

Vision North Somerset Newsletter

Registered Charity 1165364

March 19

Fantastic Lottery Award for Vision North Somerset



Our service users will soon benefit from a new project funded by the National Lottery.

Our In Sight In Touch project is about enabling blind and partially-sighted people to make the most of opportunities available to them. The project has four different strands and will enable people to:

- Experience the satisfaction and fun of volunteering by having a sighted buddy to help you settle in and find your way around a new environment, learn the task, and build your confidence.
- Get involved in the design of digital or face-to-face opportunities and keep in touch with each other. A great way to reduce loneliness and isolation.
- Keep up with IT – the project offers tuition on tablets, smart phones, computers, and assistive technology which enables blind and partially-sighted people to benefit from inclusion in the digital world. If necessary, our lottery funding will be able to provide support in your home.
- For people who are not able to get to our Demonstration Centre in Weston because of health issues or transport

difficulties we will be able to offer a home visit with an Outreach Worker to demonstrate equipment and provide information about a wide range of issues which affect people with sight loss.

Chief Executive Celia Henshall said:

“We are thrilled to receive support from the National Lottery Fund. Blind and partially sighted people themselves helped us to put the bid together by attending focus groups and responding to consultations and questionnaires. I’d like to thank them and the staff team, volunteers, and partners who worked hard to produce such a great project. We can’t wait to get on with the job when our new staff join us.”

Did you know that only 1 in 5 applications to the National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund is successful?

Vision’s Lottery Award is a fantastic £336,000, and will fund our project for three years.

Vision’s Chairman, Ian Parker said:

“I am very impressed with the amount of input to the project from visually-impaired people themselves. There is obviously a lot of untapped potential amongst our service users that I hope will come to the fore as the projects develop. On a financial note – this funding is a huge boost to the organisation. A big well done to everyone involved.”

Staff Recruitment

Our first task will be to recruit three new part-time members of staff to help us deliver the activities. The recruitment process has already started and we hope to have new staff in place in May.

Save the Date! Wednesday 12th June

We are organising an Open Day to celebrate the launch of our National Lottery Project and would like to invite you to join us.

The event will start at 11am through to 3pm. Coffee and Tea will be available.

There will be an opportunity to meet new members of staff and find out more about the activities they will be running. We will also be inviting colleagues from other organisations to join us to demonstrate their own equipment and services. Including:

- Woodspring Talking News
- British Wireless for the Blind
- Calibre Talking Books
- HumanWare Assistive Technology
- Wiltshire Farm Foods
- Dolphin Computer

Limited Parking

I am sorry that we cannot offer parking at Neva Road for the event, unless you pre book a disabled parking space and these are limited. There will be space to drop off and pick up and parking is available on nearby streets or at the NCP which is a short walk away in Carlton Street.

Information Technology Sessions Near You

People attending the IT and assistive technology event here at Vision in November said it was helpful and informative and some went on to sign up for tuition sessions.

Funding from the Santander Foundation has enabled us to book a series of IT sessions in libraries throughout North Somerset. This is an opportunity to discuss the use of tablets, iphone, computers and other assistive technology. You can also find out about speech and magnification options and various apps which are designed to help blind and partially sighted people.

The first session will take place at Yatton Library (Wake Worlock Room) on Thursday 11th April from 1pm to 3pm.

The second will take place at the Campus Library, Worle, on Thursday 9th May from 1pm to 3pm.

We are planning for Portishead and Worle Libraries soon and we are hoping to book the mobile library van to visit rural areas.

The aim of these sessions is to provide an opportunity to discuss IT options on an individual basis to find a solution that suits you. To ensure that we allocate time for you personally you will need to book a place. Please telephone Nina Farr on 01934 419393 to reserve your spot.

Volunteer Needed

Our swimming club takes place every Wednesday at Strode Pool in Clevedon. People attend from all parts of North Somerset to enjoy a swim and a coffee and sandwich afterwards.

The club is urgently seeking a volunteer driver to provide transport from Weston. If you have any friends or relatives who may be able to help, please call Michele on 01934 419393.

Goodbye to Angela

Many of you will have met Angela Whitcombe when she visited you to carry out the registration process. I am sure you will join me in saying a sad goodbye and wish her well in her retirement when she leaves us in April.

Angela has been our Registration Officer since 1999 when Vision first took over the service on behalf of North Somerset Council. Angela was responsible for setting up the systems for registration that we still run today and are a credit to the commitment and enthusiasm that she brought to her role.

Vision North Somerset is one of the few areas in the country that have an integrated service with the local authority where both statutory services and voluntary funded services are available from one source. Our service model has featured in research by leading sight loss organisations including RNIB and Thomas Pocklington. We are rightly proud of our reputation and of the commitment of our staff.

Macular Society

If you have macular disease, meeting other people who have been through similar experience may help you understand your condition, come to terms with sight loss and share information about treatment. Every group is different, but many invite guest speakers, run social events and arrange outings.

There are three support groups in North Somerset:

Backwell & Nailsea

Contact Sheila on 01275 462 107. Meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month from 1:30pm to 3:30pm at the WI Hall, Station Road, Backwell.

Portishead Group

Contact Hazel on 01275 845238. Meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month from 2:30pm to 4:30pm at the Folk Hall, High Street, Portishead.

Weston Super Mare Group

Contact Carol on 01934 516 627. Meetings are held on 2nd Tuesday of the month from 2pm to 4pm at the Lauriston Hotel, Knightstone Road, Weston.

Vision North Somerset

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