

18 May 2015

Press Release

Mobile support service heads to Rutland

Local sight loss charity Vista has launched a brand new Mobile Support Service for older people at risk of developing sight loss in Leicestershire and Rutland.

The service, which is funded by the National Lottery through the Big Lottery Fund, will tour the areas in a specially designed mobile unit, providing information, support and advice.

From June it will visit a variety of locations across the Rutland region.

1.8 million people are living with significant sight loss in the UK, and evidence suggests that over 50 per cent of sight loss is due to preventable or treatable causes. Vista will raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of sight loss, the importance of early diagnosis and the links between lifestyle and sight loss.

Manned by friendly staff, the vehicle features an open plan welcome area, leaflet display and a seating area for individual consultation and support. During their time on board, visitors can:

- Learn how a healthy lifestyle can reduce the risk of sight loss, the importance of regular sight tests and spotting conditions early
- Find out more about the support and services available through Vista
- Discover equipment and technologies that can support people with sight loss.

The programme will also support older people already experiencing sight loss, enabling them to access dedicated information, advice and support in their local communities.

Paul Bott, Vista's Chief Executive, said: "This exciting new project enables us to increase awareness of avoidable sight loss, in particular amongst older people. We believe that advice and support should be available in even the most rural communities, so we're taking our services on the road."

A full list of dates, locations and times is available on our website at www.vistablind.org.uk/mobilesupport

www.vistablind.org.uk

Registered Charity Number: 218992

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Editor's Notes

About Vista

Vista provides support and services to almost 6000 children and adults with sight loss throughout Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. As well as rehabilitation, social groups, befriending and residential services, Vista also provide specialist services for people with learning disabilities, dementia and dual sensory impairment.

About the Big Lottery Fund

The Big Lottery Fund supports the aspirations of people who want to make life better for their communities across the UK. We are responsible for giving out 40% of the money raised by the National Lottery and invest over £650 million a year in projects big and small in health, education, environment and charitable purposes.

Since June 2004 we have awarded over £6.5billion to projects that make a difference to people and communities in need, from early years intervention to commemorative travel funding for World War Two veterans.

Since the National Lottery began in 1994, £33 billion has been raised and more than 450,000 grants awarded.

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