

Warwickshire
Vision Support



Welcome to Warwickshire Vision Support

“Supporting visually
impaired people in
Warwickshire”

Your local charity for local people

Warwickshire Vision Support is your local charity supporting visually impaired people in Warwickshire.

Our charitable services are only possible thanks to generous individual donations, legacy gifts, trust and foundation grants and corporate donations.

If you would like to support people living with sight loss, please email **enquiries@warwickshire.vision** or call **01926 411331**

About Warwickshire Vision Support

Established in 1911, Warwickshire Vision Support (WVS) is the primary provider of services for people living with sight loss in Warwickshire. In addition to delivering the Visual Impairment Rehabilitation Service on behalf of the Local Authority, we provide a wide range of charitable social and learning-based activities across the county.

We are an independent charity working solely for the benefit of visually impaired people in Warwickshire.

Rehabilitation and Registration Services

WVS has a Service Level Agreement with Warwickshire County Council to deliver Rehabilitation and Registration Services to people living with sight loss in Warwickshire.

In the next few weeks, one of our Rehabilitation Officers will call you to discuss what support is available to meet your particular needs.

Our Rehabilitation Officers can help you to adjust to living with your sight condition by supporting you to rebuild your skills and confidence.

This may include:

- Getting out and about safely and using public transport - including the use of mobility aids, learning routes to and from key locations and how to understand and interpret sensory street infrastructure.
- Building confidence and moving safely around your home - addressing issues such as effective lighting and maximising your remaining vision.
- Health and safety in the home, particularly when cooking and making hot drinks including the use of everyday household appliances.
- Our Rehabilitation Officers will also introduce you to specialist equipment. We will give you unbiased advice about what equipment might be of benefit to you to suit your lifestyle.
- Support with correspondence and communication. This may include the use of magnifiers to help with reading and the use of telephones and assistive technology.

WVS maintains the Register of Blind and Partially Sighted People in Warwickshire on behalf of the County Council.

“My confidence and ability grows with every session”

It is not mandatory for you to join the register but it can help you qualify for benefits and concessions. To be registered, you will need a Certificate of Visual Impairment (CVI) signed by a Consultant Ophthalmologist.

Charitable Services

Our charitable services are there to give you the support and information you need. We try to ensure that our services are spread across Warwickshire so that you can access them at your convenience.

You will be given specific information about which services best suit your needs by your Rehabilitation Officer but you can always call our helpline on **01926 411331** for more information.

Membership

No Membership is required to receive the Rehabilitation Service or to visit a Vision Support Centre or Advice Desk. These services are open to all people living with sight loss.

We ask those who wish to access our Clubs and Home Visiting services to become a member of Warwickshire Vision Support. There are two levels of membership

- Voting Membership is for those who want to participate in the governance of the Charity. To become a Voting Member simply sign a Declaration Form stating that in the unlikely event of the charity declaring bankruptcy, you will pay a sum of no more than £1.00. Carers and volunteers can apply to become Voting Members. However in our bid to be user-led, at least 75% of Voting Members must be visually impaired.
- Ordinary Membership is for those who just want to access our clubs and Home Visitor Service. There is no charge for membership.

Data Protection

We want you to receive the right information in the right format at the right time. However we also understand that you do not want to be inundated with unwanted correspondence.

When you first request a service from WVS, we will ask you what type of information you would like to receive from us.

We will never share your information with a 3rd party without your express consent

Service Costs

As a charity, we try to make our services free at the point of delivery. However, where services require significant resources, for example, transport to attend clubs, we may make a small charge. You will be informed about any costs before a service is provided.

Vision Support Centres

We host four weekly Vision Support Centres in Leamington Spa, Nuneaton, Rugby and Stratford-upon-Avon. Open to the general public for two hours each week the Support Centres provide access to advice and information; a chance to see and use some of the most useful household equipment; receive IT training, or attend a magnifier assessment from our Rehab Team. The Centres also host exhibitions from equipment suppliers and invite presentations from guest speakers who broaden the spectrum of information available. With light refreshments available, you can relax, get the chance to make new friends and to share your experiences to help others.

We have developed a 'pop-up' support centre model for North Warwickshire which we hope to extend to remote parts of the county.

Home Visitor Service

The Home Visitor Service is available to all members of Warwickshire Vision Support - although there may be a waiting list in your area. We are currently supporting about 100 people in their homes. This Service can help you to maintain your independence and reduce the level of isolation you may feel - our volunteers can read correspondence, books or newspapers; manage "use-by" dates on food in the fridge or help you to organise your food cupboards.

Although perhaps of most importance is the social support we all need.

"The Home Visitor Service helps me keep control of my affairs"

Clubs

We run 14 Clubs across Warwickshire.

The clubs provide entertainment and support to members who have limited opportunity to get out to meet friends. Each club develops its own social network offering a friendly face, a listening ear and a sense of belonging.

Volunteers provide subsidised transport to and from the club thus ensuring that even those living in more

remote locations can still access our services. We have Clubs in:

Alcester
Atherstone
Coleshill
Henley-in-Arden
Kenilworth
Nuneaton
Leamington Spa
Leamington (Bowls)
Rugby (3 clubs)

Shipston-on-Stour
Southam
Stratford-upon-Avon

“Ilovetogetoutofthe
house-Theclubismy
social lifeline”

IT4U

IT4U enables you to harness the power of digital technology and the Internet to make it easier for you to manage your affairs and keep control over those important decisions.

You can “try-before-you-buy” a wide range of smart phones and tablets so that you can assess which device best suits your needs, you sight condition and your pocket.

Training is largely 1:1 and based on your own personal learning goals.

“Technologycan
beliberatingand
saveyoutimeand
money”

Eye Clinic Advice Desks

We understand that supporting someone early in their eye care journey can help build the confidence and skills that really make a difference. We have established Advice Desks at all the eye clinics in Warwickshire to ensure that everyone has access to information and support when they need it most.

Magazine

Warwickshire Vision is the only county-wide magazine for visually impaired people in Warwickshire. Published three times per annum, it is available in large print, email, electronic download from our website and high quality digital audio formats.

Warwickshire Vision contains a range of articles, special interest stories and information about our services.

Why not visit your local Vision Support Centre?

Leamington	Every Monday 10 am - 12 noon
Stratford-upon-Avon	Every Tuesday 10 am - 12 noon
Rugby	Every Wednesday 10 am - 12 noon
Nuneaton	Every Thursday 10 am - 12 noon
North Warwickshire & remote areas	Pop-Up Events at multiple locations. Call 01926 411331 for details

For venue and programme details please visit
our website at www.warwickshire.vision or call
01926 411331

For more information call
01926 411331



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