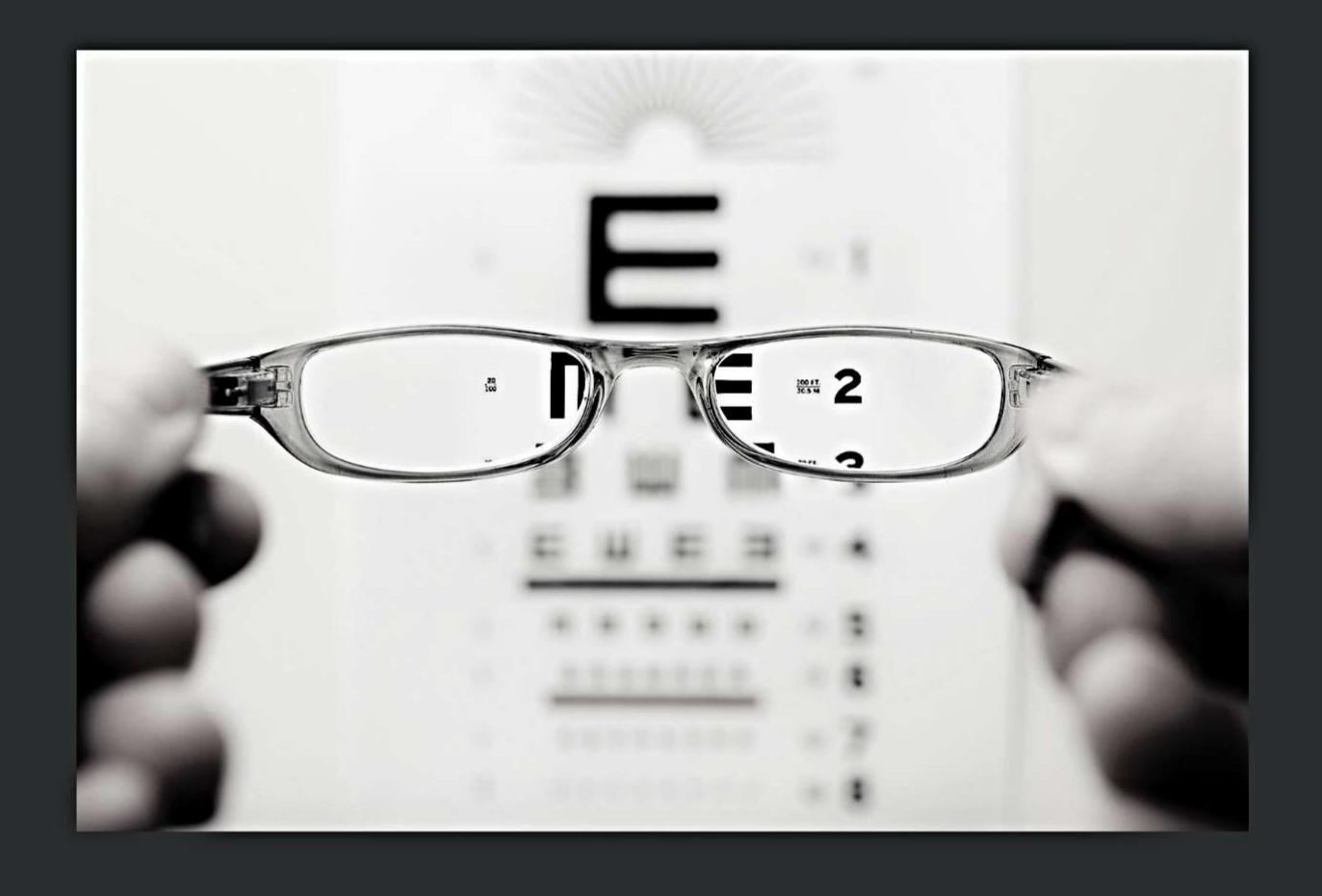
### **Manx Care Low Vision Clinics**

We work with Manx Care to run monthly Low Vision Clinics. This involves services associated with functional vision clinics, lighting and magnification assessment, support, and aspects of re-training to help people do many of things they did before encountering the challenges of sight loss.



# Local Services, Benefits Information Hub

Our staff are able to offer advice and support for people needing to fill out a form or apply for a benefit. We regularly help members with bus passes, parking badges, and other administrative tasks.



#### The Freedom Field

The Freedom Field offers multiple opportunities for therapeutic assistance, not just for the blind and visually impaired community, but for professionals working with vulnerable people.

The Field consists of a reflective space called **The Sanctuary**, which focuses on the benefits outdoor spaces can bring to people experiencing difficult times in their lives; **The Freedom Run** offers assistance dog owners a secure space to let their working animals enjoy the rewards of a safe area from some "ruff and tumble"; and **Paws4Thought** is a place for remembering loved ones and pets who have passed away.

The Freedom Field can only be appreciated fully in person. This highly accessible facility offers a huge range of potential therapeutic, leisure and lifestyle activities.

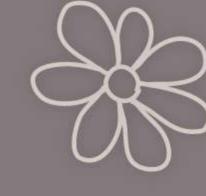












We will be pleased to give you more detail about our services.

To get in touch, please call us on **674727** or email us on **enquiries@sightmatters.im**. We strive to provide the very best services we can to the local blind and visually impaired community.

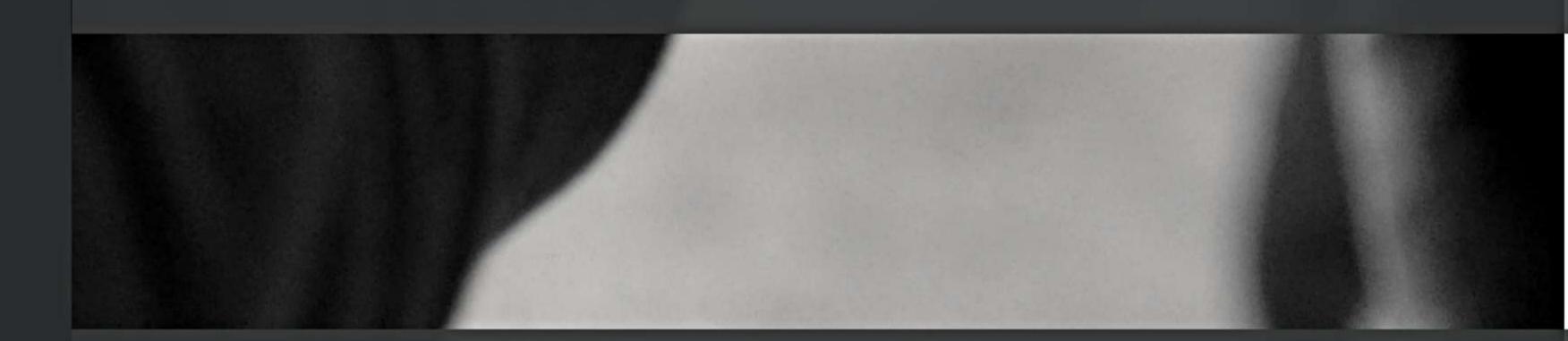
www.sightmatters.im

Corrin Court, Heywood Ave, Onchan IM3 3AP





# What We Do



Manx Blind Welfare Society, Registered Charity No. 132

Sight Matters is devoted to supporting people with sight loss so that they are able to lead the lives they want.

We provide all of our services free at the point of delivery and we do not differentiate on the grounds of circumstance or financial position.

We are a caring **specialist support organisation**. Some of our services operate from our headquarters in Onchan, others, including assessments, can be undertaken in people's homes by staff or volunteers.

# **Becoming A Member**

Referrals can be made in a variety of ways, including:

- directly from individuals;
- from health and social care professionals;
- from third-sector organisations.

The only condition that needs to be met is having a visual impairment. Referrals can be made by making contact with us directly (a referral form is available on our website).

We work closely with providers in the third and public sectors. These working relationships enable us to signpost our members to other agencies who can offer further support, if appropriate.





## **Emotional Support**

Our team are able to talk and listen to members about their concerns, and provide confidential advice, guidance and support. We have mental health first aid trained staff on hand.

## **Activities, Sports and Social Events**

We run a wide range of activities, sports and social events. This includes walking groups, acoustic shooting, short mat bowling, and more. These allow members to stay active and socialise in a fun and safe way.

# **Assistive Equipment**

Our Resource Zone holds an extensive range of assistive equipment for the visually impaired. Our staff are trained to advise people on how to make best use of existing and emerging technologies to support and improve their independence.

#### **Luncheon Clubs**

We operate luncheon clubs three days a week, supported by an all-Island transport service. A nutritious three-course meal is prepared for members by our qualified chef using locally sourced fresh produce.



# Young Persons' Club

We operate a Young Persons' Activity Club once a week out of term time and monthly during school terms. These activities are all designed to develop confidence and independence. Most importantly, they allow our young members to have fun.

# **Audio Library**

We are committed to providing services to reduce isolation; our free audio library, which contains over £100,000 worth of audio books, helps people to re-engage with reading and the enjoyment that only a good book can offer.

#### **Recorded News**

Our recorded news service helps people stay connected with their community. Every week, we send out local news stories read by volunteers and recorded in our studio to a large part of our membership, giving them access to important information that may not be otherwise available.

## Visual Awareness Training

Equality legislation is now firmly established on the Isle of Man. We provide a free-of-charge visual awareness short course, designed to help individuals and organisations understand some of the challenges people with sight loss face and how to cater to the visually impaired community.

# **Member Holidays**

We operate an annual, escorted, off-island holiday for members. During the trip, members take part in a wide range of activities - including daily excursions, going for dinner and visiting a variety of local tourist attractions.