

Share the Vision (Libraries) Limited

Company information:

Charity number: 1136948

Company registration number: 3184753

Registered office:

c/o RNIB
Bakewell Rd
Orton Southgate
Peterborough
PE2 6XU

c/o CILIP
7 Ridgmount Street
London
WC1E 7AE

(from March 2018)

Bankers:

Bank of Scotland

PO Box 1000

BX2 1LB

Independent examiner:

S J McDonald FCCA

Chartered Certified Accountant

Station Chambers

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<www.share-the-vision.org.uk>

Share the Vision (Libraries) Limited

Report of the Trustees

The trustees, who are also directors of the company, present their report and accounts for the year ended 30 April 2018.

Principal activities

The charity's principal activity during the year was to promote the relief and education of visually impaired and other print disabled people, in particular but not exclusively, by improving the quality and availability of library and information services and products which provide for the reading and information needs of such persons.

Members of the Board

Trustees are appointed as representatives by member organisations. Those who served during the year were as follows:

Mark Freeman (Chair)
Frances Mason (Resigned September 2017)
Jeremy Shillito
Alex Britton
Mark McCree
Paul McCloskey (Resigned September 2017)
Jackie Chelin
Mark Taylor
Fiona Williams
Emma Scott
Julie Gibson

Observers:

Katie Lusty, Arts Council England
Jemma Francis, CyMAL: Museums Archives and Libraries Wales,
a division of the Welsh Assembly Government

Co-ordinator/Company Secretary: Frances Mason/Mark McCree

Chair's introduction

In continuing times of austerity, 2017-2018 has been a year of significant challenges. Whilst our resolve to continue to support people who live with sight loss in gaining access to libraries and reading is unchanged, the capacity with which to do this has decreased. We continue to work closely with our charity partners and with our public sector colleagues to promote accessibility and improvement through the sharing of best practice and experience. Changing technology, reductions in budgets and changes to organisations have all affected the capacity to deliver our aims.

Major changes to the RNIB's National Library Service have been perhaps the most significant challenge in terms of input to the partnership during the year. Historically, they, and prior to that, the National Library for the Blind have taken a major role in the running of Share the Vision with secretariat and administrative support. We were extremely grateful for the support of Julie Gibson, Mark McCree and Wendi Webb at the base in Peterborough for the first part of the year in helping us to deliver a wide range of activities.

The re-organisation of the RNIB team in December and the subsequent reduction was very disappointing and has resulted in the need to re-establish roles and relationships. We are pleased that the relationship between us has survived albeit on a much reduced basis. The changes have necessitated a change of our business address as well as the need to buy in administrative support in order to continue our work.

We have continued to enjoy a close relationship with the Society of Chief Librarians who have now transformed into Libraries Connected, an Arts Council Sector Support Organisation. Our joint Six Steps Promise is still supported as one of their six "Universal Offers" and two "Promises". Linked to this, the Six Steps Training Module is still freely available to members through the SCL/Libraries Connected Learning Pool platform. SCL became a new Sector Support Organisation on April 1st2018 and we look forward to participating in the Review of Universal Offers and Promises during the current year.

Support for Six Steps is still strong and during Make a Noise in Libraries fortnight, libraries have continued to focus their activities on the services and events they mount for people who need an alternative form of reading.

During 2016-2017 we piloted Library on a Shelf. We funded, in some cases with support from the Reading Agency, a number of collections of materials designed as a “shop window” for our charity providers showing the range of materials available through their services which could be based in a public library as a demonstration collection. Evaluation of this initiative will be taking place during 2017-2018.

Share the Vision has continued its association with John Vincent and the Network and completed a series of face to face workshops to support the Six Steps Promise during 2016-2017. A one off workshop was organised in the Autumn for staff at East Sussex Library service where a Libraries Opportunities for Everyone grant included an element of improvement to the service provided for people with sight loss. Around twenty five staff attended a session with John, RNIB and Share the Vision representatives for a very rewarding day.

Six Steps continues to support Scottish libraries through its relationship with the Scottish Library and Information Council and Paul McCloskey represented SLIC until the Autumn of 2017. We were sad to see him go and are making efforts to replace him on the Share the Vision Board.

Share the Vision has continued to engage, where possible, with other relevant organisations and has responded to consultations and requests for support when we can. Christine Ronaldson continued to represent STV at the Libraries and Archives Copyright Alliance meetings and Emma Scott took on the role of representing us on the Reading Friends Steering Group for the project administered through the Reading Agency.

In August we participated in the IFLA Congress in Wroclaw, Poland, as part of the Poster Sessions. We promoted our Six Steps approach to public library services and were pleased to provide information and advice to a wide variety of colleague from across the world. The session has resulted in a further contact request for the IFLA session in Kuala Lumpur during August 2018 to look at Universal Design principles for public libraries in the UK.

David Fay, former Head of Libraries, Arts and Culture for Newcastle City Council has continued the legacy that David Owen left by maintaining our fortnightly Bulletins which focus on the issues surrounding libraries, reading and sight loss. Although we miss David Owen’s very individual approach and his incredible

knowledge, we are pleased that we have been able to restart the fortnightly news round ups and we have received positive feedback for the new approach.

Our work would not be possible without the strong support of Share the Vision's Board Members and the assistance we received from RNIB. We said goodbye to Frances Mason, our ASCEL rep and Company Secretary during 2017 – her service on the Board was of huge value to us and we miss her forthright but warm and humorous contribution to the Board. We also said goodbye to Paul McCloskey, our SLIC representative. Our thanks go to them and to all of our Members, substitutes and observers.

This report was approved by the Board on December 6th 2018

Small company special provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part XV of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Mark Freeman
Chair
Share the Vision

Background

Share the Vision brings together public and voluntary sector library services and other library organisations to improve access to library services for over two million print disabled people in the UK. It is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee governed by Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated 11 April 1996 amended by special resolution 27 April 2010. The membership comprises

- The British Library
- Calibre Audio Library
- CILIP (Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals)
- CILIP School Libraries Group
- ClearVision
- Library and Information Services Council: Northern Ireland
- RNIB (Royal National Institute of Blind People)
- Scottish Library and Information Council
- Society of Chief Librarians
- Society of College, National and University Libraries

Libraries NI, The Arts Council England (ACE) and Museums Archives and Libraries Wales (a division of the Welsh Assembly Government) have observer status.

Share the Vision pursues its objective by

- Providing information and advice to public and voluntary sector library services
- Developing and recommending policy and strategies
- Identifying and encouraging best practice
- Supporting collaboration and networking within and between sectors
- Influencing library organisations and other stakeholders

Achievements 2017-2018

In planning the year's activities, the trustees complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit.

Last year we prioritised the following areas of work in 2017-2018.

1. Identify and stimulate good practice in public libraries at national, regional and local level
2. Work with SCONUL to understand and address issues around accessible reading faced by people in education.
3. Encourage the development of accessible and relevant digital reading services for print disabled people.
4. Influence government, other key stakeholders and initiatives.
5. Ensure the organisation is effective and sustainable.
6. Assess the future development of reading and library services for print disabled people.

1. Identify and stimulate good practice in public libraries at national, regional and local level

1.1 Continue to encourage universal sign up to Six Steps and update and promote the promise

The Six Steps benchmark was developed in 2011 by STV in conjunction with the Society of Chief Librarians, who adopted this as one of their national promises. In addition it has been endorsed by the Scottish Library & Information Council, CyMAL and CILIP.

At the time of writing, 95% of library authorities have signed up to the Six Steps, including authorities in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Six Steps has also generated international interest through our relationship with IFLA.

Six Steps continues to be promoted through our partnerships with our contributing organisations. The Promise sits alongside the ASCEL Children's promise and the six Universal Offers developed by the Society of Chief Librarians as a keystone of public library work.

1.2 Support development and use of online information resources for staff and customers (Reading Sight and new digital training resource).

STV has maintained these valuable tools with support from RNIB and our other participating organisations.

- The Reading Sight website provides information and advice to library staff about sight loss, ways of assisting readers, access to reading services, accessibility of buildings, equipment etc.
- Young Reading Lives features videos showing case studies of young blind and partially sighted readers.
The website can be found at www.readingsight.org.uk

In 2016- 2017, Share the Vision has been working on promotion of the Six Steps Promise and to its associated tools. Reading Sight is a valuable tool and continues to offer advice and support – we will continue to update it when possible and to use the Six Steps JISCmail list to communicate more widely with our Champions.

1.3 Support work on making ebook and public library services accessible and useable.

The Six Steps Module is now live and being used by public library services across the country. This provides a very simple introduction to the delivery of accessible library services. We have also worked to provide support to library staff in raising awareness of the rapidly developing technologies now widely available which make reading much easier for those who live with sight loss. Our face to face workshops have all included sessions to support this work.

1.4 Contribute to the SCL's developing Universal Offers.

Throughout 2016-2017 the Six Steps Promise has featured in all workshops and discussions around the SCL Offers and Promises. There are developed plans to continue this process with a review of accessibility and diversity planned across all Offers and Promises. We have been involved in the discussions and proposals for the development of SCL as an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation in the coming year.

1.5 Work with The Reading Agency, National Literacy Trust and Booktrust to improve their awareness and delivery of accessible services.

Meetings have taken place through the year partnership organisations through the SCL Executive and through individual offer meetings. As part of the development of our Library On a Shelf product, we have engaged with the Reading Friends project currently running through the Reading Agency and are represented at their steering meetings. We have also worked closely with RNIB Online during the year.

2. Work with SCONUL to understand and address issues around accessible reading faced by people in education.

Jackie Chelin has been working to to implement a Six Steps promise approach to academic libraries and this has been piloted with a number of institutions. She was an active member of the Board being instrumental in the joint planning and delivery of the Workshop session in Bristol alongside academic library staff.

3. Encourage the development of accessible and relevant digital reading services for print disabled people.

We have continued to work alongside the other Universal Offer and Promise lead officers with SCL. During 2016-2017 we worked to develop the Library on a Shelf Collections in each region and home nation across the UK. These have also been incorporated into elements of the Reading Friends project to support people with sight loss who are participating in this work.

We continued to deliver fortnightly Bulletins containing useful links and information surrounding sight loss.

4. Influence government, other key stakeholders and initiatives.

STV was represented at a number of briefings and consultation sessions as part of the ongoing work of the Public Library Taskforce and through central government.

STV proposed a poster session at the World Library and Information Congress in Wroclaw, Poland during August of 2017 which was accepted in March. This poster focused on the Six Steps Promise as an example of a simple but effective partnership to raise awareness of the issues of sight loss and how these can be answered through libraries. This was followed up by an invitation to participate in the 2018 IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Kuala Lumpur in a session which focused on accessible libraries hosted by the Public Libraries, Libraries for Print Disabilities and Special Needs groups.

5. Ensure the organisation is effective and sustainable

The organisation's strategy and work plan is updated regularly to reflect changing needs in the light of resource availability. In the current economic climate we maintain a close watch on the risks to library services for print disabled people.

Funds to support the organisation's work are raised via a modest annual subscription from member organisations. Income during 2016 -17 was buoyant. In 2018 we have contacted library services via post and this has already realised a substantial number of contributions for 2017-2018.

Induction and training of trustees

Trustees are provided with an induction and training in the form of presentations, discussions and visits, e.g. impact of dyslexia on reading, impact of newly emerging technologies on the lives of print disabled people.

Funds held on behalf of others

STV is has held for some time a residual amount remaining from work undertaken by the IFLA LPD group in the UK. The usage of this fund was discussed and the decision to utilise this to support the IFLA poster proposal was taken – the remainder was directed towards costs for the 2018 Congress work.

Reserves policy

Trustees regularly review the financial situation of the charity with regard to its changing needs and circumstances and consider it prudent to keep between 1 and 2 months running costs as a reserve to meet any unforeseen expenditure that may occur.

Risks

Risks are regularly reviewed and addressed by the trustees. The main risk is financial instability, which is a low risk in the short term but a high risk in the medium term.

Plans for 2018-2020

1. Identify and stimulate good practice in public libraries at national, regional and local level through engagement with partners and organisations both within the UK and internationally.

1.1 Continue to encourage universal sign up to Six Steps and update and promote the promise

1.2 Support development and use of online information resources for staff and customers (Reading Sight, Young Reading Lives and the new digital Learning Module).

1.3 Support work on making ebook and public library services accessible and useable.

1.4 Contribute to the SCL's developing Universal Offers.

1.5 Work with The Reading Agency, National Literacy Trust and Booktrust to improve their awareness and delivery of accessible services.

2. Work with SCONUL to understand and address issues around accessible reading faced by people in education.

3. Encourage the development of accessible and relevant digital reading services for print disabled people.

4. Influence government, other key stakeholders and initiatives.

5. Ensure the organisation is effective and sustainable.

6. Assess the future development of reading and library services for print disabled people.

Signed.....

Date 6th December 2018