

iSight

How you're helping
to change lives



**Sight
Scotland**

Welcome

Dear supporter

Welcome to the latest edition of iSight, where we share stories from across our charity and say a sincere thank you to everyone who makes our work possible.

At Sight Scotland, supporting people of all visual abilities is at the heart of everything we do. This work is only possible thanks to your kindness. Through your donations and fundraising, you help us provide essential services, campaign for change and support important research.

In this issue, we share the story of Ollie, a Primary 5 pupil at the Royal Blind School, and highlight the remarkable progress he has made since joining. Through the support he receives, Ollie has grown in confidence, independence and happiness.



We also celebrate the tremendous success of our Fair Rail campaign. After three years of dedicated campaigning, visually impaired people and their companions can now enjoy free rail travel across Scotland. This is a fantastic achievement and one that will make a real and lasting difference to so many people across the country.

None of this would be possible without your help. Your generosity and hard work mean so much, and we are truly grateful for your continued support.

Karen Hodgins
Head of Fundraising and
Audience Development.

iSight in alternative formats: To receive iSight in large print, braille or audio CD, please contact us on 0131 229 1456 or email fundraising@sightscotland.org.uk

Sight Scotland Sight Scotland is the operating name of Royal Blind. Scottish Charity Number SC017167. Sight Scotland Veterans is the operating name of Scottish War Blinded, a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, charity number SC047192

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



Did you know?

Sight Scotland supports people with visual impairment across Scotland, from the point of diagnosis through to rehabilitation, independent living support, education and employment services, helping people live confident and independent lives.



Sight Scotland Support Line
Talk to us on
0800 024 8973
Open 9am to 5pm,
Monday to Friday

A Future You Helped Shape: Ollie's Story

Sixteen-year-old Ollie Porter, from Tranent, who has Cerebral Vision Impairment (CVI), has been attending the Royal Blind School since Primary 5, where he has made remarkable progress both academically and personally.



His family describe the help and support he has received as truly transformative, helping him grow in confidence, build independence and find greater happiness.

Ollie's Mum, Kirsty, comments: "The Royal Blind School is worth its weight in gold. The impact it has had on Ollie's life is immeasurable. They keep us up to date with everything they do and always put Ollie's needs first. It takes a lot of pressure off us as a family knowing he is being so well looked after."

Graeme, Ollie's Dad, adds: "His development has been incredible – not just educationally, but in life skills, physiotherapy and everything he needs to thrive. The difference in his communication since starting at the school has been incredible. He is now able to make choices for himself – pointing to what he wants, whether it's food or a drink. This has made such a difference to his independence and has given him choices he simply didn't have before."

Karen Boyd, Depute Head and Outreach Teacher at the Royal Blind School, shares: "He instantly made an impact, with his cheeky smile and delightful sense of mischief! Ollie has made huge progress in every area of his learning during his time at school."

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Sight Scotland's Royal Blind School changes lives every day, helping children and young people with vision impairments to thrive. Through specialist education and expert care that extends into communities and local schools, it builds confidence, independence and life skills, opening the door to brighter futures.

This help and support would not be possible without you. Your generous donations enable children like Ollie to access the specialist care and support they need to thrive.

Celebrating Fair Rail Success

After more than three years of campaigning, we are proud to celebrate the success of our Fair Rail campaign and the life changing difference it will bring to people with visual impairments across the length and breadth of the country.

From 1 April 2026, free rail travel for people with visual impairments and their companions became a permanent policy across Scotland's rail network. This means that anyone with an Eye plus one National Entitlement Card can now travel with a companion at no extra cost on ScotRail services and beyond.

This life changing step came after people we support told us how unfair and inconsistent rail travel had become. Many were forced to pay extra for essential support, making journeys unaffordable, while travelling alone could feel unsafe.

This achievement will have a truly transformative impact on lives across the country. By removing this barrier, free companion travel opens up Scotland in new ways. It supports greater independence, builds confidence and gives people the freedom to live their lives more fully.

One of our campaigners, Anne Dignan from Edinburgh, who is deafblind and has macular degeneration, described the impact: "This news is genuinely life changing. Knowing that free companion rail travel is here to stay gives me confidence and freedom I didn't have before."

This campaign shows what's possible when change is led by people with lived experience of visual impairment. Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen. Because of your support, Fair Rail is changing lives across Scotland every day.

