



Making a visible difference  
for people with sight loss

## **Wolverhampton City Council South Health Scrutiny Committee**

# Who Are we

- Established 1875 operating in Wolverhampton
- First charity shop in 1895
- Evolved, adding Dudley, Seisdon and districts
- Re-located to Sedgley in 1961
- Re-branded in 1991 to Beacon Centre for the Blind
- Provide a range of on-site and off-site services
- Proven track record of LA delivery / ISO 9001 / projects
- Long term strategy : Ambition 2025
- Social enterprise development – Care / Opticians / Retail
- Partnerships at local, regional and national level

# Beacon



# Operating Context – Sight loss data

Data Area	Sight Loss 2015 / Prevalence	Sight loss 2020 / prevalence	Sight loss 2025 / prevalence	Sight loss 2030 / prevalence
England	1.7m / 3.1%	1.89m / 3.4%	2.1m / 3.7%	2.4m / 4.1%
West Mids	80,000 / 2.8%	86,700 / 3.0%	95,500 / 3.2%	105,750 / 3.4%
<b>South Staffs</b>	<b>4,220 / 3.9%</b>	<b>4,860 / 4.4%</b>	<b>5,610 / 5.0%</b>	<b>6,400 / 5.7%</b>
<b>Wolverh'ton</b>	<b>7,700 / 3.1%</b>	<b>8,360 / 3.3%</b>	<b>9,120 / 3.5%</b>	<b>10,000 / 3.8%</b>
Dudley	10,720 / 3.4%	11,900 / 3.7%	13,270 / 4.1%	14,700 / 4.5%
Shrops	12,120 / 3.9%	13,780 / 4.3%	15,850 / 4.9%	18,250 / 5.5%

Source : RNIB Sight Loss Data Tool v3. 2016.

## Additional data

Dual sensory : 1500

Hearing loss : 24,362 moderate / severe. Some 544 profound

Dementia : 3167



# Beacon & Partners = Added Value

- Mobile advice Services / adaptations advice
- Information points in retail outlets
- Community programmes such as Activeeyes
- Link Line – befriending support
- Talking newspaper / audio transcription
- Employment programmes
- Activity clubs (all ages)
- New to sight loss courses

# Opportunity.....

- Demand will increase, but resources constrained
- Take the best of public and third sector and create resilient and targeted services
- Use sight loss (sensory) pathway as framework

Referral >>>> Assessment >>>> Service Delivery

# What does that look like ?

- **Multi-sensory provider**
  - Host register(s)
  - Undertake assessments and triage needs
  - Deliver some / all services, incl Rehab
  - Economies of scale
- **Added value services as a wrap around**
  - Advice / adaptations / befriending / courses
  - Raise awareness & promote importance of eye health
  - Accessible information / audio transcription
- **Leverage in new income**
  - Grants & trusts
  - Social investment

# Next steps

## Medium - term

- Explore demand – create a local vision strategy
- Understand scale of long term conditions (JSA)
- Explore co-production of service offer

## Short – term

- Support for mobile advice & adaptation service
- Consider venues for courses – low vision drop-in / re-ablement classes
- Accessible information / audio transcription
- Promotion of eye health
- Commission sight awareness training courses