**Support 4 Employment for Blind and Partially Sighted People in Essex**

**Support 4 Sight has been awarded further funding from The National Lottery Community Fund for its award-winning Support 4 Employment service.**

Over the past five years, Support 4 Sight’s employment service, Support 4 Employment, has engaged with over 300 blind and partially sighted people across Essex, building confidence and skills to enable people to make informed choices about their working life and career possibilities. During this time, it has assisted 40% of those people to gain or retain employment, as well as supporting people into volunteering opportunities.

In recognition of this award-winning service (which won the Visionary Connect Award in 2022) and its impact on blind and partially sighted working age people we are delighted to announce that we have secured a further five years funding from The National Lottery Community Fund, the largest community funder in the UK.

**Support 4 Employment Manager, Zsuzsanna Hybel says,**

****“I am very pleased this service has been awarded another 5 years funding from The National Lottery Community Fund. With employment rates for blind and partially sighted people still at only 27% nationally, providing employment-related support to vison impaired people is an essential service. I welcome the opportunity to grow the service it to its full potential and ensure that every blind and partially sighted person in Essex can make an informed choice regarding their career opportunities.”

Photo: Zsuzsanna Hybel, Employment Manager

**Helen Bushell, Head of Regional Funding for London, the South East and East of England at The National Lottery Community Fund, said:** “Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Support 4 Sight’s staff, and National Lottery players, this funding will make a big difference to blind and partially sighted people in Essex.

“Our ambition is to take an equity-based approach to our work, investing most in places, people and communities experiencing poverty, disadvantage and discrimination. We’re delighted that our funding is being used to support a community through employment opportunities, helping people to fulfil their potential.

“We look forward to reaching more people, more employers and addressing the barriers to employment that blind and partially sighted people face – creating more resilient, inclusive communities.”

For more information please contact Zsuzsanna on 07950 945119 or [zsuzsanna@support4sight.org.uk](mailto:zsuzsanna@support4sight.org.uk)

Or visit <https://www.support4sight.org.uk/how-we-can-help-you/support-4-employment/>

National Lottery players raise over £30 million each week for good causes across the UK. Thanks to them, last year The National Lottery Community Fund awarded over half a billion pounds (£615.4 million) of life-changing funding to communities across the UK.

To find out more visit [www.TNLCommunityFund.org.uk](http://www.TNLCommunityFund.org.uk)

**Notes to editors:**

**About Support 4 Sight**

Support4Sight supports people in mid and west Essex coming to terms with losing their sight and coping long-term with the social, emotional and practical issues they face living with sight loss.

We provide information, advice, guidance, emotional support and practical help to those living with blindness, partial sight and reduced vision, and their families and carers in Uttlesford and mid/west Essex. This includes information and demonstrations of assistive technology and equipment; advice and assistance around benefits; an employment programme; home visits; outings and phone/in person befriending services; coffee mornings across the region and regular events for people to socialise, network, gain information and take part in activities. We operate a low vision clinic and an Eye Clinic Liaison Officer (ECLO) service in Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow. We produce the weekly Uttlesford Talking News service.

Many of our services like the befriending service and coffee mornings are run by or with volunteers and peers. We regularly offer training to skill up our volunteers and enable people to become peer mentors, so they can use their lived experience to support others with sight loss.

We also provide sight loss awareness training to local employers to assist them in serving and employing people with visual impairment, as well as ensuring that the voice of people living with sight loss is heard on local strategic and planning boards.

We provide support to approx. 1,000 people annually.

We have 6 full-and part-time staff and 53 volunteers. Approximately 30% of our volunteers, staff and trustees are visually impaired and bring lived experience and peer support to our work.

[www.support4sight.org.uk](http://www.support4sight.org.uk)

[Support 4 Sight (@support\_4\_sight) • Instagram photos and videos](https://www.instagram.com/support_4_sight?fbclid=IwAR0RrtJiR3kmuZw0H-Sy4ho1m3auvMKtM12na1tKwpKVyH64G8Saa2Iv6q8)

[Support 4 Sight | Chelmsford | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/Support4Sight)

[Home / X (twitter.com)](https://twitter.com/home)

[Support 4 Sight | LinkedIn](https://uk.linkedin.com/company/support-4-sight)

**About The National Lottery Community Fund**

We are the largest non-statutory community funder in the UK – community is at the heart of our purpose, vision and name.

We support activities that create resilient communities that are more inclusive and environmentally sustainable and that will strengthen society and improve lives across the UK.

We’re proud to award money raised by National Lottery players to communities across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and to work closely with government to distribute vital grants and funding from key government programmes and initiatives.

As well as responding to what communities tell us is important to them, our funding is focused on four key missions, supporting communities to:

1. Come together

2. Be environmentally sustainable

3. Help children and young people thrive

4. Enable people to live healthier lives.

Thanks to the support of National Lottery players, we distribute around £500 million a year through 10,000+ grants and plan to invest over £4 billion of funding into communities by 2030.

We’re privileged to be able to work with the smallest of local groups right up to UK-wide charities, enabling people and communities to bring their ambitions to life.

National Lottery players raise over £30 million each week for good causes throughout the UK.

Since The National Lottery began in 1994, £47 billion has been raised and more than 670,000 individual grants have been made across the UK - the equivalent of around 240 National Lottery grants in every UK postcode district.

[Website](http://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/) │[Twitter](https://twitter.com/TNLComFund) │[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/TNLCommunityFund) │[Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/TNLCommunityFund)