



**Sight
Scotland**

Make your legacy tackling vision loss





Everyone with sight loss deserves the opportunity to live a good life, and deserves to live a life without boundaries.

At Sight Scotland we have been caring for people with a visual impairment for over two centuries. Our approach has always been to see the person first, not the blindness or sight loss. We believe that everyone with a visual impairment deserves the same chances in life as fully sighted people, deserves the same chances to live a great life.

Thanks to decades of support from donors, the tailored support we have been able to offer people with sight loss has made an incredible impact on their lives. **Paralympic athlete Libby Clegg, who attended our Royal Blind School, said:**

“What the Royal Blind School taught me was crucial to learning independence. It was crucial to my success.”

But we are facing a major challenge. There are more than 175,000 people living in Scotland today with significant sight loss. We know that we have an ageing population, and with the number of people living with sight loss set to increase by 30,000 over the next 10 years, we need to act now to ensure that every single person has access to care, learning, community support and hope.

Your support will help us reach every community in Scotland.

Make your legacy a society where everyone has the same life chances. Help us tackle vision loss.

Living with sight loss is a scary place to be. Living with sight loss can leave people feeling vulnerable, alone and isolated. But it doesn't need to be like that. We want to ensure we are there for every person, and their family, in Scotland who is blind or losing their sight. You can make this happen.

By leaving a gift in your will to Sight Scotland, you can help us be there for people with sight loss now and for many years to come. Your legacy could be giving someone independence, hope and courage. Your legacy could be giving someone their life back.

Our work will not stop until every person who is blind or living with sight loss is fully included in society and treated equally.

But we need to do more right now. With the right support, things can be very different. Our current range of services cannot support the number of people who will need our help in the future. We want to broaden our reach to support everyone who needs us. We need to develop a community-based service across Scotland, for all ages at all stages. We need to embed ourselves in every community and be there to help your friends, family and neighbours who need our help.



Throughout our history we have been caring for, teaching, employing and supporting people of all ages who are blind or partially sighted. None of this would have been possible without the foresight and generosity of all those, like you, who support us.

Our journey in helping people with a visual impairment started in 1793:

1793

The Edinburgh Asylum for the Relief of the Indigent and Industrious Blind (latterly known as Royal Blind) was founded.

1875

The Educational Unit at the Royal Blind Asylum merged with the School for Blind Children, forming the Royal Blind Asylum and School.

1953

The Scottish Braille Press opened.

2015

Royal Blind launched a new education service, the Learning Hub.

1806

Royal Blind purchased the Nicholson Street Workshops. These were permanent premises to expand their training for blind men in handicrafts.

1891

The Royal Blind School began commercial braille production.

1991

Two new premises opened in Morningside: Canaan Lodge, providing a purpose-built school for pupils with multiple disabilities as well as visual impairment, and Canaan Home, providing accommodation for 72 male and female residents in four houses.

2016

Allermuir was established as an extension of the charity's adult services and is a home for life for four disabled adults.

1825

Royal Blind began providing residential care at the 'Home for Poor Blind Women' at Hill Place.

1915

Royal Blind founded Scottish War Blinded to support the increasing numbers of servicemen returning to Scotland from World War One with life-changing visual impairments.

1999

Braeside House, a purpose-built care home for older people with sight loss, was opened.

2017

Jenny's Well care home opened in Paisley in the west of Scotland.

1929

The Thomas Burns Home opened as a dedicated premises to provide residential care for blind women.

2010

Forward Vision was established to provide support for young adults with visual impairment and additional disabilities.

2020

We became Sight Scotland, a charity fit for purpose with the aim of supporting all those living in Scotland with sight loss.



From the Royal Blind School to University - Andrew's Story

After seven years of schooling at the Royal Blind School, Andrew Pettigrew is readying himself for the University of Strathclyde. Andrew excelled in his studies at the Royal Blind School. He scored straight As for his Advanced Highers in English and his Scottish Highers in Biology, Politics, History, and Modern Studies.

Andrew, who is registered blind, said the school's strongest assets were its teachers.

“The staff are brilliant and you get a lot of confidence from that.”

English was Andrew's favourite subject, inspiring his passion

for writing short stories and poetry, using his braille-writing skills.

To Andrew's surprise, he found he enjoyed learning Biology and Maths too.

“My Biology teacher once demonstrated the structure of DNA by building strands and nucleotides out of sweets, making it tactile. It was a fantastic idea and definitely received my fullest attention!”

In Maths, Andrew wrote equations using braille numbers. His Maths tutor Keith would create models of mathematical concepts using cardboard and wire for Andrew

to touch, helping him to understand the concepts. In addition to Latin, Andrew learned occupational and independent living skills in his last year at the Royal Blind School.

“I've learned to iron and I've learned to cook for myself without burning down the house,” he said. Playing Chess is another of Andrew's passions.

“On Tuesdays, I used to play chess with the ICT teacher, Mr Levin. It was a Chess club, but no one else was interested in playing.

“In December 2019, I finally beat Mr Levin. It was a proud moment,” he laughed.

While he attended the school, Andrew won the Pushkin Prize for young writers in 2016. He attended work experience at the Scottish Poetry Library in June 2019, and he spoke at

the UK Eye Geneticists' annual conference in November 2019 about his experience growing up with a vision impairment.

At the University of Strathclyde, Andrew will be studying an English and Creative Writing course as part of a Bachelor of Arts degree, following his ambition to be a writer.

“I'll be attending lectures in person. I was feeling a bit nervous, but I've been in touch with the disability department at Strathclyde so it's more a feeling of excitement now. I have been exploring the university's intranet portal so I can familiarise myself with it before I visit.”

Andrew has many fond memories of the Royal Blind School: **“The Royal Blind School is all about what pupils can do, not what they can't do. It's empowering them and getting them to where they want to be”.**

Would you like to help?

By leaving a gift in your will, you help us educate children and young people like Andrew, and you help realise their dreams.

How you can support Sight Scotland in your will

There are four types of gifts you can leave in your will

Share of your estate

A residuary gift - this refers to a share of the remainder of your estate that you may wish to leave to a charity after you have taken care of your loved ones.

Cash gift

A pecuniary gift - this refers to a gift of a fixed sum of money. The value of a monetary gift will go down over time as the cost of living increases.

Gift in trust

A gift for someone to use over a specified period of time. It could be a property, for example. Once that period has ended, the gift can be passed on to a loved one or a charity.

Specific gift

This is when you leave in your will a particular named item, such as a painting, piece of jewellery or a book collection that you may wish to pass on.

How a gift in your will could help people with vision loss

Remembering Sight Scotland in your will costs nothing during your lifetime. Once you have taken care of your loved ones, a gift in your will - no matter how big or small - will make a profound difference to the life of someone with sight loss.

For generations, people leaving a gift in their will to us has shaped the charity we are today. You can help provide the services of tomorrow and help us reach everyone in Scotland with sight loss.

“I believe everyone with sight loss should have the same opportunities as fully sighted people. I know Sight Scotland will help make sure people with sight loss, no matter what their age, will be supported to live the best life possible. That’s why I am leaving a gift in my will.”

Mary, Edinburgh



We are here

If you would like to discuss leaving a gift in your will to Sight Scotland or to a particular area of our work, please get in touch with us and we will happily talk you through everything. You can call us on 0131 446 3089 or email fundraising@sightscotland.org.uk

Our recommendation

You can make a will at any stage of your life. As your will is a legal document, we recommend you make or change your will with the help of a solicitor. They will be able to give professional advice and be able to answer any questions you may have.

Free will-writing service

We have partnered with McClure Solicitors to offer a free will-writing service. For more information on this service, visit our website at sightscotland.org.uk or call McClure Solicitors directly on 0800 852 1999, or by email at contactus@mcclure-solicitors.co.uk

Help us tackle vision loss together

If you would like to know more about remembering Sight Scotland in your will, please let us know how best to contact you.

By post By email By telephone

Name:

Address:

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Postcode:

Telephone:

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Email:

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As Sight Scotland is a charity, any gift you make is exempt from inheritance tax. We strongly recommend you consult a solicitor to ensure your will is up to date, legally valid and accurately reflects your intentions. If you choose to remember Sight Scotland in your will, your solicitor will need to know the following information.

Charity name: Sight Scotland is the operating name of The Royal Blind Asylum and School

As a charity we have previously been called:
Royal Blind Asylum and School
Royal Blind

Address:
2A Robertson Avenue
Edinburgh
EH11 1PZ

Our registered Scottish charity number is SC017167



Sight Scotland

The new name
for Royal Blind.



Address: Sight Scotland
2A Robertson Avenue
Edinburgh
EH11 1PZ

Phone: 0131 229 1456

Email: fundraising@sightscotland.org.uk

Web: sightscotland.org.uk

Registered Charity
No. SC017167