

Vision Northumberland

InSight

Summer 2026



Dear Friends,

Much like the Northumberland weather, the past few months at Vision Northumberland have brought a mix of sunshine and storms, reminding us that change is part of every journey.

We've recently welcomed a new member of staff to the Vision Northumberland family, bringing fresh ideas, energy, and enthusiasm. The arrival of Keith Hardy, our new Operational Team Lead, marks the beginning of a new chapter for us as we continue to grow and develop our support services.



At the same time, we have experienced the profound loss of our much-loved colleague, Tracey. Her warmth, dedication and kindness touched so many lives, and her absence is felt deeply by staff, volunteers and service users alike. While words can never fully express our sadness, we carry forward the memories, laughter, and positive impact she brought to every day.



As we move into the coming months, we do so together - grateful for the constant strength of our community, people who have shaped our journey, welcoming those who are joining it, and looking forward to whatever weather may come.

Best wishes, from everyone at Vision Northumberland

Thank You

A big thank you to everyone who joined us for our Pie & Pea Lunch. It was lovely to see so many people enjoying good food and good company together.

A special thank you to our café volunteers and drivers for all their hard work and support. Your help made the day possible and is greatly appreciated.



Important notice - Transport Costs

As you know, we provide a volunteer transport service that offers pick-up from home and transport to your chosen destination.

This service helps many people access essential appointments, activities, and social opportunities. However, due to rising costs, we need to increase the charge for this service.

From 1st July, all journeys will be charged at 50p per mile. This charge helps to cover our volunteers' fuel costs and is calculated to include the volunteer's return travel from their home.

The transport service will continue to operate as normal, with invoices issued at the end of each month. Payment can be made by cash, cheque, or bank transfer.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

New Sailing Sessions Launch at Druridge Bay

A new RYA Sailability Centre has opened at Druridge Bay Country Park, offering accessible sailing for adults and young people with disabilities, including those with sensory loss.

Supported 30-minute sessions are available for £8 (lifejackets and sailing jackets provided). It's a great opportunity to enjoy the fun, freedom and confidence that sailing can bring.

When: Every Monday, 10:00am - 2:30pm, until: 26 October 2026

Bank holiday sessions will take place on Wednesdays instead.

For more information, please contact us on 01670 514316.

Equipment Day

Our annual Equipment Day was another great success! We were delighted Synapptic, VisionAid, HumanWare, Associated Optical, Edward Marcus and Optelec were able to attend and demonstrate a wide variety of products and answer questions throughout the day.



We hope you found the event useful and were able to access the support and equipment you were looking for.

If you did not have to opportunity to try all the products you wished, please get in touch and we would be happy to make an appointment for you to view and test equipment in our Resource Library.

Volunteering Spotlight

Our incredible team of volunteers is at the heart of everything we do. Their dedication and passion play a vital role in supporting our clients and helping to deliver essential services.



From 1st – 7th June, we celebrated Volunteer Week, a chance to recognise and thank the incredible people who generously give their time, energy and kindness to support Vision Northumberland and the people who use our services.

Our volunteers make a difference in so many ways. Whether they're running social groups, providing transport, offering companionship, cooking or serving in the café, or welcoming visitors on reception, their support helps people with sensory impairments feel more connected, confident and included in their communities.

To each and every one of our amazing volunteers – ‘THANK YOU! Your time, dedication and compassion truly make a difference, and we couldn't do what we do without you.’

To mark Volunteer Week and show our appreciation, Rachael organised a Volunteer Luncheon, as well as a day out at The Sill.



Could Our Hearing Service Help You?

If you are living with hearing loss, our Hearing Service is here to support you. Whether you need advice, information, practical solutions or simply someone to talk to, we can help.

We offer **hearing assessments**, **support with setting personal goals**, **advice on equipment** and **assistive technology** and we can **signpost you to specialist services** when needed.

We also offer training for people with hearing loss, family members and carers, including our Living Well with Hearing Loss sessions and introductory British Sign Language (BSL).

Looking to stay active and connected? We can support you to access leisure activities and join one of our peer support groups, where you can meet others, share experiences and reduce feelings of isolation.

Our team also delivers information sessions in local communities to help raise awareness of hearing loss and the support available.

If you would like to find out more about how we can support you, please get in touch. Call Sandra on 01670 514316 or email: info@vision-northumberland.org.

Hexham Chatter Box Cafe

We are delighted at the success of our newly launched 'Hexham Chatter Box Cafe' but there's still plenty of space for YOU to join! Free refreshments, information, advice and equipment demonstrations. Everyone's welcome so come along and say hello!



Last Thursday of the month, 10:30am - 2:00pm



Adapt North East, Burn Lane, Hexham, NE46 3HN



RNID Hearing Aid Drop-Ins are offering NHS hearing aid cleaning as well as tubing and battery replacements.

St Cuthbert's Church Hall, Allendale Town, NE47 9BD
 First Tuesday of the month, 11.00am - 1.00pm

Berwick Community Trust, TD15 1JT
 First Thursday of the month, 10.30am - 12.30pm

St James' United Reformed Church, Alnwick, NE66 1JW
 First Friday of the month, 1.00pm - 3.00pm

Corbridge Community Hub, NE45 5DB
 Second Tuesday of the month, 10.30am - 12.30pm

Vision Northumberland, Morpeth NE61 1TD
 Second Friday and Third Monday of the month, 10.00am - 12.00pm

The Torch Centre, Hexham, NE46 1QS
 Third Tuesday of the month, 1.00pm - 3.00pm

Cramlington SocialEyes Has Moved

Cramlington SocialEyes has moved to Cramlington Community Centre (NE23 1DT) and is welcoming new members.

The friendly support and social group is open to anyone living with sight loss, along with their friends and family. Meet new people in a relaxed, welcoming environment.

 2nd Tuesday of the month
 1.00pm - 3.00pm
 Cramlington Community Centre, East Farm Terrace, NE23 1DT

For more information, contact Malcolm Miller on 07742 271 740.

Discover Our Digital Enablement Service

Our Digital Enablement Service is here to help people with sight loss, hearing loss, or dual sensory loss get the most out of technology, making everyday life easier, more connected and more independent.

Whether you're completely new to using digital devices or would like to build your confidence, we offer friendly, personalised support tailored to your needs.

Through the service, you can access:

- One-to-one support at your own pace, helping you learn the skills that matter most to you.
- Small group sessions, where you can learn alongside others in a relaxed and supportive environment.
- Advice on using smartphones, tablets, computers and accessible technology.
- Help with everyday tasks such as making video calls, sending emails, online shopping, accessing information, reading books, using apps, and staying connected with family and friends.
- Support to acquire check such as smart speakers, audio players etc through loan schemes, grants or cost free projects.

If you would like to find out more or access support from our Digital Enablement Service, please get in touch - Nathan is here to help. You can email him on nathan.miller@vision-northumberland.org or call 01670 514316.



100 Club News

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has bought shares in this years 100 Club. This quarter's lucky winners have now received their prizes. Good luck to everyone in the next draw.

Feb: 1st - CM 2nd - NB 3rd - NJ
Mar: 1st - ML 2nd - MC 3rd - AH
Apr: 1st - MM 2nd - BS 3rd - PM

If you would like to join The 100 Club, call us on 01670 514316 or email info@vision-northumberland.org

Your Donations

Vision Northumberland works hard to get funding to provide the services and support needed by so many. 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 would help us fund important long-term projects that will make a deep and meaningful impact on many peoples lives. We recommend seeking professional advice when drawing up your Will.

Thank you

Contact Us



Telephone: 01670 514 316



Email: info@vision-northumberland.org



Website: www.vision-northumberland.org



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

Registered Charity No. 1102386



Changes to our Chatter Box Cafe - Tuesdays

Due to the popularity of our Chatter Box Cafe on Tuesdays, we have made the decision to move the cafe to Wednesdays 10.00am - 12.00pm as of 5th August 2026.

This will allow us to use the garden room and patio area, but it also means we have enough room for additional attendees while ensuring everyone is comfortable and safe.

Our Thursday cafe will remain unchanged and everyone is welcome to attend.

Please get in touch if you have any comments or concerns.

Many thanks, Paula



Summer Lunch - 2026

Tuesday 28th July

11.00am - 1.00pm

Buffet plate, salad and coleslaw

Eton Mess

Cake

Tea and coffee

Booking essential - call 01670 514316

Volunteer transport is subject to availability and charge

Reiver House, Staithes Lane, Morpeth, NE61 1TD