

RNIB Group annual report and accounts 2009/10

Contents

This Trustees' report and the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the "Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) – Accounting and Reporting by Charities (2005)" as revised in May 2008, and the Charities Act 1993, as updated by the Charities Act 2006. This report gives details of our work throughout the UK.

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Introduction

Together we make a difference

Major change doesn't happen overnight. However together with your help, here are five days in 2009/10 where we took big steps towards our goal to end the isolation faced by blind and partially sighted people.

Day one: 1 April 2009 "Joining forces!"

On 1 April 2009 we joined forces with Action for Blind People. Later we also welcomed Cardiff, Vales and Valleys (formerly Cardiff Institute for the Blind) and National Talking Newspapers and Magazines into the group. A year on, we are delighted that together we can help more people find their lives again after sight loss.

Day two: 17 July 2009 "Changing the NHS and the law"

We and hundreds of people with sight problems took the NHS to task for sending out confidential medical information that people cannot read. The scandal reached Prime Minister's question time and now many NHS trusts are changing their ways, so that reading medical information privately and independently is within our grasp. In April 2010 a change pushed through to the new Equality Bill by RNIB Vice-President, Lord Colin Low, became law making it clear that blind and partially sighted people have a right to read in their choice of braille, audio, digital and large print formats.

Day three: 20 September 2009 launch of "Lost and found"

We asked people to imagine what they would lose from their life if they lost their sight as part of our national Lost and found campaign. From television interviews to advertising posters to blindfolding politicians, our successful campaign made people take the reality of sight loss to heart.

Day four: 20 October 2009 "Power to the people"

In Northern Ireland, Stormont witnessed the country's largest ever political rally – even more impressive because the 450-strong crowd were blind and partially sighted people passionate about their right to read. Across England people with sight problems joined our network of campaigners. We also launched a new approach to working with RNIB Members to make sure our direction is always guided by the people who matter most to us.

Every day: 365 days a year "Helping people to find their lives again"

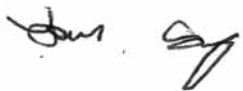
We support people as they live their everyday lives. During the year we put £13million into the pockets of people with sight problems by identifying unclaimed benefits. We lent out two million audio, large print and braille books from our much-loved library. Thousands of people found life a little easier thanks to our specially designed products, such as our brand new labelling device "PenFriend". Whether it's over the telephone, online or from our mobile

information vans, we are immensely proud that we offer people their first step to finding their lives again.

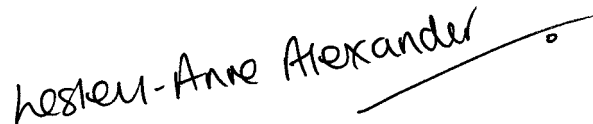
Looking forward to 2010/2011

All charities have been affected by the challenging economic climate. We have weathered the financial storm well but we know there will be challenges ahead so we need your time, energy and donations more than ever. We are determined to continue to make real and lasting change happen. To do this we need your ongoing support and commitment.

These stories of success inspire us to strive for more. We could only choose a handful here – read on for many more.



**Kevin Carey,
Chair**



**Lesley-Anne Alexander,
Chief Executive**

Structure and objectives

Our legal structure

The Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) is a registered charity, number 226227, in England and Wales; and number SCO39316 in Scotland. Established in 1868, RNIB was incorporated under Royal Charter in 1949, with a Supplemental Charter in 1993 (revised in 2007).

RNIB has undergone a period of constitutional review. It is governed by a Trustee Board of currently 22 that meets a minimum of four times a year and takes all important strategic, policy and financial decisions, and has overall responsibility for RNIB Group activities. There are no restrictions on the way in which the charity can operate.

How we are managed

The Board delivered the strategy through a number of programme boards. It is also supported by a number of committees and member forums. The key committees supporting the Board are as follows:

- Audit Committee
- Education, Care and Safeguarding Sub-Committee
- Executive Committee
- Governance Committee (and Nominations Committee)
- Human Resources Sub-Committee
- Investments Sub-Committee

- Remuneration Committee
- RNIB Cymru Committee
- RNIB Northern Ireland Committee
- RNIB Scotland Committee

RNIB's schools and colleges have their own governing bodies.

The day-to-day management of RNIB is delegated to the Strategic Management Team (SMT), comprising the Chief Executive, and the Group Directors of:

- Prevention and International Affairs
- Supporting Independent Living
- Inclusive Society
- Fundraising
- Resources
- and the Chief Executive of Action for Blind People.

The Chief Executive of RNIB Group, with the support of the rest of SMT, reports to the Board of Trustees for approval of all major decisions. Full details of SMT can be found in the section "Who's who in RNIB".

RNIB membership

At March 2010 we had 10,600 members forming a strong community and voice for blind and partially sighted people. This year saw the launch of the UK Members Forum which supports the Board and influences policy via the “on the ground” experiences of our blind and partially sighted members. Members also influence our work through regional and country forums. Every member is kept up-to-date with the latest news from RNIB via our award-winning members’ magazine “Vision”.

The revisions to the supplemental charter and bylaws require that a majority of the Board of Trustees, UK Members Forum and all other aspects of RNIB’s governance structure are blind or partially sighted.

Our registered office

We are registered at 105 Judd Street, London WC1H 9NE, telephone 020 7388 1266.

Statement of trustees’ responsibilities

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

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, and Scotland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the

charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity 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;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable 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 business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993, as amended by the Charities Act 2006, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed, and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and the provisions of the charity’s constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity’s website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Our vision and mission

Our work starts from our vision:

“A world where people who are blind or partially sighted enjoy the same rights, responsibilities, opportunities and quality of life as people who are sighted.”

Our mission is:

“To challenge blindness by empowering people who are blind or partially sighted, removing the barriers they face and helping to prevent blindness.”

There are around two million people in the UK living with a sight problem.

Achieving our mission

In order to achieve our mission, RNIB Group Strategy 2009-2014 aligns our work under three clear priorities:

1. Stopping people losing their sight unnecessarily

In support of the UK Vision Strategy, RNIB works with partners to save the sight of thousands of people at high risk of losing their sight, whilst developing models, political will and NHS capacity to make an even bigger impact on unnecessary sight loss in the future.

The needs of people at the point of diagnosis are often unmet, slow to be met or inadequately met. These failings mean that people often do not have the support they need to rebuild their lives following sight loss. We take proactive steps to ensure that people are

supported on a one to one basis, meeting their emotional, practical and information needs.

2. Supporting independent living

Blind and partially sighted people require a range of support and services to help them get on with their life. Our work includes education and employment services, and providing person-centred support to assist people through changes in sight loss or personal circumstances, enabling them to develop the skills needed to tackle life’s challenges.

Sight loss in people with complex needs often goes unrecognised. Recognition levels need to be improved as well as the environment and workforce skills in settings where people with complex needs are supported.

3. Creating an inclusive society

It is essential that blind and partially sighted people can get around, shop, bank and control their money independently. RNIB aims to ensure that mainstream and specialist support services are available to people who require personal assistance to undertake these activities and influence a step-change in the accessibility of services delivered by transport operators, retailers and banks.

By improving access to books, magazines, newspapers, TV, radio and information and communication technologies the independence of blind and partially sighted people will be increased and they will be able to take full advantage of current accessible services and technologies. We also aim to influence laws, standards and industries to increase inclusive design and access.

Specific programmes of work have been developed to help us deliver our ambitious goals. Each of these has a programme board which supports the Board of Trustees. These are:

- Prevention of sight loss
- Early reach
- Living with sight loss
- Complex needs
- Inclusive travel, shopping and control of money
- Inclusive reading, TV and technology
- Funding our ambition
- Enabling our ambition.

Statement of public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, "Charities and Public Benefit".

RNIB's charitable objects are enshrined within its Charter and as such the Trustees ensure that this Charter is carried out for the public benefit through our three strategic priorities. This is done through delivery of services that whilst aimed primarily at those who are blind or partially sighted, are where appropriate open to all who might benefit. Membership of RNIB is not a requirement to use our services.

Where we provide specialist services for which we charge, the pricing model covers the costs for the delivery of the service and long term maintenance and development. Where there is a significant cost for a service, that cost is set to make it recoverable from other sources, such as local authorities for schooling and care. We also provide individuals with access to assistance in application for such funding.

This report allows us to show how our charitable funds are distributed and spent, and the benefits and impact that has on those using the services and the wider impact on society for the reported year and in the future.

Relationships with other charities

We maintain close links and support the aims of other organisations such as local, national and international charities working with or for people with sight problems. We also work closely with other disability charities on issues of mutual concern. We deliver services in partnership with some societies for blind and partially sighted people, and some of our funding comes from charities and trusts which support our aims.

On 1 April 2009, RNIB and Action for Blind People (Action) formed an association to share resources, skills and expertise to engage and reach more blind and partially sighted people with even better services.

RNIB Cymru formed an association with Cardiff Institute for the Blind (renamed to become Cardiff, Vales and Valleys (CVV)) on 2 June 2009, to develop and expand services for people with sight problems in Wales.

A third association was formed In February 2010 with National Talking Newspapers and Magazines (formerly the Talking Newspaper Association of the UK (TNAUK)). This is a positive step forward and reinforces the group's commitment to blind and partially sighted people's right to read. This association will enable National Talking Newspapers and Magazines (NTNM) to continue developing services and increase the number of people they are able to reach.

Our work in 2009/2010

Stopping people losing their sight unnecessarily

It's outrageous if even one person has to live with unnecessary sight problems. However, 50 per cent of sight problems in the UK could be avoided. We spent £3,403,000 in 2009/2010 campaigning for change and bringing our sight-saving messages to people most at risk.

The targets – last year we said we would:

1. Run "Eye Health Week" together with local and national partners.

Eye Health Week was postponed to June 2010 to involve more support from the wider eye health sector to raising awareness about eye health. We're excited that high street opticians and the Eye Health Alliance are now backing a nationwide eye health campaign.

2. Launch the "Future of Sight Loss in the UK" research reports and complete pilot projects focusing on older people, black minority ethnic groups and the brothers and sisters of people with glaucoma.

We launched not one, but two ground-breaking research reports revealing the true financial burden of sight loss to the nation and showing sight problems will increase in the future as the population ages. We also completed pilot projects across the UK ranging from boroughs in London to the highlands of Scotland. Along the way we forged solid partnerships with Primary Care Trusts and organisations representing people with sight problems from black minority ethnic groups such as OBAC (Organisation of Blind African Caribbeans).

3. Identify strategic partnerships across the UK to reduce inequality in eye health across specific geographical areas with people who are the most at risk of losing their sight.

We identified five areas and have already made good progress in Leeds, London, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales by working with health and social care agencies to make it easier for everyone to get the services they need to keep their eyes healthy.

Highlights of the year

Looking after our Future Vision

Losing your sight is something many people think only happens to other people. However, not giving your eyes the attention they deserve can put your sight at risk. It's why we're so passionate about regular eye health checks and a healthy lifestyle. We visited eight college campuses around the UK and over 3,000 students came to our Future Vision virtual aging booth which showed them how they might look in the future based on their lifestyle choices today and alerted them to the fact that smoking doubles the chances of blindness.

Focusing on eye conditions

A radically new pilot project in Wales is set to change how glaucoma is treated. Thanks to £200,000 from the Welsh Assembly Government, individuals in Cardiff and West Wales will now be able to visit community centres for their condition to be diagnosed and treated instead of having to wait for a hospital appointment. We know from our work with the Patient Safety Agency in 2009 that over a third of patients who had their appointments cancelled or delayed, were now permanently partially sighted or blind. This unnecessary tragedy has brought about a new commitment to reduce cancellations and delays.

Timeliness is the key to preventing sight loss from glaucoma. That's why we initiated a project to warn the brothers and sisters of people with glaucoma of the higher risk they face, which has been so successful that NHS Trusts in Wales are turning our project into a permanent service.

We also supported Novartis Ophthalmics in launching a major campaign to bring home the risks of age-related macular disease to older people in the UK. We're delighted that the "Be AMD aware" campaign (www.beAMDaware.co.uk) will get the message across about this leading cause of sight loss in the UK.

People most at risk

We know that people from black and minority ethnic communities are more at risk of certain eye conditions. So, we've worked with local partners to get our sight-saving messages out to those who need them most. This was the motivation behind RNIB Scotland's community eye care pilot projects funded by the Scottish Government, including the ethnic minority project in greater Glasgow. Through sessions in day care centres, mosques, temples and cultural events, we're proud to have reached 1,200 people of ethnic origin who hadn't heard eye health messages before. RNIB Scotland is now working with key people in optometry, the NHS and social care to find practical and creative ways of making eye care services more easily available for people most at risk.

Jamila's story

Jamila understands sight loss more than most. She was diagnosed with cone dystrophy seven years ago and though naturally independent, felt "lost and isolated". She took part in research for the Ethnic Minority Eye Health Project in greater Glasgow and through this she got to find out more about RNIB Scotland. We've helped Jamila to get connected – to job opportunities, to her local community and to other people in the same position as herself. It's helped her find her old enthusiasm for life again. "I was inspired and encouraged by many of the people who have lost their eyesight and were still able to live, work and contribute to help the society. I remember thinking to myself, 'If they could do it so can I', and that was the beginning." Jamila is now volunteering to teach people from her community about looking after their eyesight and showing people how they can find their lives again after sight loss.

What do we want to change next year?

1. We will improve the eye health of the nation by helping people to understand how to look after their eyes. We will ensure our sight-saving messages are heard loud and clear through supporting Eye Health Week, taking our Future Vision mobile pod to 3,500 young people in ten different cities, working with our partners in the commercial sector to promote good eye health and by researching the best ways to reach those most at risk.
2. In an election year, we will make eye health a political priority and increase pressure on government to give eye health greater priority across health and social care sectors. We'll do this by supporting the UK Vision Strategy across the UK and publishing valuable guidance for Primary Care Trusts to help them build eye care services into their plans.
3. We will help people to get the eye care treatments they need by challenging instances of poor treatment of eye disease, improving the level of screening for children's eye health and influencing the availability of new treatments for eye conditions. We will also be working to identify the best ways to help those people most at risk to access treatment.

Supporting independent living

Losing your sight is not the end of your life – but it can be the start of a new one. We spent £96,681,000 in 2009/2010 in helping people who have lost their sight lead independent lives.

The targets – last year we said we would:

1. Provide support to 11,000 people at the point when they are told they are losing their sight.

Losing your sight is a bewildering and fearful experience. It's why we are promoting Eye Clinic Liaison Officers as the way to help people when they need it most – when they are diagnosed in hospitals. Eye Clinic Liaison Officers across the UK, either provided or supported by the RNIB Group, helped 13,385 people last year to take the first steps in rebuilding their lives.

2. Help thousands of blind and partially sighted people to live independent lives. This year we will be able to support more people than ever through our innovative associations with Action for Blind People (Action) and Cardiff, Vales and Valleys (formerly Cardiff Institute for the Blind).

Thousands might have been an under-estimation! We welcomed over two million people to our website, responded to a staggering 400,000 requests from customers and offered a range of 1,100 products to make life easier. We've now celebrated a full year of collaboration with Action ten months with Cardiff, Vales and Valleys (CVV) and we are off to a flying start with National Talking Newspapers and Magazines (NTNM) – all united in the aim of reaching more people with better services.

3. Provide the very best RNIB care and education services, by continuing to develop the Vision School and by reviewing all our care and education services for adults and children with complex needs.

The name is under debate, but progress isn't. We're on track to open RNIB Rushton School and Children's Home in 2011. We have also worked with education and care inspectors at Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission on the service we provide in our other school and college, three residential homes and community living centre. We're delighted that all of them have been awarded good, excellent or outstanding ratings.

4. Support 1,250 people to stay in work or to move into employment.

Through a mix of work experience, interview preparation and training courses we helped 1,157 people to keep their job or find new employment, almost reaching our target in what was perhaps the most challenging employment year on record.

5. A third of people with learning difficulties also have a sight problem, which often goes undetected. We will ensure that at least 400 people who have a learning disability receive a combined sight test and vision assessment.

In Scotland alone, 424 people with learning difficulties received a combined sight test and vision assessment. We're now delivering these enhanced tests at RNIB schools and our college reaching far more children and adults. We trained over 1,000 optometrists and eye health professionals to improve the recognition of sight problems among people with learning difficulties.

Highlights of the year

Our expertise, your entitlement

What better way to help people to live independent lives than to make sure they are receiving all the financial support that they are entitled to? The state benefits can pay for the extra expense of living with sight problems, such as taxis and help around the home, but the application maze means that thousands miss out. Last year specialist advisers across the RNIB Group identified a fantastic £13million of unclaimed benefits. It has transformed thousands of lives around the UK, including back payments of up to £16,000.

We've also continued to work with British Gas on their Here to Help project, bringing support and equipment and cutting the fuel bills of blind and partially sighted people most in need. What's more British Gas's extra £20,000 funding in addition to £100,000 already committed means that we can carry on the good work into next year.

Support and information for all

Action has redesigned its services, making the best possible use of resources and delivering all of RNIB Group's regional services in England. We now have a firm foundation for the future with 14 centres across England equipped with specialist advisors helping people to find their lives again. Now together with RNIB teams in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, we're determined that every blind or partially sighted person will have the same high quality services on their doorstep no matter where they live.

We took that local approach with Action's Mobile Information Sight Loss Service. With the support of a host of partners we toured the UK giving one-to-one support and information to just under 10,000 people in their local area.

Thanks to £467,610 from the Big Lottery Fund we will be able to reach more people with sight problems in rural Norfolk and Suffolk. It means we can offer more local services in areas where there is little or no public transport.

An impressive 85,000 blind and partially sighted people, not to mention thousands of sighted fans, tune into RNIB Insight Radio every week. Last year we opened satellite radio studios in Cardiff and Redhill, Surrey. These studios, along with the hub in Glasgow, mean that our radio programmes are better than ever, covering the issues that matter to people with sight problems. The new studios also mean we can offer more local training opportunities for blind and partially sighted people to learn about radio and get great work experience.

At the eye clinic

"Nothing, nothing, nothing ever prepares you for not being able to see" – these are the words of Sue Townsend, author of the Adrian Mole diaries. It's why we have focused on being there at the point of diagnosis and on supporting the NHS to set up services. By March 2010, through a combination of RNIB Group and Primary Care Trust funding, this vital service was present in all hospital eye clinics in Northern Ireland, two in Wales, four in Scotland and at 24 sites across England.

The next generation

We are busy preparing for the next generation of schooling and care at our new state of the art school and children’s home on the Rushton site due to open in 2011. In the meantime, Ofsted awarded the existing school and home a “Good” rating, commenting that students are “cared for and nurtured outstandingly well”.

RNIB Sunshine House in Northwood has benefited from an innovative partnership with Grangewood School that is run by the local authority in Hillingdon. The collaboration has brought new leadership and “Good” and “Outstanding” Ofsted ratings. RNIB College Loughborough celebrated 20 years of supporting young people through vocational training schemes and achieved “Good” and “Outstanding” ratings from Ofsted.

Children with sight problems often miss out on sport because the games are not adapted or for health and safety fears. That includes children like Lucy, a bubbly 11 year old, who felt excluded and frustrated in school PE lessons because of her eye condition. This all

changed when she joined the Birmingham Actionnaires club where she tried sport she’d never imagined. “My favourites are swimming and trampolining, but I’ve also been sailing and have tobogganed backwards!” Over the year 800 children and young people like Lucy were given a fantastic range of sporting opportunities through the 32 Actionnaires clubs across England and Wales.

RNIB Scotland’s Haggeye Youth Forum continued from strength to strength giving young people with sight problems their say, thanks to funding from the Big Lottery Fund. Last year they were chosen to take part in an influential project to encourage ‘hard to reach’ groups to participate in the Scottish Parliament.

RNIB Cymru’s Low Vision Toolkit, funded by the Welsh Assembly Government, will make real change happen. It’s designed to support teaching staff to help children with low vision make the most of their sight and get on in life. Two other RNIB training materials for teachers and learning assistants, called Hear me out and Count me in, will complement the toolkit. They are an inspiring resource where children with sight problems have the chance to talk honestly about their lives.

Jack’s story

Jack is 18 years old and has been living and learning at RNIB Rushton School and Children’s Home since 2005. He is partially sighted with cerebral palsy and has reduced mobility. Jack is fun loving with a great sense of humour. When he arrived at Rushton, Jack was dependent on others to push him around in his wheelchair. He was also very impatient and frustrated.

Five years on there is a very different story to tell. RNIB supported Jack to make better use of his sight and developed a behaviour management programme. Now Jack can manoeuvre his own wheelchair and communicates what he wants and generally loves his new independence.

What do we want to change next year?

1. We aim to support and care for over 11,000 people at the very difficult time of losing their sight through our programme of Eye Clinic Liaison Officers working in eye hospitals around the country. In addition, we will help 24,000 people find their life again after sight loss through in-depth sessions delivered by our Helpline.
2. Our new Rushton School and Children's Home will offer a fantastic school and care home for blind and partially sighted children who have other very complex needs when it opens in 2011. We will also increase the quality and availability of specialist teaching and support for blind and partially sighted learners across the UK through training, resources and campaigning for change.
3. In a period of economic uncertainty we will campaign with National Association of Local Societies of Visually Impaired People and Guide Dogs for the Blind Association to protect benefits for blind and partially sighted people so that the same quality services are available to all wherever you live in the UK.
4. Losing your sight shouldn't also mean losing your job! That's why we will help 1,250 people to stay in work or to find a new job during the testing times of the recession.
5. Undetected sight problems among people with learning difficulties limit potential and quality of life. We want to put this right and so will be supporting Mencap's National Learning Disability Week, where we will launch a new DVD to help professionals to spot the signs of sight loss.

David's story

David has a rare eye condition called complete aniridia. As his eye sight worsened he was seen by one of Action for Blind People's Eye Clinic Liaison Officers, where he mentioned the idea of becoming self-employed. Jonathan at Action began meeting David regularly to help him put together business plans. When the recession hit, Action was there again with advice and support. David's handyman company is doing well and his spirits are high. "I've met many people who think someone with sight problems can't do this or that, but I've proved them wrong."

Creating an inclusive society

We want to make the UK a better place to live if you are blind or partially sighted. Last year we spent £11,052,000 on working to improve travel, shopping and control of money. We also focused on developing better ways to read, watch TV and use technology.

The targets – last year we said we would:

1. Double audio description targets, launch the first talking set-top box and ensure that blind and partially sighted people benefit from Digital Switch Over.

We campaigned over autumn 2009 for Ofcom to increase the audio description target to 20 per cent and the final decision is expected in June 2010. In the meantime we were delighted that our continuing pressure led Sky, the BBC and Channel 4 to voluntarily audio describe 20 per cent of their programming. Audio description was also launched on the BBC iPlayer and BT Vision. The first ever audio-described Bollywood film “My Name is Khan” premiered in February thanks to RNIB research and influence. We have been working hard to ensure the launch of the first talking set-top box, including a talking programme guide, and this will be on the high street in July 2010. Our work with Digital UK to ensure that blind and partially sighted people get the support they need from the Digital TV Help Scheme has been successful. In addition this year we have given face-to-face support and information to over 2,000 people.

2. Help people to get around and shop by working with major companies to improve their services, by improving information and advice and by supporting people to campaign for better services.

RNIB's pioneering talking sign system, REACT, is making city centres, such as Brighton and Newcastle, easier to get around. We supported people in 55 local challenges where transport or walkways were creating barriers to safe and independent travel and we successfully campaigned to reinstate the full benefits of concessionary bus passes in seven local authorities. In the shopping arena, we brought blind and partially sighted people, retailers and transport companies together at two "Go! Shop" events to stimulate shops to provide a better service to their blind and partially sighted customers.

3. Make at least two of the most popular online services easy to use, ensure that people fully benefit from ebooks and technology.

Blind and partially sighted people told us that we should prioritise the accessibility of budget airline websites, followed by supermarkets – we are now working with these businesses to improve their services. Through discussions with publishers, authors and book retailers, we have built a strong case for access to ebooks for blind and partially sighted readers. The first ebook reader with a text-to-speech function has been launched but the player itself is not accessible. We have continued to make big strides in developing new technology, launching innovative new devices such as a more affordable video magnifier, our fantastic new audio labelling gadget called PenFriend and a revolutionary braille writing frame.

Highlights of the year

It's all about people

Our newly designed Helpline had many things to celebrate on its first birthday. We are the first port of call for people losing their sight, responding to over 2,000 requests from customers every working day – that's over 400,000 in the year. Action's telephone service has now merged with RNIB's Helpline, so now anyone in need can reach our combined expertise and support with just one number.

RNIB Members are now more involved than ever in our decision-making. We launched a network of nine regional forums in England, plus one in each of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. This is helping us improve our dialogue with members throughout the UK and always focus on the issues closest to our members' hearts. What's more, these lively forums give blind and partially sighted people more opportunities to share experiences and learn from each other.

The right to read

We are delighted that 45,000 voracious bookworms are benefiting from our National Library Service, working their way through nearly two million books last year. We added 3,000 new book titles to the collection in 2009/10.

For the first time, anyone could buy a range of large print or braille books through high street stores. Our pioneering Focus book project highlighted the demand for large print books and we're delighted that this initiative will now be taken forward by BBC Audio Books.

Reading isn't just about books at bedtime. From bus timetables to food labels, reading is essential to leading an independent life. In 2009 we and hundreds of blind and partially sighted people took the NHS to task for routinely sending out personal medical information in formats that people couldn't read. A subsequent discussion at Prime Minister's Question Time led to nine NHS trusts making public statements on their commitment to providing information in audio, braille and large print.

We took this a stage further by seeking a late amendment to the Equality Bill enshrining people's right to information in a format they can read. Lord Low, RNIB's Vice-President put forward this change which the government then adopted. The new accessible information clause became law on 8 April 2010.

Joining forces with National Talking Newspapers and Magazines (NTNM) has also brought news and stories direct to people with sight problems. Now every national newspaper is available to blind and partially sighted people on the same day as the standard print editions.

Barbara's story

Barbara is 64 and lives alone with her guide dog Uri. Her local hospital knows she is blind, but still carried on sending her unreadable letters in print. On one occasion she had no choice but to take the results of a mammogram test to the Post Office to have it read out. "The information in that letter was sensitive and confidential. If I received letters in braille I wouldn't need to ask somebody else to read them to me."

Barbara is not alone – stories like this have spurred on our Losing Patients campaign to put an end to this scandal which denies people the right to read their own health information privately and independently.

What do we want to change next year?

1. Getting around, shopping and managing your own money safely and independently doesn't sound too much to ask, but these everyday tasks are often not possible for people with sight problems. We will campaign for change, use our influence in the travel, retail and financial industries to create eight beacons of best practice and ensure that blind and partially sighted people better understand their rights.
2. Ebooks, digital magazines and newspapers and websites should be opening up a whole new world of reading, but only if they are developed with disabled people in mind. We will work with manufacturers, industry and service providers to ensure that blind and partially sighted people do not miss out on the digital revolution.
3. Our campaign to make the Disability Living Allowance fairer was hugely successful and will soon mean up to £45million a year for blind people. But there is more to do – so in 2010/2011 we will make sure blind people know about their new rights and are ready to take up this additional benefit as soon as it's available.

Helping people find their life again

None of the amazing achievements mentioned in this report would be possible without the fantastic and tireless endeavour of thousands of donors, volunteers and campaigners. We can only mention a few here, but our heartfelt thanks go out to you all.

Highlights of the year

Lost and found

In September we launched our “Lost and found” campaign, asking people “What would you lose if you lost your sight?”, and explaining how together we can help people find their life again. We used the power of empathy to help people think more about sight loss. The campaign attracted national television and newspaper coverage, and was capped by our Chairman’s dinner at the House of Lords. But it won’t stop there, we will continue to ask our supporters to help people losing their sight, to find their life again.

Towering support

Blind and partially sighted people continue to benefit from the dedication and hard work of Rotarian and Inner Wheel volunteers. An impressive total of £120,000 was raised this year for our Talking Book Service. What’s more, Rotarians spread the word about the good work of the Talking Book Service through inspiring talks to community groups across the UK. We were delighted to have the opportunity to thank these committed supporters at a star-spangled reception at the BT Tower in London.

British Gas has supported the Here to Help project since 2002 and the continued backing will enable us to reach even more people in the coming year. For example, it means that we can carry on with our special programme of benefits health checks – the Here to Help project has meant that we could put £1.5million of unclaimed entitlements into the rightful pockets of people with sight problems.

In Scotland we have also won £1.5million in extra income for blind or partially sighted people thanks to a one-man telephone helpline. The free service, run by the Royal National Institute of Blind People Scotland with funding from Standard Life plc, has to date helped over 800 clients and is now celebrating its third year of operation. Karen Frost at Standard Life plc, said; “It has been wonderful to see how the helpline has enabled so many people to gain access to the help they are entitled to.”

Novartis sponsored our popular Future Vision Tour, which shows 16-24 year-olds how lifestyle choices, and smoking in particular, impact on their long-term health and eye health. The tour drives the message home by simulating what the young people will look like in years to come because of their current lifestyle.

Young readers

Youngsters in Wales have caught the volunteering bug early in life. Together with RNIB Cymru, the children choose and narrate their favourite books for other children in Wales, who cannot read standard print. The young readers come into the studios during their holidays and record Welsh audio books for blind and partially sighted children and young people. This is the first time these books have been available to loan and we are very pleased that they are proving so popular.

Cornish pasties, blisters and inspiration!

Mike Rowe was one of 107 people to run the London Marathon for RNIB this year. Mike's inspiration was his seven-year-old daughter Paige, who has been blind since birth. "Although being overtaken by a cornish pastie, I completed the marathon in 4 hours and 36 minutes, and it was much more than a run, it was a rich and vibrant experience." It is because of people like Mike that we can support children like Paige not only in childhood, but throughout their life.

As well as the 107 people training, running and fundraising hard for people with sight problems at the London Marathon, we had fantastic supporters at many events including 112 people completing the Great North Run, 16 people crossing the line in the Great South Run, 14 people running the 10k British road race, 8 people completing the Royal Parks Half Marathon and 6 people hitting and passing the wall at the Berlin Marathon. Congratulations team RNIB!

100 and counting...

Our volunteer public speakers in the south west notched up their 100th talk this year. This is a remarkable achievement and a marvellous contribution to spreading the word about sight loss and how our work makes a real difference to people's lives.

A lasting legacy

Many of our services are only possible because people have chosen to remember blind and partially sighted people in their Will. John Vale is one of the generous supporters who has chosen to leave us a legacy this year: "I was suicidal when I first lost my sight but then I contacted RNIB. They showed me the practical and useful equipment I needed to make my life easier and I joined their Talking Book Service, which is just out of this world. I got audio description so I could enjoy television again and was introduced to equipment to help me use my computer. They have shown me there are so many things I can still do and enabled me to enjoy and value my life again. I really don't know where I would be without RNIB and would like to know they will be there to help others in the future."

Financial review

2009/10 has seen significant changes in the operations of RNIB which are reflected in the financial results for the year. These changes have seen underlying income rise to £117.4million and spending on charitable activities rise to £111.1million. Key to these changes were the associations formed with Action for Blind People, Cardiff Institute for the Blind (to become Cardiff, Vales and Valleys) and National Talking Newspapers and Magazines (NTNM). These charities have brought income of £13.8million and charitable activities of £13.1million to the Group. On consolidation they have contributed £17.7million by way of net assets, at fair value, to the Group.

In 2008/9 we announced the new RNIB Group strategy based around the three aims of prevention of sight loss, independent living and creating an inclusive society. The Group Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) has been changed to reflect this new strategy and the previous year's figures restated accordingly. The total income and expenditure on charitable activities have not changed in this restatement.

We are very pleased to see that our fundraising income has held up in the current economic climate. Whilst the enlargement of the Group has played a significant part of this, when looking at the underlying level of fundraising in the Charity, excluding Group companies it has increased from £54million to £57.2million due to an exceptionally strong year for legacy income.

Other significant activity during the year was:

- The continued construction of our new Rushton School and Children's Home in Coventry. Construction work cost £6.3million during the year and the school and living accommodation will be operational in January 2011. The construction costs are covered by fundraised income and a bank loan from Allied Irish Bank (AIB).
- Significant uses of designated funds have included £280,000 starting eye clinic services in Northern Ireland, £900,000 on improving our website, £400,000 getting large print books into high street bookshops, £500,000 on "Work Focus" employment project, and £335,000 making digital TV more accessible to blind and partially sighted people.
- Increasing our influence on the international stage.
- Strengthening awareness of sight loss issues through the launch of our "Lost and found" campaign.
- The value of our investments increased by £6.9m as world stock markets recovered during the year.

Free reserves at the end of the year stood at £19.1million which is equivalent to 11 weeks as compared to £21.8million (13 weeks) at 31 March 2009. This is part of a planned reduction in our reserves to support our projects and services during this difficult economic period. The reduction during the year would have been greater if the value of our investments hadn't increased by £6.9million. Work on a number of projects progressed with support from the Investment Fund: and work continued on RNIB Rushton School and Children's Home with funds from the revenue shortfall reserve. These funds

reduced by £3.9million to £8.2million during the year. This reduction is planned to continue further in 2010/11.

Whilst the improvements to world stock markets had a material effect on the value of the RNIB pension scheme assets, a combination of lower yields on AA rated corporate bonds, increases in the long-term outlook for inflation and in the future improvements in longevity has led to a small increase in the FRS17 valuation of the pension fund deficit from £8.1million to £9.2million.

The last formal triennial valuation of the pension scheme was at 31 March 2009. The valuation disclosed that the market value of the Scheme's assets (excluding voluntary contributions) at that date was £93.3million, and that there was a deficit of £28.6 million. RNIB has agreed a recovery plan with the RNIB Pension Fund Trustees to pay additional contributions of £1million per annum for 17 years. This will be part funded by a reduction in employer contributions as a result of reducing the inflation cap for pensions in payment and deferred pensions from 5 per cent to 3 per cent for benefits accruing after 30 June 2010.

The two subsidiary trading companies of the group contributed £62,000 to the RNIB Group through gift aid.

Despite the continuing adverse economic environment RNIB is committed to delivering its 2009/14 Strategy. As mentioned above, in order to do this trustees have decided that should it be necessary they would be prepared for reserves to fall below the 12-17 weeks policy, to maintain and develop the services provided. This is not a decision taken lightly and trustees will be ever vigilant on the risks

RNIB are facing and will be both proactive in their approach and respond accordingly as the economic situation develops.

All that RNIB does remains possible because of the continued support of donors through legacies, gifts and donations, for which we are very grateful. The challenge of raising over £65.7million for 2010/11 is increasingly demanding in the current climate, but it is so vital to make our work possible.

Fundraising review

On 1 April 2009 RNIB and Action entered into an association agreement. Under the terms of that agreement RNIB has taken over the responsibility for the fundraising operation of Action in return for a grant. That grant in 2010 has amounted to £8,368,000. The net proceeds of this fundraising activity have been restricted within these accounts for the benefit of Action.

Total voluntary income for 2009/10 amounts to £68.3million, an increase of £14.3million against 2008/2009, of which £10.9million relates to Action fundraising activity. A "gift in kind" has been received from Microsoft relating to computer software and this has been included in "Donations and gifts" at a value of £464,000.

Fundraising costs for 2009/10 amounts to £16.7million, an increase of £3.8million against 2008/2009. The fundraising costs are net of a recharge in the sum of £4.6million for costs incurred in educating the public about matters relating to sight loss. These costs have been included within the costs of "Charitable Activities". The costs attributable to Action fundraising activity amounted to £3.8million before the educational activity recharge.

Investment policy

Statement of investment principles

Investment decisions are taken on the advice of the Investments Sub-Committee whose members have a finance, investment or commercial background.

The Charity's investment policy is to hold assets to achieve an appropriate return with an appropriate level of risk when considered alongside the Charity's business plan and level of reserves. It has three investment objectives:

- to invest prudently – the basic investment strategy of the Charity has been to invest in a way that the minimum level of reserves is very likely to remain covered, but with some investment risk being taken on the assets over and above this minimum level
- to invest in liquid assets – the Charity could call upon its quoted investments at any point. It should be straightforward to sell the Charity's assets down to cash, and doing so should result in the cash being available quickly and without the potential for significant adverse impact on the value of investments
- to invest ethically – the Charity wishes to avoid unethical investments, and in particular tobacco stocks due to the link between smoking and certain conditions that result in sight loss.

Investments are currently allocated 20 per cent in equities, 40 per cent in bonds and 40 per cent in cash. This strategy was developed with the advice of Hewitt Associates and takes into account the nature of the Charity's business as reflected in its business plans.

It is the Charity's intention to hold sufficient short term cash holdings to meet fluctuating needs and to make appropriate use of an overdraft facility as required with the Royal Bank of Scotland.

The Charity's reserve policy is to normally maintain reserves equivalent to between 12 and 17 weeks of its operating costs. The combined effect of the economic downturn and its expected impact on fundraising revenue has led a business plan with lower than usual expected reserves in the coming years. A combination of the planned fall in general reserves, the expenditure on planned projects from designated funds and the current economic uncertainty have led the Charity to hold its investments in a low risk and liquid portfolio.

It is the Charity's aim to perform an annual desk top review of Investment Managers and to meet them as appropriate.

The Charity has mandates with Legal & General and Foreign & Colonial and fee structures are:

- Legal & General Ethical Trust – 0.235 per cent per annum
- Legal & General Cash Trust – 0.23 per cent per annum
- Foreign & Colonial Ethical Bond Fund Share Class 2 – 0.55 per cent per annum.

In addition to managed investments, Endowment Funds continue to be invested with CAF in their Balanced Growth and Income Funds. The fee structures are 0.64 per cent per annum for the Growth Fund and 0.58 per cent per annum for the Income Fund.

The group investments include a further £43,000 relating to the National Talking Newspapers and Magazines and £1,681,000 for Action for Blind People. All Action's funds are now managed by Legal and General, using pooled funds to match the allocation set out in their investment strategy, and their performance is closely monitored against, and closely matches, publicly available market benchmarks.

Investment performance

The funds in which the investments are held are measured against agreed benchmark indices for each relevant holding. The performance for the investments held by RNIB as at 31 March 2010 against each fund's benchmark index are detailed in the table below.

The investment in cash was made on 14 December 2009 and the investment in bonds on 7 December 2009.

	Value at 31 March 2010	Actual	Target	+/-	Performance in year to 31 March 2010 (or since inception if earlier)		
	£'000	%	%	%	Fund %	Benchmark %	+/-
Cash	11,468	40.3	40	+0.3	+0.1	n/a	n/a
Corporate bonds	11,820	41.6	40	+1.6	+2.7	+3.3	-0.6
UK equities	5,160	18.1	20	-1.9	+46.7	+46.4	+0.3
Total	28,448	100	100	-			

Reserves policy

RNIB's reserves policy focuses on the level of "free reserves". Free reserves exclude restricted funds and designated funds, which include the net book value of land and buildings occupied by RNIB services and activities. The assessment of free reserves excludes any surplus or deficit reported on the pension scheme.

RNIB seeks to maintain free reserves to manage the risks to which the Charity is exposed in the course of its business, including but not limited to safeguarding against volatile voluntary income.

The Trustees review the reserves policy each year and consider that in order to meet these needs, and to operate effectively, RNIB needs reserves equivalent to between 12 and 17 weeks of its operating costs. This equates to between £21.6million and £30.7million. RNIB's free reserves were £19.1million at 31 March 2010 (2009: £21.8million), which equates to 11 weeks (2009: 13 weeks).

RNIB's Trustees have met to consider the level of reserves and have concluded that they are prepared to allow the level of reserves to fall below the 12-17 week range in furtherance of delivering the 2009/14 strategy. The Trustees have agreed a business plan in support of the strategy which aims to increase reserves to meet the policy within the strategy period.

The actuarial valuation of RNIB's pension scheme at 31 March 2010 for the purposes of FRS17 showed a deficit of £9.2million (2008/09 a deficit of £8.1million), which is set against the level of free reserves as required by FRS17. The corresponding liability does not result in an immediate cash flow impact on the Charity. A full triennial valuation of the pension fund took place as at 31 March 2006 and

the updated valuation has been produced and the draft results are to be considered by the Pension Scheme Trustees. Contributions to the scheme are met through planned income. The level of free reserves has been calculated excluding the FRS17 assessed liability.

At 31 March 2010 RNIB held designated funds totalling £55.8million (2009 restated: £62million). Of this £43.8million (2009 restated: £45.4million) relates to properties and £1.4million (2009: £1.2million) relates to other assets (mainly talking book players) both used directly in undertaking RNIB's objectives. The remaining funds amounting to £10.6million (2009: £15.4million) for this year represent the investment and mergers funds together with amounts expected to be spent within three years on the maintenance and replacement of properties and other assets.

Where restricted fund balances are in a deficit situation, then unless these will be covered by forthcoming receipts, the deficit balances are charged to general funds. Such balances in 2010 amounted to £63,000, all of which are to be covered by forthcoming receipts.

Environmental report

Risk management

The Board of Trustees is responsible for overseeing the Charity's risk management activities. Detailed consideration of risk is delegated to the Audit Committee, which is assisted by senior charity management in continually reviewing this matter and reporting thereon to the main Board.

Major risks identified currently include those in relation to the protection of people in our care; the investment and construction of the Rushton School and Children's Home; increased competition for voluntary income and public awareness of RNIB and blindness; and financial pressures on stakeholders.

Mitigating strategies, controls and actions are in place for these and other risks identified.

Through the risk management process established for the Charity, the Trustees are satisfied that the major risks have been identified and processes for addressing them have been implemented. It is recognised that any control systems can only provide reasonable but not absolute assurance that major risks have been adequately managed.

We are committed to reducing our environmental impact, in particular reducing our carbon footprint. We have looked at our impact on the environment across the organisation. In particular we have considered the impact of waste, water and energy usage which we have measured for the third consecutive year. We are currently undertaking this for the main Charity; however, we are working with our associate charities so that we can extend this to the Group as soon as possible.

Our main objective is to maximise the environmental efficiency of our buildings and work practices, reducing pollution and avoiding unnecessary costs.

Effective environmental management is an integral part of our efforts to achieve RNIB's vision. We follow the international standard ISO 14001.

We are committed to continual improvement and we will set annual targets. We are also committed to meeting or exceeding the requirements of applicable environmental legislation through RNIB policies and procedures.

The amount of carbon (CO₂) generated in the 2009 calendar year was 4,397 tonnes (2008: 4,614 tonnes). This is a reduction for the year of 7.8 per cent. Within that figure we reduced the carbon generated from vehicle use by 21.6 per cent from 583 to 457 tonnes.

To date we have not been able to measure the amount of carbon generated by rail and air travel. However, we will be able to report on this in future years.

As part of our continuing strategy to reduce the carbon footprint of our fleet of vehicles, we regularly review the makes and models which we offer for allocation. We are, therefore, currently negotiating with a leading manufacturer of hybrid and energy efficient vehicles.

Our Peterborough establishment is our biggest user of energy. We are replacing the 25 year old heating and cooling system which uses old inefficient technologies. The new system removes the need for the water-chiller plant and reduces our use of the existing gas fired boilers. The new system, programmed for completion in August 2010, will provide both heating and cooling throughout the building and help us reduce our carbon footprint.

We are replacing the existing Rushton School and Children's Home in Coventry with state-of-the-art facilities. Due for completion in 2011, the new facility will provide a home to 60 young people. The development allows us to demonstrate our commitment to a sustainable future and the specification includes a communal heating system with combined heat and power to provide space heating, domestic hot water and hydrotherapy pool heating as well as electricity.

We have carried out a waste audit of all of our establishments to promote best practice in waste management and to maximise recycling.

This year, we recycled over 35.5 tonnes of CDs and their envelopes from our Talking Books Service. Our recycling rate has improved from 20.2 per cent to 34.6 per cent in 2009.

Our staff are encouraged to use water efficiently and many of our establishments have installed water saving measures.

The process of reviewing our suppliers to achieve our ambition of only working with those with sound environmental principles and practices is continuing.

In 2010 we have made a commitment to sustainable development and using the One Planet toolkit have identified the following five issues to address in the first year:

- zero carbon
- zero waste
- health and happiness
- sustainable materials
- sustainable transport.

We have set as one of our objectives for this year the need to identify targets for the five issues we have identified.

Independent auditors' report to the trustees of RNIB

We have audited the financial statements of Royal National Institute of Blind People for the year ended 31 March 2010 which comprise the Consolidated statement of financial activities, the Group and Charity balance sheets, the consolidated cashflow statement and the related notes. The financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors

The trustees' responsibilities for preparing the RNIB Group Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) are set out in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities.

We have been appointed as auditors under section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 and under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and report in accordance with regulations made under those Acts. Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). This report, including the opinion, has been prepared for and only for the charity's trustees as a body in accordance with Regulation 30 of The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 made under the Charities Act 1993, section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and Regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and for no

other purpose. We do not, in giving this opinion, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and Regulations 6 and 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

We also report to you if, in our opinion, the information given in the RNIB Group Annual Report is not consistent with those financial statements, if the charity has not kept sufficient and proper accounting records, if the charity's financial statements or statement of account are not in agreement with these accounting records or if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

We read other information contained in the RNIB Group Annual Report, and consider whether it is consistent with the audited financial statements. The other information comprises only the RNIB Group Annual Report and all of the other information listed on the contents page. We consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements. Our responsibilities do not extend to other information.

Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made by the trustees in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the group's and charity's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, of the state of the Group's and the Charity's affairs as at 31 March 2010 and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its cash flows, for the year then ended; and
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and Regulations 6 and 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors

Eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

London

22 July 2010

Consolidated statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2010

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Endowment funds £'000	Total 2010 £'000	Total 2009 (Restated) £'000
Incoming resources						
Incoming resources from generated funds						
Voluntary income						
Donations and gifts		22,103	8,130	-	30,233	22,284
Legacies		33,864	4,205	-	38,069	31,728
Total voluntary income		55,967	12,335	-	68,302	54,012
Activities for generating funds – merchandising and sponsorship		182	79	-	261	569
Investment income	2	1,237	453	-	1,690	2,371
Total incoming resources from generated funds		57,386	12,867	-	70,253	56,952
Incoming resources from charitable activities	1.5					
Stopping people losing their sight unnecessarily		418	71	-	489	964
Supporting independent living		28,767	14,570	-	43,337	35,246
Creating an inclusive society		1,763	94	-	1,857	2,321
Total incoming resources from charitable activities	1.5	30,948	14,735	-	45,683	38,531
Other incoming resources						
Fair value of acquired net assets	3	-	17,695	1	17,696	-
Other income – VAT claim		1,220	293	-	1,513	-
Other income – defined benefit pension scheme		-	-	-	-	705
Total incoming resources	1.5	89,554	45,590	1	135,145	96,188
Resources expended						
Costs to generate funds						
Costs of generating voluntary income	1.6	16,708	-	-	16,708	12,892
Merchandising and sponsorship costs		229	77	-	306	690

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Endowment funds £'000	Total 2010 £'000	Total 2009 (Restated) £'000
Investment management fees		139	3	37	179	58
Total costs to generate funds	1.6	17,076	80	37	17,193	13,640
Charitable activities						
Stopping people losing their sight unnecessarily		3,139	264	-	3,403	3,622
Supporting independent living		70,228	26,453	-	96,681	74,369
Creating an inclusive society		10,400	652	-	11,052	12,167
Total charitable activity costs		83,767	27,369	-	111,136	90,158
Governance costs	4	1,516	305	-	1,821	1,461
Total resources expended	1.6/5/6	102,359	27,754	37	130,150	105,259
Net (outgoing) incoming resources before transfers		(12,805)	17,836	(36)	4,995	(9,071)
Transfers between funds	19	286	(286)	-	-	-
Net (outgoing) incoming resources before other recognised gains and losses		(12,519)	17,550	(36)	4,995	(9,071)
Net gains (losses) on investment assets		4,175	492	2,708	7,375	(6,817)
Actuarial loss on defined benefit pension scheme	21	(1,543)	(1,568)	-	(3,111)	(27,847)
Net movement in funds		(9,887)	16,474	2,672	9,259	(43,735)
Total funds brought forward as previously stated		75,632	4,465	7,593	87,690	131,425
Total funds carried forward	19	65,745	20,939	10,265	96,949	87,690

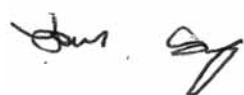
A Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses is not required as all gains and losses are included in the Statement of Financial Activities. Incoming resources of the Charity during the year were £103,493,000 (2009 restated: £95,629,000) less resources expended by the Charity at £116,535,000 (2009 restated: £104,702,000) led to a deficit of £13,042,000 (2009 restated: £9,073,000). All incoming resources, resources expended and resulting net movements in funds are derived from continuing activities or new activities (all of which are in restricted funds). The impact of new activities is shown in note 19. The restatement of the 2009 figures results from the change in the analysis of charitable activities under the new strategic aims, as explained in note 1.5. The notes that follow form part of the financial statements.

Balance sheets at 31 March 2010

	Notes	Group		Charity	
		2010 £'000	2009 (Restated) £'000	2010 £'000	2009 (Restated) £'000
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12	73,921	50,570	55,424	50,570
Investments	13	42,124	41,649	40,405	41,654
Total fixed assets		116,045	92,219	95,829	92,224
Current assets					
Stocks and work in progress	14	2,624	2,701	2,474	2,627
Debtors					
Amounts falling due within one year	15	12,467	8,650	10,583	8,949
Amounts falling due after one year	16	200	325	200	325
Investments	13	471	60	13	60
Short term deposits		-	5,763	-	5,763
Cash at bank and in hand		1,763	322	58	64
Total current assets		17,525	17,821	13,328	17,788
Creditors amounts falling due within one year	17	12,925	10,258	9,747	10,230
Net current assets		4,600	7,563	3,581	7,558
Total assets less current liabilities		120,645	99,782	99,410	99,782

	Notes	Group		Charity	
		2010 £'000	2009 (Restated) £'000	2010 £'000	2009 (Restated) £'000
Creditors amounts falling due after more than one year	18	10,480	3,981	10,252	3,981
Net assets excluding pension scheme liability		110,165	95,801	89,158	95,801
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	21	(13,216)	(8,111)	(9,164)	(8,111)
Net assets including pension scheme liability	20	96,949	87,690	79,994	87,690
The funds of the group/charity					
Endowment funds	19	10,265	7,593	10,264	7,593
Restricted income funds	19	20,939	4,465	3,985	4,465
Unrestricted income funds					
Designated	19	55,848	61,983	55,848	61,983
General	19	19,061	21,760	19,061	21,760
Pension deficit	19/21	(9,164)	(8,111)	(9,164)	(8,111)
Total unrestricted income funds	19	65,745	75,632	65,745	75,632
Total group/charity funds	19	96,949	87,690	79,994	87,690

Approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 22 July 2010 and signed on behalf of RNIB by



Kevin Carey,
Chair



Terry Moody,
Honorary Treasurer

Consolidated cashflow statement for the year ended 31 March 2010

	2010 £'000	2009 (Restated) £'000
Net cash outflow from operating activities	(11,386)	(11,743)
Returns on Investments and servicing of finance		
Investment income	1,690	2,225
Interest element of finance lease rental payments	(65)	(98)
Net cashflow from investments and servicing of finance	1,625	2,127
Capital expenditure and financial investment		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(7,320)	(3,727)
Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed assets	30	4
Purchase of investments	(27,173)	(6,685)
Proceeds from sale of investments	34,745	6,719
Cash acquired on association	(416)	-
Net cash outflow from capital expenditure and financial investment	(134)	(3,689)
Net cash outflow before management of liquid resources and financing	(9,895)	(13,305)
Management of liquid resources		
Cash withdrawn from short term deposits	5,763	10,519
Net cashflow from the management of liquid resources	5,763	10,519
Financing		
Finance loan advance received	6,800	3,200
Capital element of finance lease rental payments	(829)	(1,138)
Net cash inflow from financing activities	5,971	2,062
Increase (decrease) in cash	1,839	(724)
Cash at 1 April	(542)	182
Cash acquired on association	416	-
Cash at 31 March	1,713	(542)

Reconciliation of net income to net cash outflow from operating activities	2010 £'000	2009 (Restated) £'000
Net incoming (outgoing) resources before transfers	4,995	(9,071)
Investment income	(1,690)	(2,225)
Depreciation	2,713	2,393
Non-monetary assets acquired on association	(17,281)	-
Investment management fees charged to portfolio	110	84
Costs on disposal of investment property added to loss on disposal	-	(28)
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	467	1,046
Increase (Decrease) in current creditors	2,588	(1,396)
Decrease in long term creditors	(10)	(10)
Decrease in pension provision	(447)	(1,813)
Interest charged on finance lease payments	65	98
Increase in debtors	(3,059)	(570)
Decrease (Increase) in stock	163	(251)
Net cash outflow from operating activities	(11,386)	(11,743)

Analysis of change in net funds	31 March 2008 £'000	Cashflow 2009 £'000	31 March 2009 £'000	Cash acquired on association 2010 £'000	Cashflow 2010 £'000	31 March 2010 £'000
Cash at bank	1,209	(887)	322	588	853	1,763
Bank overdraft	(1,027)	163	(864)	(172)	986	(50)
Total cash	182	(724)	(542)	416	1,839	1,713
Debt due within one year	(1,124)	295	(829)	-	309	(520)
Debt due after one year	(1,595)	(2,356)	(3,951)	(288)	(6,221)	(10,460)
Total change in net funds	(2,537)	(2,785)	(5,322)	128	(4,073)	(9,267)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2010

1. Statement of accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are as follows:

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of investments, in accordance with applicable accounting standards in the United Kingdom and the Statement of Recommended Practice – “Accounting and Reporting by Charities” (SORP 2005) as revised in May 2008, and the Charities Act 1993 as updated by the Charities Act 2006.

1.2 Group financial statements

The results of each of RNIB’s subsidiary undertakings, as listed in note 3, have been incorporated in these consolidated financial statements under the heading “Group” on a line-by-line basis. The term “Associated Charity” refers to organisations that have entered into a formal association agreement with RNIB. Their objectives contribute to those of the RNIB Group strategy and under the tests of control they are deemed to be charitable subsidiaries of RNIB. The net assets at the date of association are assessed on a fair value basis for the purposes of consolidation into the results for the RNIB Group. Any negative goodwill arising is written off in the year of acquisition and included as an incoming resource within the SOFA.

No separate Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) has been presented for the Charity alone as permitted by paragraph 397 of the SORP.

1.3 Foreign currency transactions

Foreign currency transactions completed within the year are included at their transacted sterling equivalents. Assets and liabilities are valued using those rates published by HM Revenue & Customs as at the balance sheet date. Any foreign exchange gains or losses are charged to the SOFA.

1.4 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds comprise accumulated surpluses and deficits on general funds that are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds that the trustees of the Charity have set aside, out of general funds and comprise sums of money for specific projects that can either be the updating of existing, or the development and piloting of new, charitable services.

Also within the designated funds are ‘service properties’ and ‘other fixed assets’. ‘Service properties’ represents the value of RNIB’s interests in land and buildings, in use, for the provision of services to people with sight problems. This value is shown in a separate designated fund, as the properties represented are essential for the provision of RNIB’s services. Transfers in respect of additions to property in the year are made from the general fund and the

development fund. Transfers are made from this fund to the general fund in respect of property disposals during the year. Property depreciation is charged to this fund.

‘Other fixed assets’ represents other assets in use by RNIB. The assets of associated charities are held within the restricted fund.

Restricted funds comprise income received with special conditions attached. Income for a specific purpose not spent in any year is carried forward in the relevant fund. Also within restricted funds are the results of the associated charities, which are operating under narrower objectives than those of RNIB.

Endowments received are credited directly to the relevant endowment fund. Income arising from the related investments is allocated to the general fund or to the relevant restricted fund, depending on the terms of endowment.

1.5 Incoming resources

Donated goods and services are included at the value to the charity where these can be quantified. No amounts are included in these financial statements for the services donated by volunteers. Income from trading in subsidiary undertakings is transferred to the charity by covenanting the profits of those undertakings. Donations are accounted for as soon as their amount and receipt is certain. Donations include Gift Aid based on amounts recoverable at the accounting date.

Legacies are recognised at the earlier of receipt or agreement of estate accounts. Reversionary interests involving a life tenant are not recognised due to the uncertainties in valuing them.

Investment income, interest on deposits and income in connection with services to people with sight problems is recognised on an accruals basis. Where an incoming resource is received in advance of the activity to be performed then the incoming resource is deferred and included in creditors. Investment income arising on endowment funds is credited to the appropriate fund in accordance with the prescribed conditions.

The strategic aims of the RNIB have changed under the 2009/14 strategy and accordingly the categories for the classification of charitable incoming resources have changed and the comparatives for 2009 have been restated accordingly. The incoming resources have been restated to reflect the three strategic aims of the 2009/14 strategy. The net result of the restatement is in line with the deficit previously reported.

1.6 Resources expended

- (a) Expenditure, including irrecoverable VAT, is accounted for on an accruals basis.
- (b) Included within charitable activity costs is an apportionment of public awareness expenditure representing the costs incurred by RNIB in educating the public to be aware of the needs of people with sight loss.
- (c) Support costs include both group and corporate costs and are incurred in support of direct service expenditures. Allocation of support service costs is on a mixture of bases including a staff time-based system of apportionment.
- (d) Fundraising expenses include those costs incurred in raising donations and legacies.

1. Statement of accounting policies (continued)

- (e) Governance costs are incurred in relation to the running of the charity. This includes strategic planning and attending to the statutory affairs of the Charity.
- (f) Grants payable are charged to the SOFA when a constructive obligation exists, that is when the recipient has been informed.

The strategic aims of the RNIB have changed under the 2009/14 strategy and accordingly the categories for the classification of charitable outgoing resources have changed and the comparatives for 2009 have been restated accordingly. The outgoing resources have been restated to reflect the three strategic aims of the 2009/14 strategy. The net result of the restatement is in line with the deficit previously reported.

1.7 Fixed assets

Tangible assets are recorded at cost, or where donated, open market valuation at the time of donation. Under the transitional provisions of Financial Reporting Standard 15 (FRS15), RNIB has adopted the valuations of properties as at 31 March 1999, where known, as cost and these will not be updated. Where assets are acquired through entering into Association agreements, then the cost of these, are included at their fair value as at the agreement date. Assets in the course of construction are transferred to the relevant category of asset and depreciated when practical completion is achieved. The minimum threshold for capitalisation is £2,500.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, except freehold land and assets under construction, at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight-line basis over their expected useful lives. Where the assets have been acquired under a finance lease then depreciation, and any impairment, is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value of each asset, over the life of the primary lease. The standard rates of depreciation are as follows:

Freehold buildings	50 years
Leasehold land and buildings – lease longer than 50 years	50 years
Leasehold land and buildings – lease shorter than 50 years	Lease period
Motor vehicles; fixtures and fittings; equipment	5 years
Computer hardware	3 years

Fixed assets are subject to review for impairment when there is an indication of a reduction in their carrying value. Any impairment is recognised in the SOFA in the year in which it occurs.

1.8 Investments

Listed investments are stated at mid-market value at the balance sheet date.

Investment properties are stated at market value as advised by RNIB's property advisors at the balance sheet date and this is done on an annual basis.

The investment in subsidiary undertakings is at cost.

The SOFA includes the net gains and losses arising on disposals and revaluations throughout the year.

1.9 Stocks

Stock of finished goods held for resale is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is standard cost on a first-in first-out basis. Finished goods for resale comprises products suitable for use by blind and partially sighted people, Christmas cards and gifts.

1.10 Pension scheme

For the defined benefit pension schemes of the RNIB group, the current service costs, gains and losses on settlements and curtailments, are charged to resources expended. Similarly, pension finance costs arising from changes in the net of the interest costs and expected return on assets are charged to resources expended. Where income arises as a result of such changes this is shown in the statement of financial activities as an "other" incoming resource.

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in the statement of financial activities as "Actuarial gain, or loss, on Defined

benefit pension scheme". From 1 April 2005, for new members, pension contributions for defined benefits were capped, with contributions above that cap being defined contributions.

For the defined contribution schemes of the RNIB group the amount charged to the SOFA in respect of pension costs and other post-retirement benefits are the contributions payable in the year.

1.11 Leased assets

RNIB has entered into finance leases for talking book players with a view to improving, and increasing the RNIB Talking Book Service for people with sight problems. In addition, RNIB entered into a finance lease for the acquisition of computer software. Leases are regarded as finance leases where their terms transfer to the lessee substantially all of the benefits and burdens of ownership other than the right to legal title.

The obligations to the lessor are shown as part of the borrowings and the rights in the corresponding assets are treated in the same way as owned fixed assets.

All operating leases and rental expenses are charged to the SOFA as incurred over the term of the lease on a straight line basis.

1.12 Taxation

RNIB is a registered charity, and as such is entitled to certain tax exemptions on income and profit from investments and surpluses on any trading activities carried out in furtherance of the Charity's primary objectives, if these profits are applied solely for charitable purposes.

2. Investment income

	2010 Group £'000	2009 Group £'000
General funds		
Quoted investments	1,371	1,694
Cash deposits	2	430
Rents	136	55
Restricted funds		
Quoted investments	181	192
Total	1,690	2,371

3. Net income from trading activities of subsidiary undertakings

RNIB has entered into association agreements in the year with Action for Blind People (Action), Cardiff, Vales and Valleys (formerly Cardiff Institute for the Blind) and National Talking Newspapers and Magazines (formerly Talking Newspaper Association of the United Kingdom). The objectives of these organisations, whilst narrower than those of RNIB, are aligned to the group strategy and thus these organisations are charitable subsidiaries of RNIB.

A summary of the results for the year ended 31 March 2010 of the subsidiaries of RNIB operating under association agreements.

	Action	CVV	NTNM	Total associated charities
	£'000	£'000	£'000	2010 £'000
Total incoming resources	27,172	754	1,143	29,069
Total outgoing resources	(26,968)	(593)	(1,180)	(28,741)
Net incoming (outgoing) resources before transfers	204	161	(37)	328
Net gains on investment assets	477	9	-	486
Losses on revaluation of fixed assets	(7,238)	-	-	(7,238)
Actuarial loss on defined benefit pension scheme	(1,294)	-	-	(1,294)
Net movement in funds	(7,851)	170	(37)	(7,718)
Funds brought forward	24,058	610	187	24,855
Funds carried forward	16,207	780	150	17,137

3. Net income from trading activities of subsidiary undertakings (continued)

A summary of net assets as at 31 March 2010 of the subsidiaries of RNIB operating under association agreements.

	Action	CVV	NTNM	Total associated charities
	£'000	£'000	£'000	2010 £'000
Fixed assets	18,200	774	449	19,423
Current assets	4,688	59	192	4,939
Creditors	3,611	53	491	4,155
Pension scheme liability	3,070	-	-	3,070
Net assets	16,207	780	150	17,137

Action entered into association with RNIB on 1 April 2009. Under the agreement Action assumed the responsibility for delivering regional services in England through their Action Teams, grant funded by RNIB. Action also delivers services in the areas of work, leisure, housing, support for beneficiaries, and information and education. RNIB provides the fundraising service, with net fundraising receipts being restricted for Action. Further, RNIB provides funding to deal with the structural deficits of Action. That funding ceases in the year ending 31 March 2013. Within the year, RNIB agreed an interest free loan facility for Action in the sum of £1.5million, which is repayable on the 31 July 2010. At 31 March 2010 the amount owed by Action to RNIB under the facility was £250,000. The sum of such grants amounted to £13,868,000 in the year.

Cardiff, Vales and Valleys (CVV) entered into association on 1 June 2009. CVV provides a wide range of services to blind and partially sighted people within the counties of Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

National Talking Newspapers and Magazines (NTNM) entered into association on 3 February 2010. NTNM provides newspapers, magazines and information in accessible formats for people with sight problems and also people with other disabilities. RNIB provides operational funding and the fundraising service, with net fundraising receipts being restricted for NTNM. The results for NTNM are Group figures and include the results of the wholly owned subsidiary Talking Newspapers Enterprises Limited.

A summary of the results for the year ended 31 March 2010 of the non associated subsidiaries of RNIB

	RNIB Enterprises Limited £'000	RNIB Services Limited £'000	National Library for the Blind £'000	Blind Centre for Northern Ireland £'000	Total 2010 £'000	Total 2009 £'000
Total incoming resources	182	4,623	255	5	5,065	6,708
Total outgoing resources	(129)	(4,614)	(7)	(1)	(4,751)	(6,211)
Net incoming resources before transfers	53	9	248	4	314	497
Amount gifted/covenanted to RNIB	(53)	(9)	(248)	(4)	(314)	(495)
Net movement in funds	-	-	-	-	-	2
Funds brought forward	5	-	-	-	5	3
Funds carried forward	5	-	-	-	5	5

3. Net income from trading activities of subsidiary undertakings (continued)

A summary of the net assets as at 31 March 2010 of the non associated subsidiaries of RNIB

	RNIB Enterprises Limited £'000	RNIB Services Limited £'000	National Library for the Blind £'000	Blind Centre for Northern Ireland £'000	Total 2010 £'000	Total 2009 £'000
Current assets	275	356	4	6	641	1,258
Creditors	270	356	4	6	636	1,253
Net assets	5	-	-	-	5	5

RNIB Enterprises Limited The activity to sell Christmas cards and other items by mail order and through retail outlets has been discontinued and any activity this year appertains to the run-off of that business. The remaining trading activities include commercial sponsorship and a scheme for the recycling of toner cartridges, with the consent of RNIB. A loan of £200,000 has been made by RNIB to cover the working capital requirements. Interest is charged at 2 per cent above base rate on a quarterly basis.

RNIB Services Limited administers RNIB's school fees.

National Library for the Blind (NLB) exists as a shell charity to receive donations and legacies, which are transferred to RNIB to be ringfenced for the RNIB National Library Service.

Blind Centre for Northern Ireland (BCNI) exists as a shell charity to receive donations and legacies, which are transferred to RNIB to be ringfenced for RNIB Northern Ireland.

A summary of the results for the year ended 31 March 2010 of all RNIB subsidiaries	Associated charities	Non associated subsidiaries	Total subsidiaries 2010	Total subsidiaries 2009
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Total incoming resources	29,069	5,065	34,134	6,708
Total outgoing resources	(28,741)	(4,751)	(33,492)	(6,211)
Net incoming resources before transfers	328	314	642	497
Net gains on investment assets	486	-	486	-
Loss on the revaluation of fixed assets	(7,238)	-	(7,238)	-
Actuarial loss on defined benefit pension scheme	(1,294)	-	(1,294)	-
Amount gifted/covenanted to RNIB	-	(314)	(314)	(495)
Net movement in funds	(7,718)	-	(7,718)	2
Funds brought forward	24,855	5	24,860	3
Funds carried forward	17,137	5	17,142	5

A summary of the net assets as at 31 March 2010 of all RNIB subsidiaries	Associated charities	Non associated subsidiaries	Total subsidiaries 2010	Total subsidiaries 2009
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fixed assets	19,423	-	19,423	-
Current assets	4,939	639	5,578	1,260
Creditors	4,155	634	4,789	1,255
Pension scheme liability	3,070	-	3,070	-
Net assets	17,137	5	17,142	5

3. Net income from trading activities of subsidiary undertakings (continued)

Under the terms of the association agreements it is appropriate that Action, CVV and NTNМ are consolidated within the RNIB Group using acquisition accounting. A summary follows of the fair values of the net assets acquired on the dates of association:

	Action	CVV	NTNM	Total 2010
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fixed assets	18,411	1,572	450	20,433
Current assets	1,967	67	156	2,190
Creditors	1,788	235	463	2,486
Pension scheme liability	1,770	671	-	2,441
Net assets	16,820	733	143	17,696
Net assets in the subsidiary	24,058	606	143	24,807
Fair value adjustment	(7,238)	127	-	(7,111)

There were no purchase costs incurred in acquiring these net assets. The resulting negative goodwill at £17,696,000 has been written off in the year and included as an incoming resource within the SOFA.

The total net assets of the associated charities at £17,137,000 are held within the group restricted and endowment funds as detailed in note 19.

4. Governance costs

	Total 2010 Group £'000	Total 2009 Group £'000	Total 2010 Charity £'000	Total 2009 Charity £'000
Internal audit	127	87	102	87
External audit – PricewaterhouseCoopers	122	62	72	54
External audit – other	6	24	-	24
Other services – PricewaterhouseCoopers	29	-	29	-
Legal fees – Associated charities	340	195	340	195
Trustees' expenses	124	89	112	89
Costs incurred in running the Chairman's Office (including international activity – for example World Blind Union)	350	281	350	281
General costs incurred in servicing RNIB's corporate committees and the statutory affairs of the Charity	723	723	474	645
Total governance costs	1,821	1,461	1,479	1,375

5. Resources expended – group

	Direct costs	Support costs	Total 2010	Total 2009 (Restated)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Costs of generating funds				
Costs of generating voluntary income	11,258	5,450	16,708	12,892
Merchandising and sponsorship costs	306	-	306	690
Investment management fees	179	-	179	58
Total costs to generate funds	11,743	5,450	17,193	13,640
Charitable activities				
Stopping people losing their sight unnecessarily	2,670	733	3,403	3,622
Supporting independent living	83,823	12,858	96,681	74,369
Creating an inclusive society	9,852	1,200	11,052	12,167
Total charitable activity costs	96,345	14,791	111,136	90,158
Governance costs	1,361	460	1,821	1,461
Total resources expended	109,449	20,701	130,150	105,259

6. Support costs allocation

	Human resources	Finance	Information and Knowledge Services	Corporate Services	Other	Total 2010	Total 2009
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Costs of generating funds							
Costs of generating voluntary income	522	262	619	219	3,828	5,450	4,753
Total costs to generate funds	522	262	619	219	3,828	5,450	4,753
Charitable activities							
Stopping people losing their sight unnecessarily	53	44	117	17	502	733	490
Supporting independent living	1,914	1,304	2,970	1,330	5,340	12,858	9,133
Creating an inclusive society	199	82	239	65	615	1,200	1,633
Total charitable activity costs	2,166	1,430	3,326	1,412	6,457	14,791	11,256
Governance costs	-	115	1	15	329	460	867
Total resources expended	2,688	1,807	3,946	1,646	10,614	20,701	16,876

Basis of allocation

Human resources – Headcount and estimated time

Finance – Invoicing activity, payslips and estimated time

Information and Knowledge Services – Networked computers and estimated time

Corporate services – Ordering activity, floor space and estimated time

Other – estimated time

7. Taxation

The Royal National Institute of Blind People is a registered charity and is thus exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or s256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charge arises in any of the subsidiary entities included in the group accounts due to their policy of gifting all taxable profits to RNIB each year.

8. Group employee remuneration

The average number of employees during the year was 2,962 (2009: 2,373), of which the average full time equivalent was 2,325.

Total emoluments for all staff for the year amounted to £71,238,000 (2009: £55,326,000).

The total emoluments are analysed as shown below.

	2010 £'000	2009 £'000
Salary costs	60,634	46,774
Employer's NI contributions	5,566	4,431
Employer's pension contributions	5,038	4,121
Total emoluments	71,238	55,326

The following numbers of employees received total emoluments within the bands shown.

	2010 Number	2009 Number
Between £60,001 and £70,000	24	20
Between £70,001 and £80,000	10	4
Between £80,001 and £90,000	4	-
Between £90,001 and £100,000	1	3
Between £100,001 and £110,000	3	1
Between £110,001 and £120,000	-	1
Between £120,001 and £130,000	-	1
Between £130,001 and £140,000	1	-
Between £150,001 and £160,000	-	1

Included in the bands £60,001 through to £90,000 are payments made to members of staff on termination of employment.

Also of the number of staff disclosed in the table above RNIB made payments on behalf of 29 (2009: 31) employees in respect of the RNIB Retirement Benefit Scheme and the Teacher's Pension Scheme, and there were payments made to eight members of staff (2009: eight) in respect of the defined contribution element of the RNIB Retirement Benefit Scheme. The total amount of employer contributions paid in respect of these employees was £306,796 (2009: £424,598).

In addition to the RNIB staff disclosed in the table above Action for Blind People made payments on behalf of 12 employees in respect of pension contributions totalling £75,000.

9. RNIB Trustees' expenses and related parties transactions

Many Trustees and/or their organisations bear the cost of attending meetings themselves. They receive no benefits from the Charity except as users of our services.

Trustees of the Charity represent agencies and organisations throughout the United Kingdom, and they attend many committee, sub-committee and Boards of Governors' meetings, most of which are held at the Charity's London service centre.

A total of £63,000 was paid to, and on behalf of, 27 Trustees of the Charity as reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses incurred in attending these meetings (2009: £60,663 to 24 Trustees). In addition £23,142 was paid to seven of the Trustees of the Charity as reimbursement of overseas travel and subsistence incurred in attending international meetings and conferences (2009: £17,427 to four Trustees).

The cost of lunches and overnight stays in RNIB establishments during the meetings cost a further £4,703 (2009: £5,359).

During the year RNIB paid Kevin Carey, Chair of RNIB, £16,581 (2009: £0) Brendan Magill £2,442 (2009: £2,660) and Terry Robinson £1,836 (2009: £2,548) as remuneration in respect of carrying out their duties as Trustees of RNIB. These payments have been made with the consent of the Charity Commission.

In the year RNIB paid £16,900 (2009: £54,550 of which £12,500 related to World Blind Union consultancy) to HumanITy, a charity, in respect of consultancy fees. All of this payment related to work undertaken and funded by RNIB as support for and contribution to work commissioned by the World Blind Union. In addition RNIB paid £20,100 (2009: £0) to HumanITy as a contribution to their secretarial and office costs in providing support to Kevin Carey in his role as the Chair of RNIB. Kevin Carey was employed as an executive director of the HumanITy organisation, during this period.

RNIB paid £45,451 (2009: £42,003) to Fife Society for the Blind in respect of rent, service charge and office costs for the year. In addition RNIB paid £2,400 to Fife Society for addressing the social isolation project. Alan Suttie, a Trustee of RNIB, is the chief executive of Fife Society for the Blind and a director of Action for Blind People.

In the year RNIB paid £1,505 (2009: £573) to Terry Robinson; £1,000 in respect of work on producing a text guide to RNIB Scotland's refurbished headquarters in Edinburgh; £300 for producing the online text guide to Custom House DLR station and the route to Techshare 2009, and £205 for the presentation on text-based wayfinding given to RNIB in November 2009.

RNIB paid £2,240 to Fleckney Manor Training in respect of work for the British Computer Association of the Blind, Trainer Certification Scheme. Mike Townsend, a Trustee of RNIB, is a partner in Fleckney Manor Training.

RNIB provides funding for a Fellowship on the Clore Social Leadership Programme. The Fellow is recruited through an open application process and John Ramm, a Trustee of RNIB, was successful in securing the Fellowship on this programme.

The Charity enters a comprehensive range of insurance policies to protect trustees, officers and employees against losses and legal liabilities arising from neglect or default in the course of business. Total premiums for these policies amounted to £30,975 (2009: £30,975).

10. Group grants payable

In line with SORP 2005 paragraph 200(b), the total amount paid by the charity by way of grants to individuals and organisations amounted to less than five per cent of total expenditure for the year, consequently such grants are not considered to be material and therefore no disclosure has been made in the accounts.

11. Total movement of funds in the year is stated after charging

	2010 £'000	2009 £'000
Auditors' remuneration		
Statutory audit fee – Charity	68	50
Statutory audit fee – Subsidiary companies	12	12
Statutory audit fee – Associated charities	48	-
Audit of grant claims	9	4
Audit of teachers pension scheme	4	4
Other non statutory audit work	29	24
Operating lease payments	1,376	1,420
Foreign exchanges (gains) losses	(19)	140
Depreciation charge	2,713	2,393

12. Tangible fixed assets – group and charity

Group

	Service properties £'000	Service property under construction £'000	Machinery, vehicles and equipment £'000	Talking Book machines £'000	Total £'000
Cost					
Balance 1 April 2009	54,575	4,323	9,112	19,193	87,203
Fair value additions under acquisitions	18,242	-	999	-	19,241
Additions	23	6,312	985	-	7,320
Elimination on Disposal	(501)	-	(2,851)	-	(3,352)
Balance 31 March 2010	72,339	10,635	8,245	19,193	110,412
Accumulated depreciation					
Balance 1 April 2009	10,330	-	7,638	18,665	36,633
Charge for year	1,462	-	892	359	2,713
Elimination on Disposal	(44)	-	(2,811)	-	(2,855)
Balance 31 March 2010	11,748	-	5,719	19,024	36,491
Net book value 31 March 2010	60,591	10,635	2,526	169	73,921
Net book value 31 March 2009	44,245	4,323	1,474	528	50,570

12. Tangible fixed assets – group and charity (continued)

Charity

	Service properties £'000	Service property under construction £'000	Machinery, vehicles and equipment £'000	Talking Book machines £'000	Total £'000
Cost					
Balance 1 April 2009	54,575	4,323	9,112	19,193	87,203
Additions	-	6,312	446	-	6,758
Elimination on Disposal	-	-	(2,435)	-	(2,435)
Balance 31 March 2010	54,575	10,635	7,123	19,193	91,526
Accumulated depreciation					
Balance 1 April 2009	10,330	-	7,638	18,665	36,633
Charge for year	1,058	-	447	359	1,864
Elimination on Disposal	-	-	(2,395)	-	(2,395)
Balance 31 March 2010	11,388	-	5,690	19,024	36,102
Net book value 31 March 2010	43,187	10,635	1,433	169	55,424
Net book value 31 March 2009	44,245	4,323	1,474	528	50,570

Service properties are used to provide services to blind and partially sighted people. Of the net book value of property used by the group, £17,810,000 (2009: £18,234,000) represents leaseholds of more than 50 years whilst £4,644,000 (2009: £1,035,000) represents leaseholds of less than 50 years.

Service property under construction relates to works carried out to date in respect of the RNIB Rushton School and Children's Home.

A transfer has been made to the designated service properties fund in the sum of £6,312,000 comprising additions of £6,312,000. There were no disposals in the year.

A transfer has been made to the designated other fixed assets fund in the sum of £406,000 comprising additions of £446,000 less £40,000 disposals in the year.

The net book value of talking book machines held under finance lease agreements at 31 March 2010 was £nil (2009: £135,000). Included in Talking Book Service expenditure is interest payable of £69,000 (2009: £125,000) and a depreciation charge of £98,000 (2009: £558,000) which relates to leased talking book machines.

The net book values of fixed assets of the associated charities are held within the restricted funds as set out in note 19.

13. Investments

Unrestricted funds

	Group 2010	Group 2009	Charity 2010	Charity (Restated) 2009
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Quoted				
Market value at beginning of year	32,463	36,539	32,468	36,544
Acquisitions at cost	26,666	6,685	26,666	6,685
Disposals at opening market value	(32,463)	(6,619)	(32,463)	(6,619)
Net gain (loss) on revaluation	1,782	(4,142)	1,782	(4,142)
Market value at the end of the year	28,448	32,463	28,453	32,468
Historical cost at the end of the year	28,380	37,514	28,385	37,519
Property				
Market value at beginning of year	1,577	1,787	1,577	1,787
Net gain (loss) on revaluation	89	(210)	89	(210)
Market value at the end of the year	1,666	1,577	1,666	1,577
Historical cost at the end of the year	600	600	600	600
Total market value at the end of the year	30,114	34,040	30,119	34,045
Total historical cost at the end of the year	28,980	38,114	28,985	38,119

Restricted funds	Group 2010	Group 2009	Charity 2010	Charity 2009
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Quoted				
Market value at beginning of year	16	22	16	22
Fair value additions under acquisition	1,191	-	-	-
Acquisitions at cost	49	-	-	-
Disposals at opening market value	(3)	-	-	-
Net gain (loss) on revaluation	492	(6)	6	(6)
Market value at the end of the year	1,745	16	22	16
Historical cost at the end of the year	1,742	19	19	19

Endowment funds	Group 2010	Group 2009	Charity 2010	Charity 2009
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Quoted				
Market value at beginning of year	7,593	10,202	7,593	10,202
Acquisitions in CVV	1	-	-	-
Net gain (loss) on revaluation	2,671	(2,609)	2,671	(2,609)
Market value at the end of the year	10,265	7,593	10,264	7,593
Historical cost at the end of the year	8,722	8,721	8,721	8,721

13. Investments (continued)

	Group 2010	Group 2009	Charity 2010	Charity (Restated) 2009
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Unrestricted funds	30,114	34,040	30,119	34,045
Restricted funds	1,745	16	22	16
Endowment funds	10,265	7,593	10,264	7,593
Total market value of investments at end of year	42,124	41,649	40,405	41,654

The 2009 Balance Sheet comparatives for the Charity have been restated in relation to the £200,000 revolving (long-term) loan with RNIB Enterprises, which has now been categorised as a debtor due within one year.

The market value of investments is further broken down as follows:

	Group 2010	Group (Restated) 2009	Charity 2010	Charity (Restated) 2009
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Unrestricted funds – UK Quoted	29,762	27,271	28,453	27,276
Unrestricted funds – Overseas Quoted	409	5,192	-	5,192
Unrestricted funds – UK Property	1,666	1,577	1,666	1,577
Restricted funds – UK Quoted	22	16	22	16
Endowment funds – UK Quoted	10,265	7,593	10,264	7,593
Total	42,124	41,649	40,405	41,654

In addition the Charity investments also include the following nominal holdings in subsidiary undertakings. The subsidiaries are all based within the United Kingdom and their accounting year ends are 31 March.

Subsidiary undertakings with a share capital	Registered in	Percentage of capital held %	Number of £1 ordinary shares held
RNIB Enterprises Limited	England and Wales	100	5,000
RNIB Services Limited	England and Wales	100	1
Total – direct			5,001
Action for Blind People Activities Limited	England and Wales	100	2
Talking Newspapers Enterprises Limited	England and Wales	100	100
Total – indirect			102

RNIB is the sole corporate member of the following organisations which are limited by guarantee with no shares in issue:

Subsidiary undertakings limited by guarantee	Registered in	Company number	Charity number	Charity number – Scotland
Action	England and Wales	26688	205913	SCO40050
CVV	England and Wales	149982	214131	-
NTNM	England and Wales	01973092	293656	-
BCNI	Northern Ireland	NI 20701	XN48801	-
NLB	England and Wales	00058823	213212	-

13. Investments (continued)

Significant holdings

Within the portfolio of quoted investments, the following holdings, all within the unrestricted funds, exceed five per cent of the total market value of the fund:

	2010 £'000	2010 %	2009 £'000	2009 %
L&G All Stocks Gilt Index Trust – Distribution Units	-	-	18,690	57.6
L&G Ethical Trust – Distribution Units	5,160	17.1	8,580	26.4
L&G European Index Trust – Distribution Units	-	-	1,747	5.4
L&G US Index Trust – Distribution Units	-	-	1,712	5.3
L&G Cash Trust – Accumulation Units	11,468	38.0	-	-
F&C Ethical Bond Share Class 2	11,820	39.2	-	-

In addition to the fixed asset investments there are also some donated investments held by the Charity, which because of their nature are included within current assets.

Current Asset Investments

General Funds

	Group 2010 £'000	Group 2009 £'000	Charity 2010 £'000	Charity 2009 £'000
Quoted				
Market value at beginning of year	60	65	60	65
Acquisitions at cost	458	-	-	-
Disposal at opening market value	(44)	-	(44)	-
Net loss on revaluation	(3)	(5)	(3)	(5)
Market value at end of year	471	60	13	60
Historical cost at the end of the year	471	147	13	147

14. Stocks

	Group		Charity	
	2010 £'000	2009 £'000	2010 £'000	2009 £'000
Finished goods for resale	2,069	1,770	1,919	1,696
Raw materials and consumables	555	931	555	931
Total	2,624	2,701	2,474	2,627

15. Debtors – amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Charity	
	2010 £'000	2009 £'000	2010 £'000	2009 (Restated) £'000
Trade debtors	4,544	4,211	2,524	3,452
Inter-company	-	-	1,478	1,105
Other debtors	994	399	847	832
Prepayments and accrued Income	6,929	4,040	5,734	3,560
Total	12,467	8,650	10,583	8,949

The Charity has included £4,615,000 (2009: £2,133,000) within accrued income representing the value of legacies deemed receivable in line with accounting policy 1.5. The Charity has been notified of further legacies amounting to £13,989,000 (2009: £17,891,000), which have not been recognised as income at 31 March 2010 and these will be included in future periods.

Income tax reclaimed has been reclassified from prepayments and accrued income to other debtors, together with a reclassification of the inter-company loan with RNIB Enterprises Ltd from investment to inter-company debtors, and accordingly the comparative figures have been changed from £8,749,000 to £8,949,000.

16. Debtors – amounts falling due after one year

	Group		Charity	
	2010 £'000	2009 £'000	2010 £'000	2009 £'000
Other debtors	200	325	200	325
Total	200	325	200	325

17. Creditors – amounts due within one year

	Group		Charity	
	2010 £'000	2009 £'000	2010 £'000	2009 £'000
Trade creditors	2,558	1,741	2,107	1,741
Bank overdraft	50	864	25	864
Net obligations under finance leases	520	829	520	829
Taxes and social security costs	1,620	1,378	1,117	1,378
Intercompany accounts	-	-	298	-
Other creditors	1,214	308	862	308
Accruals	5,101	4,277	4,388	4,253
Deferred income – all utilised in the year	1,862	861	430	857
Total	12,925	10,258	9,747	10,230

18. Creditors – amounts due after more than one year

	Group		Charity	
	2010 £'000	2009 £'000	2010 £'000	2009 £'000
Deferred income	20	30	20	30
Net obligations under finance leases are payable as follows				
Between one and two years	232	519	232	519
Between two and five years	-	232	-	232
Net obligations under finance loan is payable as follows				
Between one and two years	21	-	-	-
Between two and five years	10,031	3,200	10,000	3,200
More than five years	176	-	-	-
Total	10,480	3,981	10,252	3,981

RNIB has entered into a three-year revolving loan agreement with the AIB Group (UK) plc in the sum of £25million to finance the redevelopment known as the RNIB Rushton School and Children's Home in Coventry. Interest is charged at 0.85 per cent above the three-month LIBOR rate. For 90 per cent of the loan amount, RNIB has paid a premium of £113,500 to cap the interest rate at 5 per cent for the period 30 June 2009 to 30 December 2011 and this has been charged to the SOFA. At 31 March 2010 the amount owing on the revolving loan is £10million (2009: £3.2million). The loan is secured over the freehold property at Coventry.

On the termination of the three-year revolving loan, RNIB has the option to convert the outstanding amount into a 25-year mortgage and again this will be secured over the freehold property at Coventry. Interest is charged at 0.85 per cent above the three-month LIBOR rate. RNIB has entered into a swap with AIB under which for the period 30 December 2011 to 31 December 2026, the interest rate charged on 90 per cent of the outstanding loan amount is charged at a fixed rate of 5.05 per cent.

Under clause 11.3 (Financial Undertakings) of the Facility RNIB undertakes throughout the duration of the loan, to maintain the aggregate of Designated and General Reserves at a level 25 per cent above the amount outstanding at any time. At the 31 March 2010, with the amount outstanding at £10,000,000 the level of such reserves has to exceed £12,500,000 and the actual level of such reserves stands at £72,883,000.

National Talking Newspapers and Magazines (NTNM) entered into a loan of £250,000 provided by the Unity Trust Bank plc in September 2007 to enable the purchase of the National Recording Centre, secured by a first charge over the building and the loan is repayable over a 25 year term.

19. Group/Charity statement of funds

Designated

	31 March 2009 £'000	Incoming resources £'000	Outgoing resources £'000	Transfers £'000	Gains and losses £'000	31 March 2010 £'000
Investment Fund	8,261	14	3,250	(205)	-	4,820
RNIB Rushton School and Children's Home revenue shortfall reserve	3,867	-	1,257	740	-	3,350
Mergers Fund	2,316	8	548	-	-	1,776
Service property and associated facilities development	616	-	121	86	-	581
Information technology infrastructure fund	299	-	281	109	-	127
Repairs and maintenance fund	6	-	1,370	1,366	-	2
Net book value – Service Properties	45,368	-	1,058	(488)	-	43,822
Net book value – Other fixed assets	1,250	-	807	927	-	1,370
Total designated – Group and Charity	61,983	22	8,692	2,535	-	55,848

Investment fund: The purpose is to fund major projects furthering the strategic business plan. The transfer represents the net planned release back to general funds of £205,000.

RNIB Rushton School and Children's Home revenue shortfall reserve: The purpose is to provide support to the RNIB Rushton School and Children's Home service during the course of the reconstruction project. The transfer represents the partial reversal of temporary funding made to cover the construction phase of the project pending future finance loan receipts in prior years. This is offset by additions to designated fixed assets of £1,000.

Mergers fund: This designates funds to meet the costs of transition and future development of services relating to organisations that have merged with RNIB.

Service property and associated facilities development fund: The purpose is to fund capital building projects, including the RNIB Rushton School and Children's Home reconstruction, and funds to acquire capital equipment. The transfer comprises the £6,800,000 loan finance drawn to cover the construction project less the transfer back to the revenue shortfall reserve mentioned above, a £278,000 designation from the general fund for planned capital acquisitions and a transfer from restricted funds of £300,000. This is offset by additions to designated fixed assets of £6,551,000.

Information technology infrastructure fund: The purpose is to ensure that the information technology infrastructure is robust. The transfer represents a planned designation of £250,000 towards the fund offset by additions to designated fixed assets of £141,000.

Repairs and maintenance fund: The purpose is to fund a rolling programme of regular property maintenance. The £1,366,000 transfer represents new designations to cover planned expenditure within this programme.

Net book value – service properties: The purpose is to recognise the value, net of long term debt, of RNIB's service properties that are unavailable to free reserves. Such fixed asset properties held in the associated charities are recognised within the restricted funds. The transfer comprises £6,312,000 additions to assets under construction and an increase in the long term debt of £6.8million regarding that redevelopment.

19. Group/Charity statement of funds (continued)

Net book value – other fixed assets: The purpose is to recognise the value, net of long term debt, of RNIB's other fixed assets that are unavailable to free reserves. Such other fixed assets held in the associated charities are recognised within the restricted funds. The transfer represents the net disposals of other fixed assets in the year.

Other unrestricted

	31 March 2009 (Restated) £'000	Incoming resources £'000	Outgoing resources £'000	Transfers £'000	Gains and (losses) £'000	31 March 2010 £'000
General – Charity	21,760	89,396	94,021	(2,249)	4,175	19,061
Pension reserve	(8,111)	-	(490)	-	(1,543)	(9,164)
Total other unrestricted	13,649	89,396	93,531	(2,249)	2,632	9,897
Total unrestricted – Charity	75,632	89,418	102,223	286	2,632	65,745
General – non associated subsidiaries	-	136	136	-	-	-
Total unrestricted – Group and Charity	75,632	89,554	102,359	286	2,632	65,745

The treatment of long term debt has been revised. Such long term debt is to be set against the designated net book value funds to which that debt refers, rather than general funds. The effect of this is summarised as follows:

	Designated net book value – Service properties £'000	Designated net book value – Other fixed assets £'000	General fund £'000
Total funds brought forward as previously stated	48,568	2,002	17,808
Prior year adjustment	(3,200)	(752)	3,952
Restated total funds brought forward	45,368	1,250	21,760

Restricted

	31 March 2009 £'000	Incoming resources £'000	Outgoing resources £'000	Transfers £'000	Gains and (losses) £'000	31 March 2010 £'000
Emma Nye fund welfare pensions	683	108	116	-	-	675
Dr Duncan Leeds Bequest	27	41	28	-	-	40
Elizabeth Eagle-Bott Memorial Fund	80	23	12	-	6	97
Opportunities for Volunteering	9	128	127	-	-	10
Donations for specified equipment	3,480	13,190	13,525	(286)	-	2,859
Donations for specific services	79	16	9	-	-	86
Donations for specified capital projects – non-Community/New Opportunities Fund	11	-	8	-	-	3
Sub total	4,369	13,506	13,825	(286)	6	3,770

19. Group/Charity statement of funds (continued)

	31 March 2009	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Gains and (losses)	31 March 2010
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fund and/or purpose b/f	4,369	13,506	13,825	(286)	6	3,770
National Lottery						
Big Lottery Fund						
Childcare in Wales	1	-	1	-	-	-
Enabler – Research Programme	-	5	-	-	-	5
Eye Matter – Youth Forum Northern Ireland	16	92	90	-	-	18
Future Jobs	-	66	-	-	-	66
Life Skills Development for Young People	9	39	37	-	-	11
Medivision	19	15	34	-	-	-
Sub total	4,414	13,723	13,987	(286)	6	3,870

Restricted (continued)

	31 March 2009	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Gains and (losses)	31 March 2010
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fund and/or purpose b/f	4,414	13,723	13,987	(286)	6	3,870
RNIB Cymru Developing Emotional Wellbeing Through the Arts	13	19	32	-	-	-
Lisburn in Focus	-	58	27	-	-	31
Seed – Reaching Communities Programme	-	69	69	-	-	-
Social Enterprise Employment Development	-	39	-	-	-	39
Vision for Life	(11)	44	36	-	-	(3)
Young People's Forum – Scotland	49	107	117	-	-	39
Sub total	4,465	14,059	14,268	(286)	6	3,976

19. Group/Charity statement of funds (continued)

		31 March 2009	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Gains and (losses)	31 March 2010
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fund and/or purpose	b/f	4,465	14,059	14,268	(286)	6	3,976
Awards for All							
Scotland – Family Away Days		-	7	7	-	-	-
Northern Ireland – Visually Impaired Football Clubs		-	9	-	-	-	9
Total restricted – Charity		4,465	14,075	14,275	(286)	6	3,985
Action		-	30,148	13,122	-	(817)	16,209
CVV		-	1,078	218	-	(265)	595
NTNM		-	289	139	-	-	150
Total restricted – Group and Charity		4,465	45,590	27,754	(286)	(1,076)	20,939

The restricted funds under Action, CVV and NTNM are the new activities in the year referred to at the foot of the SOFA.

Restricted fund balances may be in a deficit situation pending future receipts where such funding is given on a reclaim basis and at 31 March 2010 such deficit balances amounted to £63,000, of which £60,000 lies within “Donations for specified equipment”.

Included in expenditure and transfers above are transfers amounting to £286,000 comprising £65,000 designated other fixed asset additions, £300,000 relating to projects where the initial expenditure is made under the designated development fund and £79,000 transferred from the general fund as a result of a review of outstanding restricted fund balances.

The amounts included within “group” represents the net assets at fair value of the associated charities, other than those held within endowment funds.

Endowment

	31 March 2009	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Gains	31 March 2010
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Sunshine	732	-	4	-	265	993
Emma Nye	1,909	-	9	-	692	2,592
General	3,711	-	18	-	1,339	5,032
Eagle-Bott Memorial	381	-	2	-	141	520
Dr Duncan Leeds Bequest	714	-	4	-	263	973
GDC Rushton	146	-	-	-	8	154
Total endowment – Charity	7,593	-	37	-	2,708	10,264
Shand Memorial Fund – CVV	-	1	-	-	-	1
Total endowment – Group and Charity	7,593	1	37	-	2,708	10,265

General endowments are comprised of individual funds built up over many years and are not material on an individual basis, and for the purposes of disclosure have been amalgamated.

19. Group/Charity statement of funds (continued)

Summary

	31 March 2009	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Gains and (losses)	31 March 2010
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Charity						
Unrestricted	75,632	89,418	102,223	286	2,632	65,745
Restricted	4,465	14,075	14,275	(286)	6	3,985
Endowment	7,593	-	37	-	2,708	10,264
Total	87,690	103,493	116,535	-	5,346	79,994
Group						
Unrestricted	75,632	89,554	102,359	286	2,632	65,745
Restricted	4,465	45,590	27,754	(286)	(1,076)	20,939
Endowment	7,593	1	37	-	2,708	10,265
Total	87,690	135,145	130,150	-	4,264	96,949

20. Analysis of net assets between funds

Group fund balances at 31 March 2010 are represented by:

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Tangible fixed assets	55,424	18,497	-	73,921
Investments	30,114	1,745	10,265	42,124
Net current (liabilities) assets	(377)	4,977	-	4,600
Long-term liabilities	(10,252)	(228)	-	(10,480)
Defined Benefit Pension Scheme liability	(9,164)	(4,052)	-	(13,216)
Total net assets	65,745	20,939	10,265	96,949

Charity fund balances at 31 March 2010 are represented by:

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Tangible fixed assets	55,424	-	-	55,424
Investments	30,119	22	10,264	40,405
Net current (liabilities) assets	(382)	3,963	-	3,581
Long-term liabilities	(10,252)	-	-	(10,252)
Defined Benefit Pension Scheme liability	(9,164)	-	-	(9,164)
Total net assets	65,745	3,985	10,264	79,994

21. Pension costs

The group Defined Benefit Pension Scheme liability of £13,216,000 comprises £9,164,000 for the RNIB Retirement Benefit Pension Scheme, £3,070,000 relating to the Action schemes one to four and £982,000 relating to the CVV share in the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Pension Fund. The summary of scheme costs and balance follows:

	Amounts charged to SOFA	Actuarial losses	Defined Benefit Pension Scheme liability
	£'000	£'000	£'000
RNIB Charity	(490)	1,543	9,164
Action schemes one to four	927	1,294	3,070
CVV	61	274	982
Total	498	3,111	13,216

The whole of the group Defined Benefit Pension Scheme liability of £8,111,000 at 31 March 2009 related to the RNIB Charity.

The RNIB Pension Scheme is partly defined benefit and partly defined contribution, members joining before 1 April 2005 being wholly defined benefit, with members joining after having a hybrid of defined benefit and defined contribution. The assets of the Scheme are held in a separate fund, under control of its trustees, to which RNIB has no access.

An actuarial valuation was carried out at 31 March 2009 by consulting Actuaries, "Hewitt Associates Limited", using the projected unit method. The valuation disclosed that the market value of the Scheme's assets (excluding Voluntary Contributions) at that date was £93.3million, and that there was a deficit (calculated as the excess of the market value of the Scheme's assets to the value of its past service ongoing liabilities, with allowance for future pay increases) of £28.6million.

It has been agreed by the Pension Scheme Trustees and RNIB that contributions from RNIB from 1 July 2010 onwards will be 12 per cent of pensionable salaries, additional contributions of £1 million per annum for 17 years and RNIB will also reimburse the scheme for the actual level of administration expenses, Pension Protection Fund levies and insurance premiums for lump sum death benefits.

In accordance with the requirements of FRS17 the full actuarial valuation at 31 March 2009 was updated by Hewitt Associates Limited at 31 March 2010. The principal assumptions they used for this purpose are explained in the following tables and notes.

	2010 %	2009 %
Discount rate	5.55	6.5
Inflation assumption	3.75	3.4
Rate of increase in salaries	4.25	3.9
Rate of increase in pensions payments	3.50	3.2

The mortality assumptions are based on standard mortality tables which allow for future mortality improvements. The assumptions are that a member currently aged 60 will live on average for a further 28 years if they are male and for a further 29 years if they are female. For a member who retires in 2030 at age 60 the assumptions are that they will live on average for a further 31 years after retirement if they are male and for a further 32 years after retirement if they are female. This compares to last year where a member who retires in 2029 at age of 60 was assumed to live on average for a further 29 years after retirement if they are male and for a further 30 years after retirement if they are female.

21. Pension costs (continued)

The assets of the Scheme are held with Legal & General (for equities and bonds), and RREEF Limited (for property). The defined benefit assets are invested according to the Statement of Investment Principles agreed by the Scheme Trustees. This sets a benchmark allocation of assets. The defined contribution assets are invested in line with member instructions.

Defined Benefit Assets – the percentages in this table refer to the long-term rates of return.	2010 %	2010 £'000	2009 %	2009 £'000	2008 %	2008 £'000
Equities	8.5	54,483	7.9	61,840	7.75	71,306
Corporate Bonds	5.5	19,106	5.75	14,482	n/a	-
Fixed Interest gilts	4.5	-	4.0	7,604	4.6	26,211
Index-linked gilts	4.25	28,547	3.8	4,893	4.4	6,645
Property (including unit trusts)	9.0	10,708	6.9	3,657	6.75	5,205
Cash (including net current assets)	4.5	13,223	4.3	970	5.9	733
Total market value of Scheme assets		126,067		93,446		110,100
Present value of Scheme liabilities		(135,231)		(101,557)		(92,177)
Net Pension Scheme (liabilities) assets		(9,164)		(8,111)		17,923

RNIB employs a building block approach in determining the long-term rate of return on pension plan assets. Historical markets are studied and assets with higher volatility are assumed to generate higher returns consistent with widely accepted capital market principles. The assumed long-term rate of return on each asset class is set out within this note. The overall expected rate of return on assets is then derived by aggregating the expected return for each asset class over the actual asset allocation for the Scheme at the 31 March 2010.

Analysis of charge to the SOFA	2010 £'000	2009 £'000
Current service cost	2,740	2,663
Interest cost	6,611	6,377
Expected return on Scheme assets	(5,790)	(7,082)
Expense recognised in SOFA	3,561	1,958

The above service cost excludes any RNIB contributions paid to the defined contributions section of the Scheme.

21. Pension costs (continued)

Changes to the present value of the defined benefit obligation during the year

	2010 £'000	2009 £'000
Opening defined benefit obligation	101,557	92,177
Current service cost	2,740	2,663
Interest cost	6,611	6,377
Contributions by scheme participants	1,424	1,389
Actuarial loss on scheme liabilities	26,751	2,531
Net benefits paid out	(3,852)	(3,580)
Closing fair value of scheme liabilities / obligations	135,231	101,557

Changes to the fair value of scheme assets during the year

	2010 £'000	2009 £'000
Opening fair value of scheme assets	93,446	110,100
Actual return on scheme assets	30,998	(18,234)
Contributions by the employer	4,051	3,771
Contributions by scheme participants	1,424	1,389
Net benefits paid out	(3,852)	(3,580)
Closing defined benefit assets	126,067	93,446

Actual return on scheme assets

	2010 £'000	2009 £'000
Expected return on scheme assets	5,790	7,082
Actuarial gain (loss) on scheme assets	25,208	(25,316)
Actual return on scheme assets	30,998	(18,234)

21. Pension costs (continued)

History of asset values, defined benefit obligation and surplus (deficit) in the scheme

	2010 £'000	2009 £'000	2008 £'000	2007 £'000	2006 £'000
Fair value of scheme assets	126,067	93,446	110,100	110,982	104,762
Defined benefit obligation	(135,231)	(101,557)	(92,177)	(102,930)	(109,164)
(Deficit) surplus in scheme	(9,164)	(8,111)	17,923	8,052	(4,402)

Analysis of the (loss) gain recognised in the SOFA

	2010 £'000	2009 £'000
Total actuarial loss in year	(1,543)	(27,847)
Cumulative amount of loss recognised in SOFA	(17,435)	(15,892)

History of experience gain and loss in the Pension Scheme

	2010 £'000	2009 £'000	2008 £'000	2007 £'000	2006 £'000
Gain (loss) on scheme assets	25,208	(25,316)	(9,406)	(1,435)	14,903
Gain (loss) on scheme liabilities	4,879	347	(695)	5,913	890

The Charity contributed to the Scheme at the rate of 17 per cent of pensionable salaries for the period from 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009. These rates include the cost of death in service insurance cover. During the year the charity contributed £4,051,000 (2009: £3,771,000) to the scheme, and in the next year the Charity expects to contribute £3,865,000. RNIB also makes contributions to a number of other pension schemes including the Teachers Pension Scheme.

Following the merger with NLB, RNIB is also operating the Pensions Trust's Growth Plan. The Growth Plan is a multi employer pension plan under which contributions are invested in personal funds which have a capital guarantee and convert to a pension on retirement.

No contributions are currently required into the plan, but the Pensions Trust has advised that in the event of a withdrawal from the plan, or in the event of the Pensions Trust being wound up, RNIB would have liability to pay a share of the accumulated deficit in the plan, which is estimated at £906,915, based on the last updated actuarial valuation of the plan as at 30 September 2009. The next full actuarial valuation will be carried out during 2011.

21. Pension costs (continued)

Action pension costs

Action participates in four pension schemes, the assets of all the schemes are held separately from those of the charity.

a) Scheme number one

Action Defined Benefit Scheme – this scheme has been closed to new members from 1 October 1997.

b) Scheme number two

This scheme is the Action money purchase scheme and is open to existing and new employees. It is substantially all invested in The Pensions Trust Growth Series 3 Scheme. Due to its capital guarantee, this scheme differs in some important respects from a standard defined contribution scheme, as explained below.

Both the above schemes were administered with effect from 1 April 2005 by The Pensions Trust.

c) Scheme number three

This scheme is a defined benefit scheme operated by Wiltshire County Council, relating to staff transferred from Shelwork Industries on 1 April 2000. It is closed to new employees. Action employees are not the only members of the scheme, and so the assets of this scheme are not held exclusively for their benefit. With effect from 31 March 2006 the Shelwork factory operation ceased to trade and almost all members of this scheme subsequently ceased to be employees of the charity.

d) Scheme number four

This scheme is the RNIB Retirement Benefits Scheme of which Action became an Employer on 1 April 2009 pursuant to the Transfer of Undertakings Agreement whereby 118 scheme members transferred by TUPE to Action. This is a hybrid scheme for members joining after 1 April 2005 and a defined benefit scheme for prior entrants. As far as Action is concerned, it closed to new members with immediate effect from 1 April 2009.

FRS 17 Disclosures

Summary of Scheme costs and balances

2010	Amounts charged to SOFA	Actuarial loss	Defined Benefit Pension Scheme Liability
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Scheme number one	240	(737)	(2,208)
Scheme number two	198	-	-
Scheme number three	33	(557)	(862)
Scheme number four	456	-	-
Total	927	(1,294)	(3,070)

2009	Amounts charged to SOFA	Actuarial loss	Defined Benefit Pension Scheme Liability
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Scheme number one	184	(1,017)	(1,490)
Scheme number two	244	-	-
Scheme number three	3	(280)	(280)
Scheme number four	-	-	-
Total	431	(1,297)	(1,770)

21. Pension costs (continued)

FRS17 Disclosures relating to Scheme number one (The Pensions Trust Defined Benefit Scheme)

Composition of the Pension Scheme

Within the Defined Benefit Scheme retirement benefits are based on employees' final remuneration and length of service. A full actuarial valuation was carried out at 30 September 2008 by a qualified independent actuary using assumptions that are consistent with the requirements of FRS17 and updated to be effective as at the dates below. The major assumptions used by the actuary were:

Financial assumptions	At 31 March 2010 %	At 31 March 2009 %
Rate of increase in salaries	5.0	4.4
Rate of increase in deferred Pensions	3.5	2.5
Rate of increase for pensions in payment	3.4	2.9
Discount rate	5.5	6.7
Inflation assumption	3.5	2.9

Demographic assumptions

The mortality assumptions are based on standard mortality tables which allow for future mortality improvements. The assumptions are that a male member currently aged 65 will live on average for a further 22.4 years rising to 24.5 years where the member is currently aged 45. For female members it is assumed that those currently aged 65 will live on average for a further 25.1 years rising to 27.1 years where the member is currently aged 45.

Other assumptions are the same as those used in the Trustees' Scheme Funding valuation as at 30 September 2008.

The final salary section of the Scheme is closed to new entrants. Under the projected unit method the current service cost would be expected to increase as the members of the Scheme approach retirement.

Employees' contribution rates are currently at 6.5 per cent. The employers' contribution rate was 19.9 per cent during the year and 19.5 per cent with effect from 1 April 2010. The Scheme is a defined benefit (final salary) funded pension scheme. The Scheme is closed to new entrants.

The Scheme assets do not include investments issued by Action nor any property occupied by Action.

The overall expected rate of return on the Scheme assets has been based on the average expected return for each asset class, weighted by the amount of assets in each class.

The most recent full actuarial valuation was carried out as at 30 September 2008 and this valuation was completed in December 2009. A maintenance programme has been agreed which requires annual lump sum payments of £82,000 for a 15-year period running to 2023; the first of these payments was made in March 2010.

The employer expects to contribute £262,000 for the year starting 1 April 2010. The current arrangements as regards to contribution levels are described in the Schedule of Contributions dated 11 December 2009.

The Scheme holds quoted securities and these have been valued at bid-price.

21. Pension costs (continued)

The assets in the Scheme and the expected rate of return were:

	31 March 2010 Expected Rate of Return %	31 March 2010 Assets £'000	31 March 2009 Expected Rate of Return %	31 March 2009 Assets £'000
Equities	8.4	6,424	8.2	4,255
Fixed Interest Bonds	5.1	1,721	5.7	1,515
Index Linked Bonds	4.2	915	3.9	974
Property	7.4	629	8.2	573
Other	0.5	126	0.5	329
Total Market Value of Assets	7.26	9,815	6.83	7,646
Actuarial Value of Funded Obligations		(12,023)		(9,136)
Deficit in the Scheme		(2,208)		(1,490)

Analysis of the amount charged to SOFA:

	Year to 31 March 2010 £'000	Year to 31 March 2009 £'000
Current service cost	153	237
Interest on pension liabilities	603	612
Expected return on Scheme assets	(516)	(665)
Net charge to SOFA	240	184

Analysis of amount recognised in SOFA:

	Year to 31 March 2010 £'000	Year to 31 March 2009 £'000
Net Actuarial loss recognised in year	(737)	(1,017)
Net Cumulative Actuarial loss	(1,879)	(1,142)

21. Pension costs (continued)

Change in the present value of the Defined Benefit obligation:

	Year to 31 March 2010 £'000	Year to 31 March 2009 £'000
Opening Defined Benefit obligation	9,136	10,254
Service cost	153	237
Interest cost	603	612
Contributions by employees	38	48
Actuarial (gain) loss	2,560	(1,635)
Benefits paid	(467)	(380)
Closing Defined Benefit obligation	12,023	9,136

Change in the fair value of the Scheme assets:

	Year to 31 March 2010 £'000	Year to 31 March 2009 £'000
Opening fair value of the Scheme assets	7,646	9,470
Expected return	516	665
Actuarial gain (loss)	1,823	(2,652)
Contributions by employer	259	495
Contributions by employees	38	48
Benefits paid	(467)	(380)
Closing fair value of the Scheme assets	9,815	7,646
Actual return on Scheme assets	(2,339)	(1,987)

History of asset values, defined benefit obligation and surplus (deficit) in the scheme:

	2010 £'000	2009 £'000	2008 £'000	2007 £'000	2006 £'000
Defined Benefit obligations	(12,023)	(9,136)	(10,254)	(10,470)	(10,260)
Scheme assets	9,815	7,646	9,470	9,602	8,801
Deficit	(2,208)	(1,490)	(784)	(868)	(1,459)

21. Pension costs (continued)

Experience gain and loss on Scheme liabilities:

	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Amount	154	125	102	259	(6)
Percentage of the present Value of Scheme Liabilities	1.3%	1.4%	1.0%	2.5%	(0.1%)

Actual return less expected return on Scheme assets:

	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Amount	1,823	(2,652)	(1,041)	(38)	1,016
Percentage of Scheme Assets	18.6%	(34.7%)	(11.0%)	(0.4%)	11.5%

Disclosure relating to Scheme number two (The Pensions Trust Money Purchase Scheme)

The Pensions Trust Growth Plan is subject to the provisions of the Occupational Pension Scheme (Employer Debt on Withdrawal) Regulations 2005 and the Occupational Pension Schemes (Employer Debt and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2008.

The Trustees have a duty to enforce a debt on withdrawal if an employer withdraws from the Growth Plan at a time when at least one other employer continues to participate and the Growth Plan has a deficit on the full buy-out basis.

The Board of the Pensions Trust has decided on actuarial advice not to apportion any share of the deficit to Growth Plan Series 3 and consequently no debt on employer currently arises from participation in Growth Plan Series 3. However, the Board of the Pensions Trust may need to revisit this decision if its actuarial and legal advice should change. If the Board is required to revisit this decision, new money paid into Growth Plan Series 3 could potentially increase an employer’s exposure to any debt on withdrawal.

FRS17 Disclosures relating to Scheme number three (Wiltshire County Council Pension Scheme)

Composition of the Pension Scheme

Within the Wiltshire Pension Fund defined benefit Scheme retirement benefits are based on employees' final remuneration and length of service. A full actuarial valuation was carried out at 31 March 2007 by a qualified independent actuary using assumptions that are consistent with the requirements of FRS17 and updated to be effective as at the dates below.

The major assumptions used by the actuary were:

	At 31 March 2010 %	At 31 March 2009 %
Rate of increase in salaries	5.3	4.6
Rate of increase for pensions in payment	3.8	3.1
Discount rate	5.5	6.9
Inflation assumption	3.8	3.1

The final salary section of the Scheme is closed to new entrants. Under the projected unit method the current service cost would be expected to increase as the members of the Scheme approach retirement.

Employees' contribution rates are currently between 5.9 per cent and 6.5 per cent and the employers' contribution rate is currently 18.9 per cent.

21. Pension costs (continued)

	Expected Rate of Return 2010 %	Assets 2010 £'000	Assets 2010 %	Expected Rate of Return 2009 %	Assets 2009 £'000	Assets 2009 %
Equities	7.8	1,116	71	7.0	777	62
Bonds	5.0	252	16	5.6	288	23
Property	5.8	141	9	4.9	113	9
Cash	4.8	63	4	4.0	75	6
Total market value of assets		1,572	100		1,253	100
Actuarial value of liability		(2,434)			(1,533)	
Deficit in the Scheme		(862)			(280)	

Analysis of the amount charged to SOFA:

	Year to 31 March 2010 £'000	Year to 31 March 2009 £'000
Current service cost	6	6
Interest on pension liabilities	104	110
Past service cost recognition	-	2
Expected return on Scheme assets	(77)	(115)
Net charge to SOFA	33	3

Analysis of amount recognised in SOFA:

	Year to 31 March 2010 £'000	Year to 31 March 2009 £'000
Net Actuarial loss recognised in year	(557)	(336)
Net cumulative Actuarial loss	(1,010)	(453)

21. Pension costs (continued)

Change in the present value of the Defined Benefit obligation:

	Year to 31 March 2010 £'000	Year to 31 March 2009 £'000
Opening Defined Benefit obligation	1,533	1,613
Service cost	6	6
Interest cost	104	110
Contributions by employees	3	3
Past service costs – vested benefits	-	2
Actuarial loss (gain)	849	(144)
Benefits paid	(61)	(57)
Closing Defined Benefit obligation	2,434	1,533

Change in the fair value of the Scheme assets

	Year to 31 March 2010 £'000	Year to 31 March 2009 £'000
Opening fair value of the Scheme assets	1,253	1,663
Expected return	77	115
Actuarial gain (loss)	292	(480)
Contributions by employer	8	9
Contributions by employees	3	3
Benefits paid	(61)	(57)
Closing fair value of the Scheme assets	1,572	1,253

History of asset values, defined benefit obligation and surplus (deficit) in the scheme

	2010 £'000	2009 £'000	2008 £'000	2007 £'000
Defined Benefit obligations	(2,434)	(1,533)	(1,613)	(1,643)
Scheme assets	1,572	1,253	1,663	1,850
(Deficit) surplus	(862)	(280)	50	207

21. Pension costs (continued)

Experience of loss on Scheme liabilities:

	2010	2009	2008	2007
Amount	-	-	(223)	(1)
Percentage of the present value of Scheme liabilities	-	-	(13.8%)	(0.1%)

Actual return less expected return on Scheme assets:

	2010	2009	2008	2007
Amount	292	(480)	(245)	(28)
Percentage of Scheme assets	18.6%	(38.3%)	(15.3%)	(1.5%)

FRS17 Disclosure relating to Scheme number four (RNIB Retirement Benefits Scheme) Composition of the Pension Scheme

The Scheme is a hybrid defined benefits/defined contributions scheme operated by RNIB, relating in Action's case to staff transferred from RNIB on 1 April 2009. It is closed to new members of Action.

Action's employees were not the only members of the scheme, and so the assets were not held exclusively for their benefit. Accordingly, it has not been accounted for as a defined benefit scheme during the year in these financial statements, although full FRS17 disclosures and provisions have been made at consolidated group level.

Under the Association Agreement with RNIB, the deficit on the scheme disclosed by the Triennial Actuarial Valuation at 31 March 2009 is the responsibility of RNIB. It is estimated based on the FRS17 review of the whole scheme at 31 March 2010 that Action's share of the deficit at that date is approximately £37,000.

21. Pension costs (continued)

CVV pension costs

Cardiff, Vales and Valleys (CVV) is a participant within the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Pension Fund which is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme. The Fund provides benefits based on members' final pensionable salary. The fund is a multi-employer scheme managed by the City and County of Cardiff acting as the Fund Administering Authority. CVV has not previously made an FRS17 disclosure and this has therefore limited the extent of history shown.

An actuarial valuation was carried out at 31 March 2007 by consulting Actuaries, "Hewitt Associates Limited". The valuation disclosed that the CVV share in the market value of the Scheme's assets at that date was £960,000, and that the attributable share of the deficit (calculated as the excess of the market value of the Scheme's assets to the value of its past service ongoing liabilities, with allowance for future pay increases) amounted to £606,000.

In accordance with the requirements of FRS17 the full actuarial valuation at 31 March 2007 was updated by Hewitt Associates Limited at 31 March 2010. The principal assumptions they used for this purpose are explained in the following tables and notes.

	2010 %	2010 %
Discount rate	5.5	6.9
Inflation assumption	3.8	3.1
Rate of increase in salaries	5.3	4.6
Rate of increase in pensions payments	3.8	3.1

The mortality assumptions are based on standard mortality tables which allow for future mortality improvements. The assumptions are that a male member currently aged 65 will live on average for a further 21.2 years (2009: 21.1 years) rising to 23.5 years (2009: 23.4 years) where the member is currently aged 45. For female members it is assumed that those currently aged 65 will live on average for a further 25.2 years (2009: 25.0 years) rising to 27.4 years (2009: 27.3 years) where the member is currently aged 45.

The assumption for commutation, in both 2010 and 2009, are that for pre 1 April 2008 entitlements each member will exchange 50 per cent of the maximum amount permitted, and 75 per cent for post 31 March 2008 entitlements.

21. Pension costs (continued)

The defined benefit assets are invested according to the Statement of Investment Principles agreed by the Scheme Trustees. This sets a benchmark allocation of assets. The defined contribution assets are invested in line with member instructions.

Defined Benefit Assets – the percentages in this table refer to the long-term rates of return.

	2010	2010	2009	2009
	%	£'000	%	£'000
Equities	8.0	555	7.5	481
Corporate Bonds	5.5	95	5.8	96
Government Bonds	4.5	37	4.0	53
Property	8.5	31	6.5	35
Cash	0.7	7	1.6	12
Other	8.0	31	7.5	39
Total market value of scheme assets	7.5	756	6.9	716
Present value of scheme liabilities		1,738		1,387
Net pension scheme liabilities		982		671

CVV employs a building block approach in determining the rate of return on Scheme assets. Historical markets are studied and assets with higher volatility are assumed to generate higher returns consistent with widely accepted capital market principles. The assumed rate of return on each asset class is set out within this note. The overall expected rate of return on assets is then derived by aggregating the expected return for each asset class over the actual asset allocation for the Scheme at the 31 March 2010.

Analysis of charge to the SOFA	2010 £'000
Current service cost	15
Interest cost	89
Expected return on scheme assets	(43)
Expense recognised in SOFA	61

Changes to the present value of the defined benefit obligation during the year

	2010 £'000
Opening defined benefit obligation	1,387
Current service cost	15
Interest cost	89
Contributions by scheme participants	6
Actuarial loss on scheme liabilities	447
Net benefits paid out	(206)
Closing fair value of scheme liabilities/obligations	1,738

21. Pension costs (continued)

Changes to the fair value of scheme assets during the year

	2010 £'000
Opening fair value of scheme assets	716
Actual return on scheme assets	216
Contributions by the employer	24
Contributions by scheme participants	6
Net benefits paid out	(206)
Closing defined benefit assets	756

Actual return on scheme assets

	2010 £'000
Expected return on scheme assets	43
Actuarial gain on scheme assets	173
Actual return on scheme assets	216

History of asset values, defined benefit obligation and deficit in the scheme

	2010 £'000	2009 £'000
Fair value of scheme assets	756	716
Defined benefit obligation	1,738	1,387
Deficit in scheme	982	671

Actual return on scheme assets Analysis of the loss recognised in the SOFA

	2010 £'000
Total actuarial loss in year	274
Cumulative amount of loss recognised in SOFA	274

History of experience gain and loss in the Pension Scheme

	2010 £'000
Loss on scheme assets	173
Loss on scheme liabilities	13

During the year CVV contributed £24,000 to the scheme, and in the next year the Charity expects to contribute £28,000.

22. Group commitments

a. Capital

At the year-end, RNIB has outstanding commitments amounting to £14,356,000 (2009: £20,420,000) relating to the RNIB Rushton School and Children's Home. At the year-end Action has outstanding commitments amounting to £100,000 (2009: £52,000).

b. Operating leases

At the year-end, RNIB had the following annual commitments amounting to £1,494,000 (2009 restated: £1,326,000) under non-cancellable operating leases.

	2010 £'000	2009 £'000
Land and buildings		
Expiring within one year	80	38
Expiring between two and five years	597	219
Expiring after five years	546	694
Vehicles		
Expiring within one year	33	18
Expiring between two and five years	211	266
Equipment		
Expiring within one year	6	73
Expiring between two and five years	21	18
Total	1,494	1,326

23. Contingent liabilities

As at 31 March 2010 there is a group, and charity, contingent liability in the sum of £336,000 (2009: £nil). This relates to a potential extension of time claim received from the contractor employed to construct the RNIB Rushton School and Children's Home. This claim has not been formally accepted and is subject to further negotiation.

24. Grants receivable

During the year, RNIB received a number of grants and other funding resources, which are required by the donors to be shown in our annual financial statements.

Source	Purpose	£'000
Big Lottery Fund	RNIB Cymru developing emotional wellbeing through the arts	18
	RNIB Northern Ireland eye matter	91
	Developing life skill for young people	39
	RNIB Scotland young people's forum	106
	Medivision	15
	Vision for life	44
	Lisburn in focus	58
Big Lottery Fund – Research Programme	Enabler	5
Big Lottery Fund – Reaching Communities Programme	SEED project	107
Awards For All Scotland	Family fun day	7
Awards For All Northern Ireland	Visually impaired football clubs	9
European Social Fund	EAS	197
European Union	Lifelong learning programme	12
Department for Education and Skills	Embossed literature	200
Department of Work and Pensions	Pension education fund	5

Source	Purpose	£'000
Department of Social Development – Modernisation Fund Capital	Talking point project	77
Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs	HMRC project	48
Learning and Skills Council	NW sensory centre	120
	Manchester college	119
Welsh Assembly Government	Best practice on safe, inclusive and accessible buildings for people with dementia and sight loss	15
	Section 64 – health and social care grant	30
	Best practice on safe, inclusive and accessible buildings for people with learning disability and sight loss	11
Welsh Language Board	To produce welsh language audio books for children by children.	7
DCELLS	ACCAC project – production of welsh and bilingual classroom materials in braille and large print	68
	Daisy project – production of welsh and bilingual classroom materials in braille and large print	11
Department of Health	Opportunities for volunteering	128
	RNIB volunteer counselling project	5
	BME volunteering and self help scheme	68
Centrica	Here to help	70
BBC Children in Need	Children and family event	19

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President

- His Grace the Duke of Westminster KG, CB, OBE, TD, CD, DL

Vice-Presidents

- Sir John Beckwith CBE
- The Rt Hon David Blunkett MP
- Richard Brewster
- Professor Ian Bruce CBE
- Jeremy Bull
- Jack A Dunn (deceased January 2010)
- Haruhisa Handa
- Euclid Herie
- Lady Joan Jarvis
- Penny Lancaster-Stewart
- Lord Low of Dalston CBE MA (Oxon)
- Sir Mike Rake
- Dr Dermot Smurfit

- Rod Stewart
- Lord Stockton
- Sir Duncan Watson

Honorary Officers

Chairman

- Lord Low of Dalston CBE MA (Oxon) to 23 July 2009
- Kevin Carey MA (Cantab), MA (Kings College, London) from 23 July 2009

Vice-Chair

- Kevin Carey MA (Cantab), MA (Kings College, London) to 23 July 2009
- Derek Child MA from 23 July 2009

Honorary Treasurer

- Terry Moody MA, BA

Chief Executive Officer and Group Directors

Chief Executive Officer

- Lesley-Anne Alexander MSc

Group Directors

Chief Operating Officer (to September 2009)

- Kevin Geeson FCCA, MBA

Resources (from November 2009)

- Keith Hickey BSc MSc FCCA DChA

Inclusive Society

- Fazilet Hadi BA

Prevention and International Affairs

- Stephen P King MBA, FCMI

Fundraising (to December 2009)

- Paul Amadi BA, MSc, MinstF

Fundraising (Acting from January 2010 – May 2010)

- Eifron Hopper

Fundraising (from June 2010)

- Wanda Hamilton BA (Law)

Supporting Independent Living

- Sally Harvey BA (Hons)

Chief Executive, Action for Blind People

- Stephen Remington

Professional advisors

Auditors

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WC2R 0AF

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Royal Bank of Scotland plc
Marylebone Road and Harley Street Branch
10 Marylebone High Street
London
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Property advisors

Knight Frank
20 Hanover Square
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Solicitors

Solicitors

Bates Wells & Braithwaite
138 Cheapside
London
EC2V 6BB

Board of Trustees

Members of the Board of Trustees are listed below. Full details of membership of committees are available from the Governance Unit at RNIB's Judd Street address. A proportion of Trustees are elected by the Board, on the recommendation of the Nominations Committee. A proportion is also elected by the UK Members Forum. Over three-quarters of the Board are blind or partially sighted.

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lord Low of Dalston CBE (Chairman to 23 July 2009) • Kevin Carey (Vice-Chair to 23 July 2009 and Chair from 23 July 2009) • Derek Child (Vice-Chair from 23 July 2009) • Terry Moody (Honorary Treasurer) • Margaret Bennett (from 1 March 2010) • Carol Borowski • Dr Gillian Burrington OBE (to 31 December 2009) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisa Charlton MBE • James Cook JP • Michael Crowther • Gareth Davies • Cindy Godfrey-McKay • Richard Godfrey-McKay • Vidar Hjordeng • Arif Khan CBE JP (to 31 December 2009) • Anna Lawson • John McNamee • Brendan Magill (to 31 December 2009) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Amir Ali Majid (to 31 December 2009) • Bill Poole (to 1 October 2009) • John Ramm • Terry Robinson (to 31 December 2009) • Tony Rucinski (from 1 February 2010) • Robert Silbermann • Eleanor Southwood (from 1 March 2010) • John Spence • Alan Suttie • Mike Townsend • Louise Wright |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

A regular skills audit of Trustees is carried out with a view to helping to plan training. This year, we have continued to concentrate on voice and personal presence training to enable our Trustees to participate in Board meetings as effectively as possible. Other ad hoc training activities take place depending on the needs of individuals, and a number of Trustees have participated in small group training sessions with the Head of Corporate Financial Management to enhance their understanding of RNIB's finances.

New Trustees receive an induction pack containing everything they need to know about the charity and its work for effective and informed decision-making, and trustee induction programmes are also arranged for new trustees.

UK assembly members

Until 23 July 2009, the Board was supported by an assembly, formed of representatives from stakeholder organisations and the wider RNIB Membership. As well as discussing major issues that came before the Board, the Assembly provided some members of RNIB committees and elected 40 per cent of Board members. This list comprises members of the assembly from April 2009 to July 2009.

- Jill Allen-King MBE
- Jean Appleton MBE
- Dean Apps
- Timothy Bamber
- Richard Bignell
- Nancy Blaik MBE
- Maggy Bower
- Peggy Bradley
- Felix Brenner
- David Brodtman
- Peter Brown
- Sam Brown
- Ian S Cash
- Mike Cassidy
- Mona Charnley
- Derek Child
- David Clark
- James Cook JP
- George Corbett
- Michael Crowther
- Gareth Davies
- Patricia Donaghy
- John Donaldson
- David Evans
- Richard Evans
- Alistair Fielder
- Gordon Forster
- Christopher Friend
- Joseph Gay
- David Gibbs
- Monica Gibbs
- Sandra Gollan
- Andrea Gordon
- The Rt Hon Viscount Gough
- Kevin Greenan
- Bob Greenhalgh
- Ruth Hampton
- Maggie Harris
- Ray Hazan
- Carys Henry
- Carys Henry
- Don Jackson
- Geoffrey Jackson
- Fred Jakeman
- Pamela Jarmain
- Wally Kinder
- Darren Lindsay
- Christopher Lowell
- Shubnum Majeed
- Amir Majid
- David McKerral
- John McNamee
- Andrew Millar MBE
- Steve Mundy
- Rhondalee Nash
- Jim O'Rourke
- Margaret O'Rourke
- Alan Owens
- Brian Payne
- Brian Perham (deceased April 2010)
- Bill Poole
- Gillian Price
- John Ramm
- Siam Ramnarain
- Fred Reid
- George Reid
- Terry Robinson
- Kevin Russell
- Alex Scott MBE
- Julie Smethurst
- Alan Suttie
- Malcolm Swinburn
- Norma Town
- Mike Townsend
- Peter Wilkins
- Sid Wilson

UK Members Forum

The UK Assembly has been replaced by a new body that aims to give RNIB a closer rapport with its membership, the UK Members Forum. The Forum is a place for representatives of RNIB Members to come together and discuss the issues of importance to them. These issues go forward to the Board of Trustees. This will give Members a direct link to RNIB's most senior governing body and will help with identifying and shaping major strategic, policy and service issues. It met for the first time in March 2010 and will meet again in July 2010 around RNIB's Annual General Meeting. The UK Members Forum is supported by local Member Forums – nine in England, and three in the devolved countries. This will help members to influence RNIB and also to provide more local events and interaction between members. All RNIB members are invited to the Forum Meeting nearest to them, and each Forum chooses its representatives to the UK Members Forum. Members of the UK Members Forum as at April 2010 are:

South East

- Kevin Deacon
- Jayne Payne
- Michael Radford

South West

- Michael Dyke
- Christina Ellis
- Marie Freeman

London

- Maggy Bower
- Ian Jentle
- David Quigley

East of England

- Marian Knights
- Marion Mansfield
- Diane Stedman

East Midlands

- Peter Bailey
- Sophia Chandler
- Chris Grethe

West Midlands

- Paul Bryce
- Bhanumati Dabhi
- Mark Williams

Wales

- Frances (Faye) Jones
- Chris Malone
- Robert (Bob) Teague

Yorkshire and The Humber

- Donald Baron
- Michael Slack
- Peter Westwood

North West

- Michelle Powell
- Anne Rigby
- Colin Shuttleworth

North East

- Jillian Grant
- Denise Ross
- Doreen Tyler

Scotland

- Margaret Cowie
- David McKerral
- Ken Reid

Northern Ireland

- Joe Kenny
- Paula Meehan
- Alan Owens

Former UK Assembly members who were elected by the wider membership have been asked to join the UK Members Forum for a transitional period of two years, and these are:

- Jill Allen-King MBE
- Timothy Bamber
- Nancy Blaik MBE
- Felix Brenner
- Peter Brown
- Derek Child
- Michael Crowther
- Patricia Donaghy
- Alistair Fielder
- Maggie Harris
- Andrew Millar MBE
- Brian Payne
- Fred Reid
- Alan Suttie
- Mike Townsend

Your support

Give time. Without volunteers we couldn't run our services.

Give money. Without financial support from donations and legacies we simply couldn't provide many of the products and services that help people find their life again.

Give your voice. Without active campaigners we could never get changes made to health, social care, employment and benefits.

Please call today on 0303 123 9999 to find out more or send your details to: RNIB, 105 Judd Street, London WC1H 9NE

Please contact me about:

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising events | <input type="checkbox"/> Recycling for RNIB |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Products and publications | <input type="checkbox"/> Campaigning |

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Type of card: Visa MasterCard Maestro

Other (Please confirm) _____

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RNIB acknowledges support from the National Lottery Big Lottery fund for the following projects: RNIB Cymru Developing emotional wellbeing through the arts; RNIB Northern Ireland eye matter; Developing life skill for young people; RNIB Scotland young people’s forum; Medivision; Vision for life; Lisburn in focus; the enabler research programme project; and the SEED project.



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