

From: "Tina Mansfield" <tina.mansfield@4Sight.org.uk>
Sent: 8/6/2026 10:06:48 AM
To: "Greg Burt" <parishclerk@cocking.org>
Cc:
Subject: FW: 4Sight Vision Support

Good morning Greg,

I hope that you are all well, and enjoying a proper summer! I am writing to inquire if you were able to share the above letter with your councillors, and if there was anything else that we can do to support the people living in your parish. Please do get in touch if I can help, or if you would like a member of the team to come and talk to you about our work

Tina

From: Tina Mansfield
Sent: 23 April 2026 14:59
To: Greg Burt <parishclerk@cocking.org>
Subject: 4Sight Vision Support

Good afternoon Greg,

Please find attached an update letter about the clients we support in the parish of Cocking. I hope that you will be able to share this with your fellow councillors at your next meeting. I have also attached our most recent newsletter which goes to the clients who wish to receive it, with useful information and updates within the eye health sector. If there is any way we can further support the people living in your parish, or you would like a member of our team to come and talk to you about the services we offer, then please do get in touch.

Many Thanks

Tina

Tina Mansfield

Fundraising and Communications Officer
01243 838001

Sponsored Walk

Saturday 16th May, 10am

Step forward for sight and help us to help blind and partially sighted people living in West Sussex, through our annual fundraising walk around the Angmering Park Estate.

Contact us to find out more and reserve your place, or click to visit our website.



**01243 828
555**

www.4sight.org.uk



**The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service**

4Sight Vision Support, 36 Victoria Drive, Bognor Regis, West Sussex,
PO21 2TE

Charity No: 1075447 Company No: 03740647

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Tina Mansfield
Fundraising & Communications Officer



SEE . Support . Enable . Evolve .

Supporting and engaging people across West Sussex who are
blind or partially Sighted

Enquiries: 01243 828555

Fundraising: 01243 838001

36 Victoria Drive, Bognor Regis, West Sussex, PO21 2TE

www.4sight.org.uk

Charity No: 1075447 Company No: 03740647



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16th April 2026

Dear Greg Burt – Clerk to the Council

On behalf of the Board, staff, volunteers and clients of 4Sight Vision Support, I would like to thank Cocking Parish Council for generously supporting our work over the past years, most recently in 2025 with a grant of £100. Your support enabled us to help one person in your Parish, helping them to continue leading positive independent lives, whilst living with sight loss. I am writing today to ask if Cocking Parish Councillors would consider supporting our work again.

We receive no Government support and rely solely on voluntary donations to deliver our services **free of charge** to our clients. We currently support two residents from your parish who are blind or partially sighted, that's an increase of one person or 50% since we last applied to you. Your support would directly impact them. Our aim is that every person with sight loss is aware of, can access and benefit from 4Sight Vision Support's services, so that we can be there for them when it matters most.



The current challenges

Financial difficulties

People continue to battle with increased living costs. People who are blind or partially sighted continue to experience disproportionate challenges:

- They are more reliant on devices (additional lighting in their homes, Alexa to help them manage their everyday tasks, etc.) which are now costing more to run
- They are more reliant on benefits than the general population; only one in four people who are registered blind or partially sighted of working age are in employment
- The process of claiming Government benefits is complex, forms are often lengthy and paper based

With more and more of our clients being pushed into poverty, having to make impossible decisions about what to cut back on and at increasing risk of a decline in their mental health, access to the correct financial support has never been more important.



01243 828 555

enquiries@4sight.org.uk

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The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service



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REGULATOR**

Registered Company No. 03740647
Registered Charity No. 1075447

“

I wanted to say a big thank you to you all, as what you have done for me has given me the confidence to go back out again.

”

For three years now, one of our most in demand services has been for support with accessing benefits and completing complex benefits forms/assessments. In the last year we provided 202 hours of support, just on this topic alone, and we expect this level of demand to continue.

Financial pressures also affect us as an organisation, our operating costs are going up at a much quicker rate than our income – our supporters have less to give and the competition for funding from trusts and foundations has increased.

Increasing demand

There are an estimated 36,200 people living with sight loss or low vision in West Sussex, and our county has the largest incidence of age-related sight loss in the UK, with over 6,500 people registered as blind or partially sighted (RNIB Sight loss Data). RNIB projections indicate this number will rise by 22% by 2032.

On average we receive 50 new referrals each month. We are currently supporting under 3,800 people.

We continue to be a small team. We have lengthy waiting lists for some of our services:

- Accessible Technology – for our Advisor to make initial contact with clients, the wait time is 2 weeks, if a face-to-face visit is needed to support the client further then they will have to wait again (a further 3-4 weeks).
- Benefits Support – the wait time is currently approximately 10-12 weeks. This type of support is often time sensitive, with paperwork needing to be returned within 3-4 weeks.
- Low Vision – we have 9 people waiting for initial contact about this service, this happens within a week. If a visit is required, this typically takes place within 3-4 weeks.

Our Vision Support Advisors work across our services, so if their support is required in one area then there is a knock-on effect to our other services/waiting lists.

Please help us to continue to be there for our clients:

We receive no Government support and rely solely on voluntary donations to deliver our services **free of charge** to our growing client base, which currently stands at just under 3,800; two of which live in your Parish.

We are dedicated to delivering both emotional and practical support at some of the most critical junctures in our clients' lives. Our 1:1 support includes:

- **Emotional and Practical Support:** Navigating diagnosis, our team provides compassionate support, helping clients understand their conditions and what they mean for their futures.



- **Individual Assessments:** Tailored assessments to identify the tools and techniques necessary for independent living, such as magnification, lighting and products to help with everyday tasks like reading, taking medication, shopping or cooking.
- **Benefit Navigation:** We support clients through the process of accessing financial help – be it Personal Independence Payments, Attendance Allowance or Blue Badge – ensuring they receive the support they are entitled to.
- **Technology Support:** In a world increasingly reliant on digital communication, we equip clients with skills to communicate effectively while enhancing their levels of independence through digital inclusion.
- **Peer Support and Social Connection:** We offer opportunities for peer support, giving clients someone to talk to and helping them connect with others. By sharing experiences and supporting each other, individuals can build meaningful relationships and reduce isolation.
- **Accessible Information and Guidance:** We provide appropriate, up-to-date information, advice and guidance in formats tailored to our clients' needs – including large print, audio, email and Braille – ensuring everyone can access vital resources.
- **Bi-Monthly Accessible Newsletter:** Our newsletter, available in six accessible formats, keeps clients informed about sector developments, upcoming leisure and social activities, changes in technology, eye health advice, helpful tips and other topical news.

A donation of:

£85 would enable us to support 1 client for a year

£170 would enable us to support 2 clients for a year

Our Chief Executive, Kirstie Thomas, would welcome the opportunity to speak at a forthcoming council meeting, to explain our work in more detail and discuss how we may support more people living with sight loss in your Parish. If this would be of interest to you, please email me: tina.mansfield@4sight.org.uk or phone: 01243 838 001 to discuss this further.

We are dedicated to delivering both emotional and practical support at some of the most critical junctures in our clients' lives. Our 1:1 support includes:

Yours sincerely,



**Tina Mansfield
Fundraising and
Communications Officer**

