

For more information call

020 3004 5610

email **enquiries@ageukwestminster.org.uk**

or visit **www.ageukwestminster.org.uk**

Visual Impairment Project



Visual Impairment Advocacy Service

The Visual Impairment Advocacy Service provides an appointments only weekly outreach session, and home visits for those who are housebound. The service is aimed at individuals who are aged 50 and over who have been diagnosed with some form of visual impairment. The service can offer support to:

- Communicate using telephones, computers, magnifiers etc
- Complete welfare benefit checks, applying for benefits and discretionary grants when appropriate
- Arrange adaptations needed to a client's home so they can live independently
- Write letters on the client's behalf and advocate in situations where client's are unable to speak for themselves
- Apply for holistic services such as the freedom pass, taxi card and blue badge
- Assist with housing and social care enquiries

The Visual Impairment Advocacy Service will also educate people to notice the early signs of sight loss and inform them on how changes made to your lifestyle can delay and/or prevent further health/eye conditions which can lead to sight loss or visual impairment.

Outreach Sessions

The Visual Impairment Advocacy Coordinator runs a monthly drop-in surgery on the last Thursday of every month from 10:30am - 11:30am at Marylebone Library, 9-11 New Cavendish Street W1G 9UQ.

Visual Impairment Befriending Service

If you have a visual impairment, living alone or feeling socially isolated, a helping hand and a listening ear can make a huge difference. The Visual Impairment Befriending Service takes a more personal approach by offering support through specially trained befriending volunteers who will come and visit you once a week, and can assist you with the following:

- Reading letters/newspapers/books
- Accompanying you on short walks or accessing other activities within the community
- Everyday living skills such as help with labelling systems
- Mild decluttering to help prevent tripping and falls or offer solutions/signpost
- Support with using electronic devices more effectively
- Emotional support through listening and offering advice
- Signposting and referring to other services

Outreach Befriending Activities

Age UK Westminster have a packed activity programme keeping the older people of Westminster active and meeting people on a weekly basis. All of our activities are open to any Westminster residents aged 55 plus, and offer activities suitable for people with a visual impairment. Activities range from monthly coffee mornings, day trips, games groups (chess, scrabble, card games), themed events and much more. For more information about our befriending activities or to sign up to receive our bi-monthly newsletter please get in touch.