



# Staffordshire Sight Loss

## Newsletter January/ February 2019

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2019 and Happy New Year!

We are working hard to secure funding to bring you more services, events and activities over the next 12 months and will keep you updated on our progress but for now, here is a rundown of what we have planned so far...

### Social Groups

Our Hanley social group is going from strength to strength with new people attending each session. We are a friendly group of all ages, we meet at Hanley Library in the JRR Tolkien Room on the first floor on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 10.30am til 12.30pm.

We ask for £1 per person per session to contribute to refreshments and at each session we have a speaker or an activity. Our next sessions are as follows:

<b>February 13th</b>	Helen from Staffordshire County Council will be coming to talk about staying safe
<b>February 27th</b>	A talk by Andy Woods, Eye Clinic Liaison Officer from the Royal Stoke University

	Hospital
<b>March 13th</b>	Music Quiz with Tim Calvert
<b>March 27th</b>	Tracey Wainwright from the New Vic Theatre will be coming to tell us about accessible performances

If there is snow please get in touch to double check that the group will be going ahead or check social media.

## **Newcastle and Leek Social Groups**

We are still working hard to bring social groups to Newcastle and Leek soon. If you are interested in attending a group in either of these areas please get in touch; more information to come in the next newsletter and on social media.

## **Save the date... Awareness Event on 20th June**

We hope that you can join us on 20th June at the Quality Hotel in Hanley. To celebrate our first birthday we are holding an Awareness Event. Come and chat to a wide range of organisations that provide services and support, equipment and technology products.

We will provide more information including who our stand holders will be in the next newsletter in March.

## **Sighted Guiding Training delivered by The Guide Dogs Organisation**

Do you have any friends or family members who would benefit from learning more about how to guide a person with sight loss in an appropriate way?

If so The Guide Dogs organisation would like to run a Sighted Guide Friends and Family training day in Stoke on Trent soon. Please get in touch if you know someone who would like to attend this event.

## **Community Support Service**

Do you need...

- Advice and information
- Benefits advice
- Help with form filling
- Support with applications for grants for equipment
- Advice about concessions
- Support with housing issues...or anything else

Get in touch to arrange an appointment with our community support worker and benefits advisor Suzanne on 07931 327 018.

If you need some support but are unsure if we can assist please get in touch and if it is not our area of expertise we will do our best to refer you to someone who can help.

## **British Wireless for the Blind Fund**

Would you benefit from a radio that's designed to be easier to use for people with sight loss? British Wireless for the Blind Fund provide a range of audio equipment that is designed to be easier to use for people with sight loss.

Digital/ FM Radio, CD, USB players, internet radio and more, their equipment is high quality and available free of charge if you meet the following criteria:

- resident in the UK
- registered blind or partially sighted
- over the age of 8
- in receipt of a means tested benefit

To access this service contact us for a referral or get in touch with Sophie at Wireless for the Blind on 07540 724063 or email [sophie@blind.org.uk](mailto:sophie@blind.org.uk)

## **Volunteering**

Do you have any free time to spare?

Would you like to meet new people and to learn new skills?

If so, have you considered volunteering?

At present we are looking for volunteers who would like to help with:

- Social Groups across North Staffordshire
- Fundraising, organising events and helping out at events
- Peer Support
- Admin tasks



## **Find us on Social Media**

Look us up on twitter @SightLossStaffs

We are also on Facebook, search for Staffordshire Sight Loss Association where we also have a closed group for sharing ideas and engaging in conversation.

## **Support us by taking part in the Potto Lotto**

Potto Lotto is a local lottery that supports good causes in Stoke-on-Trent.

- Win up to £25,000
- Tickets cost £1 per week
- For every ticket that you buy in our name we receive 50p
- PLUS 10% goes to other good causes in Stoke-on-Trent

To start supporting, visit:

[www.PottoLotto.co.uk](http://www.PottoLotto.co.uk)

And Search for 'Sight Loss'

## **Thank you**

A big thank you to Stoke on Trent City Council's Community Investment Fund for awarding us a grant that has enabled us to purchase new equipment for our volunteers to use including laptops and access software.

Supported by Stoke-on-Trent City Council's **Community Investment Fund**



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If you require this newsletter in an alternative format please let us know.