

20<sup>th</sup> March 2020



## Update on changes to our services during the Covid-19 crisis

We are all facing challenging and uncertain times due to the impact of the Covid-19 virus on our day to day lives.

Continuing to provide support for visually impaired people is even more important than ever, particularly now that guidance from Government and Public Health England recommends 'social distancing' as the most effective way of keeping people safe.

At 4Sight Vision Support, we will be doing everything we can to maintain the support and services we provide to our members. In order to do that safely, we are making changes to the way we operate - most notably, suspending all of our face-to-face activities, which means that:

1. All 4Sight Vision Support social clubs, activities and events are suspended until further notice.
2. Our Support Centres in Bognor Regis, Midhurst and Shoreham will be closed to the public with immediate effect until further notice.
3. Our outreach services in the community will be suspended with immediate effect, including drop-in centres, home visits, low vision assessments and any other face to face interactions.

As of Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, our Outreach Team will be working remotely to provide support to our members by phone, email, text and where appropriate, by using digital technology. In addition, a skeleton service is being maintained at our Head Office in Bognor Regis, and our Sight Care Advisors will still be working with NHS colleagues in the Eye Clinics at Southlands and St Richard's Hospitals.



Telephone: 01243 828555  
Email: [enquiries@4sight.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@4sight.org.uk)  
[www.4sight.org.uk](http://www.4sight.org.uk)



**Registered Office:** 4Sight Vision Support,  
36 Victoria Drive, Bognor Regis,  
West Sussex PO21 2TE

**Registered Company No.** 3740647  
**Registered Charity No.** 1075447

We are confident that by adapting our services in this way, we will still be able to offer positive support and services to visually impaired people at this time in West Sussex.

### **Contact Details for Our Services:**

#### **Outreach Support:**

**Adur & Worthing** - Kirstie Thomas 07545 501 214, Senior Outreach Worker

[kirstie.thomas@4sight.org.uk](mailto:kirstie.thomas@4sight.org.uk) (Mon -Fri, 9am-5pm)

**Arun** - Kirsty Isted 07545 501 215

[kirsty.isted@4sight.org.uk](mailto:kirsty.isted@4sight.org.uk) (Tues, Weds & Thurs, 9am-3pm)

**Chichester & Midhurst** - Bev Tinson 07545 501 218

[bev.tinson@4sight.org.uk](mailto:bev.tinson@4sight.org.uk) (Tues, Weds & Thurs, 9.30am-3.30pm)

**Mid Sussex, Horsham & Crawley** - Tara Beesley 07545 501 216

[tara.beesley@4sight.org.uk](mailto:tara.beesley@4sight.org.uk) (Mon -Fri, 9am-5pm)

#### **Sight Care Advisor support:**

Southlands Eye Clinic: Annie Taylor, 01273 446051 / 07858 128312

St Richard's Eye Clinic: Jan Wise, 07947 310651

**Head Office support – 01243 828555.** Monday to Friday, 9am-4pm.

As this is a rapidly changing scenario, the above services may be subject to change at very short notice. For our most up to date information, please check our website [www.4sight.org.uk](http://www.4sight.org.uk), or call us on 01243 828555.

We are working with statutory services, local health & social care organisations in West Sussex and with our national partners in the



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sight loss sector to ensure that we are part of any coordinated strategies to support the most vulnerable people in our communities.

We are monitoring the situation regularly via Public Health England and Government announcements and will provide updates regarding any further changes to our services as the situation develops.

Thank you for your support understanding at this difficult time.

With best wishes

### **The 4Sight Vision Support Team**

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For further information on 'Social Distancing' please follow this link to the Public Health England website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

And for other advice, please follow these links for the latest UK guidance:

- [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/)
- [www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response](http://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response)
- [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england)



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