

# Vision Northumberland



## InSight - Spring 2024



Dear friends,

Our new Chief Executive Officer Lorraine Storey joined us in February and has hit the ground running.

Lorraine brings a wealth of skills, experience, and knowledge of working in the charitable sector, in particular with Guide Dogs where she worked with young people and adults. She is a passionate advocate of those with visual impairment as her mum suffered from sight loss, so she has an understanding of the issues faced by a family member and has the knowledge and understanding from her clients at Guide Dogs.

Fundamental to her work, Lorraine aims to redress the imbalance and support those who suffer marginalisation and isolation that is experienced by people with visual impairment.

Lorraine said: 'I am excited about my new role and looking forward to the new challenges ahead, with forging partnerships and providing access to services with new innovative ideas to meet the needs of the clients with a person-centred approach which will cover the expanse of the beautiful county of Northumberland.'

She hopes to meet with some of you when you are at Reiver House or when accompanying the team on the various outreach sessions.

We know you will all join us in welcoming Lorraine to Vision Northumberland.

# Living Well with Sight Loss courses

Have you or a family member been diagnosed with sight loss? Vision Northumberland will be offering RNIB's free, informal Living Well with Sight Loss courses; aimed at helping you increase your independence, boost your confidence and connect with others to share experiences.

Through our sessions you'll get practical advice, information and guidance on organisations, products and services available to help you.

Call Jo Money on 01670 514316 or email [jo.money@visionnorthumberland.org.uk](mailto:jo.money@visionnorthumberland.org.uk) for more information.

## WATER SPORTS



We are excited to share that The Coquet Shorebase Trust, together with Vision Northumberland have secured funding to deliver a water sports course for sensory impaired people in Northumberland.

This is an amazing opportunity for anyone who would like to learn and participate in a range of water sports including sailing, kayaking, canoeing, paddle boarding and speed boating.



The course will be run by experienced and qualified instructors. Participants would need to commit to weekly sessions.

Places are limited, so please get in touch with Jo Money (01670 514316) asap to learn more.

# Information and Equipment Day Event



**Friday 22nd March**

**10.00am - 2.00pm**

**Reiver House, Staithes Lane, Morpeth, NE61 1TD**

Come along and try the latest low vision aids and solutions for sensory impaired people from leading suppliers including:

**RNIB    Synapptic    Humanware    Optelec**

Free information and advice will be available from:

**Deaf/Blind Association    Macular Society**

**Healthwatch    Carers Northumberland**

**Thriving Together    Age UK**

**Refreshments  
available**

**Call Helen for more  
information**



# Volunteering Spotlight



Our team of incredible volunteers are at the centre of the work we do. Their dedication, passion and generosity helps drive our services.

Some of you may have had the opportunity to meet or speak to our fantastic reception volunteer Karl. Having been with us for almost a year, we sat down with Karl to talk about his experiences volunteering.

## **Why did you decide to volunteer?**

I decided to volunteer as I had moved from Bolton and struggled to find a job because of my eyesight. My dad had told me about Vision Northumberland and I thought it would be a good idea as I enjoy working with the public.

## **What is your current role at Vision Northumberland?**

I work in reception / admin.

## **Tell us a little about what your volunteer role involves?**

I answer the phone, take messages, greet visitors, send out leaflets and newsletters. I also help design posters and add information to the database.

## **What do you get out of volunteering in this role?**

I've learned a new skill as I've never done office based work before. I enjoy helping where I'm needed. I like meeting new people and have met some nice people in here.

## **What do you like to do in your spare time?**

I've been learning to cook basic simple meals on the hob I got for Christmas. I like reading mystery books and watching mystery dramas on tv. I've been growing plants in containers outside my living room window. I like walking on the beaches in Northumberland.



# Out and about - Adapt Hexham

Our Sensory Wellbeing team has been out and about in Northumberland for the last 6 months

delivering services in the community. We recently paid a visit to Adapt in Hexham; taking equipment and a wealth of knowledge to local people with sensory impairments.

It was lovely to see so many new and existing clients attending. We had a very busy morning and are looking to come back as soon as our diaries allow. A huge thank you to Cafe@BurnLane for hosting our event.

As well as help with visual or hearing impairments, our team can also offer advice and practical solutions to a wide range of other topics including housing, employment, fuel poverty etc

So if you have an issue associated with your sensory impairment, please get in touch with Helen or Sandra and we will see how best we can support you.

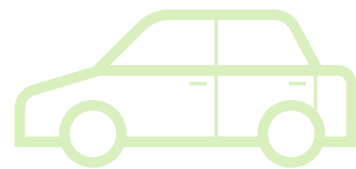
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## **Volunteer DRIVERS needed in all areas!**

Are you a driver with a valid UK driving licence and have access to a car?  
Do you have a friendly manner and enjoy meeting new people?

Join our team of volunteers who drive our most vulnerable clients to appointments, social events, shopping etc. All fuel expenses reimbursed.

Call Rachael on 01670 514316 for more information.



# Chatter Box Café

## FREE Easter Lunch Special

This years Easter Lunch will take place on **Thursday 4th April 2024 (11.30am - 12.00 noon start)**.

Menu: Quiche, salad and wedges followed  
by  
Easter cupcakes



To book a place please call 01670 514316

## Important notice - Transport Costs

As you know we provide a free to use transport service which allows for pick up from home and taken to your location.

This service, we acknowledge, allows you to access much needed services and social interaction etc., however, the funding we received for this has now been depleted and therefore we need to charge for this service for all journeys from the 1st of April 2024.

The transport service will still be available to use but as a PAID for service. This will be charged at a nominal fee of 45p per mile which covers the volunteer's petrol costs only and will be calculated to include return travel from the volunteer's home.

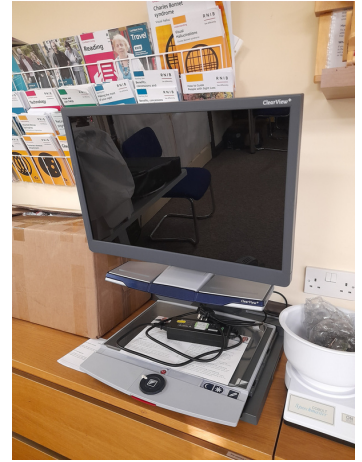
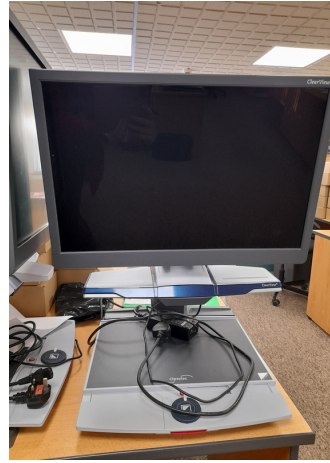
We will invoice service users at the end of every month and payment can be made via cash, cheque, or bank transfer.

# For Sale - Clear View Readers

2 Clear View Readers for sale (for a reasonable donation). Both pre-owned and in good working order.

Cost £1800 new

Please call Helen Wade for more information or to purchase.



## Your Donations

Vision Northumberland works hard to get funding to provide the services and support that we do. If you can help us with a donation large or small, we would be so grateful. Donations enable us to continue the great work that our staff and volunteers deliver to people with a sensory impairment living in Northumberland.

If you are considering leaving a gift in your Will, no matter the size, it could help us to continue our vital work. We recommend seeking professional advice when drawing up your Will. Thank you

## Contact Us



Telephone: **01670 514 316**



Email: [info@visionnorthumberland.org.uk](mailto:info@visionnorthumberland.org.uk)



Website: [www.vision-northumberland.org](http://www.vision-northumberland.org)



Address: Reiver House, Staithes Lane, Morpeth, NE61 1TD