Bradbury Fields

Annual Review 2025/26

Our first full year back as an independent charity



Bradbury Fields

Services for Blind and Partially Sighted People

Supporting blind and partially sighted people
to lead independent and fulfilling lives

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Foreword from the Chair

It is a privilege to introduce Bradbury Fields' Annual Review for 2025/26, our first full financial year as an independent charity following our demerger from Catholic Blind Institute.

Having joined the Board as a Trustee in March 2025, I was honoured to be appointed Chair in September 2025, with Richard Cole serving as Deputy Chair and Honorary Treasurer. Richard also chairs our Finance and General Purposes Group, helping to ensure strong financial oversight and governance. During the year, we said farewell to two long-serving trustees, Naomi Ditchfield and Sue Turnham. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank them both for their many years of commitment and service to Bradbury Fields.

Throughout the year, the Board has continued to meet regularly and play an active role in supporting the organisation, including staff recruitment, strategic planning and discussions about the future direction of Bradbury Fields.

An important focus during 2025/26 has been strengthening our fundraising, marketing and communications to help secure the charity's long-term sustainability and enable us to reach more people. We engaged THINK Consultancy to review our approach and provide specialist advice, with a particular focus on fundraising and marketing. We were subsequently delighted to appoint Tracy Barnes as Head of Fundraising and Marketing and look forward to seeing this area develop under her leadership.

We have also worked with SLMC Marketing Consultants to strengthen our digital presence, including the development of our social media and website. We hope this investment will make it easier for people with sight loss to find and access our services, while raising awareness of Bradbury Fields and creating new opportunities for individual giving, fundraising and partnership support.

Foreword from the **Chair**

Gill Hayes
Chair of Trustees

None of the achievements highlighted throughout this report would be possible without our staff and volunteers. On behalf of the Board, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to every member of the team for their professionalism, compassion, hard work and commitment throughout the year. Whether delivering frontline services, supporting health and wellbeing activities, raising vital funds or working behind the scenes, everyone has played an important part in what we have achieved.

Our volunteers deserve particular recognition. They give their time, skills and enthusiasm so generously and are an integral part of the Bradbury Fields community. This spirit was demonstrated once again at our Christmas Market, which was extremely well attended and raised approximately £2,500, including around £800 from the raffle. My thanks go to everyone who contributed to making the event such a success.

Our long-standing relationships with local authorities, health services, commissioners and other partners remain extremely important to us. We will continue to strengthen these relationships and develop new partnerships so that more people living with sight loss can access rehabilitation, health and wellbeing support, and opportunities for greater independence and social inclusion.

As we look ahead, we do so with ambition and optimism. Bradbury Fields has a remarkable history stretching back almost 170 years, but our focus remains firmly on the future. As an independent charity, we have an opportunity to build on that heritage, strengthen our sustainability and ensure that Bradbury Fields continues to be there for people living with sight loss for generations to come.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported Bradbury Fields during 2025/26 and look forward to seeing what we can achieve together in the years ahead.

Foreword from the **Chief Executive**

Bradbury Fields

2025/26 has been a landmark year for Bradbury Fields

Our first full year as an independent charity has given us the opportunity not only to reflect on almost 170 years of history, but also to look confidently towards the future.

For me, one of the greatest privileges of leading Bradbury Fields is seeing first-hand the difference our staff, volunteers and services make to people's lives. Throughout this year I have seen people adapt to sight loss, regain confidence, learn new skills, form friendships and take on challenges they may once have thought were beyond them.

As we continue this new chapter in the Bradbury Fields story, I am enormously proud of what we have achieved together and grateful to everyone who has played a part in making it possible.

During the year, many of our service users and supporters took on incredible fundraising challenges for Bradbury Fields, including sponsored walks, runs, abseils and skydives. I decided to join them and finally tick something off my own bucket list by taking to the skies myself. It was a truly exhilarating experience and one I would wholeheartedly recommend!

Another personal highlight has been watching our new air fryer classes become such a success. What began as a small pilot quickly developed into a hugely popular programme, with festive cooking sessions bringing people together to develop practical skills, build confidence and enjoy cooking in a safe and supportive environment. The enthusiasm has encouraged us to continue developing the programme with more advanced classes planned for the future.

Our Health and Wellbeing services have continued to flourish during the first year of our four-year National Lottery Community Fund project.

Most importantly, independent evaluation has demonstrated the difference these services are making to people's lives. 93% of participants reported feeling less socially isolated and 100% said their mental health had improved. These outcomes demonstrate the importance of creating opportunities for people with sight loss to build friendships, develop confidence, remain active and feel part of their communities.

Alongside these activities, we continue to provide specialist rehabilitation and practical support to people adapting to sight loss. Whether someone needs long cane training, support with assistive technology, advice following a diagnosis or opportunities to connect with others who understand their experiences, our aim is always the same: to help each individual achieve the greatest possible independence and quality of life. The service user stories throughout this Annual Review bring that impact to life far better than statistics ever could.

We have also enjoyed several exciting collaborative projects during the year. One particularly memorable initiative was Unseen Beauty – Art Beyond Sight, which brought together Bradbury Fields, partner organisations, local universities and St Vincent's School in a celebration of creativity and lived experience. The project culminated in an exhibition at the Liverpool Everyman Theatre, featuring artwork, sculpture and poetry that challenged perceptions of sight loss and celebrated creativity.

Strong partnerships remain central to everything we do. We continue to work closely with local authorities, health services, commissioners and other organisations whose collaborative approach enables us to provide high-quality services to people when they need them most. We are grateful for these longstanding relationships and look forward to strengthening them further in the years ahead.

Financially, I am pleased that Bradbury Fields has ended the year in a strong position, achieving a surplus of income over expenditure and exceeding our original break-even budget. This reflects careful financial management alongside the invaluable support we continue to receive from commissioners, funders, donors and supporters. I would like to thank our Board of Trustees for their diligence and thoughtful oversight of the charity's finances throughout the year.

Foreword from the **Chief Executive**

Matt Cliff
Chief Executive

One of the Board's key priorities has been ensuring the long-term sustainability of Bradbury Fields. Over the past year I have spent considerable time exploring opportunities for future growth, learning from other charities and fundraising specialists. This work has led to the development of a new three-year fundraising strategy, an increased focus on areas including gifts in wills and legacy giving, and the appointment of our new Head of Fundraising and Marketing, Tracy Barnes. Together with our existing fundraising team, we are excited about the opportunities this investment will create for the future.

Looking ahead, our ambition is not simply to maintain what we already provide, but to reach even more people living with sight loss. During the coming year we hope to strengthen our communications and marketing, pilot satellite peer support groups across Liverpool, Knowsley and Sefton, and relaunch our service user consultation groups so that the voices of the people we support continue to shape the development of our services.

Being a charity will always bring challenges, but the overwhelming message from this Annual Review is one of optimism. Every day we see people rebuilding confidence, learning new skills, forming friendships and discovering opportunities they may once have thought were beyond their reach.

As we approach our 170th year, I believe Bradbury Fields is in a strong and stable position from which to build on its remarkable heritage and work towards an even more sustainable future. I am genuinely excited about what lies ahead and proud to be part of the wonderful team that will make it happen.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you to everyone who has supported Bradbury Fields during 2025/26.

Our Story



Support with a smile

As 2025/26 marks the first full financial year since Bradbury Fields became an independent charity following our demerger from Catholic Blind Institute (CBI), it is an appropriate moment to reflect on our remarkable history. Although our governance has changed, our commitment to supporting people living with sensory loss continues a legacy that stretches back almost 170 years.

Bradbury Fields was founded in 1857 by a committee of 14 women, led by Mary Wainwright. Originally known as **The Society for Supplying Home Teachers and Books in Moon's System or Embossed Type to Enable the Blind to Read**, its primary aim was to teach blind people to read the Scriptures.

In 1861, the organisation merged with Liverpool Workshops for the Blind and became **The Liverpool Society for Promoting the Welfare of the Outdoor Blind**. Its work expanded to include employment and vocational training, and by 1870 new workshops, classrooms, offices and a shop had been established in Cornwallis Street.

Following several further name changes, the organisation became Liverpool Voluntary Society for the

Our Story

Bradbury Fields

Blind (LVSB) in 1970. By the early 2000s, however, this no longer reflected the organisation we had become, with services extending beyond Liverpool and supporting people with a wider range of visual impairments.

In 2003, with generous support from the Bradbury Foundation (HSBC's charitable trust), we purchased our current home in Knotty Ash, naming it the Bradbury Centre. Four years later, as we celebrated our 150th anniversary, we became **Bradbury Fields – Services for Blind and Partially Sighted People.**

A particularly proud milestone came in 2018, when we were awarded the Freedom of the City of Liverpool in recognition of our longstanding contribution to the city and the people we serve.

While our name, premises and services have evolved over nearly 170 years, our purpose has remained constant: enabling people living with sensory loss to lead fuller, more independent lives. Today, Bradbury Fields continues to build on this proud heritage, delivering services that promote independence, wellbeing and inclusion across Liverpool and beyond.



Bradbury Fields Coffee Morning

Our Mission, Vision and Values

Our mission is to enhance the quality of life and promote the health and wellbeing of people living with sensory loss.

Our vision is a world in which those people living with sensory loss can flourish.

Our Values

Compassionate and Caring

We provide high-quality services delivered with compassion, building relationships based on empathy, kindness and dignity.

Respectful

We treat people with dignity and respect, recognising individual preferences and choices.

Enabling

We empower people living with sensory loss to live independently, achieve their goals and exercise choice.

Ambitious

We are innovative, flexible, dynamic and passionate.

Trusted

We are experienced, knowledgeable and professional.

Inspirational

We recognise achievements.

Vibrant

We are positive in our actions.

Excellence

We strive for high quality in everything we do.

Meet the Trustees

Bradbury Fields

Gill Hayes Chair of Trustees

I joined the Board of Bradbury Fields as a trustee in March 2025 and was honoured to be appointed Chair in September 2025. Having lived with visual impairment for much of my life, I am passionate about using my lived experience to help shape services that enable people with sight loss to live independently and participate fully in their communities.

I have spent much of my career working within the Criminal Justice System, where I supported and advised disabled colleagues, delivered disability awareness training and worked with senior leaders to develop more inclusive policies and practices. This experience has given me a strong understanding of equality, accessibility and organisational leadership.

I am also a trustee of DADA, an arts charity that promotes and develops opportunities for disabled artists across the North West and beyond.

> **As public services continue to face increasing financial pressures, I believe charities such as Bradbury Fields play an essential role in reducing isolation, promoting inclusion and improving the lives of people living with sight loss.**

I am proud to help lead the organisation into its next chapter as an independent charity.

Richard Cole Deputy Chair and Treasurer

I moved to Liverpool in 2016 and was introduced to Bradbury Fields after registering as sight impaired with the local authority. Having experienced the charity's support first-hand, I wanted to give something back. I joined the Community Services Committee in 2023 and became a trustee in 2024. After serving as Chair, I now serve as Deputy Chair and Treasurer and chair the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Meet the **Trustees**

Having lived with sight impairment from birth, I understand many of the challenges faced by the people Bradbury Fields supports. Despite limited support throughout mainstream education, I went on to study Business Administration at university, qualify as an accountant and build a successful career in finance.

Outside of my professional life, I have worked as a nightclub DJ, developed a passion for photography and walked many of the UK's major National Trails.

Through my role at Bradbury Fields, I hope to use both my professional and lived experience to help strengthen the charity while encouraging others with sight loss to have the confidence to pursue their ambitions and not be defined by disability.

Geraldine Bounds Trustee

I moved to Liverpool in 1991 and soon became involved with Liverpool Voluntary Society for the Blind (LVSB), now Bradbury Fields. My commitment to supporting blind and partially sighted people began much earlier through my roles as trustee and Chair of Walthew House in Stockport, together with trustee positions at the National Library for the Blind, RNIB and the Guide Dogs Council.

Over the years, I have served as trustee, Vice Chair and Chair of LVSB/Bradbury Fields. During that time, we changed the organisation's name to better reflect the people we support and purchased the Bradbury Centre, which remains our home today.

Professionally, I qualified as a solicitor before later becoming a teacher in further and higher education and a counsellor.

Although I have stepped down as Chair, I remain proud to serve as a trustee and, as a service user myself, value the vital support Bradbury Fields provides to people living with sight loss.

Meet the **Trustees**

Angela O'Brien Trustee

I have been a trustee of Bradbury Fields for three years, bringing many years of professional experience supporting people with sight loss.

My career in the sector began as a volunteer at Christopher Grange, where I later worked as a Care Assistant. I subsequently joined Social Services in Halton as a Rehabilitation Officer before moving to Bradbury Fields, where I spent 20 years as Senior Rehabilitation Manager with responsibility for managing our rehabilitation service in Knowsley.

> **Having spent much of my career working directly with visually impaired people, I bring extensive knowledge of sight-loss rehabilitation and a strong understanding of the needs of the people Bradbury Fields supports.**

Although I am no longer involved in frontline service delivery, becoming a trustee has given me the opportunity to continue making a difference in a different way. I am proud to use my experience and knowledge to support the Board and contribute to the continued development of Bradbury Fields.

Tudor Roberts Trustee

Tudor has been a trustee of Bradbury Fields since 2011, bringing many years of professional and charitable experience to the Board.

Educated at Liverpool College, Tudor went on to qualify as a Chartered Surveyor and built a successful career on Merseyside. Alongside his professional life, he has been involved with a number of charitable organisations as a trustee, reflecting his longstanding commitment to supporting his local community.

Tudor has also been actively involved with Woolton Golf Club and is a former Captain of the Club. Away from his professional and charitable commitments, family has always been extremely important to him, and he enjoys spending time with his wife, Lynne, their two children and wider family.

Meet the **Trustees**

During more than a decade as a trustee of Bradbury Fields, Tudor has brought his professional experience, knowledge of the local community and commitment to charitable service to the Board, helping to support the organisation and its work with blind and partially sighted people across Merseyside.

Edward Robinson Trustee

I have had the privilege of serving as a trustee of Bradbury Fields since 2010 and have been honoured to act as Honorary Treasurer for much of that time.

Throughout my years with the charity, I have worked alongside a number of dedicated Chairs, Chief Executives and fellow trustees, all united by a shared commitment to improving the lives of blind and partially sighted people.

Professionally, I have more than 40 years' experience working as a chartered accountant.

As Treasurer, I have helped ensure the charity's finances remain well managed and sustainable, supporting the Board in making informed decisions that safeguard the organisation's future. It has been immensely rewarding to witness Bradbury Fields continue to grow, develop its services and make a lasting difference to the people and communities we serve. I am proud to play a small part in supporting the charity's continued success.

Roger Phillips Trustee

Roger Phillips moved to Liverpool in the early 1970s to pursue a career as an actor before later working as a hackney cab driver. In 1978, he joined **BBC Radio Merseyside**, where he became one of the station's best-known voices, presenting a daily phone-in programme for more than 40 years until his retirement in 2020.

Meet the **Trustees**

Roger joined the Board of Bradbury Fields (then Liverpool Voluntary Society for the Blind) in 2000. His commitment to the charity was inspired by his uncle, Victor Nelson, who lost his sight at the age of 12 but went on to become an accomplished linguist, speaking seven languages fluently and representing the North of England at chess.

> **Victor's resilience and achievements left a lasting impression on Roger and continue to inspire his dedication to improving the lives of blind and partially sighted people.**

Matthew Hughes-Paton Trustee

I joined the Board of Bradbury Fields in 2017 after being encouraged to become a trustee by Jean Collins, a fellow trustee and volunteer.

> **Having lived experience of sight loss myself, I wanted to use my experience to help make a positive difference to the lives of blind and partially sighted people across Liverpool and the surrounding area.**

My commitment to supporting people with sight loss also comes from my professional experience, having previously worked for RNIB in both London and Dorset. This has given me a valuable understanding of the challenges people with sight loss can face and the importance of providing high-quality, accessible support.

Away from Bradbury Fields, I am a keen Liverpool FC supporter and enjoy swimming, going to the gym, fishing and playing pool. I am also passionate about music and enjoy attending concerts across a wide range of musical styles, as well as musical theatre.

I am proud to serve as a trustee and to contribute both my lived and professional experience to the continued development of Bradbury Fields.

Meet the **Trustees**

Jean Collins Trustee

Jean has been a trustee of Bradbury Fields for almost 20 years, joining the Board just 18 months after beginning her volunteering journey with the charity. Throughout her time as a trustee, she has brought warmth, commitment and a genuine passion for supporting people living with sight loss, contributing to Board discussions and helping to guide the charity's development.

> **One of the aspects Jean values most is the strong sense of community at Bradbury Fields. She has built lasting relationships with service users, volunteers and staff and enjoys seeing first-hand the positive difference the charity makes to people's lives.**

Outside of Bradbury Fields, Jean enjoys music, attending concerts and spending time with her family. She also volunteers with her church charity, supporting an orphanage in Zimbabwe.

Jean and her late husband, Ron, who was also closely involved with Bradbury Fields, ran a successful dress shop together for 56 years. Their shared commitment to serving the local community continues to inspire Jean's dedication to the charity today.

Paula Hanford Trustee

As a newly elected trustee, I bring more than a decade of senior leadership experience within the charity sector and currently serve as Chief Executive of Pancreatic Cancer Action.

> **Throughout my career, I have helped charities strengthen their fundraising, governance and long-term sustainability, leading organisations through periods of growth, service development and organisational change.**

Previously, I have served as Chief Executive of PSC Support and held

Meet the **Trustees**

senior roles with Marie Curie, NYAS and Children Today. Before joining the charity sector, I worked in senior leadership positions within the corporate events industry, developing expertise in stakeholder engagement, business development and project delivery.

I am passionate about helping charities maximise their impact and am delighted to support Bradbury Fields in strengthening its fundraising, governance and long-term sustainability.

Jules Lee Trustee

I joined the Board of Bradbury Fields in 2024 and am a member of the Finance and General Purposes Group. Before becoming a trustee, I volunteered with Wirral Society for the Blind and served on the Merseyside Sight Loss Council, experiences that strengthened my commitment to improving the lives of people living with sight loss.

I enjoyed a 25-year career in the Civil Service, working across a range of human resources roles including recruitment, learning and development, health and safety, and equality, diversity and inclusion. My work focused on bringing people together to improve services, leading strategic projects and delivering organisational change across government departments. I am also a Chartered Member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) and hold a postgraduate diploma in People Management.

> **Having lived with limited vision throughout my life, I am passionate about improving access to services and creating opportunities for people with sight loss. I have a particular interest in supporting young people to achieve greater independence and fulfil their employment aspirations.**

Bradbury Fields



Bradbury Fields visit to Speke Hall

Supporting the future of Bradbury Fields

Fundraising with Bradbury Fields

- ✓ Join our lottery
- ✓ Leave a gift in your will - ask about the Free Wills offer
- ✓ Challenge yourself - raise sponsorship for Bradbury Fields!

Volunteer for Bradbury Fields

Volunteers remain so important for us to achieve our charitable objectives, improving the lives of people living with sight loss across merseyside. There are many opportunities to volunteer at Bradbury Fields, so why not get in touch to find out more.

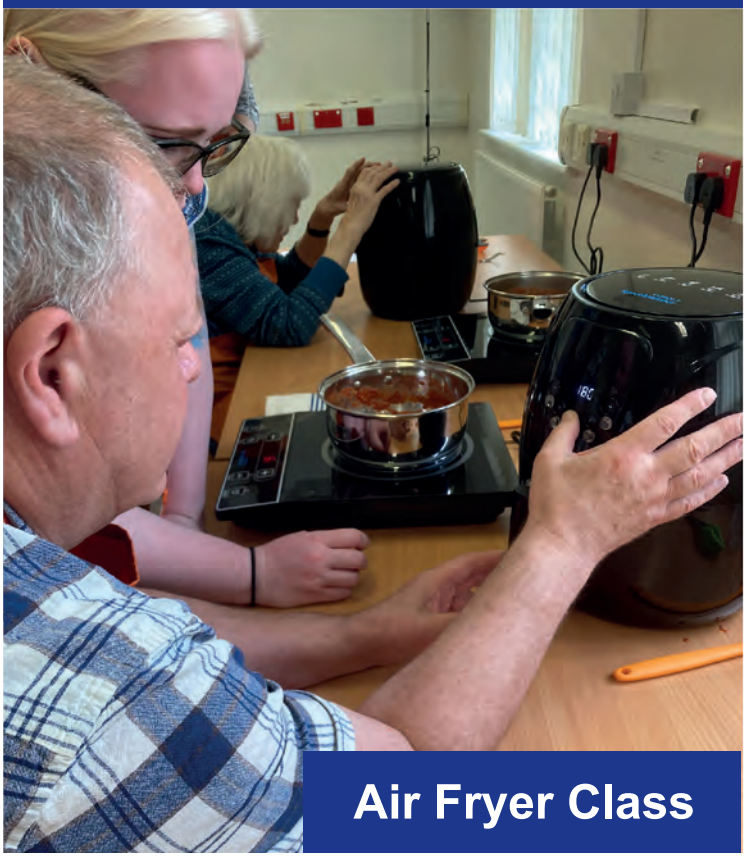
Businesses

Find out more about becoming a member of the 1857 Club



Our Services

Bradbury Fields provides a comprehensive range of services designed to help people living with sensory loss live independently, maintain their wellbeing and participate fully in their communities. We support people from the point of diagnosis throughout every stage of their sight loss journey, providing practical assistance, emotional support and opportunities to build confidence and independence.



Air Fryer Class

Benefits and Advocacy

Our Benefits and Advocacy Service helps people access the financial support they need and are entitled to while providing advice on a wide range of issues relating to sight loss.

Our Benefits and Advocacy Advisor offers practical assistance with Personal Independence Payment (PIP), Attendance Allowance and other welfare benefits, together with guidance on concessions, travel schemes and referrals to other specialist services.

By reducing financial hardship, the service enables people to focus on maintaining their independence and quality of life.

Bradbury Fields

A Lifetime of Support
Margie's Story

Margie's connection with Bradbury Fields began in 2003, when she was registered blind and received rehabilitation support. Following two operations that restored some of her sight, our Rehabilitation Team helped Margie prepare to return to work. A Rehabilitation Officer provided long cane training at home and in the workplace and helped arrange the adjustments she needed to return to her job. Margie says this support made a significant difference to her independence, both at work and at home.

When Margie retired seven years ago, she returned to Bradbury Fields looking for opportunities to keep active, learn new skills and meet other people. Since then, she has taken part in a wide range of activities, including swimming, gym sessions, talking groups and our air fryer programme. She has also been learning Braille for the past four years.

Today, Margie particularly values the friendships and peer support she finds through activities such as our Let's Talk group, where people share experiences, ideas and practical tips for living with sight loss.

For Margie, Bradbury Fields has been there at very different stages of her life – helping her regain independence, return to employment and more recently, remain active, connected and involved in her community.

"I love coming to Bradbury on a Tuesday - everyone is lovely."

Although our primary focus is supporting people across Liverpool and Knowsley, we also provide advice, information and signposting to individuals and organisations across the wider region.



Margie enjoys talking groups

Adapting to Changing Sight
Pauline's Story

Pauline lives with macular degeneration and was introduced to Bradbury Fields following an appointment at St Paul's Eye Unit, where her ophthalmologist suggested she could benefit from our support as her sight deteriorates.

Pauline first joined our weekly volunteer-led Let's Talk group a few months ago and says it has already become an important part of her week. The group provides a welcoming space where people with sight loss can share experiences, practical tips and peer support.

As Pauline's sight changes, she accesses support when she needs it, allowing her to develop new skills and maintain her independence. Recently, one of our Rehabilitation Officers provided one-to-one training in safe chopping techniques for safe meal preparation.

Pauline has also attended assistive technology sessions to help her use Meta glasses, which she hopes will enable her to read letters and documents independently rather than relying on family members.

More recently, Bradbury Fields provided Pauline with a symbol cane. She has found this particularly useful when travelling by bus, helping drivers recognise that she has a visual impairment and may need assistance. For Pauline, continuing to use public transport is an important part of retaining her independence.

By combining rehabilitation, technology and peer support, Pauline can access the help she needs as her sight changes, enabling her to continue doing as much as possible for herself.



Pauline learning to use her Meta glasses

Eye Clinic Liaison Service

Receiving a diagnosis of permanent sight loss can be overwhelming. Our Eye Clinic Liaison Officers (ECLOs), based at the Royal Liverpool University Hospital and Aintree University Hospital, provide immediate emotional and practical support when people need it most.

Working closely with clinical teams, our ECLOs help people understand their diagnosis, access information and benefits and explore available services.

By providing support at the earliest opportunity, they help people begin their journey towards living well with sight loss.



Eye Clinic Liasion Officer

Rehabilitation Service

Our professionally qualified Rehabilitation Team delivers specialist training that enables people to remain safe, confident and independent.

Following a personalised assessment, rehabilitation programmes are tailored to each individual's needs and may include mobility training, independent living skills within the home, communication skills, Braille, assistive technology and low vision support. The team also provides advice on welfare benefits, travel concessions and specialist equipment to help people maintain their independence.

Health and Wellbeing

Living with sight loss can have a significant impact on confidence, mental wellbeing and social connection. Our Health and Wellbeing services help people remain active, develop new friendships and enjoy fulfilling lives.

Active Vision

Our **Active Vision** programme offers a wide range of centre-based social, leisure and creative activities where people can meet others with shared experiences in a welcoming and supportive environment.

Be Active

Our **Be Active** programme supports people to participate in community-based activities, including sport, exercise and social groups, with volunteer assistance whenever required. Activities range from swimming, walking and tandem cycling to yoga, crafts, choir and accessible sports, helping people improve both their physical and mental wellbeing.

Communication

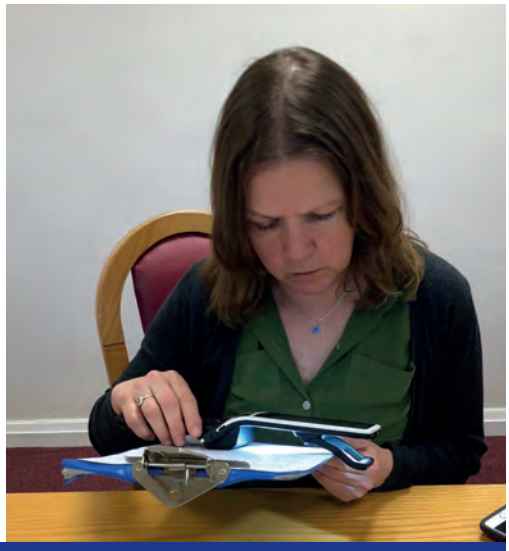
We also deliver **Communication is Key – Assistive Technology (CikAss-Tech)**, providing training in mainstream and specialist technology that enables people to communicate confidently, access information and become more independent in everyday life.



Be Active

Low Vision Services

Our **Low Vision Service** helps people make the best possible use of their remaining sight. Through specialist assessment and training, we support individuals in using magnification aids, developing effective reading techniques and selecting filter lenses that improve comfort, contrast and functional vision.



Using magnification to support everyday tasks

Accessible Information

Access to information is essential for independence. Our professional transcription service converts printed materials into accessible formats, including Braille, large print, audio and screen-reader compatible digital text. By providing information in formats people can use, we help ensure that everyone can access important documents and services on an equal basis.

Visual Awareness Training

Creating an inclusive society also means increasing understanding of sight loss. Our Visual Awareness Training is delivered by experienced frontline staff alongside people with lived experience of visual impairment, offering practical insight into the challenges faced by blind and partially sighted people.

The course equips professionals working in health, social care, education, hospitality and customer-facing services with the knowledge and confidence to provide accessible, inclusive services. In doing so, it helps remove barriers and promotes greater awareness, equality and inclusion throughout our communities.

Rebuilding Independence After Sight Loss - Tom's Story

Tom was registered blind in June 2025 after losing the sight in one eye and then the other. At the time, he was working as a forklift truck driver, and the sudden loss of his sight brought him significant life changes.

Following his registration, Tom began working with Kathryn, one of our Rehabilitation Officers. Through long cane training, he developed the confidence and skills to travel independently by bus and train, including journeys into Liverpool city centre. At home, he learned safer ways to prepare food and received practical advice and equipment to make his kitchen more accessible.

Tom describes Kathryn as "brilliant". As his confidence grew, she introduced him to other opportunities at Bradbury Fields such as weekly gym and swimming sessions, Walking Group and our organised days out. He has also accessed assistive technology training, learning to use VoiceOver to make everyday technology more accessible.

A particular highlight was taking part in a Driving Experience Day, where Tom had the opportunity to get behind the wheel once again.



For Tom, more than providing practical skills, Bradbury Fields offers an inclusive community where he can spend time with other people who understand living with sight loss.

Having rebuilt his independence and developed new skills, Tom is now looking towards employment again and preparing to start a new volunteering role as an Educator Mentor.

Tom's journey demonstrates what can be achieved when practical rehabilitation, technology, physical activity and social support come together – helping someone adjust to sight loss, regain independence and look to the future with renewed confidence.

Our Impact

Throughout 2025/26, Bradbury Fields continued to deliver life-changing support to people living with sensory loss across Liverpool, Knowsley and the surrounding area.

From the moment someone is diagnosed with sight loss, through rehabilitation, practical support and social activities, our services help people regain confidence, maintain independence and improve their health and wellbeing.



Blind Golf



Arts and Crafts

Supporting Independence

During the year we received 610 new referrals (575 adults and 35 children) and completed 376 assessments of need. Our rehabilitation team delivered 1,405 rehabilitation sessions, helping people develop the practical skills needed to live safely and independently at home and within their communities.

We also issued 904 pieces of specialist equipment, including talking clocks and watches, liquid level indicators, task lighting, symbol canes and assistive technology, enabling people to remain independent and reducing the risk of accidents within the home.

Our Eye Clinic Liaison Service supported 1,020 people at the point of diagnosis, providing emotional support, practical advice and information when it is needed most.

Bradbury Fields

610
New Referrals

575 **Adults**

35 **Children**

1,405
Rehabilitation Sessions Delivered

904
Pieces of Specialist Equipment Issued

1,020
People supported by Our Eye Clinic Liaison Service

Improving Health and Wellbeing

Our Health and Wellbeing services continued to grow throughout the year. Independent evaluation found that Bradbury Fields delivered:

- **197 Active Vision Club sessions**, attended by **291 individuals**.
- **759 Be Active sessions,** attended by **298 individuals.**
- More than **500 people** engaged in health, wellbeing, social and physical activities during the **year.**

An independent evaluation found that:

93% of participants reported feeling less socially isolated.

100% said their mental health had improved.

98% said they had met new people and made new friends.

95% reported feeling more confident.

95% felt more connected to other people living with sight loss.

75% reported becoming more physically active, rising to **91%** among those participating in Be Active activities.

The evaluation concluded that Bradbury Fields had met or exceeded almost every outcome target, particularly in reducing loneliness, improving confidence and empowering people to support one another.

Supporting Financial Wellbeing

Our Benefits and Advocacy Service continued to provide vital financial support to people living with sensory loss.

During the year we:

- Received **78 new referrals**;
- Completed **36 Personal Independence Payment (PIP)** claims;
- Completed **27 Attendance Allowance** claims; and
- Generated **£457,287 of additional income** for service users.

This additional income helps people meet the extra costs associated with living with sight loss and contributes significantly to maintaining independence and quality of life.

Volunteers Making a Difference

Volunteers remain at the heart of Bradbury Fields.

With their commitment, we can provide a wider range of activities while creating opportunities for people with lived experience of sight loss to support others.

- **52 volunteers** supported our Health and Wellbeing services, including **17 volunteers with sight loss**.
- A further **20 volunteers**, **5 with sight loss**, supported our tandem cycling and walking groups.
- Volunteers contributed **7,796 hours** of their time - equivalent to almost **150 hours** every week.



Creating Social Value

In 2025/26, Bradbury Fields commissioned an independent Social Return on Investment (SROI) evaluation of its Health and Wellbeing Services.

The evaluation concluded that for every £1 invested, Bradbury Fields generated £9.26 of social value, creating an estimated £1.42 million of social impact during the year.

The greatest benefits were achieved through:

- reducing loneliness and social isolation;
- improving health and wellbeing;
- increasing independence and self-confidence;
- creating volunteering opportunities; and
- sustaining employment.

These findings provide independent evidence that Bradbury Fields continues to deliver outstanding value, transforming lives while ensuring that every pound invested has a lasting impact on the people and communities we serve.

Carl's Story –

Continuing to Pursue His Ambitions

Carl's first connection with Bradbury Fields came while working at a Liverpool law firm, when he organised an event for World Sight Day and was introduced to a member of our team. At the time, he could not have known how important that connection would later become.

In March 2026, Carl was registered blind and began receiving support from Kathryn, one of our Rehabilitation Officers. Together, they have focused on developing the practical skills Carl needs to maintain his independence and continue pursuing his ambitions.

Long cane training has been particularly important. Carl had already taught himself some techniques, but specialist training helped him use the cane correctly and confidently – a skill he now relies on every day.

Story continues →

As Carl puts it, he now "bumps into far fewer lampposts", a light-hearted example of the very real difference rehabilitation can make to everyday life.

Assistive technology and equipment have also helped. Carl has developed the skills to use TalkBack on his mobile phone, while practical aids such as a liquid level indicator make everyday tasks safer and easier.

Importantly, sight loss has not stopped Carl looking to the future. He is currently studying for a Master's degree in Law, and a high-contrast keyboard recommended by Kathryn is helping him continue his studies.

Carl plans to continue developing his long cane skills and is looking forward to discovering more of the activities and opportunities available through Bradbury Fields.



Carl bumps into fewer lampposts now

Financial Overview

2025/26 marks the first full financial year of Bradbury Fields operating as an independent charity following our demerger from Catholic Blind Institute (CBI). Despite the challenges facing the voluntary sector, the charity has remained financially strong thanks to the continued support of our funders, donors, commissioners and supporters, together with careful financial management by our Board of Trustees and staff.

Financial Highlights

Income:	**£1.246 million**
Expenditure:	**£1.181 million**
Operating surplus:	**£65,076**
Total funds at 31 March 2026:	**£1.406 million**
Additional benefits secured for service users:	**£457,287**

Where Our Funding Came From

Income Source	Amount
Contracts and grants	£1,038,555
Donations and legacies	£143,757
Trading activities	£59,395
Investment income	£4,231
Total Income	£1,245,939



Firewalking - Fundraising



CikAss-Tech Session



How We Spent Our Money

During the year, Bradbury Fields invested **£1,180,863** in delivering its charitable objectives.

- **£1,042,689 (88%)** was spent directly on delivering services to people with sight loss.
- **£138,174 (12%)** was invested in raising funds to ensure the charity remains sustainable and able to support more people in the future.

This means that for every £1 spent, approximately 88 pence was invested directly in supporting people living with sensory loss.

Looking Ahead

The trustees remain committed to ensuring the long-term financial sustainability of Bradbury Fields while continuing to maximise the impact of every pound entrusted to the charity.

During the year, we increased investment in fundraising and marketing, including expanding our work with trusts and foundations, strengthening our legacy programme, appointing a specialist marketing agency and recruiting a Head of Fundraising and Marketing. These investments are expected to increase income over the coming years, enabling us to reach and support even more blind and partially sighted people.

The charity remains in a healthy financial position, with total funds of **£1.406 million** at the year end, providing a strong foundation from which to continue delivering high-quality, life-changing services for many years to come.

Working Together – Thank You

Everything we achieve at Bradbury Fields is made possible through the commitment, generosity and collaboration of the many people and organisations who share our ambition to improve the lives of people living with sensory loss.

Throughout 2025/26, we worked closely with local authorities, health services, commissioners, voluntary and community organisations and other partners. These relationships enable us to share expertise, strengthen referral pathways and provide more joined-up support, helping people access the right services at the right time.

We are enormously grateful to all our funders, donors, grant-making trusts, corporate and community supporters and individuals whose generosity helps us sustain and develop our services. We are particularly grateful to The National Lottery Community Fund for its continued investment in our Health and Wellbeing services, helping us tackle loneliness and isolation, improve wellbeing and create opportunities for people with sight loss to lead active, independent and fulfilling lives.

We also extend our sincere thanks to the organisations that commission and fund our statutory services and to everyone who works alongside us to ensure that people living with sensory loss receive the support they need.

Above all, a huge thank you to our dedicated staff and remarkable volunteers. Their professionalism, compassion, hard work and commitment are at the heart of Bradbury Fields. Whether delivering specialist services, supporting activities, fundraising, offering companionship or working behind the scenes, their contribution makes an extraordinary difference every day.

It would be impossible to name everyone who has contributed to our work without risking leaving someone out. To every individual and organisation that has supported, worked with, volunteered for or championed Bradbury Fields during 2025/26 – ***thank you***.

Together, we are helping people living with sensory loss to live with greater confidence, independence and opportunity.



Bradbury Fields

Services for Blind and
Partially Sighted People

Contact Us

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Charity number: 222798

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

Liverpool City Council

Sefton Council

Knowsley Council

NHS Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust