

Vision Pioneer Awards 2016

A celebration of shared
practice in the eye health
and sight loss sectors

visionpioneerawards.co.uk



RNIB Supporting people
with sight loss



Contents

3

Welcome from
Lesley-Anne
Alexander CBE, Chair
of Vision Strategy
Leadership Group
and Chief Executive
of RNIB Group

7

Campaign of the Year

12

Innovation

16

Professional
of the Year, Adults

21

Professional of the
Year, Children and
Young People

24

Team of the Year

29

About us

Welcome

Welcome to the very first Vision Pioneer Awards booklet, celebrating the joint ceremony held by RNIB's NB Online magazine and the UK Vision Strategy to recognise outstanding work in the eye health and sight loss sectors.

When we set up these awards we wanted to discover some exceptional professionals that are making a real difference to the lives of blind and partially sighted people. All of our finalists demonstrate dedication and excellence by striving towards the outcomes of the UK Vision Strategy.

It is my pleasure to share with you the winners and those shortlisted for the five categories celebrated on 13 June 2016.

I hope you join me in feeling immense pride and inspiration for the work highlighted in this awards booklet.

Lesley-Anne Alexander CBE



Lesley-Anne
Alexander

Chair of Vision Strategy Leadership
Group and Chief Executive of RNIB Group



Introduction

The Vision Pioneer Awards celebrate the outstanding work of professionals in the eye health and sight loss sectors from across the UK.

Created by UK Vision Strategy in collaboration with RNIB and NB Online, the awards champion good practice and honour the achievements of individuals and teams committed to improving the lives of blind and partially sighted people. The awards also aim to raise awareness of sight loss and the importance of quality eye care by striving towards the outcomes of the UK Vision Strategy.

Read about the excellent work of this year's winners and finalists.



A night to remember

The first ever Vision Pioneer Awards were attended by more than 100 guests including finalists and leading figures from the eye health and sight loss sectors.

The evening kicked off with a stunning reception at the five star Grange Tower Bridge Hotel in London, followed by the main ceremony that was hosted by blind comedian, Chris McCausland.

The glittering event honoured the work of professionals in supporting and working with blind and partially sighted people across the UK.



The first Vision
Pioneer Awards were
held on 13 June
2016 in London
with five categories
recognised:

One

Campaign of the Year

Two

Innovation

Three

Professional
of the Year, Adults

Four

Professional
of the Year, Children
and Young People

Five

Team of the Year

Campaign of the Year



Winner: 'No Water' by Irenie Ekkeshis

Irenie Ekkeshis has spent the last three years dedicated to making sure people know that wearing contact lenses in the shower can lead to blindness. Through her campaigning, she's changed how the pharmaceutical industry and the medical world approach contact lens packaging.

In 2013, Irenie set up the No Water campaign, which helps spread awareness of the risks of developing Acanthamoeba Keratitis (AK), a sight-threatening infection spread by a small organism mainly found in the water supply. Most people develop it because they have worn their contact lenses to swim or shower, or because they rinse their lenses in water rather than the recommended solutions. AK is relatively rare, but the numbers are on the increase – and the effects are serious.

A quarter of people affected end up with some vision loss and/or a corneal transplant. Some have to have the whole eye removed.

Irenie was diagnosed with AK in 2011. "I had worn disposable lenses. I didn't wear them swimming and I didn't regularly wear them in the shower – but I didn't understand the extent of the danger," Irenie says. "When I started having acute pain in my right eye, I went straight to Moorfields Eye Hospital and within a week I'd been diagnosed with AK. I was given the best treatment, but my eye deteriorated quite quickly. It was very painful and very frightening, and I lost the sight in that eye."

She says: “After that, I started asking lots of questions about why this had happened, and why I hadn’t known about this risk. I’d worked in marketing and brand strategy for many years, and I knew this hadn’t been communicated. I went to look at my contact lens pack and there was absolutely no mention that you should avoid water. I didn’t find much online either. I contacted the biggest industry body and started a conversation.”

Irenie’s conversation was just the start of her campaign to get the lens industry to put prominent “no water” messages on all contact lens packaging. It took some time to take hold, she has spoken and written tirelessly on the issue – but by 2015, people within the industry and eye health practitioners were all listening.

Today, the main industry bodies in the UK and the US have agreed to create “no water” stickers to put on contact lens boxes.

“My campaign has been about engaging and trying to collaborate, rather than throwing stones from the outside,” Irenie explains. “I get to talk to leading people in the industry and my message has gone further because of that willingness to collaborate.”

Alongside the No Water campaign, a patient group was established, which now has 600 members. Many people feel scared and isolated when they develop

AK, and the group was a huge support in helping them understand and manage it better – and to talk to other people who have gone through the same experience. Irenie has also led the group that produced Moorfields’ first “user-generated” patient information leaflet, with contributions from patients, clinicians, counsellors and researchers – which has led the way for other services at the hospital.

It has not always been easy. Some of the hardest people to reach are regular contact lens wearers. “It’s not necessarily a message that people want to hear. People view contact lenses as a lifestyle product and very liberating. It’s difficult to take on the fact that there are things you should or shouldn’t do.”

But Irenie adds: “The issue’s finally being treated with the seriousness it deserves. AK is now on the list of priorities for eye research developed by Fight for Sight, the disease is being discussed at industry and clinical conferences and the ‘no water’ message is increasing in prominence and is higher in the list of instructions for contact lens wearers. It’s our responsibility to stop this happening to other people.”

Finalists

Eye Heroes

Eye Heroes is a children-led public health initiative to fight avoidable sight loss in the UK. Through workshops, Eye Heroes educates children about eye health and the importance of regular eye tests, so they can inform adults in their local communities. Training children allows Eye Heroes to overcome the barriers in accessing harder to reach audiences including those whom English isn't their first language. Moorfields Eye Charity awarded Eye Heroes a grant in 2015, which has enabled a successful pilot of the campaign.

The first phase of the pilot ran in Bedford from October to December 2015, with volunteers running 27 workshops in schools and after-school clubs. Almost 800 children were informed about eye health and as of April 2016, more than 100 adults attended eye tests as a direct result of the pilot. Eye Heroes has now successfully been rolled-out nationally.

eyeheroes.org.uk

No One Alone, Blind Veterans UK

Blind Veterans UK's No One Alone campaign targets the estimated 59,000 blind and partially sighted ex-service men and women currently battling sight loss alone. Most veterans aren't accessing the charity's support, either because they don't know it's available or aren't aware they're eligible.



From gaining media coverage, engaging with MPs and health figures, to building partnerships with key organisations and connecting with veterans at events, No One Alone targets different referrer and consumer groups. This resulted in a record-breaking 788 new veterans contacting the charity in 2015, the largest yearly number in its 101 year history.

noonealone.org.uk

Pavement Parking, The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association

Vehicles parked on pavements pose a serious danger to people living with sight loss, as to get past they are often forced to step into the road without being able to see oncoming traffic. The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association (Guide Dogs) is campaigning for pavement parking to be made illegal so more people who are blind

and partially sighted can go out independently. The campaign uses storytelling and first-hand experience to engage MPs and demonstrate the dangers that people with sight loss face daily because of inappropriately parked vehicles.

So far the campaign has resulted in four private member's bills, a parliamentary reception attended by over 180 MPs, the formation of a coalition of 29 supportive stakeholder organisations and extensive media coverage.

guidedogs.org.uk

50

**entries were received
from more than 40
different organisations**

“It was great to meet and hear about so many truly inspirational people. Sometimes at awards you wonder if no-one applied the quality is so low but every one of those nominated was incredible.”

Guest, Vision Pioneer Awards 2016

Innovation



Winner: Wayfindr by Royal London Society for the Blind

The Royal London Society for the Blind (RLSB) and a global technology company, ustwo, have partnered to tackle the challenge of independent travel for blind and partially sighted people.

For most young people growing up in cities with an underground or metro system, learning to use that part of the transport system is an essential part of becoming independent. Everyone makes a mistake or two, but, in the end, almost everyone learns how to get around the town. Everyone, that is, apart from blind and partially sighted young people – who find that, as a result, a new barrier is dividing their life opportunities from those of their peers.

The Wayfindr Standard – a collaboration from the Royal London Society for the Blind and digital product studio ustwo

– aims to start taking that barrier down. It will make it possible for anyone to use a smartphone app to guide themselves between different points on the London Underground, with the assistance of audio directions transmitted through bone-conducting earphones.

It was originally the result of RSLB's youth forum, which included "Commitment to universal accessible transport" in its 2014 campaigning manifesto. "The variable experience of using public transport in London was a real blocker to them going out and living a normal life," says marketing director Emma Thompson. "Assistance is very patchy from station to station and sometimes it's not there at all. They said there must be some technology that would help them."

ustwo responded to the manifesto and started by talking to the young people to identify the specific problems confronting them – which included the fact that existing navigation apps usually rely on an internet signal, which often is not available underground. The solution it proposed was to team the iBeacon technology, already present in most transport terminals, with the existing navigation apps and with the new Wayfindr Standard.

The Standard provides guidelines for app developers on how to deliver “intuitive and precise” audio instructions to the user in a built environment, based on the route defined by the app and the iBeacons. Emma explains: “Eventually you’ll be able to get to a station and switch on the navigation app on your smartphone (it doesn’t matter which type), put your earphones in, say or type in the name of your destination, and you’ll be guided step by step to the right platform for getting there.”

In the course of research and design, both parties – RLSB and ustwo – have learned to share and appreciate each other’s expertise. “We have the expertise in working with young blind people,” says Emma. “We’re not technology experts. We have to be confident that someone else brings that expertise. Technology is moving at such pace that we shouldn’t expect it of ourselves. This solution is very user-friendly because it comes from a base of expertise from different partners. Join those two together and it’s immensely powerful.”

The Wayfindr system has been trialled in two underground stations already, and RLSB and ustwo are now working with Transport for London to carry out more, with a view to rolling it out across the network. They are also talking to other transport providers about installing Wayfindr. The hope is that it will be widely available in the next couple of years.

In the longer term, there’s no stopping it, because once Wayfindr is up and running in the London Underground, there is no reason why it should not be extended to other locations across the UK and indeed outside it.

“We are constantly refining and building,” Emma says. “And this is a solution that can be used by other people too. It’s essentially a mainstream technology that started for providing a solution for blind and partially sighted people.” In its own way, it is simple, but it also has the potential to transform lives.

wayfindr.net

Finalists



**Distance Learning
Online Visual
Impairment
Awareness Training
Course, Christopher
Grange Visual
Rehabilitation Centre**

In September 2015, Christopher Grange Visual Rehabilitation Centre launched the UK's first Distance Learning Online Visual Impairment Awareness Training course. The course was designed by rehabilitation specialists with input from service users.

It aims to provide participants with the confidence to offer effective support to people with sight loss and to broaden their knowledge of eye conditions. Learners complete 11 modules and a certificate of Visual Impairment Awareness is awarded at the end. Over 200 courses have been delivered across various sectors including transport, education, retail, care, hospitality and local authorities.

[catholicblindinstitute.org/
visualrehabilitationcentre](http://catholicblindinstitute.org/visualrehabilitationcentre)

100+

**Tweets from more
than 50 contributors**

Looking Out For Sight, Wiltshire Sight

In September 2015, Thomas Pocklington Trust (TPT) funded Wiltshire Sight, a voluntary sector organisation supporting people with sight loss in Wiltshire and Swindon, to deliver visual awareness training across 20 local care homes. TPT research identified that 50 per cent of people living in care homes had high degrees of sight loss. However, care home staff are not routinely trained or have no awareness of sight loss and the support it requires. Looking Out For Sight training improves staff practices through increased awareness, knowledge and understanding of sight loss.

More than 200 care home staff were trained as a result of the three month project. Wiltshire Sight aims to further pilot the service in South West England with the view to expanding the project nationally within the next two years.

wiltshiresight.org/looking-out-for-sight

Neuro-Ophthalmic Visual Impairment in Children clinic at Royal Victoria Hospital Belfast Trust

Cerebral Visual Impairment (CVI) is the most common cause of childhood visual impairment in the developed world, occurring at an incidence of two per thousand live births. Severe visual impairment is inseparable from profound neuro-developmental delay, therefore

a child with CVI has a myriad of complex needs. In Belfast, there was a need for a holistic clinic for these patients that addressed vision, systemic health and support. In February 2015, Belfast's Royal Victoria Hospital launched the Neuro-Ophthalmic Visual Impairment in Children clinic (NOVIC). NOVIC ensures the child's visual and systemic welfare are assessed in one visit.

www.belfasttrust.hscni.net/index.htm

Professional of the Year, Adults



**Winner: Simon Labbett
Rehabilitation Officer
(Visual Impairment)
and Chair of the
Rehabilitation
Workers Professional
Network**

Simon Labbett set up the Rehabilitation Workers Professional Network (RWPN) in 2013. He works tirelessly to raise the profile of the profession, and through the network, aims to establish professional standards.

Rehabilitation work can play a crucial part in supporting people who have recently lost their sight. Yet most areas have, at most, just one or two specialist rehabilitation workers, while some have none at all.

In his “day job”, Simon is a Rehabilitation Officer (Visual Impairment) for Bradford Metropolitan Borough Council. As far as he is concerned, rehabilitation work is not just about the practical issues of keeping someone physically independent, but is also about meeting the emotional needs of people who are often devastated by the experience of losing their sight.

“They feel that part of them – not just their vision – is gone,” he says. “As a rehab worker, your role is to help them build up that crumbled sense of self and support them in getting back to the person they used to be.” It is extremely important and, indeed, if it keeps people independent, saves the authority money. But at the moment, rehabilitation work is not a registered profession in the UK.

In 2013, Simon set up the RWPN which is the first professional body for the workforce and since then it has expanded to 250 members. Alongside the customary member benefits such as employment relations advice and an annual seminar, the network provides an essential forum for networking, support and sharing ideas.

“Professional isolation is an awful thing,” he points out. “If you are the only person in your area doing that job, it can be extremely lonely and professionally dangerous. That’s one reason for having the network, so that people can talk to each other and support each other, as well as to mentor people coming through.”

As chair of the RWPN, he has also spoken to local authorities that do not have rehabilitation services, explaining the value of this work (both to individuals and to the budgets that will have to cope if there is a crisis) and helping them find solutions. On top of that, Simon sits on the VISION 2020 UK Rehabilitation and Low Vision Group, which has made it possible to get some of the biggest organisations in the social care fields producing guidance on visual impairment rehabilitation.

What’s more, the Care Act, which came into force in 2015, also makes specific reference to rehabilitation, which gives blind and partially sighted people a legal argument for services.

With rehabilitation finally starting to get the recognition it deserves, the RWPN also has a large emphasis on continuing professional development support. “When you work in a social services team, you realise that your colleagues have professional frameworks and standards,” he says.

“Up until now, you could qualify as a rehab worker and not undertake any further learning – but that wouldn’t pass muster in social work, where you have to provide consistent evidence of learning. Rehab workers have had none of that, so many of us feel strongly that we need our own CPD structures. Yes, it’s extra work, but if you want to have parity with other people, you have to do the same as them.”

“By the end of 2015 we had almost half the workforce as members. So now it’s an issue of convincing the remainder that this isn’t just about their own needs, but also about the protection of this work and the value of it for the future – in short ‘it’s not just about you’,” Simon concludes. “I’m not very good at shouting loudly, but it’s vital to raise our profiles, the value of what we do and the standards.”

rwpn.org.uk

“For me, being awarded ‘Professional of the Year’ is a massive boost for vision rehabilitation professionals across the UK. We want to encourage more people into this line of work.”

Simon Labbett, Vision Pioneer Awards 2016

Finalists

Naomi Bell, Eye Clinic Liaison Officer (ECLO) at Vista

Naomi Bell offers emotional and practical support to people after they have been told they are losing their sight. During her part-time hours at the Leicester Royal Infirmary Eye Clinic, Naomi has seen more than 2,000 patients and carers over the past 12 months. Naomi's high level of care was demonstrated when she facilitated a consultation and registration of a severely paralysed young mother who was unable to communicate easily. Naomi has also completed an audit of the certificate of vision impairment process in the eye clinic. The results highlight the benefits of the ECLO service for speeding up the registration paperwork progress and show the importance of the ECLO service to funders.

Sister Melanie Mason, Lead Clinical Nurse at Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Keratoconus is the most common indicator for corneal transplantation in young people and historically has been treated by an ophthalmologist. Sister Melanie has pioneered the way forward as the first nurse to perform the corneal cross-linking (CXL) procedure in the UK, performing 191 treatments



in 2015 alone, achieving a 94 per cent success rate – proving that nurse-led CXL is as safe and effective as when undertaken by an ophthalmologist. Sister Melanie's commitment to achieving this outcome data is crucial in engaging other colleagues in the eye community to promote the service. It thereby supports more people who have sight loss due to Keratoconus and saves the NHS money.

moorfields.nhs.uk

Roger Clifton, former CEO of East London Vision

East London Vision (ELVis) is an umbrella charity that helps standardise and raise the quality of care for blind or partially sighted people in seven of London's 32 boroughs. In the two years since ELVis was set up, Roger established peer-led support groups in each of East London's boroughs and launched a visual impairment awareness training programme for health sector, leisure centre and library staff. Due to the success of ELVis in East London, Roger spent much of 2015 setting up South East London Vision and paving the way for Central and West London Vision.

eastlondonvision.org.uk

200,000

Twitter accounts reached
by #visionpioneerawards

Professional of the Year, Children and Young People



**Winner: Paula Varney,
Family Support Officer
at Vista**

Paula Varney (pictured on left) is there for parents when they are told their child has vision impairment, answering questions and providing support when they need it most. Last year, she helped expand the support service to three additional hospitals so more families can benefit from her expertise.

When local parents come to the Leicester Royal Infirmary for a diagnosis of their child's sight problem, Paula Varney and her colleagues are often there in the clinic already. Sometimes they are asked for information straight away; but often their best approach is to give parents their contact details and say they will be in touch. Either way, they are there to provide help and support at a time when many families are distressed and do not know where to turn.

Paula is a Family Support Officer working for Vista, the leading charity supporting people with sight loss in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. For almost all of those families, she is the first point of contact to help them through the maze of different services. But when parents are ready to talk, she is also there to listen because, as she explains, many parents worry that their child's life will be affected in all kinds of ways that have nothing to do with their sight.

“They worry about all kinds of milestones, from learning to drive to getting married,” she says.

“You just have to listen. There’s no hard and fast rule about when they might come to terms with this – and some never really do. Six or seven years on, you can still have parents who burst into tears at the drop of a hat. It’s quite shattering what it does for them. Listening is the key.”

But her job goes well beyond listening. Paula provides the kind of individual support that helps families to find the services and support they need – throughout their school lives and beyond. As part of this, she has set up the monthly Stay and Play sessions she runs with a qualified teacher of visual impairment, where about 50 children have fun and make music, while their parents get the opportunity to talk to each other.

“They are drop-in sessions at a local Sure Start centre, where we have access to a sensory room,” she explains. “There are sessions from a music therapist as well and it’s also an opportunity for parents to interact – as they’re often new mums, it’s a way of getting them connected with baby services too. I always tell them they have the right to go to any stay and play, but sometimes it depends on how confident they are, and they say if they come to these sessions they don’t have to explain themselves.”

Over the past year, Paula has helped Vista to expand its family support services to three additional hospitals, working alongside health professionals there. Overall, more than 150 families were supported in the second half of 2015 alone. And there has, she says, been a lot of goodwill from her colleagues in other organisations and disciplines. “We’ve been able to make very good relationships. After all, we’re all striving to do the same things.”

Family support work is the kind of thing that doesn’t always hit the headlines, but makes it possible for families to pick themselves up from those early shattered days and realise that a visual impairment is just part of their child, not the issue that defines everything in that child’s life. “I’ll meet someone at the clinic 18 months after they asked me how their baby would ever walk, and their toddler is charging around the clinic. The best part of my job is meeting people at their lowest, but then seeing their children go on to meet their goals.”

Finalists

Debbie Wallace, Undergraduate Student at the University of the West of Scotland

During Debbie's Honours year at University, she worked with the children in the Visually Impaired Unit at Darnley Primary School in Glasgow. The unit had 10 children, aged six to 12, most of whom had complex needs in addition to their vision impairment. Throughout Debbie's six month placement, she examined the relationship between herself as the drama facilitator and the children in exploring and developing their creativity and individuality. Using drama as a platform, Debbie helped the children increase their confidence

and self-esteem, and improve their communication and social skills. As a result, the children are now more integrated into school life.

Jan Quinn, Children and Young People's Co-ordinator at Sight Advice South Lakes

Sight Advice South Lakes is a charity supporting blind and partially sighted people in North East England. Jan works part-time on a project currently funded by a grant from BBC Children in Need. The project supports children with vision impairment under the age of 18 by offering a number of services including specialist technology sessions, practical and emotional support, and employment preparation. Through making transition DVD's, Jan helps build the confidence of

children and young people to overcome difficulties they experience because of their vision impairment. In 2015, Jan and Ella, a member of Sight Advice South Lakes who has vision impairment, climbed to the South Ridge of Tryfan in North Wales on BBC's Countryfile show to raise funds for Children in Need and challenge people's views of people living with significant sight loss.

sightadvice.org.uk



Team of the Year



**Winner:
Neuro-Ophthalmic
Visual Impairment
in Children clinic
at Royal Victoria
Hospital Belfast Trust**

In February 2015, Belfast’s Royal Victoria Hospital launched the Neuro-Ophthalmic Visual Impairment in Children clinic (NOVIC) for children with complex needs. NOVIC brings together a team of specialists who can assess children’s visual and systemic welfare in one visit.

“When you have sight loss caused by brain injury, there’s a temptation to say ‘what can we do?’ because these children aren’t just visually impaired – they have a lot of other health problems and disabilities,” says Sonia George. “We felt we had to have a group of people who worked with these children and understood how all their issues interact.”

Sonia is the consultant paediatric ophthalmologist at the NOVIC Clinic at Belfast’s Royal Victoria Hospital in Northern Ireland. NOVIC was set up in 2015 to deliver a specialist service to children with Cerebral Visual Impairment (CVI).

CVI is the second most common cause of blindness for children in the UK, but there is still remarkably little known about the condition. “Many parents will have been told their child is brain damaged or developmentally delayed, but nothing about what their child can see,” says Sonia.

NOVIC brings together a team of nine people including Northern Ireland’s first paediatric eye clinic liaison officer (ECLO) and an occupational therapist: all of whom do this work voluntarily on top of their regular jobs. They see 24 families a year and look at every aspect of the children’s vision and their needs in one visit. That includes assessing exactly what the children can see, the assistance they need, the family and community support that can help them make the most of their sight, and any techniques that will help them.

Families receive a comprehensive assessment rather than having to make time for numerous extra appointments on top of the ones they usually attend. A report is then sent out to all the different professionals involved in the child's care with details of their vision, any techniques that will help them make the most of their sight, and the family and community support they should receive.

"We were all dealing with the children anyway, it's just that how we manage that is slightly different now," says Sonia's colleague, Dr Pamela Anketell, who is the team's specialist paediatric orthoptist. "We knew there was a need for this team," Sonia explains. "I taught a university module on CVI for orthoptists and as soon as they were aware of the condition, the referrals to our service started picking up – but we knew we weren't providing as full a service as we could. We talked to the children's hospital and made contacts with other professionals to bring together a group."

"We look at each child individually, assessing the best position, colour and type of object, and what position they should be in," says Pamela. "One child became much more visually responsive when an occupational therapist positioned them properly," Sonia adds.

"That's one example of how people working together can make a huge difference. Because the professor of optometry is present, they can be assessed for glasses too, as glasses make more of a difference than many people think. It's a much more holistic service than going through various appointments with different specialists."

The clinic is now working to inform other specialists about CVI, reaching out to practitioners in acquired brain injury units and orthoptists or optometrists who work with children with special needs. The team are also developing new vision stimulation aids – especially for older children – and new information for parents.

The main problem in setting up the service has been bringing people out of their regular work to carry out the sessions. Staff want to make it a monthly rather than a bimonthly clinic and double the numbers. They would also like to involve other professionals such as play therapists. But as it is, children who would otherwise have no management plan see five highly qualified professionals, which makes a crucial difference to their lives.

“I think the awards are a super opportunity for people whose work is otherwise unrecognised, and for us the main thing has been that the winning of the award has strengthened our case for continuing our service longterm.”

NOVIC, Vision Pioneer Awards 2016

Finalists

Development team, Goalball UK

Goalball is a Paralympic sport played by two teams vying to score by rolling an audible basketball into the opponent's goal. The core development team at Goalball UK, the National Governing Body, provide opportunities for blind and partially sighted players to participate in clubs and compete in tournaments. Goalball not only helps players keep fit, it also naturally brings people together creating a sense of belonging. Additional social opportunities include learning how to coach teams and holding committee roles within clubs. In 2015, the development team raised the profile of Goalball at local and national level, and increased participation, especially of women and girls, through Sport England's This Girl Can campaign. The Great Britain men's team finished first in the European C Championships in Malmo and the women's team finished fifth in the World Games in Seoul.

goalballuk.com



Project team, 'Sight Loss: What we needed to know' booklet

'Sight loss: What we needed to know' is an information booklet created for people who have recently been told by an ophthalmologist that they are losing their sight or qualify for a Certificate of Vision Impairment. The booklet is innovative because the information was shaped by people who have been through the process themselves and is what they would have wanted to know at the time. The booklet was co-produced by 12 people with sight loss, four carers and a number of sight loss organisations (the Association of Directors of Adult Services, Blind Veterans UK, Guide Dogs, RNIB, the Royal College of Ophthalmologists, VISION 2020 UK and Visionary). The biggest successes of the project, besides the booklet itself, were the collaboration between people with sight loss and organisations, and strengthened relationships across the eye health sector.

rnib.org.uk/nb-online/cvi-pack

Rehabilitation team, PrioritEyes

PrioritEyes provides qualified and experienced locum rehabilitation services across the UK to help blind and partially sighted people remain independent. The rehabilitation team specialise in holistic assessment, followed by a programme of one-to-one person-centred intervention to rebuild confidence and independence. The team respond quickly to fill gaps in services, and provide short and long-term locum staff to cover maternity leave, sick leave or reduce waiting lists. Team members have also responded at short notice to requests from universities to deliver orientation and mobility training to overseas students who arrive in the UK just days before they begin their studies.

prioriteyes.co.uk

St Vincent's School for Sensory Impairment

St Vincent's is a residential school in Liverpool for children with vision impairment aged five to 19. As well as delivering the curriculum, the school focusses on fostering and developing student friendship groups and challenging high unemployment rates by engaging pupils who have vision impairment within sports, innovation and design work. St Vincent's has set up the first visual impairment fire cadet scheme; collaborated with Loughborough University, Merseyside Police and design engineers to enhance pupil's employability prospects;

and is now working with Liverpool John Moores University to deliver the Qualification for Teaching Visual Impairment from the Department of Education.

@StVincentsL12

About NB Online

RNIB's NB Online is one of the longest running and trusted publications in the eye health and sight loss sector. For 99 years, readers have been informed about the latest news, innovative research and changes in eye health policy.

Today, NB Online is read by more than 6000 people and is aimed at rehabilitation workers, eye clinic liaison officers, ophthalmic nurses, optometrists, occupational therapists, allied health professionals and care home workers.

Subscribe to NB enews and receive our fortnightly update with developments and stories from the sector.



Sign up at rnib.org.uk/nb-online
or email nbonline@rnib.org.uk

About Insight Online

Insight Online is the essential read for education professionals supporting children and young people with vision impairment.

We bring together what you need to know so you can provide the best support possible for your learners, including:

- Ideas to engage students in the classroom
- Tips to promote mobility, independence and wellbeing, and
- Shared experience from your professional community.



Sign up to our free monthly enews
at rnib.org.uk/insight-online
or email insightonline@rnib.org.uk

About the UK Vision Strategy

The UK Vision Strategy was developed in 2008 by the leading eye health and sight loss organisations across the UK to deliver a united approach to issues relating to vision.

The Strategy is an ambitious framework which aims to:

- Improve the eye health of the UK
- Provide timely treatment and support to people with sight loss
- Create a society which fully includes blind and partially sighted people.



You can find out more
about the UK Vision Strategy
at ukvisionstrategy.org.uk

See you in 2017



<https://youtu.be/9-WbXW3hJVY>



visionpioneerawards@rnib.org.uk

visionpioneerawards.co.uk



RNIB

Supporting people
with sight loss



© RNIB 2016

Reg charity nos 226227 (England and Wales)
and SC039316 (Scotland)

rnib.org.uk