

RSBC

**Royal Society for
Blind Children**



Annual Report & Accounts 2024

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Making an impact

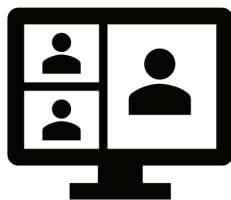
on children and young people's lives

Services in 2024



450

activities were delivered
online and in person



1,752

children and young
people took part in
activities



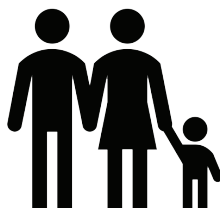
222

bespoke Assistive
Technology sessions
took place



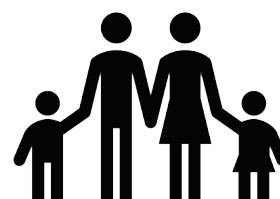
100

tailored sessions of
Futures support were
delivered



7,616

instances of family
support were provided



712

families were supported
by Families First



44

online family sessions
were held



2,881

were involved in RSBC
activities delivered by
partners



94%

overall satisfaction
rating for our services

Making an impact on children and young people's lives

Education in 2024: RSBC's Dorton College



27

The highest-ever number
of students on the roll



25,300

hours of education
delivered



GOOD

Our 2024 rating
by Ofsted



98%

student academic
achievement rate



225

AQA's successfully
achieved through our
support



5

partnership colleges
across London and the
South East

Welcome

Patrick Plant
Chair of Trustees



Dear colleagues and friends,

The demand for the services provided by the Royal Society for Blind Children (RSBC) has never been greater. This should not come as any surprise.

We know that funding and other resources which might otherwise have supported vision impaired (VI) young people – whether it be through Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision or local authority social services – has never been more challenged. And that is unlikely to change for the better any time soon, as we are all aware of the domestic, economic, and geopolitical challenges we face.

Over the last 12 months, RSBC has been determined to dig deep, and maintain and expand our core service offer.

The result is that our Families First service has supported 712 families across England and Wales. Through our network of online and in person communities, we've reached 1,752 young people. Our information, advice and guidance line has taken over 1000 calls. And through our hybrid education offer at Dorton College in southeast London, we've been delighted to support 27 students by delivering over 25,000 hours of education.

Our Youth Forum has continued to develop its activities, including holding us to account and thrilling us with new ideas and initiatives informed by their lived experiences. And with the launch of our Futures service, we've begun supporting young people between 13 and 25 to become better informed, better able to plan how to live more meaningful lives, and not allow the challenge of vision impairment to get in the way.

All our programmes are oversubscribed. We know our services deliver real impact, and so we are desperate to do more, for more, within the community we support.

We run a tight ship. Inevitably, our focus may have been more about delivering than storytelling, and I believe that is the right way round. To sustain ourselves for the long term, and to be able to continue and enhance what we do, we recognise we need to be better at communicating with existing and future supporters who may have an appetite to help sustain us financially.

That is why I appeal to those who may be able to support us, particularly trusts and charitable foundations, to get in touch. You will be very pleased with how we respond.

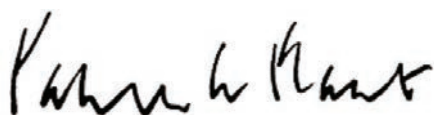
Our objectives for the next 12 months are clear and unambiguous. We want to:

- Source funding and deliver our **Families First** service across the entirety of England and Wales;
- Begin a roll out of **Dorton College Centres of Excellence** by adopting the successful Dorton hybrid model. This combines a unique blend of life skills training delivered in lockstep with trusted mainstream colleges;
- Grow **Futures** into a support service and network that is the 'go-to' place for young people who are losing the guardrails afforded by college and running the risk of being lost in the spare bedrooms of our society. They deserve better. We believe we can provide so much more for them, often alongside other charities and support group partners.

When I prepared my introduction to our 2023 Annual Report, I could not have anticipated that a blind person would go on to win Strictly Come Dancing 2024 entirely on merit, or that a blind BBC senior correspondent (and a Dorton Alumni), Gary O'Donoghue, would help secure the Breaking News Award for BBC News at the Royal Television Society Awards 2025.

Our community is made up of extraordinary young people who, despite the challenges of vision impairment, manage to remain optimistic and self-confident about their future. We owe it to them and their families to provide the support and nudges along the way to help them find their voices, dancing feet, or other skills at a critical time in their lives, before their optimism starts to fade.

On behalf of all our trustees, a big thank you to our people, our many volunteers and all of those who continue to support the work of this great Society.



Patrick Plant, Chair of Trustees

Vision

For every blind child to realise their aspirations and live their lives without limits.

Mission

To be there for blind children and their families with specialist support throughout their journey.

Values



Trust

Accountable and responsible. Have respect for each other



Energy

Straight talking. Constantly learning and innovating



Ambition

Confronting reality. Delivering results and working to the highest standards



Motivation

Blind and partially sighted children and young people are our No 1 priority. Focus on solutions, not problems



Our promises

- 1 We help families access practical and emotional support, from the moment of diagnosis**
- 2 We bring blind children and young people together to build friendships and develop skills for life**
- 3 We deliver education and help blind young people get qualifications and jobs**
- 4 We champion the use of new and existing technology**
- 5 We fundraise and advocate passionately, for and with our community**
- 6 We work with local partners to make sure that blind young people and their families can access services wherever they live**



Strategic aims 2024

Comprehensive strategic planning

Throughout the year, we embarked upon a comprehensive strategic planning process to define the future direction of the charity for the next five years (2025–2029). This process involved extensive engagement with key stakeholders and a thorough planning exercise facilitated by an external consultant.

Stakeholder engagement

We actively and comprehensively engaged with service users, trustees, staff, volunteers, and other stakeholders to gather valuable feedback on their priorities for the charity's future direction. This involved various opportunities for input, such as surveys, focus groups, and open forums. It was important to us that we engaged with non-service users, too, as we needed to understand how we could improve our offer to meet the needs of even more VI children, young people and their families.

Key strategic initiatives

Based on preliminary observations and stakeholder engagement during 2023, and consolidated during 2024, the following key strategic initiatives are emerging:

1

Enhanced national reach

We committed to expanding our reach across the UK. A key component of this new strategy is the ongoing development of a robust digital service offering. This will enable more children, young people, and families to access our support virtually, regardless of location. In 2024 we demonstrated this in our increased volume of England and Wales regional activity and engagement with families.

2

Promoting equity

We are dedicated to ensuring equitable access to our services across England and Wales. This includes ensuring all families in need have access to our Families First provision. We have worked hard to secure more funding to expand services; we will continue to do this throughout 2025.

3 Financial advocacy

We have prioritised increasing access to information, advice, and guidance on available financial support for those we serve.

4 Education expansion

We have explored the potential for expanding and growing our educational offerings, with Dorton College remaining at the core of our delivery. During 2025, we will see further growth as we showcase our hybrid model of education.

5 Strengthened External Affairs

We have continued to develop the structure and remit of our External Affairs Team to enhance our outreach and advocacy efforts. During 2024, we recruited to an almost full complement.

6 Operational efficiency

We have streamlined our internal systems to improve overall efficiency and effectiveness in delivering our services. A new finance platform, alongside our new service user database with a new performance monitoring system at Dorton College, have been transformational in our operations. 2025 will see more changes, including phase II of the website and a brand evolution, with an improved system to capture all of our interaction with our supporters.

Outcome

We embarked on these thorough planning efforts during 2024 and this provided a clear strategic roadmap for the charity's growth. This roadmap will ensure our services continue to adapt and evolve to meet the ever-changing needs of children, young people, and families across the UK. We look to launch the finalised strategy during 2025.



Our impact Highlights

94%

The overall satisfaction rating for our services was 94%.

4,157

people were supported overall.

57

children and young people took part in AQA awards through Services.

539

We welcomed a record number of 539 professionals to our updated 'Making Activities Inclusive' training, meaning more VI children can access local mainstream activities.

34%

Our national reach grew. 34% of children, young people and families were from London, 10% from Wales, the remaining 56% were from the rest of England.

527

AQA's were achieved by children and young people: 302 from our Services, and 225 through Dorton College.

526

Through partners in England, with specific project funding, we delivered 526 activities, with 2,881 children and young people attending.

193

We had 193 active partnerships, 54 of which were formal delivery partnerships to support service delivery, with a further 9 in development.

Our impact

Family support

2024 saw unprecedented demand for RSBC's family support. Our team expanded, with additional capacity in the West Midlands and South West of England. Mid Wales was also introduced as a new region. Many areas now have waiting lists as the need for specialist VI emotional wellbeing support grows.

Our information, advice and guidance line, with just one part-time support advisor, fielded 1,047 support sessions, reaching 505 families with practical and financial support.

Our Family Practitioners supported a total of 712 individual families, with 7,616 instances of bespoke support. They also supported families online through three vital groups – 'Connecting Families' sessions, and the new 'Early Years Connecting Families' group, with 17 sessions taking place. Our transitions group, 'Moving on Up,' supported 11 blind and partially sighted children moving to secondary school.

We spent Quarters 3 and 4 planning a new in-person Early Years event, Navigating the Early Years, which launched early in 2025 alongside Early Years music sessions.

Our Family Practitioners worked closely with the Activity Programme team to integrate children and young people they were supporting to social activities, Assistive Technology sessions and our Futures service.





RSBC's Habilitation Specialist offered tailored advice for families accessing support through RSBC on mobility, development and play.

We welcomed 3 new Family Champions, who are advocates for other parents and support our activity with the value of their personal experiences.

We introduced professionals training to help those working with VI children and young people better manage the emotional aspects of their support. In 2024, our Clinical Lead carried out 3 training workshops for sensory teams so that families could be better supported by local professionals involved with their child's care.

Safeguarding is a vital focus within all of our services, and our new database has helped us keep effective track of safeguarding issues and ensure that they are monitored and progressed as needed.

We have seen an overwhelmingly positive impact due to our family support, with 100% of children and young people telling us they feel more confident about the future because of it. 99% of families say the support they received has had a positive effect on their family's future, and 100% of children and family members told us they would go to RSBC again if they needed support.

It's vital that, in 2025, we seek to create further capacity for family support to meet the growing demand and ensure that we are reaching as many families as possible.



Our impact

Education

This was the most successful year ever for Dorton College. We delivered early on our college strategy in terms of student numbers, surpassing our target two years early. Since September 2020, student numbers at Dorton College have grown by two thirds, demonstrating a need for high quality VI specialist education. During the year, we delivered over 25,300 hours of bespoke VI education through our highly specialist team at both our college hub and our partnership colleges.

We established and developed several new partnership colleges in various regions around London and the South East, expanding our reach further into Berkshire and Surrey. In September, we began a new partnership in Hertfordshire. This included a partnership with a sixth form college - the first time we have provided A-Level access for VI students.

Our students surpassed themselves in their academic achievements, with 98% achieving their qualifications and a further 225 AQA qualifications achieved in a wide range of subject areas.

Our new management information system, Databridge, was procured and implemented and has been hugely successful. We can track, monitor and analyse a range of datasets within the college, providing insight into student progress and achievement, and it enables more precise curriculum development and interventions to give a clearer, whole-college overview.

In February 2024, Dorton College had its long-awaited Ofsted inspection and achieved a 'Good' rating. The inspectors were particularly impressed by our hybrid model and the impact it makes on student achievement and experience, enabling increased independence and self-advocacy.

Our impact

Transitioning to adulthood

Futures is RSBC's specialist programme focused solely on supporting VI young people aged 13-25 and their families with their individual goals for the years ahead. 2024 was the first year that the Futures service operated across all RSBC services and is open to all, no matter what a young person's trajectory or plans are.

Futures can be accessed from the age of 13, when young people are making important choices about GCSE subjects, up to age 25, when they should have a clear exit or transition plan and be ready to enter the adult world to achieve their ambitions. Futures also provides support, as needed, for parents and carers. They often lack advice and guidance about their young person's choices, rights and options, and Futures provides them with information to ensure they can help their child reach their potential.

There is a clear link from Futures through to other RSBC services such as Assistive Technology, where young people can have the training they need on software they require to do their job or access their courses. For habilitation, too, we can support young people with navigating their route to work independently, or carry out an audit of their new work environment to support better accessibility.

All Dorton College students received Futures support as part of their education offer in both group and 1-1 sessions, and all students achieved their planned outcomes, with many different AQA qualifications being added to their portfolios.

Futures students participated in a wide range of work placements, both long and short-term. When the college was inspected, Ofsted praised the Futures offer for its bespoke specialist approach.

All 27 Dorton College students received Futures support as part of their education offer. 73 young people received support outside the college, with 50 achieving a work placement, 26 securing an apprenticeship, 5 in paid roles, and 57 AQA's achieved.

100% of young people told us they feel more confident about their future plans since accessing the service.

In late 2024, RSBC dedicated more resource to this vital area, and we expect that the reach and impact of this vital tailored service will grow further in 2025.



Activities and events

2024 saw us hold a broad range of activities for children and young people of all ages, with 1,752 young people taking part in 450 unique sessions.

With the growth of AI and technological developments, our Assistive Technology service alone held 222 sessions for a total of 255 people. Our Senior Accessibility Advisor provided bespoke support: for families with early years children in learning the basics, for young people accessing technology for education, and for assistive technology to support young people in their first jobs.

Our online offer grew, based on children and young people's feedback. New this year were Boys Crew, LGBTQIA+ groups, and Film Club - sessions which allowed them to connect in a safe space, share common challenges and interests, and make friends.

In-person, our Big Saturdays welcomed children and young people to the amazing space that is our Life Without Limits Centre to enjoy a range of activities from sports to cooking, arts and crafts, and gardening. This welcoming space also hosted some fantastic Family Fun Days where the whole family could enjoy games and activities. Furry friends visited at a popular event from Ark Farm, and our Early Years music sessions with our friends Amber Trust brought visits from our youngest cohort.

We really did travel all over the country, with residential in the Peak District and Shropshire to challenge young people, and visits to the Wrexham Science Centre and Legoland Discovery Centre in Birmingham. London visits were popular too, with The Roundhouse, Sadler's Wells Theatre, a Horrible Histories boat tour and bowling to name but a few.

91% of children and young people told us they felt more connected with others and had made new friends after attending RSBC activities. **89%** felt more confident afterwards, and **95%** felt more motivated and positive about the future. With **95%** also telling us they felt safe and secure during activities, we feel confident our blended approach to delivery really meets their needs.

Through our amazing partners across England, we also reached 2,881 children and young people through a range of 526 social and sporting activities. This was funded through the Access Unlimited England project, supported by the National Lottery.

We also implemented a new database, Charity Log, in 2024. This better supports all areas of our services, helping us to track of individuals accessing our activities and services and their progress.

Our Habilitation Specialist helped enhance our activity programme in a range of ways, from supporting young people with their routes to the Life Without Limits Centre to advising on the independent living skills aspects of sessions and attending the residential to provide on hands support.

A significant success in 2024 was refreshing our professionals' training offer. Formerly known as 'Capacity Building,' it is now 'Making Activities Inclusive'. This online training enables mainstream providers to make their activities inclusive for VI children and young people and we delivered 20 sessions, reaching 539 individuals.





Amplifying the voices of children and young people

It was a vitally important twelve months for Youth Voice at RSBC. With 2 young trustees influencing the charity's direction at board level, increasing numbers of Youth Forum members, and a brand new Young Ambassadors scheme, their influence was felt more than ever. The implementation of our new Services and Safeguarding Committee in 2024 included our 2 young trustees, and it benefits from their insight and from that of one of our Parent Champions.

The growing Youth Forum welcomes members from 16–25. They worked on their manifesto in 2024, which reflects their priorities of mental health, transport and education/employment. They met monthly as a group to advance their agenda, raising awareness of the issues that are important to them through blogs and podcasts, and by meeting with other sector wide forums to share experiences.

There were a record number of 28 Youth Voice meetings in 2024, with 14 young people involved.

96% of our Youth Forum members felt confident that they were part of a group making a real difference.

Our Young Ambassadors have started to train to represent RSBC in a wide range of activities and arenas and will be developing through AQA awards in 2025 and beyond. So far, they have led consultations, podcasts and supported RSBC activities, and have shown themselves to be strong role models for others.

To represent this growing area of influence, we have a role now dedicated to supporting Youth Voice work at RSBC. We are recruiting more young people in 2025 to be part of this work.

The end of 2024 saw the Youth Voice collective, and our Youth Voice Officer, planning an away day to develop their strategy and roadmap for the next 3 years. This took place early in 2025.

What people say about our services

"This trip made me feel normal! Not different for having a VI."

Young person attending a residential trip

"I absolutely love Sisterhood, and having guests on Sisterhood helps so much. It's amazing that RSBC has such amazing resources and staff. They're here to help with everyone and create a safe space for many of us with a visual impairment. Thank you!"

Young person attending Sisterhood session

"I thought the session was great! Everyone was friendly, and the kids loved it."

Parent at an RSBC holiday activity session

"Sue's help, support and guidance has given our family a firm foundation for the next few years. She's helped prepare us all for the many changes and challenges which are approaching and given us the confidence to tackle these head on. We know that in the future we can approach RSBC to receive the benefit of their expertise, high level of knowledge and wonderful services and resources. Thank you."

Parent of a young person receiving support from a Family Practitioner

"This service has been invaluable to our son. He said, 'Justyna has helped me to understand my feelings and how to deal with them'. He's gone from very closed off, confused and unable to process how he felt about losing his sight to a very confident young adult. We as a family are so, so grateful for the support received. We cannot thank you enough. You really do make a difference."

A family receiving support from a Family Practitioner

"It's good that I'm trying new things. The instructions are clear, and I've started something that I've never started before. It was a good experience today. Thank you, Alex."

Young person accessing our Assistive Technology service

Our people

Despite a continuing difficult labour market, the organisation has been able to recruit highly skilled and experienced staff at all levels, and has been able to implement structures offering development and progression opportunities to increase retention. The RSBC staff team put the children, young people and families we support at the heart of all we do, working to an ethos of 'just enough support' to encourage their independence and self-advocacy. Colleagues demonstrate our values of Trust, Energy, Ambition and Motivation and are passionate and committed to what they do.

Three of our team have shared their thoughts as to why RSBC is a great place to work.

Jeanette, Family Practitioner

"What I like most about working at RSBC is the people! It's such a friendly organisation, and I'm privileged to be let into the lives of children and young people and their families. I love the variety in my role."



Owain, Senior Children, Young People & Families Activity Officer

"Working at RSBC is so rewarding. I love working here, seeing young people enjoying themselves and learning at the same time."

Atrix, Learning Support Advisor

"I feel supported and accepted for who I am at RSBC. For so long, I've wanted to be in a place where I'm taken care of, and where I'm not just working on my own. Sometimes, I think to myself, "Wow, I'm in a professional working environment, where career progression is actually a thing!"



Our volunteers

We would like to thank all our volunteers for their fantastic contribution to RSBC during 2024.

177 volunteers gave a total of **899** hours of their time to **89** different activities, a contribution of **£13,818**.



Joné's story

A 22-year-old art student, Joné's been an RSBC volunteer for just over a year. For her, volunteering has been a chance to learn new skills while having fun at the same time.

She says, "I'm amazed at how many things RSBC has going on! My first trip as a volunteer was a sensory tour at Kew Gardens. It was great fun. And the residential trip at October half term was very cool. It was an opportunity to build relationships and be silly with the young people, as well as learning new skills.

"Meeting blind and partially sighted young people has given me a better understanding of their lives and I've learned about the misconceptions and misunderstandings around them. I've been able to make some new friends, too.

"If you're thinking of becoming a volunteer, I'd say to be open to learning and trying new things. I've stepped out of my comfort zone and done things at RSBC that I never thought I would."



Every penny we raise helps us further our mission

2024 saw us increase our email communications, leading to a 52% increase in digital donations compared to 2023. We also piloted new value exchange and handraiser recruitment drives digitally, resulting in over 100 new regular givers.

Our appeals were our most successful in recent years, with our Summer appeal reaching an incredible 135% of its original target. We're immensely grateful to the young people and families who generously shared their stories and inspired more people to support RSBC.

Legacies continue to be a vital part of our income, and in 2024 they provided over £1million to help us continue our mission. In April, we launched a new partnership with National Free Wills Network to attract new pledgers, and we've received over 30 sign-ups in the first 9 months. We are hugely appreciative of every person who generously includes RSBC in their Will.

2024 was our most successful London Marathon team ever, raising an incredible £284,000. We proudly cheered on 67 runners from around the world including the USA, Australia, India, Europe and Scandinavia. The team were challenged to raise enough to help support 100 children and their families. They more than rose to the challenge, with each raising nearly £3,600 on average (which is 50% more than the average Marathon fundraising page). We are in awe, and so grateful for the hard work the team put into both their training and fundraising.



Proud of our fundraising standards

We set ourselves high standards for fundraising, which are outlined in our Ethical Fundraising Policy. Our fundraising is never intrusive or pressuring. We handle supporter data carefully and offer clear opt-out options. We follow all laws and guidelines set by the Fundraising Regulator, Gambling Commission, and Charity Commission. Anyone fundraising for RSBC must agree to meet our expected standards. Staff complete GDPR training and familiarise themselves with our policies as part of their induction, and any professional fundraisers we work with agree to this as part of their contract.

We occasionally work with professional fundraisers to help us follow up in response to our campaigns and appeals, but we never make unsolicited approaches or cold calls. When we do use professional fundraisers, we monitor calls to ensure our standards are being met. We're not aware of anyone falling short of these standards in 2024.

Our supporter care team is easily contactable by phone or email and on hand for any questions, concerns or complaints. In 2024, we received 1 complaint about fundraising, relating to direct marketing. This was recorded and addressed appropriately.

Special thanks

We would like to thank our long-term and new funders who are supporting our work nationally and regionally, including:

ABL

Alan Edward Higgs Charity

Barclay's plc

Blavatnik Family Foundation

Broome Family Trust

City Bridge Trust

Enterprise Mobility

Fight for Sight

Fullers

Garfield Weston Foundation

Gresham House

James Tudor Foundation

Kathleen Beryl Sleigh Charitable Trust

Kroll

London Borough of Hackney

NatWest Markets

P E Lennard Charitable Will Trust

QBE

The P F Charitable Trust

Paul Hamlyn Foundation

Richard Desmond

Scope Eyecare and Healthcare

Shanly Foundation

The Eveson Trust

The National Lottery Community Fund

The Powell Family Foundation

The Worshipful Company of Cordwainers

Vitol

We would also like to express our thanks to the many partners we have worked with in 2024. We have received notable support for projects and services from Henshaws, The Albion Foundation, Youth Focus North East, Kent Association for the Blind, Wales Council for the Blind, Vision Support Wales, North Wales Society for the Blind, CWVYS, Boys & Girls Clubs of Wales and Young Bristol.

Immense gratitude goes to our pro-bono supporters, Reed Smith LLP and Inspired Thinking Group, who respectively have provided invaluable legal and website design support to us during the year.

Thanks also go to our Parent Champions, Young Ambassadors and Youth Forum members who give up their time to share their experiences, expertise and help guide the work of RSBC.

To those who pledged a gift in their Will, made a cash donation, or raised money for RSBC through fundraising activities – we thank you sincerely for your support.



Leadership and governance

Having appointed a new CEO in 2023, trustee recruitment was a priority in 2024. After undertaking a trustee skills audit, RSBC recruited four new trustees to build on, and diversify, the skills of the current trustee group.

Narayan's RSBC trustee story

"As a schoolboy, my mother used to read to blind students, and so I learned that support is vital for people with vision impairments. Later, I worked with someone who was already an RSBC trustee, and I knew that I could help blind and partially sighted children to reach their full potential by becoming one too.

I've been an RSBC trustee since September 2024. I'm a member of the Services and Safeguarding Committee, and I oversee more general aspects of RSBC, too. I've attended Council meetings and Services and Safeguarding Committee meetings, and had the privilege of visiting the RSBC's Life Without Limits Centre in London and its Dorton College education provision in Orpington. It's humbling and wonderful to see the impact RSBC has on children and young people.

Trustees are guardians of the charity's good name. I want to leave RSBC in a better place than it was when I became a trustee.

At the centre of everything is a young person, and the proof of the pudding will be if their life has improved because of our involvement. Measuring success is different in every case, so we need to deliver what they need for their next stage of life, consistently and to the highest standards."



Administrative details

Royal Patron: His Majesty King Charles III

President: The Rt Hon Sir Michael Fallon KCB (retired 31st December 2024); Dr Tom Pey (appointed 1st January 2025)

Vice Presidents: Earl Stockton; Vivian Lawrence; Harry O'Neill; Phillip Bassett; Dr David Wright MBE; Ian Stephenson; Michael Brignall; John Heller MA

Ambassadors: Jon Culshaw; Anne Fine OBE FRSL; Georgie Wyatt; Wayne Sleep OBE

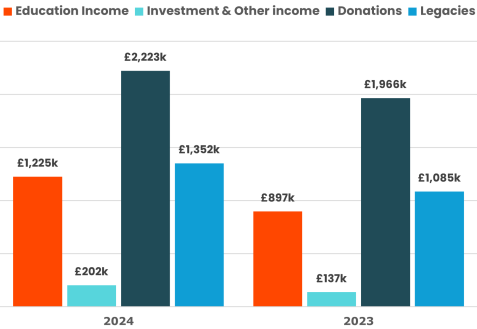
Medical Advisory Panel: Dr Michael Crossland PhD MCOptom DipRVI; Prof Rachel Pilling PhD FRCOphth; Mr Wagih Aclimandos MB Bch FRCS FRCOphth DO FEBO; Prof Naomi Dale BA, MA, PhD, CPsychol; Mr Ashwin Reddy MA MBBChir FRCOphth MD

Members of the Council of Trustees

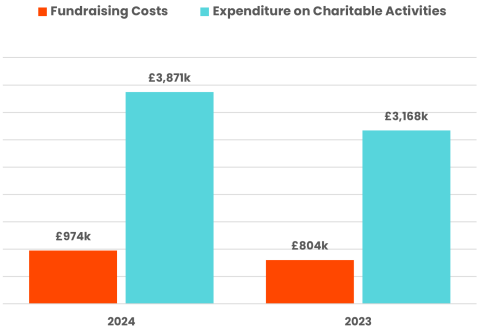
Patrick Plant (Chair of Trustees); Helen Jones; Peter Knott BA (Hons) FCA CF (Honorary Treasurer); Val May BA (Hons); John Miller; Callum Russell; Lola Solebo PhD FRCOphth; Sabira Hasham; Tom Kelman; Simon Ward; William Ramsay; Narayan Iyer; Mel Cooke.

Financial summary

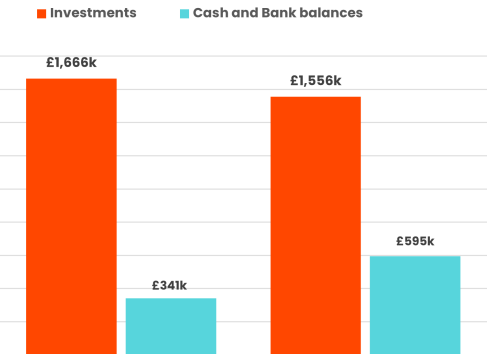
Where our money came from



How we spent our money



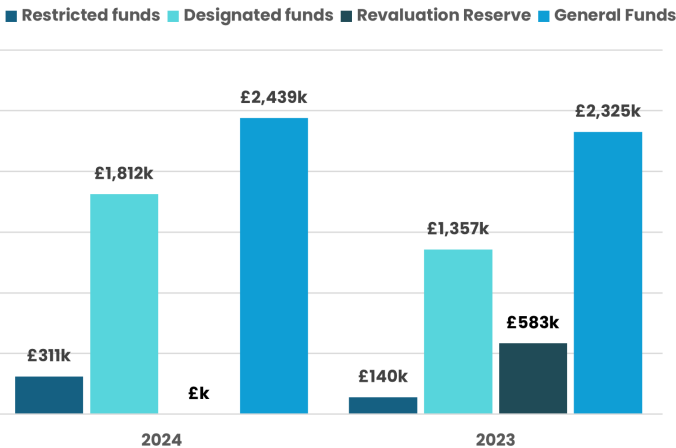
Bank & investment



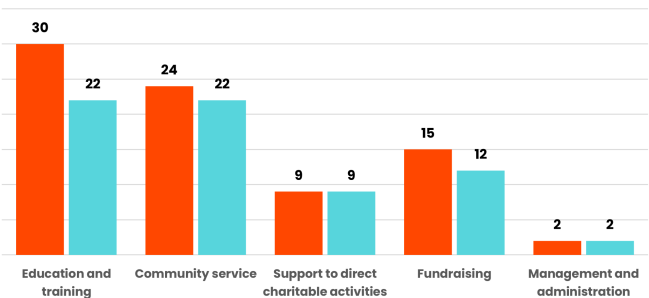
Liquidity Ratio

2024	2023
3.9:1	2.9:1

Charity funds



Staff FTE





A thank you from our CEO

Dear friends,

Thank you for reading through our review and celebration of 2024!

The team at RSBC has worked so hard to bring you this Trustees' Annual Report, showcasing all that's been achieved over the past twelve months. I hope you now feel more informed about us and the impact of our work; our programme of activity and the outcomes achieved are a credit to our dedicated staff and volunteer teams.

Our trustees have again committed to supporting a year of change and planning for growth. I'm delighted with the outcomes we have achieved, but we always strive to support more families even sooner following diagnosis. Help us to share the message that RSBC is here for all VI children when they need us – we need more giving to deliver more support.

This year has been the year of 'strategy' for everyone at RSBC. We're so proud of the children and young people we support that we wanted to ensure that we're delivering and planning for precisely what our families need.

Our Chair, Patrick, has highlighted some of our key 2024 achievements earlier in this report. RSBC has reached 1,752 children and young people in 12 months, and 27 Dorton College students have received more than 25,000 hours of education. We continue to work extremely hard to ensure we support as many families as possible within the VI community.

During 2024, we expanded our teams to strengthen our infrastructure and enable us to be more responsive in our offer. We reconfigured our teams to be even more agile. This included delivering a more expansive digital activity offer within our Services team, as our activity programme is of paramount importance to our children and young people and a key mechanism for engaging families.

It's important to me that RSBC strives to be at the forefront of change; year on year, we commit to being bold and brave! And it's vital that we continue to build our resilience; innovation, agility and the ability to adapt are crucial attributes.

The confirmation of the appointment of our new Royal Patron was a key milestone during 2024. Buckingham Palace confirmed that "His Majesty King Charles III would be delighted to accept the patronage of RSBC". We look forward to hosting the King and Queen to share our critical work.

I would like to thank our staff, trustees, volunteers and partners. You have made such incredible contributions to RSBC during 2024. They are truly appreciated.

I commend this Trustees Annual Report to you. I hope that by reading about RSBC's work, you'll join with us in celebrating the achievements of the children and young people we support. We firmly believe that society can create an environment whereby our children and young people can indeed live their lives without limits – however, society needs to change to make that happen.

Fond regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Davis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Julie Davis, CEO





Royal Society for
Blind Children

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This report has been designed to prioritise accessibility.