

# Newsline

Issue 1 - August 2016

vista

Improving lives of people with sight loss

Welcome to our new printed version of Newsline. In this issue we will be focusing on Vista's achievements over the last year, ahead of the Annual General Meeting this September. If you have any feedback that you would like to share with us, please call **0116 249 8839** or email [marketing@vistablind.org.uk](mailto:marketing@vistablind.org.uk).



## Notice of AGM

This year our Annual General Meeting is taking place on Thursday 29 September, 2pm at the New Walk Museum, Leicester. Join us on the day to hear about our work over the last year, share your views on how you would like our organisation to develop, and meet staff, members and fellow supporters. To confirm your attendance, please contact us on **0116 249 0909** or email [info@vistablind.org.uk](mailto:info@vistablind.org.uk).

## Deafblind Service celebrates 20th anniversary

Our Deafblind Reablement Service, which supports people with a dual sensory impairment, is celebrating its 20th anniversary.

Our highly trained staff provide vital support, and aim to teach mobility and communication skills so that people with dual sensory loss can remain as independent and active as possible.

Since starting as a trial 20 years ago, Deafblind Reablement has grown into a fully-fledged service. Lynda has been supported by the service since it first started, said:

“Vista’s support has given me the confidence to access the community. It is a circle of independence, confidence, assertiveness and self-respect.”

“I cannot imagine life without the service – I would be a very different person to who I am now. With the support of someone who understands dual sensory loss, I can make informed choices in my own time.”

For more information, visit [www.vistablind.org.uk/deafblind](http://www.vistablind.org.uk/deafblind)



## Eye screening in primary schools

This year we have developed and launched a pilot programme in two primary schools in Leicester to raise awareness about eye health with young children and their parents, and carry out eye screenings. This is something that does not currently happen in Leicester or Leicestershire, so is both an exciting and vital project for us to undertake.

We have also secured three year funding from BBC Children in Need to continue our children and young people’s services.

For more information, visit [www.vistablind.org.uk/cyp](http://www.vistablind.org.uk/cyp)

## Vision Pioneer Awards

In June, our Family Support Officer Paula Varney was crowned Professional of the Year (Children and Young People) at the Vision Pioneer Awards, which celebrates the outstanding work of professionals in the eye health and sight loss sectors across the UK. Naomi Bell, Eye Clinic Liaison Officer based in the Leicester Royal Infirmary Eye Clinic, was also a finalist in the Professional of the Year (Adults) category.

Paula said: "I'm absolutely delighted - the fact that Naomi and I were both named as finalists in these national awards was already a great achievement, and to be crowned the winner was the icing on the cake. I cannot take all the credit, as it's thanks to the amazing team I work with that we're able to provide this valuable service."



## Mobile Support Service

Over the last twelve months, our Mobile Support Service has travelled to over 200 Leicestershire county locations and made over 70 visits to Rutland villages in order to spread the word about preventing avoidable sight loss. We have engaged with over 450 people, with 275 of these not previously known to us.

We have also begun touring around Leicester city centre. For dates and locations, visit [www.vistablind.org.uk/mobilesupport](http://www.vistablind.org.uk/mobilesupport)

## Vista Shop

Our Vista Shop on Hotel Street, Leicester will be relocating in December. We will keep you updated and let you know the new location in the next few months.

Focus on...

# New Wycliffe Home



## **New Wycliffe Home crowned Care Home of the Year**

At the start of 2016, we were very pleased to find out our New Wycliffe Home had been awarded Care Home of the Year at the Leicester Mercury's Carer of the Year Awards. Two of the Home's employees were also finalists – Jayne Jackson as Dementia Carer of the Year, and Susan Hough for the Supporting Independence Award.

To find out more about our residential homes for people with sight loss and with dementia, visit [www.vistablind.org.uk/residential](http://www.vistablind.org.uk/residential)

## Charity partnership with Design Studio Architects

Over the last few months we have been developing a charity partnership with local company Design Studio Architects. Using their skills we have been able to create a fantastic new living space at New Wycliffe Home, for a fraction of the cost.

The new open plan lounge and dining area includes a range of furnishings and decorations, designed to generate nostalgia and help people with dementia to feel more familiar in their surroundings.

It also has several smaller seating and dining areas to create a more comfortable setting, where residents can relax in an armchair or eat a meal side by side.



## Butterfly Garden launch

A new garden specifically designed to meet the needs of older people with sight loss and dementia has been unveiled at our New Wycliffe Home.

The Butterfly Garden follows on from the launch of the Home's Butterfly Lounge last year, a multifunctional living space that has made the home a Department of Health "Beacon Site" for improving dementia care.



## Vista website

In April we launched our new website, which we have redesigned to make more accessible and improve the functionality.

We have also worked to improve the content, and have added new features such as our new case study section, to share stories of people we support and those who work to help us.

Browse through the new website now at [www.vistablind.org.uk](http://www.vistablind.org.uk)

## Charity shops

Last summer, we opened our first two charity shops in Oakham and Loughborough, with the aim to raise the profile of Vista in our local high streets, and generate income for the charity. Look out for new shops opening this year.

For more information, visit [www.vistablind.org.uk/shops](http://www.vistablind.org.uk/shops)



## Consultation of services

We have carried out extensive consultations into children and young people's services, employment and social groups, in order to help us to design and fund services which really meet the needs of the people we support. We will continue this consultation work in the year ahead and keep you informed of the results.

## Fundraising challenges

Almost anything you enjoy doing can be an opportunity to fundraise for Vista. From running a marathon, to sky diving or holding a charity bake sale, the possibilities are endless.

This year we have already had several fundraisers take on exciting challenges in aid of the charity including the London Marathon, the legendary Suffering obstacle race event, and the ancient Camino de Santiago trail.

There are still more challenges to get involved in, such as the Three Peaks challenge, the Ben Nevis trek, and the Leicester Marathon. If you would like to take part, or have an idea of your own, our fundraising team would love to hear from you and will be on hand to help you achieve your target.

For more information, visit [www.vistablind.org.uk/fundraising](http://www.vistablind.org.uk/fundraising)

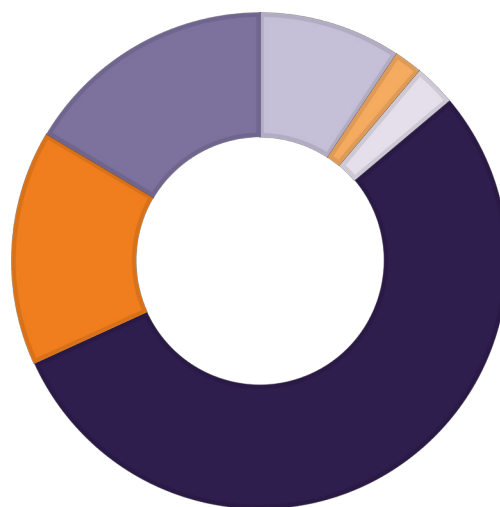


# Summarised Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2016

## Income 2016 (£000's)

- Voluntary income - 695
- Retail trading - 138
- Investment & other income - 205
- Residential services - 4,079
- Community services - 1,147
- Leicester Ageing Together - 1,174

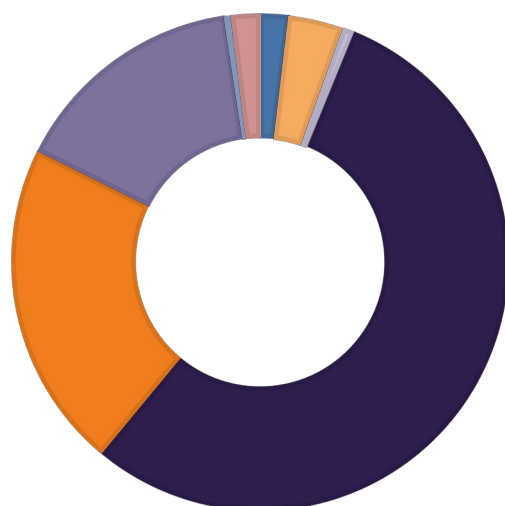
**Total income - 7,438**



## Expenditure 2016 (£000's)

- Fundraising costs - 138
- Retail trading costs - 263
- Investment management & other costs - 76
- Residential services - 4,056
- Community services - 1,430
- Leicester Ageing Together - 1,208
- Governance costs - 33
- Past service pension costs - 138

**Total expenditure - 7,342**



	2016 (£000's)	2015 (£000's)
<b>Net income</b>	96	105
Loss on sale of investment property	(96)	259
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	(44)	(386)
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	(44)	(22)
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>		
Fund balances brought forward at 1 April	5,841	5,524
Fund balances carried forward at 31 March	<b>5,797</b>	<b>5,841</b>

**A full copy of the annual report and financial statements for 2015/2016 is available upon request.**

*At time of printing, these figures had not been approved by the Trustees*