# **Living With Usher Syndrome. Video Transcript\***

\*The text attributed to Janette is not audio description since Janette is a sign language user, but rather it describes the internal monologue that Janette is having during the several scenarios illustrated in the video.

**A logo fades into the foreground. The logo says “North East Sensory Services: achieving independence for blind & deaf people. The logo fades out again. White text appears which says, “Video about Usher Syndrome”. A small round window in the middle of the screen appears. We see a man looking directly at the camera. The bottom left-hand side of the screen says, “Tunnel Vision”.**

JANETTE

There's my husband looking at me.

**The window expands and we can now see the entire screen. We see the man holding out his hand towards the camera. The bottom left-hand side of the screen says, “Normal Vision”.**

JANETTE

I didn't see him holding his hand out to me. Is he trying to tell me something?

**A small round window in the middle of the screen appears again. We see the man looking off towards the lefthand side. The bottom left-hand side of the screen says, “Tunnel Vision”. The window expands and we can now see the entire screen. We see the man holding up his hand and waving.**

JANETTE

Oh, he's waving at somebody over there.

**The bottom left-hand side of the screen says, “Normal Vision”. The screen fades into the small round window appearing in the middle of the screen again. We see the man looking directly at the camera. The bottom left-hand side of the screen says, “Tunnel Vision”.**

JANETTE

He's smiling at me....

**The window expands and we can now see the entire screen. We see the man holding out a cup towards the camera. The bottom left-hand side of the screen says, “Normal Vision”.**

JANETTE

I didn't see the cup of tea he is holding out to me!

**The screen fades into the small round window appearing in the middle of the screen again. We see a book splayed open. The bottom left-hand side of the screen says, “Tunnel Vision”.**

JANETTE

I'm just reading this booklet.

**The window expands and we can now see the entire screen. Just next to the right-side of the book, we see the man waving at the camera. The bottom left-hand side of the screen says, “Normal Vision”.**

JANETTE

I didn't see him trying to get my attention.

**The screen fades into the small round window appearing in the middle of the screen again. We see the man gesticulating at the camera, his right arm moving but outside the field of vision. The bottom left-hand side of the screen says, “Tunnel Vision”.**

JANETTE

Is he trying to tell me something?

**The window expands and we can now see the entire screen. We see that the man is pointing towards a dog lying next to him. The bottom left-hand side of the screen says, “Normal Vision”.**

JANETTE

He's telling me the dog is lying next to him.

**The screen fades into the small round window appearing in the middle of the screen again. We see a lawn chair and a table that the camera moves towards. The bottom left-hand side of the screen says, “Tunnel Vision”.**

JANETTE

I'll go and sit in the garden.

**Suddenly the camera pans down and as we see a black dog lying on the ground, slightly in front of the lawn chair.**

JANETTE

I didn't see the dog lying there!

**The window expands, and we can now see the entire screen. We now see both the lawn chair and table set and the dog. The bottom left-hand side of the screen says, “Normal Vision”.**

JANETTE

If I had full sight, I would have seen the dog lying just in front of me.

**The screen fades into the small round window appearing in the middle of the screen again. We are inside a house, and it is quite dark. The camera moves through a room. The bottom left-hand side of the screen says, “Tunnel Vision”.**

JANETTE

As I move into the house, because of the tunnel vision the darker light reduces my vision further making it difficult to see obstacles.

**The window expands and we can now see the entire screen. We now see that the black dog is in the middle of the room, laying on the ground. We see that we are moving through the dining room. The bottom left-hand side of the screen says, “Normal Vision”.**

JANETTE

As the light brightens, it becomes easier to see. This is what I would have seen with full vision.

**The screen fades into the small round window appearing in the middle of the screen again. We in a social situation outdoors, we see several people socialising. The bottom left-hand side of the screen says, “Tunnel Vision”.**

JANETTE

For someone with Usher Type 1, group situations can be very difficult.

**The camera pans around the room and we see the heads of different people.**

JANETTE

Someone with Usher can only see straight in front but can't see around about them. As a sign language user, being able to see what is going on around about helps them to feel part of what is going on. Not being able to see everything can leave the person feeling left out and isolated. It can be difficult to know who to talk to or which conversation to join in with. They might see people in front of them, laughing but not know what they are laughing at. Imagine how that might make you feel? Many people with Usher Syndrome will prefer one to one communication so they can see the person clearly and follow the communication.

**The window expands and we can now see the entire screen. We now see the entire social situation with people milling about and chatting to one another. Some are sat; others are standing. Some are signing to one another; others are speaking. The bottom left-hand side of the screen says, “Normal Vision”.**

JANETTE

Sign language is a visual language, and not being able to see everything that is going on is like hearing people not being able to hear conversations around about us. Because sign language is a visual language, being able to see everything that is going on is important to feeling part of a group. With full vision, you can see who is talking to who, and what they are talking about and decide to join in. It's like being in a crowded room and being able to overhear conversations so being able to decide who you want to talk to. Some people with Usher may use Deafblind Manual (fingerspelling) to communicate and others may use hands-on signing. If you see someone using tactile communication, they may have Usher Syndrome.

**Screen fades to black and white text appears which reads “Video produced for NESS by Janette & Ally Chalmers. Screen fades to black.**

**The End.**