners, we have continued to strengthen the local sight loss sector by creating opportunities for peer support, leadership development, knowledge exchange and strategic collaboration.

Throughout the year, our work has been shaped by the increasingly difficult environment facing both blind and partially sighted people and the organisations supporting them. Increasing demand for services, workforce pressures, financial uncertainty and ongoing changes across health and social care systems continue to place strain on local sight loss charities.

At the same time, organisations across the sector continue to demonstrate innovation, resilience and a deep commitment to the communities they support. Visionary's role is to help harness and strengthen that collective expertise.

As a trusted connector and convenor, Visionary brings together local organisations, national charities, external experts and people with lived experience to share learning, strengthen relationships and shape future developments. We create opportunities for organisations to work smarter together, ensuring knowledge, experience and practical solutions are shared across the sector.

Our work continues to demonstrate that when organisations collaborate, the whole sector becomes stronger. Local charities gain access to expertise,

support and networks that might otherwise be unavailable to them, whilst national organisations benefit from stronger understanding of local realities and lived experience.

Through regular engagement with members, regional representatives, peer forums, consultations and events, we have continued to ensure our work remains practical, responsive and member-led.

This report highlights some of the key achievements and themes from 2025/26.

Annual Conference

The Visionary Annual Conference continues to be a flagship event for the sight loss sector and remains one of the most important opportunities for organisations to connect, collaborate and learn from one another.

The 2025 conference welcomed more than 221 delegates representing organisations from across the UK sight loss sector, including local charities, national partners, health professionals, trustees, technology providers and external stakeholders. We were particularly pleased to welcome a high number of first-time attendees, demonstrating the growing reach and relevance of the conference.

Across two days, delegates took part in keynote discussions, workshops, panels and networking opportunities, all focused on the issues currently shaping the sector. Themes included AI and emerging technology, NHS engagement, inclusion, leadership, children and young people's services, fundraising, impact measurement and partnership working.

A defining feature of the conference continues to be the openness and honesty of the discussions. Delegates consistently highlighted the value of hearing real experiences from peers, learning from organisations facing similar challenges and having space for genuine conversation rather than formal presentations.

The conference also continued to play a significant role in strengthening relationships across the sector. Delegates described leaving feeling more connected, less isolated and more confident to introduce changes within their own organisations.

Importantly, the impact of the conference extends far beyond the two-day event itself. Feedback gathered throughout the year demonstrated that delegates have gone on to strengthen NHS relationships, develop new partnerships, explore the use of AI within their organisations, improve governance arrangements and establish new income-generating opportunities as a direct result of conference learning and connections.

The exhibition element of the conference also continued to grow, with exhibitors highlighting the quality of conversations, opportunities to develop relationships and the collaborative atmosphere of the event.

The Visionary Annual Conference remains a powerful example of how bringing people together creates long-term impact across the sight loss sector.

‘A Space of Our Own’

During 2025/26, Visionary secured funding from Fight for Sight to develop and launch ‘A Space of Our Own’, a new project building on the success of our Making Lived Experience Matter work.

Developed in partnership with Visionary members MyVision Oxfordshire and Vision Support, the project focuses on creating accessible online peer support and leadership spaces for professionals with lived experience of sight loss.

The project has already demonstrated significant early impact. During the year, the partnership developed facilitator training, online facilitation resources and a toolkit which has already been used more widely across the Visionary network. The project also supported the development of training around managing difficult online conversations, helping build confidence and capability across the membership.

The launch of the project highlighted the strong appetite for spaces where people with lived experience can connect openly, share experiences and influence change within the sector. Interest in the podcast element of the project exceeded available places, demonstrating the demand for authentic conversations and lived experience-led discussion.

‘A Space of Our Own’ reflects Visionary’s ongoing commitment to embedding lived experience within leadership, service development and sector culture. It also demonstrates the value of collaboration between local organisations working together to develop sustainable approaches that strengthen the wider sector.

Leadership Development and Masterclasses

Throughout the year, Visionary continued to invest in leadership development across the network through our Creating Cohesion leadership programme and a series of targeted masterclasses attended by 30 leaders, many of whom have lived experience of visual impairment.

Leadership sessions explored themes including leading through change, organisational culture, resilience, networking, strategy development and confidence building. Participants consistently highlighted the value of peer support and the opportunity to step away from day-to-day operational pressures to reflect on leadership practice.

Alongside this, our masterclass programme responded directly to issues raised by members. Sessions focused on media engagement, AI, NHS engagement, political engagement, inclusion and organisational development.

A particular strength of the programme has been the combination of external expertise alongside member-led learning. Many sessions were facilitated by Visionary members sharing practical experiences and approaches developed within their own organisations.

This approach reflects Visionary’s belief that expertise already exists within the network and that creating opportunities to share learning strengthens the sector as a whole.

Rehabilitation and Post Clinical Support

Rehabilitation and post-clinical support have continued to be important areas of focus throughout the year.

Working alongside Guide Dogs, RNIB, Rehabilitation Workers Professional Network, Vision Collaborative Scotland and other partners, Visionary has played an active role in strengthening collaboration and strategic discussion around rehabilitation services across the UK.

This has included supporting the re-establishment of the Vision Partnership Post Clinical Group, contributing to discussions around workforce challenges, rehabilitation pathways and gaps in evidence and provision.

Visionary has also continued to support the dissemination of rehabilitation workforce research and create opportunities for practitioners and organisations to connect through peer forums and sector discussions.

Through our links with Vision Collaborative Scotland, members have also been able to learn from innovative approaches being developed in Scotland to address rehabilitation workforce pressures and strengthen collaboration across the sector.

This work reflects Visionary's role in ensuring that local expertise and frontline experiences inform wider national conversations and strategic developments.

Strengthening Sector Collaboration and Peer Support

Throughout 2025/26, Visionary has continued to create spaces where organisations can support one another, share challenges honestly and develop collective solutions.

Our peer support forums for fundraisers, trustees, counsellors and rehabilitation professionals have all continued to grow and develop during the year. Feedback consistently demonstrates the value of these spaces in reducing isolation, building confidence and creating opportunities for shared problem-solving.

Visionary's country and regional groups have also continued to play a vital role in strengthening relationships between local organisations. These groups create trusted environments where leaders can openly discuss challenges, share learning and identify opportunities for collaboration.

During the year, Visionary also continued to strengthen relationships with national partners and external organisations, helping members access specialist expertise, new ideas and wider sector opportunities.

Examples included work with Costello Medical on Social Return on Investment, Motive Agency on social media and communications, and partnerships supporting NHS engagement and innovation.

How Do We Communicate With Our Members?

Effective communication remains central to Visionary's role as a connector, convenor and trusted source of support within the sight loss sector. In a challenging and fast-changing environment, timely information, shared learning and trusted networks are more important than ever. We work hard to ensure members feel informed, connected and supported, helping organisations save time, reduce duplication and focus their limited resources on supporting blind and partially sighted people.

Throughout the year, we shared 1,061 articles, resources, opportunities and updates with members and partners, covering topics including funding, policy, technology, leadership, governance, rehabilitation, accessibility and sector developments. Members consistently tell us that this information sharing is one of the most valuable aspects of being part of Visionary, helping them stay informed and connected to wider sector conversations.

Our website continues to be an important source of information and support, attracting more than 30,124 visits during the year. The Knowledge Hub within the members' area was accessed over 450 times, reflecting its value as a trusted source of practical tools, resources, guidance and shared learning developed specifically for the sight loss sector.

Our weekly newsletter remains a key communication channel, keeping more than 775 subscribers up to date with sector news, funding opportunities, events, policy developments and examples of innovation and good practice from across the network.

During the year, we also continued to evolve our social media approach in response to changing trends and audience engagement. Following our decision to cease using X/Twitter in December 2024, we established a presence on Bluesky, whilst continuing to strengthen our activity across LinkedIn. LinkedIn in particular continues to grow steadily, with increasing

engagement from leaders, professionals, partners and people with lived experience from across the sight loss sector.

Across all social media platforms, Visionary's content reached 83,416 people during the reporting period, helping us share learning, amplify member voices and raise awareness of issues affecting blind and partially sighted people and the organisations supporting them.

Together, this reflects an evolving and responsive communications approach which helps ensure Visionary remains a relevant, accessible and trusted source of information, connection and sector insight.

How Do We Know Visionary Is Worthwhile, Useful And Relevant?

At Visionary, we believe strong connections, shared learning and collective action create a stronger sight loss sector. Feedback from our members, partners, trustees and wider network consistently shows that Visionary continues to play a vital and valued role in helping organisations feel more connected, informed, supported and confident in their work.

Our consultation work during 2025 confirmed that Visionary is not simply viewed as a useful network, but as an essential source of support, knowledge and sector leadership at a time when many organisations are operating under increasing pressure. Members told us that Visionary helps them navigate complexity, reduce isolation, strengthen leadership and access opportunities that would otherwise be difficult to reach.

When asked which Visionary services they found most useful, members consistently highlighted our online sessions, information sharing, Knowledge Hub and annual conference. Opportunities to connect with peers and learn from other organisations across the UK were also seen as highly valuable. Members told us these services not only provide practical support and knowledge, but genuinely help organisations think differently, strengthen services and respond more confidently to change.

The feedback also reinforced the importance of Visionary's role as a trusted connector and convenor within the sector. Members described Visionary as a space where organisations can share challenges honestly, ask for help and

learn from one another without judgement. Many highlighted the value of being connected to people facing similar issues, particularly leaders and smaller organisations who can otherwise feel isolated within their roles.

Importantly, members told us that Visionary helps create a stronger and more collaborative sector. Organisations spoke about developing meaningful partnerships, accessing expertise, improving strategic planning, strengthening governance and building confidence through engagement with Visionary. Others highlighted the role Visionary has played in helping them transition into new service areas, develop staff and leadership skills, strengthen fundraising approaches and increase their profile within the sector.

The consultation also demonstrated the importance of Visionary's role in ensuring local organisations have a voice within wider national discussions. Members consistently highlighted the value of having an organisation that represents local perspectives, strengthens collaboration and helps ensure smaller charities are not excluded from sector conversations or overshadowed by larger organisations.

When asked what would change if Visionary did not exist, members described a sector that would feel more fragmented, isolated and disconnected. Many spoke about the loss of trusted peer support, reduced opportunities for collaboration and a weakening of the collective voice of local sight loss organisations. Others highlighted the practical impact, including reduced access to information, expertise, learning opportunities and sector insight.

What comes through most strongly in the feedback is the value members place on feeling part of something bigger than their own organisation. Visionary has been described as "supportive", "inclusive", "transformational" and "a well-connected safety net". Members spoke about the sense of community, encouragement and shared purpose that Visionary creates across the network.

The feedback also reinforces Visionary's unique position within the sight loss sector. We are trusted by local organisations, respected by national partners and valued for our ability to bring people together, facilitate honest conversations and strengthen collaboration across the sector.

We are proud to help build a more connected, confident and resilient sight loss sector and remain committed to ensuring local organisations continue to

feel supported, represented and able to influence positive change for blind and partially sighted people across the UK.

Visionary's Impact

Visionary's impact is felt through the strength, confidence and resilience of the organisations within our network and, ultimately, through the experiences of the blind and partially sighted people they support every day. By connecting organisations, sharing expertise and creating opportunities for collaboration, Visionary helps local sight loss charities strengthen services, develop new ideas and respond more effectively to the changing needs of their communities.

Many of our members are operating in an increasingly difficult environment, facing growing demand alongside financial pressures, workforce challenges and rising complexity across health and social care systems. In this context, Visionary provides more than information and networking; we provide trusted relationships, practical support and a sense of collective strength. Members consistently tell us that Visionary helps them feel less isolated, more informed and better equipped to navigate change.

Through peer support forums, leadership programmes, regional networks, conferences and specialist sessions, organisations are able to learn from one another, share challenges openly and access practical solutions developed by peers facing similar issues. This shared learning helps organisations avoid duplication, strengthen leadership, improve governance, build confidence and develop more effective services for blind and partially sighted people.

The impact of this can be seen in many different ways. Members have told us that Visionary has helped them strengthen relationships with NHS and Integrated Care Board colleagues, improve fundraising approaches, introduce new services, develop partnerships and increase the confidence of staff and leaders. Smaller organisations in particular have described Visionary as a vital source of encouragement, expertise and professional support that would otherwise be difficult to access.

Visionary also plays an important role in amplifying the voice of local organisations within wider national discussions. By bringing together local

insight, lived experience and frontline expertise, we help ensure that national conversations and sector developments remain grounded in the realities facing blind and partially sighted people and the organisations supporting them. Members regularly tell us that Visionary gives them “a seat at the table” and helps smaller charities feel heard, valued and connected to a wider movement for change.

Importantly, the impact of Visionary extends beyond organisations and into local communities across the UK. When local sight loss charities are stronger, more connected and better supported, blind and partially sighted people are more likely to access timely advice, rehabilitation, peer support, technology, advocacy and community-based services. Through strengthening the sector as a whole, Visionary helps create better outcomes, greater opportunities and stronger support for people living with sight loss.

Financial Review

Overall, the charity generated a net surplus of £42,696 in the financial year ending 31 March 2026 (2025-Restated: deficit £40,942) with income of £387,032 (2025-Restated: £376,947) and expenditure of £344,336 (2025-Restated: £417,889).

On 31 March 2026, total reserves stood at £210,647 (2025: £167,951) with £150,647 of these being unrestricted (2025: £86,940) and £60,000 being restricted (2025: £81,011).

Reserves Policy

Our policy is to maintain reserves at a level between three and six months of committed running costs. On 31 March 2026, total reserves stood at £210,647 (2025: £167,951) with £150,647 of these being unrestricted (2025: £86,940) and £60,000 being restricted (2025: £81,011). The restricted reserves include £60,000 donated by Thomas Pocklington Trust in January 2020 to supplement our funds. Unrestricted funds at 31 March 2026 totalled £150,647, equivalent to just over five months of running costs, meaning the trustees are satisfied the reserves policy has been met.

Looking Forward

As we look ahead, Visionary remains committed to supporting a strong, connected and sustainable sight loss sector. The challenges facing blind and partially sighted people, and the organisations supporting them, continue to grow in both scale and complexity. Increasing demand, financial uncertainty, workforce pressures and ongoing changes across health and social care systems are creating an increasingly difficult operating environment. Smaller organisations in particular continue to face significant pressures around capacity, governance, fundraising and workforce resilience.

At the same time, we believe there is a significant opportunity for greater collaboration, stronger collective influence and more coordinated approaches across the sector. Collaboration, shared learning and strong leadership have never been more important.

Building on the learning from this year, the work of our Business Planning Task and Finish Group and the development of our wider case for support, we will continue to evolve Visionary's offer so that it remains practical, responsive and shaped by the priorities of our members. Feedback from our business planning consultation has reinforced the importance of practical operational support, stronger networking opportunities, collaboration, mentoring and shared learning.

Over the coming year, we will continue developing our programme of masterclasses, online sessions and peer support opportunities, focusing on the issues members tell us matter most. These include employment, AI and technology, NHS engagement, leadership, organisational resilience, governance, wellbeing, fundraising and inclusion. We will also continue to explore opportunities to strengthen shared learning and benchmarking, support organisations to demonstrate and measure their impact more effectively, as well as improve understanding of gaps, duplication and emerging need across the sector.

Leadership and workforce development will remain an important part of our work. Through Creating Cohesion and our wider leadership support, we will continue to provide trusted spaces where people can reflect, build confidence, share challenges and learn from peers across the UK. We remain committed to supporting leaders at all levels and helping organisations develop the resilience and confidence needed to navigate uncertainty.

Developing and amplifying lived experience leadership will also remain a significant priority. Building on our Making Lived Experience Matter work and

the development of ‘A Space of Our Own’, we will continue creating opportunities for professionals with lived experience of sight loss to connect, influence and shape the future of the sector. We recognise the unique insight, expertise and leadership that lived experience brings and will continue working to embed this more deeply across our own work and the wider sight loss sector.

We will continue to strengthen opportunities for collaboration and shared problem-solving between local organisations and build stronger relationships with national charities, health systems and external partners. Our role within national partnerships and sector-wide conversations will remain important, ensuring that the experiences and expertise of local sight loss organisations influence wider policy, systems and service development. This will include continued work around rehabilitation, NHS engagement, accessibility, inclusion and workforce challenges.

Planning is already underway for the next Visionary Annual Conference, alongside the continued development of our wider conference, masterclass and peer support offer. The conference remains one of the most valued opportunities for the sector to come together, and we will continue creating a space where organisations can connect openly, share learning honestly and develop practical ideas and partnerships that strengthen support for blind and partially sighted people.

Alongside our work to support the sector, we remain focused on Visionary’s own long-term sustainability. Diversifying our income, developing strategic partnerships and securing investment in new and emerging areas of work will be essential if we are to continue responding effectively to the needs of our members and the growing pressures across the sector.

We are deeply aware of the strain being experienced by charities across the UK, particularly local sight loss organisations. Against this backdrop, Visionary will continue to be a trusted source of support, knowledge, insight and connection. We will stand alongside our members, champion their work, strengthen relationships across the sector and amplify local voices within national discussions.

Local sight loss charities play a vital role in communities across the UK. With sustained support and investment in Visionary, there is an opportunity to do even more to strengthen these organisations, increase collaboration and collective influence, and ensure their knowledge and expertise help shape the future of the sight loss sector.

Together with our members and partners, we will continue working towards a stronger, more connected and more resilient sight loss sector, helping to ensure blind and partially sighted people across the UK can access the support, opportunities and services they need.

Structure, Governance and Management

The legal and administrative information set out on pages 3-4. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the constitution and the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Full membership of Visionary is open to voluntary organisations that operate at a local level and comply with the criteria of membership. In addition, there is a partnership category for UK wide sight loss organisations that form part of the network.

Visionary's trustee board (the board) is responsible for strategic leadership and oversight as outlined in the constitution.

Visionary trustees are recruited from Visionary members and external sources where a distinct skill benefit will be gained by trusteeship. Elections are held annually with full members voting in person at the AGM or by proxy. The board deals with trustee recruitment and interviews for new board members in between AGMs. In this case, trustees must stand down at the next AGM and submit themselves for election by members. Trustees are appointed for periods of three years and rotated in accordance with the terms of the constitution. After a three-year period, trustees may stand for a further two terms. The Chair and Vice-Chair are elected by the board.

Visionary is managed by not less than three trustees who form the board. They meet no less than quarterly. As of 31 March 2026, there are 8 trustees, 4 of whom bring their personal experience of sight loss to the board, in addition to their other skills. Business planning and risk management processes are undertaken at board level.

The Finance Committee reports to the Board. This committee provides independent advice and assurance on risk, control, and finance matters. The Finance Committee is made up of no less than two trustees (including the Chair) and the CEO.

Trustees undergo full induction regarding the Visionary objectives and local charity environment. They are encouraged to take an interest in a particular aspect of the work of the charity. Trustees give of their time freely and do not receive any remuneration in relation to their roles (other than reimbursement of their expenses).

The CEO is responsible for Visionary's day-to-day operations and the leadership of the organisation and is supported by members of the Visionary team. The CEO is further supported by the trustees and the Members Consultative Group which is made up of regional representatives from local sight loss charities who regularly meet with the Visionary team, informing them of the needs, aspirations and views of members in their regions.

The trustees have established systems of internal controls with the CEO which are designed to provide reasonable but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- a strategic plan and an annual budget set by the trustees.
- regular consideration by the Finance Committee and trustees of financial results, variances from budgets, cashflow forecasts and non-financial performance indicators.
- identification and management of risks.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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

The laws applicable to charities in England and Wales and Scotland require the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the CIO for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS102).
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the CIO and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with Charities Act 2011, The Charities (Accounts and Reporting) Regulations 2008, 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 CIO 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 information of which the charity's independent examiner is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken, in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the independent examiners are aware of that information.

This report was approved by the trustees on 8 September 2026.



Mark Upton – Chairperson

Principal Address:
c/o Royal Blind
2a Robertson Avenue
Edinburgh
EH11 1PZ

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Visionary – Linking Local Sight Loss Charities

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Visionary (Charity Number: 1135360, OSCR Registration Number: SC044163) for the year ended 31 March 2026 which are set out on pages 28-44.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the Charities Act 2011. The charity trustees consider that the audit requirements of Regulation 10(1) (a) to (c) of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 do not apply. The charity is preparing accrued accounts and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 44(1) (c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent examiner's report

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (the 2006 Accounts

examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention;

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

    - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act, Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations (as amended) and section 130 of the Charities Act 2011
    - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations (as amended) and the requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 of the Charities Act 2011

have not been met, or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



David Nicholls FCCA
Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants
Brett Nicholls Associates
Herbert House
24 Herbert Street
Glasgow G20 6NB

Date: 9 September 2026

Statement of Financial Activities

	Note	2026 Unrestricted Funds £	2026 Restricted Funds £	2026 Total Funds £
Income and endowments				
Donations and legacies	2	200,000	58,019	258,019
Income from charitable activities	3	71,115	23,676	94,791
Other Trading Activities	4	34,222	-	34,222
Total Income		**305,337**	**81,695**	**387,032**
Expenditure				
Charitable Activities	5	(241,630)	(102,706)	(344,336)
Total Expenditure		(241,630)	(102,706)	(344,336)
Net income/expenditure for the year		**63,707**	**(21,011)**	**42,696**
Reconciliation of funds				
Funds brought forward		86,940	81,011	167,951
Funds carried forward		**150,647**	**60,000**	**210,647**

Statement of Financial Activities – prior year

	Note	Restated-2025 Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Income and endowments				
Donations and legacies	2	143,533	95,624	239,157
Income from charitable activities	3	32,629	55,942	88,571
Other Trading Activities	4	49,219	-	49,219
Total Income		**225,381**	**151,566**	**376,947**
Expenditure				
Charitable Activities	5	(283,245)	(134,644)	(417,889)
Total Expenditure		**(283,245)**	**(134,644)**	**(417,889)**
Net income/expenditure for the year		**(57,864)**	**16,922**	**(40,942)**
Reconciliation of funds				
Funds brought forward		144,804	64,089	208,893
Funds carried forward		**86,940**	**81,011**	**167,951**

Balance Sheet at 31 March 2026

	Note	2026	2025
		£	£
Current Assets			
Debtors	10	35,993	13,000
Cash at bank		252,740	176,402
Total current assets		**288,733**	**189,402**
Creditors: Amounts due within one year	11	(78,086)	(21,451)
		(78,086)	**(21,451)**
Net Current Assets/ Net Assets		**210,647**	**167,951**
Funds of Charity	12		
Restricted funds		60,000	81,011
Unrestricted funds		150,647	86,940
		210,647	**167,951**

The trustees approved these accounts on 8 September 2026.



Mark Upton – Chairperson

General Information

The charity is a public benefit entity and CIO registered in England and Wales (1135360) and in Scotland (OSCR Registration Number: SC044163). The principal address is 2a Robertson Avenue, Edinburgh, EH11 1PZ.

Statement of Compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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 (Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

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

Going concern

The accounts have been prepared on the going concern basis as, after making enquiries, the trustees have reasonable assurance that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The charity is heavily reliant on the continued support of Thomas Pocklington Trust. A funding agreement is in place for two years from April 2025.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements may require management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported.

The estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. No material estimates or judgements were made during the year.

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Income

Voluntary income including donations, gifts and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Such income is only deferred when the donor specifies it must be used in future accounting periods or the donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement. This includes capital grants.

Incoming resources from charitable activities includes income received under contract or where entitlement to grant funding is subject to specific performance conditions. This income is recognised as the related services are provided and there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can

be measured with sufficient reliability. Income is deferred when the amounts received are in advance of the performance of the service or event to which they relate.

Donations received in kind and not in cash are brought into the statement of financial activities at a value which the trustees consider would represent the cost to the charity if these items were purchased. The income is accounted for under donations and the appropriate expenditure under resources expended.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates.

Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

Other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Netting off of income and expenditure

It is not the policy of the charity to show incoming resources net of expenditure.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for restricted purposes.

Transfers from restricted to unrestricted funds are made when the expending of the funds has fulfilled the terms of the restriction. Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash 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.

Taxation

Visionary: Linking Local Sight Loss Charities is a charity within the meaning of Section 467 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 of Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 and section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that such income or gains are applied for charitable purposes only.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits:

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

2. Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025/26 Total £	2024/25 Total £
Donations				
Donations	-	-	-	325
Pocklington Trust (in kind)	-	-	-	28,208
Grants Receivables				
Pocklington Trust	200,000	-	200,000	115,000
Vision Foundation	-	-	-	4,000
Specsavers	-	14,830	14,830	16,700
Fight for Sight	-	14,360	14,360	-
Guide Dogs	-	1,995	1,995	-
RNIB Pathways	-	-	-	24,924
FM Muller Trust	-	26,834	26,834	50,000
Total	**200,000**	**58,019**	**258,019**	**239,157**

3. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025/26 Total £	Restated 2024/25 Total £
Conference income	71,115	23,676	94,791	88,314
Shared Purchasing	-	-	-	257
Total	**71,115**	**23,676**	**94,791**	**88,571**

4. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025/26 Total £	2024/25 Total £
Partnership fees	7,694	-	7,694	26,141
Other membership fees	23,035	-	23,035	19,290
Bank Interest	2,493	-	2,493	3,788
Other Income	1,000	-	1,000	-
Total	**34,222**	**-**	**34,222**	**49,219**

£23,082 relating to income from Partnership fees was deferred, as this amount relates to the 2026/27 financial year. The reduction in fees recognised does not reflect a decline in the number of members, rather, it reflects the fact that these fees cover two financial years, with the relevant portion deferred accordingly.

5. Cost of charitable activities by fund

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Year ended 31 March 2026			
Information and co-ordination	196,650	102,706	299,356
Support costs	44,980	-	44,980
Total	**241,630**	**102,706**	**344,336**
Year ended 31 March 2025- Restated			
Information and co-ordination	240,979	134,644	375,623
Support costs	42,266	-	42,266
Total	**283,245**	**134,644**	**417,889**

6. Costs of charitable activities by activity type

	Direct Costs	Projects	Support Costs	Total
	£	£	£	£
Year ended 31 March 2026				
Information and co-ordination	220,327	79,029	44,980	344,336
Total	**220,327**	**79,029**	**44,980**	**344,336**

Year ended 31 March 2025-Restated	Direct Costs	Projects	Support Costs	Total
Information and co-ordination	311,114	64,509	42,266	417,889
Total	**311,114**	**64,509**	**42,266**	**417,889**

7. Analysis of Support Costs

	2025/26	2024/25
	£	£
General office costs	41,820	9,037
Governance costs	3,160	5,021
Management Charge	-	28,208
Total	**44,980**	**42,266**

The Donation in Kind from Pocklington Trust includes administrative and overhead services to Visionary for the financial year 24/25, such as finance and office costs. These have been valued and the in-kind expenditure included as support costs.

8. Governance costs

	2025/26	2024/25
	£	£
Preparation & Independent Examination of Accounts	2,780	4,020
Trustees Costs	380	951
Other	-	50
Total	**3,160**	**5,021**

9. Staff Costs

	2025/26	2024/25
	£	£
Gross salaries	189,395	221,695
Employer's National Insurance	14,907	19,318
Employer's Pension Contribution	9,549	11,085
Health Insurance	959	1,006
Total Staff Costs	**214,810**	**253,104**

	Headcount	Headcount
The average number of staff during the year was:	4	5

The number of employees whose annual remuneration (excluding pension and NI) was £60,000 or more were:

Band	2025/26	2024/25
£70,000 to £79,999	1	-
£80,000 to £89,999	-	1
£90,000 to £99,999	-	-

Included within staff cost is remuneration (including NI & pension) to key management personnel amounting to:

Total remuneration	£89,059	£101,632

Disclosure on redundancy and termination payments

There were no redundancy and termination payments in the year (2025 £Nil)

10. Debtors

	2025/26	2024/25
	£	£
Debtors	33,060	-
Prepayments and accrued income	2,933	13,000
Total debtors	**35,993**	**13,000**

11. Creditors

	2025/26	2024/25
	£	£
Trade creditors	8,778	7,412
Accruals and deferred income	60,345	5,946
PAYE & National Insurance	8,963	8,093
Total creditors	**78,086**	**21,451**

12.1a Funds of the Charity - Current year

	At 1 April 2025	Income	Expenditure	At 31 March 2026
	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds				
Conference Sponsorship				
RNIB	-	2,128	(2,128)	-
Guide Dogs	-	1,995	(1,995)	-
Glaucoma	-	500	(500)	-
Russell Cooke	-	532	(532)	-
Blind Ambition	-	300	(300)	-
Macular Society	-	500	(500)	-
Specsavers	-	5,170	(5,170)	-
Sight Scotland	-	699	(699)	-
Sight Scotland Veterans		699	(699)	-
Fight for Sight	-	1,485	(1,485)	-
FM Muller Trust	-	6,500	(6500)	-
The Powell Family		1,154	(1,154)	-
Associated Optical	-	850	(850)	-
Utility Aid	-	1,164	(1,164)	-
Other Restricted				
Thomas Pocklington Trust	60,000	-	-	60,000
Specsavers Eye Health		14,830	(14,830)	-
Fight for Sight		14,360	(14,360)	-
FM Muller Trust	21,011	26,834	(47,845)	-
Guide Dog		1,995	(1,995)	-
	81,011	**81,695**	**102,706**	**60,000**
Unrestricted Funds	86,940	305,337	241,630	150,647
Total	**86,940**	**305,337**	**241,630**	**150,647**
Total Funds	**167,951**	**387,032**	**344,336**	**210,647**

12.1b Analysis of net Assets by Fund – Current year

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total £
Cash at bank	60,000	192,740	252,740
Debtors	-	35,993	35,993
Creditors: Amounts due within one year	-	(78,086)	(78,086)
Net assets	**60,000**	**150,647**	**210,647**

12.2a Funds of the Charity - Prior year Restated

	At 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds				
Conference Sponsorship				
Bayer	-	15,000	(15,000)	-
Essilor	-	790	(790)	-
RNIB	-	2,081	(2,081)	-
Guide Dogs	-	1,900	(1,900)	-
Glaucoma	-	868	(868)	-
Russell Cooke	-	350	(350)	-
Thomas Pocklington Trust	-	651	(651)	-
Macular Society	-	1,634	(1,634)	-
Specsavers	-	2,338	(2,338)	-
Sight Scotland	-	1,157	(1,157)	-
Fight for Sight	-	4,034	(4,034)	-
Fight for Sight/VF Powerbanks	-	2,382	(2,382)	-
The Powell Family		925	(925)	-
Associated Optical	-	754	(754)	-
Utility Aid	-	1,078	(1,078)	-
Roche Products	-	20,000	(20,000)	-
Other Restricted				
Thomas Pocklington Trust	60,000	-	-	60,000
Specsavers Eye Health	1,500	16,700	(18,200)	-
Fight for Sight	-	4,000	(4,000)	-
FM Muller Trust	-	50,000	(28,989)	21,011
RNIB Pathways	-	24,924	(24,924)	-
Motability	2,589	-	(2,589)	-
	64,089	**151,566**	**(134,644)**	**81,011**
Unrestricted Funds	144,804	225,381	(283,245)	86,940
Total	**144,804**	**225,381**	**(283,245)**	**86,940**
Total Funds	**208,893**	**376,947**	**(417,889)**	**167,951**

12.2b Analysis of net Assets by Fund - Prior year

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total £
Cash at bank	81,890	94,512	176,402
Debtors	-	13,000	13,000
Creditors: Amounts due within one year	(879)	(20,572)	(21,451)
Net assets	**81,011**	**86,940**	**167,951**

13. Trustee remuneration and expenses

No trustee received any remuneration from the charity in the year (2025: none).

Two trustees received reimbursement for travel expenses, £380 (2025: £951 (three)) to attend Board meetings.

14. Related Party Transactions

During the year, invoices totalling £4,155 were received from MyVision Oxfordshire Ltd, an organisation where our Chair, Mark Upton, is Chief Executive.

Sight Scotland provided accounting and payroll services during the year at a total cost, including VAT, of £3,500. Craig Spalding, Chief Executive of Sight Scotland, is a trustee of Visionary. Other than disclosure of this interest, Sight Scotland has appropriate governance arrangements in place to manage any conflicts of interest.

(2025: Sense Ability Matters received reimbursement of £200 for trustee expenses incurred by a Visionary trustee in relation to attendance at a Creating Cohesion meeting.)

Prior Year Adjustment

In the 2026 year the Trustees identified that VAT had not been correctly accounted for in the financial statements for the years ended 31 March 2024 and 31 March 2025, and that the correcting entry originally posted had misallocated the amounts between income and expenditure and between the years concerned. This resulted in a restatement of the prior year accounts to reduce both income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2025, and to increase fund balances brought forward at 1 April 2024 with a corresponding VAT asset recognised at that date. The overall effect of this restatement was to leave the total VAT liability unchanged and to leave total funds at 31 March 2025 unaffected, resulting in no movement of funds.

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