

E L V I N

East Lancs Visual Impaired Network

Your Guide to Our Services

September 2022



**Accrington
& District
Blind
Society**

Registered Charity No.: 221983

About Us

Our vision is to live in a world where all who battle sight loss are living fulfilled lives by destroying the perceived barriers of visual impairment.

Our Mission is to enable people living with limited vision in East Lancashire to thrive at home, in education, at work and socially.

Our values are to be caring, innovative, professional & have a focus on providing a quality service.



Luke Howarth — Sight Support Manager

Our Sight Support Manager, Luke, has considerable experience within the sight loss sector and has lived experience of sight loss.

Using that experience Luke can identify, after speaking to you what help the Society can provide or signpost you to other sources of help locally and nationally.

Luke is a Mental Health First Aider.



Emma Procter — Sight Resource Assistant

Emma is based at our Sight Resource Centre in Accrington. Whether you contact us by visiting us or by phone Emma will usually be your first point of contact with ELVIN.

Emma is usually able to assist you with the products we offer in the Resource Centre and provide support to help you use your electronic devices more effectively. Emma can also arrange for you to have a consultation with Luke.

Emma is a Mental Health First Aider.

Our Sight Resource Centre



ELVIN offers a Resource Centre located in the offices of *Accrington & District Blind Society* (our parent charity) at 32 Bank Street in Accrington.

The Resource Centre is open

Tuesday to Friday 10 am to 4pm

Saturday 10 am to 1pm

In addition to offering meeting rooms and a Tech Suite the Resource Centre has an extensive range of different products and information which can help you live independently. These include

Magnifiers

Lighting

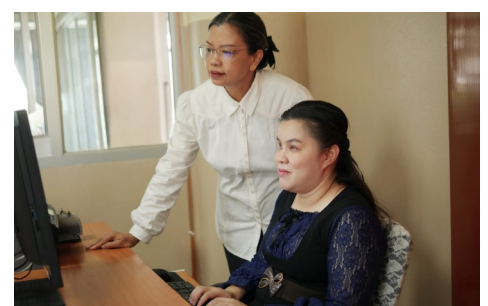
Eye Shades



Kitchen Aids

Clocks & Watches

Assistive Technology



All our products are priced to cover our costs and free of VAT and are often below retail or online prices.



Your Sight Loss MOT

Our Sight Loss MOT helps us assess your needs if you are living with sight loss.

This helps us understand what support may be right for you.

We can provide support from our Bank Street office or in the comfort of your own home.

One of our team will have an in-depth chat with you (and any family members and carers).

During the meeting we will provide you with information that may help you and suggest other support that might be available to you.

We cover the following topics during your Sight Loss MOT

- Making best use of your sight.
- Health and well being
- Managing at home
- Work, learning and having your say
- Understanding your sight loss
- Having someone to talk to
- Your finances
- Getting out and about

To book a Sight Loss MOT you can contact us on **0300 365 3700**.

“

Having more confidence around other people now and I have learnt

”

that there are different ways to do things.

Living Well With Sight Loss



Many people say losing their sight is one of the most difficult events in their life to cope with. The fear of the unknown, not being able to do simple everyday tasks, live safely and independently or even continue enjoying a much loved hobby or interest can be traumatising.

There is a lot of information available depending on the needs of each individual and this can be quite overwhelming.

In partnership with the Royal National Institution for the Blind (RNIB), we offer a one day course on how to live well with sight loss. We run these every few months at our Resource Centre. These courses feature speakers from ELVIN, Eye Clinics, Social Services and the RNIB, and focus on everything you need to know about sight loss.

Supporting Our Work

All our services are offered free of charge to you and we sell our products at prices which are designed to cover our costs.

We receive no funding from any statutory organisations and although we work closely with other sight loss charities we do not receive any routine financial support from them.

We rely entirely on support from local people like you to enable us to provide our services to support people living with sight loss across East Lancashire. You can do this by making a donation by cheque to Accrington & District Blind Society at our Resource Centre at Bank Street, Accrington BB5 1HP or by texting BLINDNOINFO to 70500 to donate £10. Texts cost the value of your donation plus the cost of one standard text message charged by your provider.



Low Vision Assessment

We offer a **free of charge** low vision assessment service.

This service is run on behalf of the charity by a qualified optical professional. The assessment will help you make the most of your existing sight and we may suggest aids to help you do this.

The clinic runs on a monthly basis and you can book an appointment by contacting our offices on **0300 365 3700**.

At the clinic you will receive a consultation with a qualified optometrist who will assess your vision and recommend different types of aids which you may find helpful in making the most of your existing vision. This may include magnifiers, lighting and eye shades.

Following this consultation you will have time to browse our Sight Resource Centre and meet with our Sight Support Manager who will help you select the most appropriate products for you.

We are grateful for the support of UCLAN and the Eric Wright Charitable Foundation for their support in delivering this service.

Browse our selection of

Magnifiers

Lighting

Eye Shades



Our Social Groups



Social groups are an opportunity for people who share the experience of living with sight loss to get together. This helps reduce the sense of isolation people can sometime experience. It also provides opportunities to share hints and tips from real-life experience that can make everyday tasks easier. The groups sometimes have guest speakers who provide information on a wide range of topics of interest.

We offer the following social groups.

Hyndburn Sight Support Group

This group meets at the Sight Resource Centre, 32 Bank Street, Accrington BB5 1HP at 11.30 am each Tuesday.

Pendle Sight Support Group

This group meets at the Community Room, ASDA, Unit 1, Swinden Retail Park Corporation Street Colne BB8 8LU at 10 am each Tuesday.

The VIEW Group

Our VIEW group meets on a Saturday lunchtime every other month. This group provides a supportive space for people of working age living with sight loss to meet up.

Meetings are held in different venues across East Lancashire and meetings are followed by coffee, lunch or attending an event of interest.

To find out more about any of our groups please contact us on

0300 365 3700

How to Get Help

You can call us on

0300 365 3700

You can visit our

**Sight Resource Centre,
32 Bank Street, Accrington
BB5 1HP**

Email us at

support@elvinet.org.uk

Visit our web site for up to date information

www.elvinet.org.uk

**Or ask your eye care professional to refer
you to our services.**

Your Information

If you contact us we may ask you for personal information and your consent to keep that information. This information will help us provide you with safe and effective support which is tailored to your individual needs. At any time you can withdraw your consent and your information will be removed. A copy of our Privacy Policy can be provided to you on request.