

Appendix 5: Herts Vision Loss

=Document Control:

Version	Issue Date	Changes
1.0	NA	First Draft (BE)

Reference	6044			
Name of Organisation	Herts Vision Loss			
Organisation Type	Registered charity			
Ward	Covers the whole of Hitchin			
Project Type	To set up a Sight Life Social Group in Hitchin and Letchworth for residents with visual impairment			
Green option considered?	/			
NHC Councillor involvement that may constitute a conflict of interest	None that we are aware of.			
Previous financial support within six years	None			
Documentation reviewed and approved*	Safeguarding	Yes	Accounts	Yes
	Demonstrates clear governance	Yes		
Total applied for	£2,000	Total project cost	£4,000	
Officer Summary				
<p>Herts Vision Loss (HVL), support and empower blind and visually impaired individuals in Hertfordshire by providing a comprehensive range of services. There are 4,810 people living with sight loss in the North Hertfordshire District. Currently, more than 300 North Herts's residents aged 65 and over receive support through HVL, of these 81 are from Hitchin. Referral rates are predicted to increase by 30% from 2024-2025.</p> <p>HVL has received repeated requests to set up Sight Life social groups in North Herts from residents. With this funding, the proposed project aims to establish a Sight Life social group in Hitchin, starting with five sessions. They will provide a range of services including information, advice, advocacy, counselling, assistive technology support, home visiting and befriending service.</p> <p>40 Hitchin residents will directly benefit from the proposed project. Funding will go towards facilitators, room hire, travel expenses for beneficiaries, volunteer expenses, refreshments and publicity. Having a social group in Hitchin will bring community support closer to residents, thereby addressing transport barriers and increasing accessibility to essential services.</p> <p>Both older age and sight loss can lead to social isolation and loneliness. By establishing a local social group, HVL can help mitigate these issues by providing a supportive community where individuals can build social networks, increase confidence, and feel better informed about their condition. This can lead to improved mental health outcomes and overall well-being for beneficiaries.</p> <p>They are also approaching Letchworth Community Forum for £2,000 to set up a Sight Life group in Letchworth.</p>				

*Funding will only be released on receipt and approval of all supporting documentation