



north east  
**sensory services**

achieving independence for blind & deaf people

**Your Gift to Our Future**

Sonia, who is deaf and relies on hearing aids and lipreading to communicate says that she wouldn't be where she is today without the support of NESS. "When I came to NESS, I was lost, confused, stressed, not sure what to do and with a small baby.

I had lost confidence and couldn't see a future". Sonia was determined that she wanted to give her daughter a better life. With support from NESS, Sonia is now working in a job that she enjoys and feels confident and independent. "NESS gave me the confidence to go to college, to stand up for myself and believe that I could do it.

They helped me to fill in applications for benefits that I was entitled to but didn't know about. They supported me through college and got me work experience."



#### **Contents:**

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"They helped with hearing equipment at home and at work. They have kept in touch and kept encouraging me. NESS has transformed life for me and my daughter - a happy mother means a happy daughter".

**Sonia's Story**

**Our Mission: “Achieving independence for blind and deaf people”.**

**North East Sensory Services supports people with serious sight and/or hearing loss to overcome practical and emotional challenges and achieve independence.”**

## **Our History:**

**In 1879**, NESS started as the Aberdeen Town and County Association for Teaching the Blind in their Homes.

**In 1980**, the organisation became Grampian Society for the Blind.

**In 2010**, our name was changed to North East Sensory Services (NESS) to reflect our new identity as a provider of joint sensory services.

**Today** we support around 6,500 visually and/or hearing impaired people of all ages, their families and carers across Aberdeen city, Aberdeenshire, Moray, Angus and Dundee.

**This area** covers roughly one sixth of the land mass and one tenth of the population of Scotland.



## **Jim's Story**

Jim has volunteered organising our postal library since 2010.

“I send out audio books to people who are blind or partially sighted who are not able to visit our audiobook library. I send out the discs, organise new disc copies, process the returns and address any queries. Audio books are vital to people who are visually impaired, particularly if they are isolated and no longer able to read”, explains Jim.

“Volunteering at NESS is great for me. I’m not able to work because I suffer from depression and anxiety, but volunteering with NESS keeps me busy and so keeps me well. I can come in when I’m able to and take time out when I need it. It gets me up and dressed in the morning, and gets me working, otherwise I’d be sitting doing nothing. The people at NESS are really nice and understand my depression and anxiety”.

**NESS has statutory contracts with four health and social care partnerships to provide social work and rehabilitation support.**

In addition, we also undertake a number of **Added Value Services** funded from charitable and trust funded income. These have been developed to meet what we have identified as our service users' specific and often complex needs, which were not being met by any other provision.

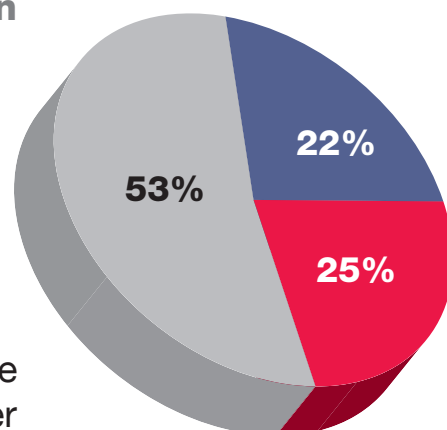
### **How are these vital services funded?**

**Trust and Foundation Grants 53%**

**Community Fundraising and Events 22%**

**Gifts in Wills 25%**

Thanks to your help, we can provide one quarter of the funding for these services through Gifts in Wills – this is equivalent to £120,000 per year.



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**The range of services, products, supports and information are first class.**

### **Our services include:**

**Connect, Include and Support (CIS)**, providing peer support, social and activity groups for socially isolated older people;  
**Young People's Sensory Service (YPSS)**, helping children and young people develop and enhance their confidence, independence and skills;

**Employment Service**, providing support to help people of working age find training or employment, become job ready and either enter or remain in the job market;

**Welfare Service**, assisting people to apply for/sustain benefit entitlements and to avoid financial hardship;

**ICT for all**, offering a wide range of accessible, technology-awareness skills and training;

**Hospital Information Officer**, providing practical and emotional support to individuals and their families at the point of diagnosis;

**Sensory Awareness Training**, raising awareness of the practical, social and emotional impact of sight and/or hearing loss and increasing confidence in those supporting people with sensory impairment;

**Transcription and Recording Services**, enabling us to communicate with our service users in a variety of accessible formats.



**“ Your gift can secure our support for their future ”**

**“ ”**

**The kids love it and feel very included when they're all together doing these activities. We've been so fortunate being members of North East Sensory Services ... we've made brilliant friends and receive great support.**



Charlotte graduated from Robert Gordon's University with a 2.1 Bachelor Degree in Law. Charlotte became actively involved in Disability issues at university, motivated by her own experiences of having to overcome a number of obstacles to complete her education. Charlotte says "NESS has supported me in terms of confidence and opportunity, enabling me to develop and grow as a young deafblind person. Being a part of NESS has allowed me to meet like-minded people who are passionate about inclusion".

Charlotte has the condition Usher Syndrome Type 2 which causes hearing loss from birth. Charlotte grew up relying on hearing aids to communicate. At age 14, she was diagnosed with Usher Syndrome Type 2, which along with the hearing loss causes a reduced field of vision and night blindness.

### **Charlotte's Story**

### **Next Steps:**

We recommend you use a solicitor to help you write your Will. Some solicitors provide a free Will making service during certain months of the year with their normal charge being donated to a charity of your choice.

If you decide to leave a gift in your Will for NESS, please remember to include the following details:

#### **Our Full Name:**

**North East Sensory Services**

(Registered as Grampian Society for the Blind)

**Registered Charity No.: SC009537**

**Registered Company No.: SC155630**

If you would like further information please contact us on:

Tel.: **0345 27 12345**, SMS **07593 102004**

or if you have any further questions please e-mail Lynn our Community Fundraising Co-ordinator at:

**[lynn.batham@nesensoryservices.org](mailto:lynn.batham@nesensoryservices.org)**

Deaf BSL users can contact us through:

**Contact Scotland BSL**

**<https://contactscotland-bsl.org>**

## Information for Solicitors & Executors

To help professionals who are trusted to administer people's Wills and any gifts being left to North East Sensory Services, the following will help you ensure it's definitely for us and that we receive it:

### If the Gift includes:

- Our Registered Charity Number SC 009537
- Our Registered Charity Name – Grampian Society for the Blind
- Our Operational Name – North East Sensory Services (often abbreviated to NESS)
- Any of our Resource Centre addresses:
  - 21 John Street, Aberdeen, AB25 1BT
  - Number 10, 10 Constitution Road, Dundee, DD1 1LL
  - Elizabeth House, 10 Victoria Crescent, Elgin, IV30 1RQ

“ ”

I write in appreciation of the wonderful work done by your Sensory Services. Both my late husband and I have benefitted greatly from your support.

### A Gift may also be for North East Sensory Services if:

- The person who made the will has a history of support from NESS or Grampian Society for the Blind
- Notes made by a Will draftsman when the Will was made that may indicate the person making the will has a connection to charities that support people with sensory loss or severe impairment
- A connection or mention of a local charity supporting deaf and/or blind people



### Paying a Legacy to North East Sensory Services:

- Please send all payments to:
  - Account Name:  
**Grampian Society for the Blind t/a NESS**
  - **Account No.: 00137509**
  - **Sort Code: 80-05-16**
  - Bank Address:  
**Bank of Scotland**  
**48 Upperkirkgate, Aberdeen, AB10 1BA**

### To help us identify the payment:

- Please use reference –  
**“Legacy – (Surname of Deceased)”**

We would be very grateful when you make a Legacy payment if you could send a confirmation e-mail to [lynn.batham@nesensoryservices.org](mailto:lynn.batham@nesensoryservices.org) with the following details:

- Full name of the deceased
- Their last address – to avoid any future mailings, as this can be distressing
- The date of death
- The Executor's name and contact details
- A copy of the Will
- Any information you can about why NESS received this legacy

“ Despite it being very tough and challenging, I was determined to climb Mount Kilimanjaro and raise money for North East Sensory Services (NESS).

It was a once in a lifetime experience and an achievement that I will never forget.

Over the years, NESS have provided me with excellent support in finding employment and providing me all the accessibility tools and equipment I need to do my job.

I would like to thank NESS for all the opportunities they have given me and look forward to facing all the challenges in the future. ”

### Leona's Story



## Our Vision:

**“A Society in which people living with a sensory loss are able to fully participate and contribute to the same level as those without a sensory loss.”**

- One in six of the population has some degree of hearing loss and this number will rise to 1 in 5 in the next 20 years; 57,000 people are severely deaf.
- In Scotland, 7,000 Deaf people use British Sign Language as their first or preferred language.
- One in 30 (188,000 people in Scotland) has a significant sight loss, which rises to 1 in 5 of people over the age of 75. Numbers are expected to double by 2031.
- In Scotland, nearly 3,500 children have a hearing loss, while there are 2,500 children and young people living with a significant sight loss.
- 5,000 people are known to be deafblind and a significant number of older people are living with both a sight loss and hearing loss that significantly affects them day to day.

