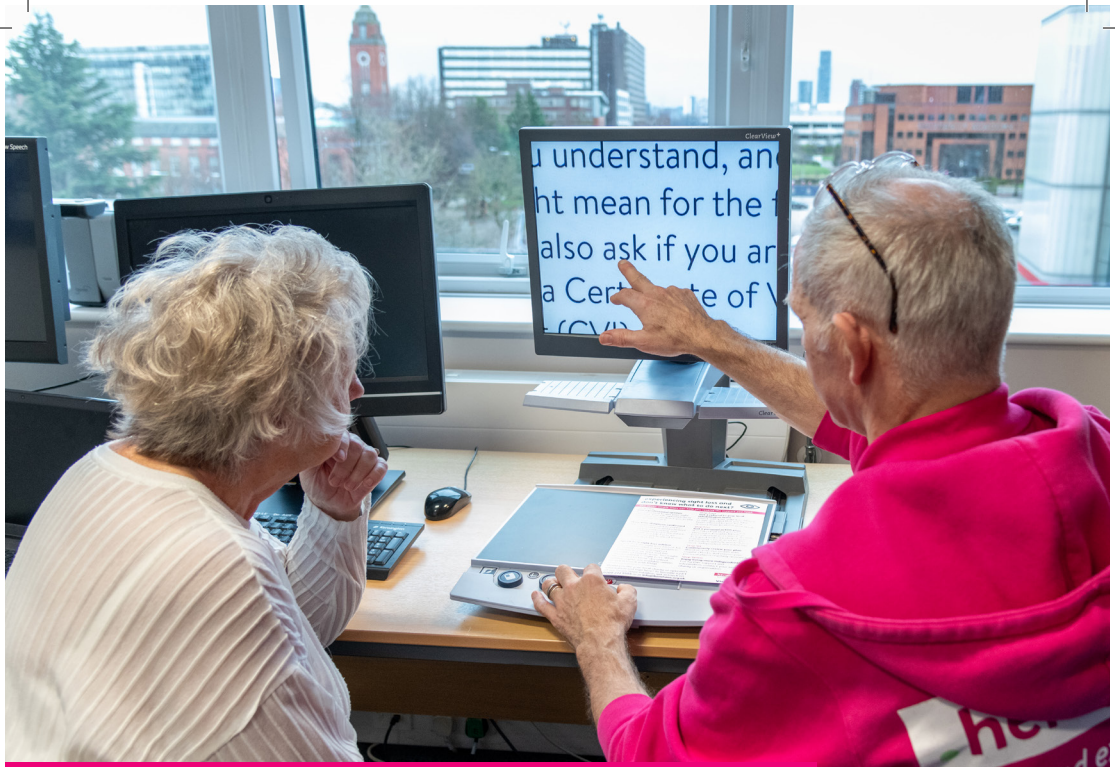


community services & knowledge village

Henshaws in the community

supporting people with sight loss
to live more independently

.henshaws
beyond expectations

about us

We are a North West sight loss charity offering a range of services to provide visually impaired people with an improved quality of life.

We work with people of all ages living with sight loss and a range of other disabilities. We aim to empower them to take steps to change their lives for the better.

We do this through offering a bespoke package of support, activities and training which are tailor-made to the needs of each person.

Our friendly and experienced staff and volunteers are passionate and committed to delivering valuable services that change lives.

how can we help you?

Our First Step Team can provide you with specialist information and advice as well as emotional and practical support, to help you overcome everyday challenges and take your next steps.

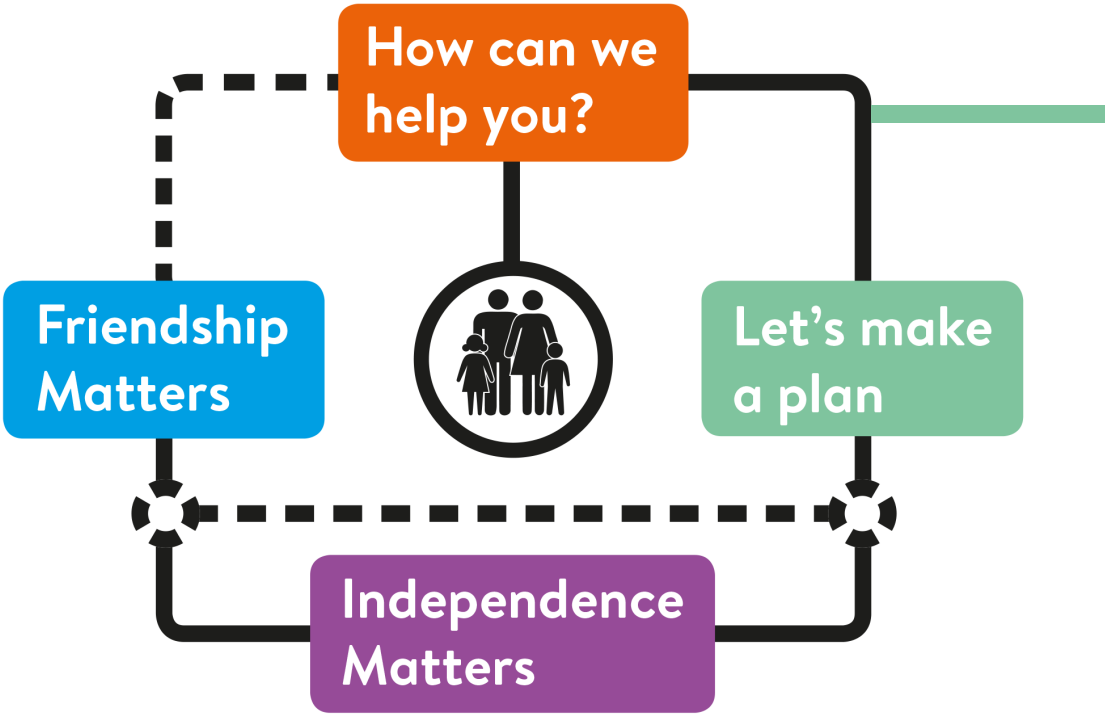
Contact us for more information
0300 222 5555

We offer a Patient Support Service for providing someone to talk to in confidence, a link with medical staff, medical information explained in a clear way and advice on local services, aids and equipment.

In addition, we can signpost you to other relevant organisations who may be able to help you.

how can we help you?

pathway to independence



let's make a plan

"I was so worried about losing my vision and when the hospital referred me for some technology support I was a bit sceptical, but this has been so useful. Your support has made such a difference."

Adele

Our knowledgeable enablement team can help you with information, advice and guidance to make sure you can access the most appropriate support. We work together to assess your needs and make informed choices to build your confidence, independence and resilience.

Our team will also develop a personalised support plan with you to ensure a smooth transition onto one of our programmes or a relevant one provided by one of our partners.

let's make a plan

independence matters

We empower people to build confidence and independence through our Living Well with Sight Loss course. This course offers information, advice and guidance to make living with sight loss easier.

Throughout these practical and engaging sessions, participants can develop a variety of life skills and build resilience. Course participants also benefit hugely from peer support and meeting other people also living with sight loss.

Sessions can include cooking tips, safety in the home, assistive aids advice, equipment demonstrations and guidance on transport.

“I’m very grateful for Josh’s support. I wasn’t happy or confident going outside alone during and after lockdown, but with Josh’s support, our walks reminded me of my journeys and now I’m confident travelling alone to meet friends and am really happy.”

Hadisa

independence matters

. pathway to independence

Enabling people of all ages living with sight loss and a range of other disabilities to make informed choices about their future.

what else do we offer?

Training for organisations

We deliver training and consultancy support to help your business or organisation support people with a visual impairment.

Knowledge Village

A place to share our expertise with those experiencing or working with sight loss, no matter where you live.

Find our online resources at **www.henshaws.org.uk**

A Pathway for all ages

Our Pathway is designed to support people of all ages including families where a child is experiencing sight loss.

friendship matters

"I can't praise Henshaws enough! They get top marks from me. Nothing is too much trouble for them."

Geoff

Meet new people and make friends in our popular social groups. With a programme of activities from coffee drop ins, tech groups to walking outdoors, there is something for everyone.

Our social support groups help to reduce the loneliness that can be experienced by people with sight loss.

We want to help you build a network of support through meeting people with similar lived experiences.

Our activities can help you on your sight loss journey.

friendship matters

children & young people

Our Children and Young People's team specialise in working closely with children and young people with sight loss and their families. Some may also have complex needs and additional disabilities. Considering the needs of the child or young person is at the heart of what we do whilst ensuring that we work closely with professionals to provide a holistic support approach.

Services include – information, advice and guidance. This can include I Can Do It, our successful independence course; weekend and school holiday activities; regular groups and clubs; parent forums; and sight loss education in educational settings.

We also run different events and activities throughout the year, including annual Christmas parties, fun days out at places such as the youth zones, cycling tracks, skiing, kayaking, visiting the farm and theatre.

"Thank you so much. I began using eye drops earlier this year and I did not receive any training. I asked questions, and all I received was a quizzical look. Your Knowledge Village video answered the questions, again thank you!

YouTube comment

knowledge village

Our award-winning Knowledge Village is an online resource which includes useful videos, eBooks and blogs offering information on living with sight loss.

Covering topics such as reviews of the latest assistive technology, to tips for communicating with a visually impaired person, and how to safely cross the road, the online resource is growing all the time, and you are sure to find something useful for youself, your family member or someone you support as a healthcare professional.

The Knowledge Village is available on our website **www.henshaws.org.uk**

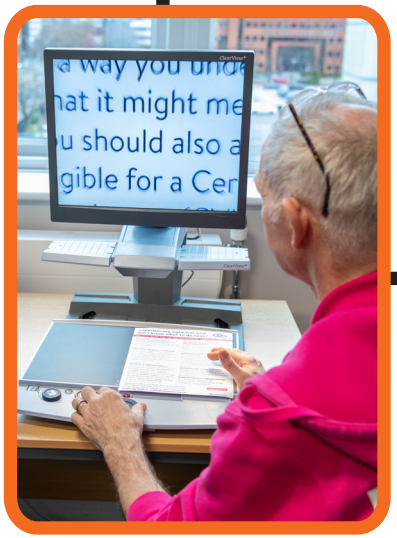
digital enablement

Henshaws digital enablement team give you the skills and confidence to use essential online services. We can help you access books, newspapers, letters, and product labels, and help you stay in touch with your friends and family. Our aim is to find the right solution for you, no matter what your sight level, age, or technical ability is. Our digital support is for anyone with sight loss at any age or level of knowledge and ability.

There are a wide range of products and solutions that can help you perform everyday activities that will enable you to maintain your independence and quality of life. Through a personal one-to-one chat, we'll assess what your needs are and make suggestions based on the best solutions for you.
These may include;

- Optical or electronic magnifiers
- Smartphone and tablet devices
- Specialist text-to-speech devices
- Accessibility software for desktop computers and laptops

digital enablement



Following an informal assessment, we may be able to offer complimentary one-to one training sessions in person or over video call. We also offer some non-tech solutions for those living with macular degeneration, as some people can learn to use any undamaged parts of their central vision.

"I'm going to be able to shop on my own again. I had no idea how much I could do with my phone. That's amazing."

Elizabeth

Get in touch to book a session with our digital enablement team by emailing
info@henshaws.org.uk

or ring
0300 222 5555

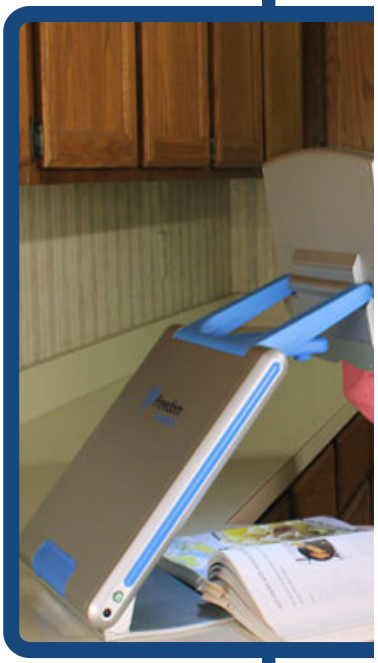
digital enablement

technology partners

Our technology partners are the UK's leading providers of Blind and Low Vision hardware and software. They supply the tools to enable those who are visually impaired or blind to reach their potential, whilst being there to support you along the way.

Assistive technology is developing at a fast pace, with the quality and performance of devices being far greater to those just a few years old.

Sight and Sound Technology and Optelec are two of the best companies in providing these products, with decades of experience and knowledge they are sure to have a solution fit for you.



"My Ruby XL has changed my life. I simply place my letters underneath it and can make things bigger and smaller, but also change the colours. It's fantastic for restaurants and when I'm shopping."

sightandsound.co.uk

lowvisionshop.co.uk

Our technology partners are well established and are known for excellent customers service. Services they offer, include:

- Home demonstrations - including product training
- Money back guarantee
- Finance options
- Lifetime technical support

Solutions offered by our technology partners cover all aspects of low vision, they include:

- Optical Magnifiers
- Electronic Magnifiers
- Text-to-speech
- Software

All of this technology is simple, easy to use and is purpose built. Our digital engagement team can also advise you what equipment may be beneficial for your needs.

technology partners

Get in touch

Please contact us to take the first step on your journey to independence.

We are here to help, whatever your needs are.

As a charity, Henshaws continues to provide these valuable services largely through generous donations. Please consider donating to help people living with sight loss go beyond expectations at **www.henshaws.org.uk/donate**

info@henshaws.org.uk | 0300 222 5555

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beyond expectations