



Credit: Sophia Conti Photography



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VisionPK

Supporting people with vision impairment
and hearing loss in Perth and Kinross

Annual Review 2020

Chairman's Report

Welcome to VisionPK's Annual Review for 2019/20.

Whilst this review covers the year ended March 2020, I would also like to comment on the changes arising from the pandemic, which has, and will continue to have, a significant impact on VisionPK's activities. I am hugely proud of the way in which our staff, volunteers and Board have risen to the challenge presented by the pandemic, adapting quickly and flexibly to ensure people in Perth and Kinross with sensory impairments continued to receive our vital information, support and practical help. This has and will continue to be our priority.

Last year, we helped over 1,000 people in different ways – 363 through the Information and Support Service, running three days a week; 300 new referrals were assessed by our experienced Rehabilitation Team, with follow up support as needed; a further 341 people who had been helped in previous years came back to us for further support; over 100 people engaged with our range of regular social activities and outings. We also provided 159 pieces of sight loss equipment, with 628 pieces of hearing loss equipment distributed by the Council following assessment.

During 2019/20, we developed and began implementing our new strategy, aiming to invest in a sustainable future and preparing us for the increasing numbers of people with sight and hearing difficulties, mostly age-related, who will need our expertise in the future. Our priorities will include reaching more people at an early stage in their sensory loss journey, helping them to stay independent; developing a wider range of services, including more locally based support, informed by people who have experienced sensory loss; fundraising and seeking new donations and legacies to fund our work. Quite a challenge given the current situation, but an exciting one!

We achieved this with a small team of ten staff and 49 volunteers, plus our partner, RNID's Hearing Support Worker. As an uncertain future unfolds, one thing I am certain about is that the VisionPK team will be here to support people as and when needed!



Sandy Pearson

Chairman, VisionPK

Financial Summary

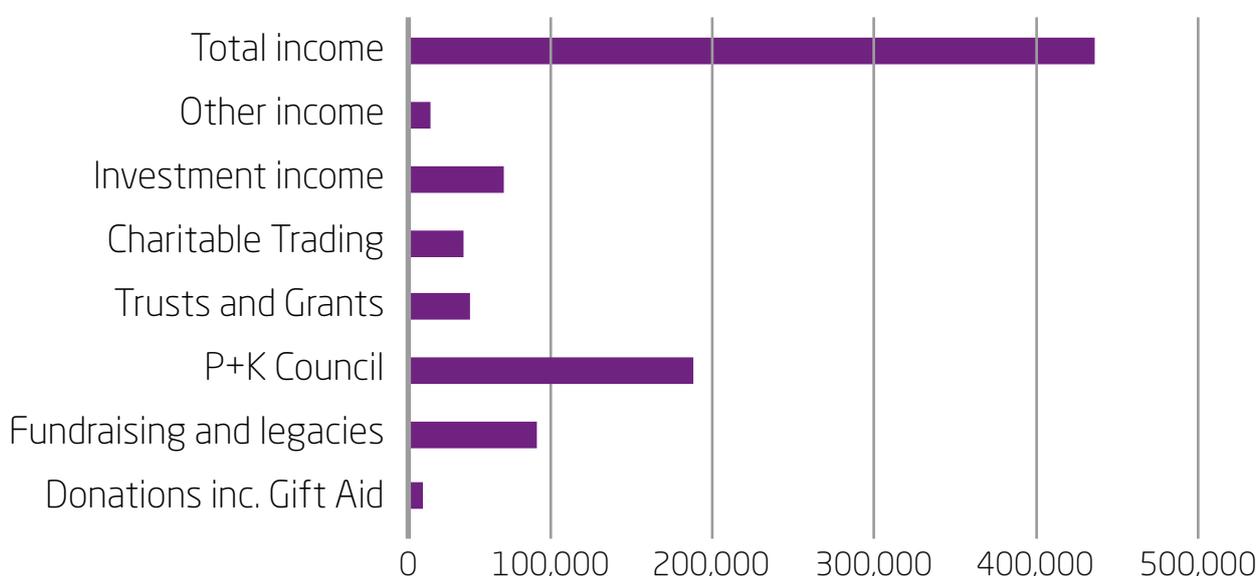
VisionPK Income 2019/20

Donations including gift aid	9,005
Fundraising and legacies	91,459
P+K Council	190,671
Trusts and Grants	37,113
Charitable Trading	32,962
Investment income	57,524
Other income	12,643
Total income	431,377

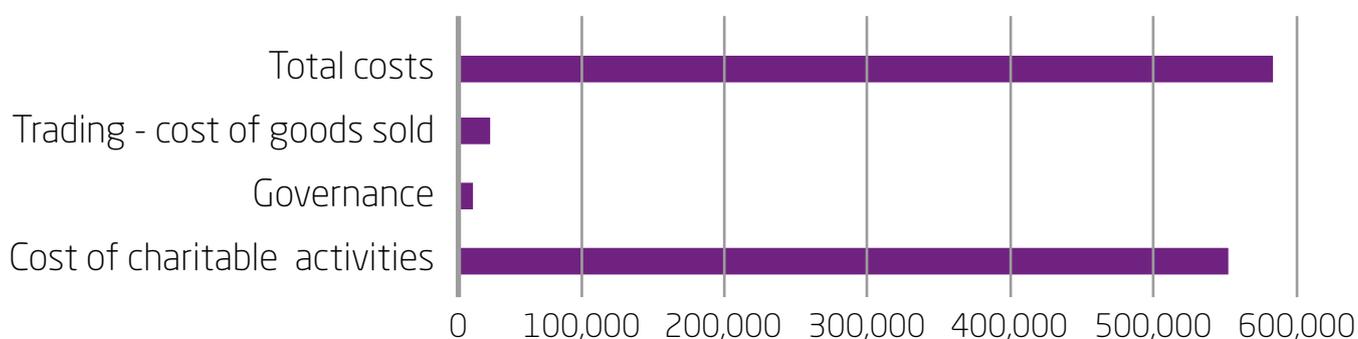
VisionPK Expenditure 2019/20

Cost of charitable activities	482,709
Governance	15,079
Trading - cost of goods sold	23,314
Total costs	521,102
Income minus costs	-89,725
Net (Loss) / Gain on investments	-81,664
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	-171,389

VisionPK Income 2019/20



VisionPK Expenditure 2019/20



Reserves

VisionPK's reserves comprise property and equipment valued at **£456,850**; equities were valued at **£538,707**; other assets, such as cash in the bank, minus liabilities, total **£74,389**. Total reserves are therefore **£1,069,946**. Of this, **£400,000** is designated for roof and building repairs and **£28,820** is restricted for other purposes. During 2020/21, Trustees plan to invest a further **£200,000** to: increase awareness of the help available to the growing numbers of people with sensory impairments living in Perth and Kinross; provide information about sensory impairment; research unmet need with a view to developing new services and develop fundraising to improve future sustainability.

Our Impact

We want to know that our work supporting people with sensory loss is effective, so monitor our performance against specific outcomes, in line with the national 'See Hear' strategy. Based on a sample survey, clients told us that:

In relation to their independence:

79%

of people felt more independent

21%

felt no change in their feelings about their independence

In relation to how people felt about their sensory loss:

71%

of people felt more positive

29%

felt the same

In relation to their quality of life:

71%

of people felt it had improved

25%

felt it had stayed the same

4%

felt it had deteriorated



VisionPK

..... Mary's Story

Mary had been having problems with her vision for three years when she was first contacted by VisionPK, following her certification as sight impaired. During this time, she had tried to help herself by improving the lighting in her home and buying some aids, but she hadn't been aware that we could have helped her earlier.

Carol, our Rehabilitation Worker, met with Mary and they talked about what would make a difference. Mary enjoyed reading for pleasure and she also missed reading the local news. Mary was told about Talking Books and the Perth Talking News service, which she signed up for. Mary was struggling with getting out and about safely, so Carol provided a symbol cane and supported Mary to start using it, as well as giving her information, advice and equipment to help her cope better in her home and outside. Carol showed Mary how she could continue using her digital tablet, which she had enjoyed previously and specialist software was identified.

A few months later, Mary had embraced new ways of doing things and told us that she now felt more independent and her quality of life had improved.

..... George's Story

After being woken by the Fire Service in his smoke-filled room, George, in his 80's and with other disabilities, realised that even with his hearing aids in he couldn't hear his smoke alarm. Lauren, our Hearing Loss Worker, made contact and focused initially on ensuring George would be safe in his home with the installation of a vibrating pad under his pillow to alert him to the smoke alarm being activated. George also explained to Lauren that he couldn't hear conversations when in groups of friends. Lauren demonstrated a personal listening device and he noticed an immediate difference.

George hadn't known about VisionPK until he was referred to us, and is now feeling much safer in his own home, telling us he can now fully join in conversations with friends, feeling more connected and less socially isolated.



A Volunteer's View

I started volunteering with VisionPK after my mother developed sight-loss problems. The Rehabilitation Worker from VisionPK suggested that Mum might like to attend the Friday social club, so I brought her along and ended up staying to help. Fourteen years later, I'm still here!

I'm a volunteer driver, as well as helping out with the social group, and I really enjoy getting to know the lovely clients as I drive them to and from various groups and activities. I never cease to be amazed at the resilience of the people I've come to know over the years. Working with them makes me feel happy. On some journeys, I've honestly never had so many laughs. Plus, I really value what I've learnt from various training sessions and practice whilst volunteering - things I've been able to use in my wider life.

I've volunteered with other organisations, too, but what I particularly like about my roles here is that they are more based around people. I really value the connections and feeling of belonging.



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