**Transcript for Technology to help people with sight loss – June 2022**

CHRIS: Good afternoon everyone, welcome.

You are here for the "How technology can help people with sight loss."

Just past 1 o'clock.

We'll let people join, people are coming in in large numbers.

We'll see people join after a couple of minutes.

Relax and enjoy the session.

Great, we'll just start in a moment or two.

If there's any questions ahead of the session, please use the Q and A box in the chat.

We will not use the chat facility in general today.

Okay, I think we'll get under way.

Again, a warm welcome to you all this afternoon, thank you for joining us.

Welcome to "How technology can help people with sight loss."

My name is Chris Grant from AbilityNet, the community Relationship Officer for the north of the U.K.

Self description, wearing a black top with a black jacket.

Glasses, brown hair, 29.

And I'll be running you through today's session, a few bits of housekeeping to go through this afternoon.

Live captions provided by Denise from MyClearText.

You can turn on the captions using the C.C. option on the control panel.

And additional captions are available via stream text - we'll top a link "Q" and "A" section shortly.

Slides available at slideshare.net/AbilityNet and on the website.

If you have technical questions, and you need to leave early, you'll receive an email in a couple of days

time with the recording, transcript and slides, and depending on how you join the webinar, you'll find a Q and A

section, if you want to ask the panel a question much drop it in the Q&A area for us to address, and we'll do that

after today in the follow up log on the web site at abilitynet.org.uk.

We have disabled the chat features.

We discovered it can cause problems for some people using screen readers, and we'll have a feedback form you’ll be directed at the end which will tell us about future topics in the webinars.

For those not quite familiar with AbilityNet,

we support people of any age with disability and impairment to use technology to use goals at home, work

and education, we do this by providing specialist advice, services and digital accessibility, training,

workplace, inclusion consultancy and free information resources like the webinar today.

I'll share more about the services at the end of the webinar.

Without further ado.

Let's introduce you to today's speakers.

And I'll come to each of them separately, let's go to you Karthik, first.

KARTHIK: Hi, everyone, my name is Karthik Kannan, I'm the co-founder and Chief Technology Officer with

Envision.

I'm a male, with beard and wearing a t-shirt which basically has the Envision logo on it.

I also am sitting against a virtual background with dots on it.

It's a dot black background.

That's a little about me.

CHRIS: Thank you.

Davinder Kullar.

DAVINDER: Good afternoon everyone, Davinder Kullar, technology for life.

Indian descent.

Tan skin, short grey hair with a beard.

Black polo, and the top left is RNIB as an emblem.

CHRIS: Thank you.

Adi Latif, our senior accessibility and usability consultant can't be with us.

He recorded a video we'll show you shortly, and Alex.

ALEX: My name is Alex Barker, I'm a Disability Consultant at AbilityNet.

A bit about me, I'm wearing glasses, got very short hair and wearing a yellow t-shirt and I'm 50 years old.

CHRIS: Thank you, Alex.

Also a plug and thank you, we have Kelly and Louise from the marketing team, thank you folks.

And to Donna Baker-Smith, my fellow colleague in Community, thank you for your input.

We'll go to a poll.

We love a poll and will start with this one, with a question.

Do you, or the person you care for, currently use any apps or wearable to help with sight loss.

We have four options - yes, I use them regularly, yes, some, but I would like to use more; not yet, but I'm keen to

find out more about which options will help.

And no, I don't plan to use them launch the poll and we'll give a minute or two for you to answer.

It may be that you can't see the poll, but you can respond in the Q&A panel.

We'll give it just under a minute.

DAVINDER: Chris, shall we give the options one more time.

CHRIS: Do you or the person you care for currently use apps or wearables to help with sight lose - yes, I use them

regularly; yes, some, but I would like to use more; not yet, but I am keen to find out more about which options will

help; and, no, I don't plan to use them.

We'll give it 10-15 seconds and then close the poll.

If you can't use the poll please put your answer in the Q and A.

Okay, can we close the poll on that.

For some reason the poll results have not shown up - they have now, technology.

% 9% of participants use regularly.

20% yes.

Some more, 59% saying not yet, but I'm keen to find out more about which options will help.

The number is all about today.

And hopefully that will help you, and 16% say no, I don't plan to use them.

It will be interesting to find out why people don't plan to use them, around that technology.

Thank you very much for participating in that poll.

That's all for me for now.

And I'll hand over to Alex Barker, to start today's webinar, thank you, Alex.

ALEX: Thank you, Chris.

So, a while ago I was asked to talk about something that has always interested me, is what technology can

be used to help people who are blind and want to use apps on their phone, what technology is available for

people who also want to use wearables.

Next slide, please.

INTERVIEWER: So first of all, I think it's important to try to work out what the definition of an app is, and the

definition of an app from the Cambridge English dictionary is - it's an abbreviation for application, a computer

programme or piece of software designed for a particular purpose that you can download on to a mobile phone or other

mobile device.

So, for example, you might have a photographer or social media.

Next slide, please.

What is wearable technology.

So wearable technology is defined by this website at least.

Is a small computer or advanced electronic device that is worn or carried on the body.

For example, most of the time I have my apple watch on, it's over there charging at the moment.

That is a piece of wearable technology, next slide, please.

So, there are all sorts of apps that you can go for.

I just randomly selected some.

We have various screen shots from left to right.

On the left we have a screen shot of CAI.

In the middle a screen shot of an app called, "Be my eyes", and on the right-hand side we have an app called

navigational purposes called "blind square."

Next slide please.

So let's consider wearables, what do they do.

So wearables, specifically glasses, can do many things.

They can give you turn by turn navigation advice, you can access emails, texts on the glasses and you

can listen to music.

If you are blind or partially sighted this technology will enable you to identify people and places.

I just want to - I just want to be clear here.

I have a pair of glasses.

I can see through them.

For people who are blind, those users, get audio feedback from the wearables, and from the point of everybody else,

it doesn't look like you are using anything different.

You just have some nice funky glasses on.

Next slide, please.

So, here we have some examples of wearable technology, and so on the left, there's an image of a middle

aged man wearing, in vision technology, and we have three screen shots of pairs of black glasses and then

at the bottom we have a screen or picture of a pair of white wearable glasses.

I just went on to Google and did a search for wearable technology for blind people, and this is what I found

out.

And, of course, there's more technology than that.

I just wanted to give you four examples.

Next slide, please.

We are now going to see a video of wearables in action, and this is the website.

If we could press play, that would be great.

Independence.

The dictionary defines it as the ability to live your life without being helped or influenced by others.

 It could also mean the ability to discover a whole new recipe.

INTERVIEWER: Chicken and pumpkin soup.

 Soup ingredients.

 It could mean submitting an assignment just before the deadline.

 It could be sharing a laugh with a colleague near the coffee machine.

 Looks like Alex from finance.

 Step out for some fresh air, and roam the streets without any worry.

INTERVIEWER: Looks like a body of water running through a grassy field.

 Or just managing to catch that train during rush hour.

 15:41.

Sprinter, Amsterdam central.

 To be able to sort and read my own letters.

INTERVIEWER: Credit card statement.

Post Box 289.

 To be able to pop quickly into my favourite local score.

Mango chutney.

 It is to know that when I get stuck, I have people to call upon.

 Hey, there, there seems to be a road block here, can you help me out.

 I can help you out.

Do you want to use a roadmap or something.

 I'll share my location.

 All hand meeting.

 To be surrounded by great people and surprised by their love.

 Looks like a birthday cake with lit candles.

 To cook my favorite meal that my lovely family can't get enough of.

 To push my physical limits.

To move to jump to punch and to feel alive.

 I wish you the happiest year ahead.

 To be me.

 To be me.

 To meet me.

 Introducing Envision classes the new AI powered smart glasses by Envision, empowering the blind and vision

impaired to be more independent.

Available for order now.

CHRIS: Great, fantastic.

We'll cross to my colleague Adi Latif.

He has recorded a video for us about his awesome apps.

Let's move across to that video, please.

ADI: Hello, I'm Adi Latif, and I'm going to share with you some of my top favourite blindness-related apps.

So these are apps I use.

Usually on a day-to-day basis that help me get through whatever I'm doing.

Firstly, when I'm out and about I use an app called "Soundscape" it's free made by Microsoft.

I'll go through some of the options so you can hear what is mentioned in the app.

 Choose destination, search field.

Places nearby.

Double tap to explore nearby restaurants.

Public transport and more.

Mark exercise routes button, double tap to get to markers you have saved.

Current location, button.

Double tap to preview, mark or share your current location with a friend.

ADI: Already there are a lot of different options, I can see the different places of interest around

me, I can mark routes.

Select a place, and I can set this thing called an audio beacon, it will tap in that direction.

It will get the audio That will direct me towards that place.

That's pretty cool.

And if I continue.

INTERVIEWER: Hear my surrounding, heading my location, button.

Double tap to hear about your current locations.

Around me, button.

Double tap to hear about places and the four quadrants around you.

 This will tell me stuff in front of and behind me.

So I have a full idea around me.

Ahead of me button, double tap to here about places in front of you.

Double tap to hear about nearby places you have marked.

ADI: You can mark favourite things you want to go to in the future.

And it can have them saved.

It's a useful app.

I'll tap an option and find out what is in front of me.

INTERVIEWER: Ahead of me button.

Ahead of me.

 Village about it 100 metres.

Booker, 275 metres.

Urban esque street 305 metres.

Bonex building 385 metres.

Co-op foot 329 metres.

ADI: It uses directional audio, if I have headphones on, for if I have earphones in my ear those

announcements you hear from the direction that the place is at.

So,ed foods is diagonally in front of me to the right.

That is what I would hear, that the audio announcement will come from that direction.

It's cool in that sense.

The second app I'll look at now is Ari adne GPS.

I'll use it if I'm going sports, on the back of a tandem bicycle or skiing and I want to know how fast I'm going, my

altitude, things like that, the app is useful.

It tells you what street you are on as well.

I'll load it up now.

 App switcher soundscape G.P.S.

Map.

Map.

Map. Legal.

ADI: Okay, I'll go through some.

Options on this app.

INTERVIEWER: Where am I button?

Start monitoring button.

Add to favourites button.

ADI: Start monitoring, it monitors your location, and your activity.

INTERVIEWER: Nearest favourite.

Home 43 feet.

At 5 o'clock G.P.S.

Direction of movement 315 degrees north-west.

Direct 112 degrees east.

Speed 1.1 miles per hour.

 I'm sitting down.

It gives you all this information.

It's really, really useful.

INTERVIEWER: Location accuracy 69.

Altitude 79 feet above sea level.

ADI: Usually, if I'm on the back of my tandem.

I have the headphones in one year and able to gauge the speed, what streets we are on, it's useful for that.

Some things I combine this with soundscape, they are announcing the streets and points of interest.

And the G.P.S. app telling me my speed, it's useful.

The next app I use a son app called Aira, it's a paid service and connects me to an agent that has access to my

phone and G.P.S. system.

If I'm out and about on a street looking for the nearest bus stop or cafe, an Aira agent will guide and

give me directions.

So they are well trained, and good at guiding you.

Aira is useful in the workplace.

If I'm working trying to format a document or created a presentation and don't know if it looks great I can

call Aira up and they can connect into my computer, laptop and help me format documents and tell me how things are

looking or help me do research when I'm trying to find information and say the Internet is not accessible or the

particular websites are not accessible.

Aira is a good service but is a paid service.

Another time I may use Aira if I'm in a train station or airport.

I'll use Aira and they'll help me get to the right place.

The next app we are looking at here is "be my eyes", similar to axe Aira, but it is a free service.

I can be connected to a volunteer who has access to the camera on the phone.

Not the G.P.S., just the camera, if I need something red out.

If I'm cooking in the kitchen and need bottles read out to me or walking through a park and what the scene

described Be My Eyes is great.

It I'm getting ready to go to work or social event I can connect to a volunteer and ask if I look okay.

They can provide that information.

It's a useful app.

And I use this app a lot.

It has another feature called specialised help.

INTERVIEWER: Caller volunteer, specialised help.

Button.

In progress.

Search, search, favourite.

Microsoft open.

ADI: There's various categories here of help.

INTERVIEWER: Assistive technology button.

Blindness organisations button, careers button.

Personal health... .

ADI: So many options.

Under technical I can connect to, say, someone from Microsoft and they'd log themselves into my computer and help

me if I have a problem installing an app or if I'm struggle using software, it's good for that.

There's an option here for INTERVIEWER: Careers.

Blindness, assistive technology, adaptation store.

Music selected.

Community selected.

Help desk.

Adaptation store, lighthouse info button.

ADI: Assistive technology organisations that can help.

INTERVIEWER: Backbutton, back button.

Careers button.

Personal health.

Clear blue, open.

ADI: Personal health.

An option for clear blue.

And if you are a blind female.

And you have a pregnancy test.

You want your independence.

You can get through to people from clear blue, and someone can confidentially read you the results

for that.

There's an option here for... .

 Selected.

NHS test and trace.

ADI: NHS test and trace, they can help you do your coronavirus test at home.

 Versatile.

Lots of different options.

So definitely explore that.

So the final app I'm going to share with you is called talking tuner.

If you want to be a musician like me or a hobbyist, this app is amazing, it will help you put your instrument into

tune.

They'll tell you if the note is too high or low.

Let's give this a bash.

I have a guitar, and I'll try to use the app.

 50%.

$0.17 sharp.

INTERVIEWER: Telling me $0.17 sharp.

Telling me the next note.

INTERVIEWER: No A is in tune, I can go through the strings on the guitar and it can provide feedback.

I hope you found it useful.

My top list of blindness related apps.

Thank you so much.

CHRIS: Thank you Adi Latif for that.

I learnt something, I didn't know he played the guitar.

We'll canned over to Karthik Kannan at Envision.

Over o you.

KARTHIK: Hey, everyone, thank you for joining the webinar, it's exciting to be here talking about Envision and all

of you.

So I don't have slides prepared, but I have something interesting to share with you.

Let me first go ahead and, you know give a little bit of an idea about what the Envision glasses are.

You may have seen or heard the video played at the beginning.

Essentially, you know Envision builds smart glasses.

Basically the Envision glasses.

They help people with vision impairment to live more independently using artificial intelligence.

It can help you read text from any surface in over 60 different languages, and help you recognise

faces of friends and family, and personal belongings or staff and so on.

There's so many - the glasses are basically a visual recognise tool.

With the idea of recognising every type of visual information that is in their surroundings.

Let me go back to the beginning of when we started Envision.

Five years ago.

Ever since - in the beginning, when Envision started, the main idea was to go ahead and put the Envision

technology, all the different things I spoke about, detecting, recognising faces.

The main idea was to put that on to a wearable.

I'm talking about the days before Envision became a company.

Why did we want to put artificial intelligence technology on to a wearable.

 When we did the early research.

We realise the best form factor for any visual recognition technology is when it's in the form of a wearable.

What it means, it's easier to use your head to look at things rather than having to use your hands because, you

know, it's a natural movement to move your head than to hold a phone in your hand and move the phone around and

take pictures.

So that was what we, you know, initially wanted to build.

Five years ago, but at that point in time.

Wearable technology was not as advanced as it is today.

Today we have smart glasses slowly becoming more mainstream.

There are companies out there that are working on smart glasses, the envision glasses, the hardware comes from the

Google glass.

What we did was basically took the envision app which is what we launched in 2017.

And adapted that to work with wearables.

And the early challenges that we faced were if we found a pair of smart glasses that was the early part.

It wasn't - it didn't look good enough, or happy.

Or if we found a pair of glasses that looked good, you know, that weren't as stigmatizing than they weren't

powerful enough.

In 2019 we came across the Google glass and partnered with Google.

And got their hardware, put our software on the Google Glass, and that eventually became the Envision

glasses.

We know from experience that using wearables, you know, along with the artificial intelligence technology

that we developed makes the most amount of sense.

I'll show you why that makes the most amount of sense, right.

What I'll do, I'll go ahead and today scan a document using the Envision glasses and show you how easy and

natural it is to do that versus holding your phone and trying to scan a document with the Envision app, for

example.

So I have a document in front of me.

The document contains, you know, text in multiple languages, when you think of trying to read a document, you

would imagine holding it in front of your face, and see the visual information on the page, and then, you

know read it out.

That's basically how, you know -

that's how documents are meant to be there, or books.

Any printed material.

So that is so much more natural in the hand.

And be able to scan it and read it.

That's what we did with the Envision, what I'll show you is a feature called scan pics and what you can do is first

have the glasses tell you how to move the document so you have the entire document in frame.

So you only take the guesswork out of the having to take pictures with the glasses, you hold the document in

front of you, and then the glasses guide you on how to move the document.

Once the document is in frame.

It goes ahead and captures the document.

And for the sake of the demonstration, what I have done is connected the glasses to a pair of speakers.

In fact, there was a question that came up in the Q&A asking if the audio from the glasses is only audible to

the person wearing it or for everyone else who is around you.

The thing is it's only audible to you, because the speaker on the glasses is located next to your ear.

It's only audible to you most of the time.

But you can go ahead and turn these glasses to a Bluetooth speaker or headphones like the air pods.

That's where the audio will come from, I'll go ahead and scan the document.

I'll walk you through how it will happen, all right.

I just started the glasses right now.

It's on the home screen, I'll navigate to scan text and take a picture.

 Instant text.

Scan text.

 Document.

Head down.

Document, head down.

Document right.

Reader heading.

Girl with a pearl earring.

Girl with a pearl earring, dutch painting, represents a young woman in a dash shallow space, she wears a blue

and fold turban, a gold jacket and white collar beneath.

(Speaks in Spanish).

KARTHIK: So the document I had was about a girl with a pearl earring, a popular painting in the Netherlands.

What I did there was primarily hold the document in front of my face.

The glasses guided me and as soon as the document was in frame, the glasses took a picture.

And recognises headings in documents.

Recognising the fact that the girl with the pearl earring is a heading and recognises multiple languages because

the document contains the same next in English, Spanish and Japanese as well this shows how wearables and glasses

are an easy form factor, easy way to experience something like other visual technologies.

Not just that.

Smart glasses can be used for a lot more, right.

Specially, for example, within the envision glass, apart from all the AI tech we build on the glass, we build a

video calling demo.

You can see one on YouTube or any glasses you see how it works.

With video calling, you can make a call from a friend to a family member since you are holding the phone in your

hand.

You can just, you know, move your head around in any direction, up or down.

And show people things from your perspective similar to how it works if you are having the glasses on your

face and showing that over a video call makes a huge difference.

It also is the case where I strongly believe that smart glasses will become the future in assistive technology,

simply because it allows you to have a hands-free experience whenever you want to try out or enhance the

experience of any of the technologies that you currently use on your smartphone.

We are building the envision glasses as a platform, our hope is that the favourite apps used on the smartphone,

and, you know, I don't want to give away too much.

But some of the apps that were shown by Adi will come on the Envision glasses as well over the next 3-4 months.

So we are evolving the glasses to be a platform, so it's not just about you buying a pair of glasses with Envision

technology, but you buys like a smartphone where you have the Envision technology on the glasses and some of

the other favourite apps on the glasses.

What else is coming up for smart glasses, I think a lot of better hardware in the future that is on the

horizon will make it more - will make the glasses more powerful in itself, will enable us to bring more

technology, when we launched envision in 2020.

80% acquired.

Today, only 50% of all the functions, requiring a connection.

Some of the things I demonstrated to you now worked offline.

You don't need to make a connection for these things.

What we hope is in the future, we are hoping to make sure all the advanced technology on the glasses work 100%

offline without having to use the Internet.

That is because smart glasses in themselves will get more powerful.

And we are seeing smart glasses come on the horizon over the next couple of years.

I'm excited about wearables.

Not because we make the glasses we make the glasses because we are excited about wearable technology, and how we

can make the lives with people with visual impairment a lot more easier, and enable them to be more

independent.

Because we combine the ease of use that comes with smart glasses, and combining advanced technology with it.

I would love to answer questions you may have about the glass, and you can go to the website.

CHRIS: Thank you, I would love to find out more, we have to keep to timing, thank you for that, Karthik Kannan.

Davinder Kullar from RNIB, let's hand to yourself.

DAVINDER: Cheers, Chris.

Good afternoon everyone, my time this afternoon is more about putting all this together - the considerations.

I think what it is, a lot of choice that all of us know about in terms of blind people and tech, but not

everyone is aware.

Isn't it a great time that we live in that we have a choice, almost a buffet table of tech.

To frame this conversation, the way I like to frame it for a lot of people.

Thinking about your life.

People ask about the right tool.

And the like tool is the one that gives you the most value.

Consideration, making sure when I think about the social model of mobility, simply away is a wheelchair user,

navigating the world.

I'm walking with my Guide Dog and Kane.

They are next to me navigating to a wheelchair, we get to a library, we want to enhance our knowledge.

There's stairs.

At that point the individual is disabled.

They don't have a disability, the situation and giving them the disability, so the solution, which is

the way my brain thinks, problem and solution, is a ramp.

Now, the ramp is a universal accessibility design, it allows people such as Guide Dog users, mothers with

perhaps, wheelchair users, elderly get where they want to be.

That's what it's about.

To get to where you want to me.

You heard a few different conversations, let's bring it all together.

We consider the technology and the options.

It's the same thing to think about.

What is your objective.

As individuals on the call.

You'll be thinking about that's great.

What is the barrier, what is the barrier you face.

If the barrier is, as the government is saying to us, they want to be digitally include, friends, family

information, the physical library has gone into the cloud.

We try to advise people how do you get involved in that arena, how will you interact with people, and what you

need to consider.

If you take most of the technology you heard.

You probably heard two solutions, our ramp tends to be, for example, a screen reader which you heard Adi and

Karthik Kannan talk about.

For most it will be screen changes, larger mouse, and all of these are your ramps and your analogy to say

right, if you struggle to read text.

How do I adopt it.

It's about how do we do it.

One of the big things that people are not aware of is knowledge, so consideration.

Of getting the device, how are you going to learn to use it.

What is the support around you, who will you contact.

That's where organisations like ours, AbilityNet and others are here to support that choice.

So with, for example, let's say a device at the moment.

I'm about fundamentals.

The first thing that most are not aware of is a smartphone, a tablet, a computer are completely useable.

There was learning, it can by around the situation.

If you start with technology now, Chris mentioned about stats which were high actually.

It's understanding if your barrier is low vision, dexterity, hearing loss, there are solutions.

There can be a hearing aid for hard of hearing, screen readers and magnification, the fear by anxiety

could be how do I use that when eyesight is getting poor.

There's ways we can do it.

The knowledge as a consideration takes the fear out.

There's so many examples you watch with Adi that is possible.

Remove the fear, have an open mind and know that the technology can meet your objectives.

INTERVIEWER: There's a metedera of -- plethora of tech.

And there was a demonstration of Envision.

Being neutral.

Other options apply.

There's Orcan.

Loyal vision solutions from Oyy, esite and Lydar senses, pseudobands.

What they do, depending on the objective.

The technology comes together to add value to your life.

If it's G.P.S.

Me with an Indian instrument.

You name it, all parts of our lives, where vision impairment or barrier comes into, we are finding solutions,

a consideration, and this is a big one for a lot of people is finance.

When it comes to finance.

People will say what is the right option.

I again will say I'm an advocate of commercial technology first.

It's what friends, family, peers, everyone else will be needing.

Adapted to needs.

Have you a support bubble around you.

Smartphone to tablets.

Wearables Alex mentioned was my phone and other companies.

These are common things you can pick up in retail.

If you go for something specialist.

It will come with specialist support.

But the people next door, the individuals you interact with may not know it.

It's all about you.

Bear that in mind as a consideration.

It's not a barrier, it's a consideration.

When we talk about smartphones, thinking about the applications, the free applications cost less for some

people in the outset.

Whether it's seeing AI.

Google look out and android.

That's to read your letters.

We have talking book services, and all the apps.

Principally the keynote to everyone from this discussion as top level is all the applications, all the services

which are free are fantastic.

However, for people with dexterity, tremors, shaky hands, if there's additional considerations, knowing

there's options such as wearables may be the next phase.

From a financial perspective.

The cost entry point to something that is commercially off the shelf is lower.

Where the specialist technologies are producing.

With the additional situations is that it could be more bespoke, prime example is there's technology, and

other G.P.S.

And when we navigate I am sure some of you know a visual sign can be difficult to find.

If you rely on a smartphone and tablet.

There's the risk and fear of loss and death.

And it's a real risk.

That's fair enough.

That's wearables or other solutions combined with a core technology, when they combine together to become the

powerful recipe, that's a consideration to think about.

What is the core of your solution, what adds to your solution, and gives you tools to your tool kit.

That's what it's about.

Having as many tools in your tool kit to get through as many situations as you can get through.

I'm a big believer in that.

INTERVIEWER: In terms of financial support.

If you have a situation where you do need support, there are grants available.

RDSLs, other organisations such as individual technology solutions amongst others and local councils are

available for discussion.

Positive the RNIB a call.

Colleagues are helpful.

Council has a duty of care.

We though the situation, and council is not in a great position.

I'll lead off to managing expectations, and that goes with finance as well.

Keep an open mind, there's a plethora of technology, we talked about artificial intelligence.

It's an infant.

It's literally 5-6 years old.

We have smart people, the home.

The A lady, I won't say she'll stop talking to me.

All of this stuff is young, while people want to talk to technology, it may not be the right situation or

application to use.

So always think about really good consideration, I tell people is the weakest link in any chain.

The weakest link could be being outside in a situation where you try to do your banking, it may not be the thing

to do to talk to technology, myself, the strongest part is my hands with a headphone, accessory and keyboard I

blackout the screen and I say I'm safer doing my banking in sight of people.

They can't see or hear my screen.

Knowing what situation you are presented with has the right solution of tools, and what knowledge or skills

you need to get there.

That's what brings it altogether.

I hope that helps in terms of general considerations, back to you Chris and we'll answer some questions.

CHRIS: Thank you.

Superb.

I'll ask all speakers to come back on for now.

There's a lot of questions on the chat.

I'll circulate a few questions around.

So, there has been a lot of questions around costs, and I think Davinder Kullar you covered that well.

One of the things about cost, and I'll bring two people in in this point of view.

Davinder and al -- Davinder Kullar and Alex from AbilityNet, and Davinder Kullar offering the same service, we

get a lot of questions around what can I get to help me with vision.

What can I get to help me with day-to-day life but I don't have that much number.

Starting with you Davinder Kullar, being RNIB’s guest.

DAVINDER: Appreciate that.

CHRIS: Is there a grant or anything you suggest to people who might need that support, or an offer different

solution.

Karthik Kannon touched on the great work.

From your point of view.

What do you rems to the client.

 It's a great question.

First thing I'll say to people.

Depending where you are, if you are diagnosed.

Speak to a rehabilitation officer, once you are registered.

That's when the door and windows, whatever analogies open up to you, the system will basically ask do you have

or meet this need.

If you don't have a CVI, that can be a challenge.

What's the first point.

If you have all that.

The next question, I go up the ladder, and say go to your council, it can be a comment and say under your duty of

care to me, reasonable adjustments, quality to your life I identified X product giving me this quality,

explain the benefit to your life.

And again, if the door closes, that's when I suggest come to us.

Our teams are really knowledgeable.

Yes, we have a technology grant.

Yes, we work with other organisations and charities, they'll be able to do the welfare wellbeing financial

assessments and it can range from tax benefit through to other assessments.

And bring all the financial together.

That actually go towards helping you by the technology, I had a conversation with colleagues in the sector, where

people have a mobile amenity scheme.

They'll say did they use a point of their benefit it help them get around.

We can have the same discussion saying rather than we consider maybe using - cost of living has gone up, and I

appreciate that, is there a percentage of that to fund technology this gives you [?]

There's many -- value.

There are many different ways to come at the situation.

CHRIS: Fantastic.

Alex.

Keeping it brief, in regards to what do you suggest in your role with AbilityNet.

ALEX: My view is always have a look at technology that is going to benefit you.

I can mention recommendations, and then we'll work out how to get the money to fund it.

There are a number of organisations around the country that can help with funding.

Funding as a long term project, but the first thing I suggest is always trying to find what works for you.

It's no good trying to find funding, and then going I got the funding what works for me.

Go out and try to find what works for you and we can help identify what has been useful for you.

CHRIS: It's all about collaboration that is key in this day and age, collaborate, organisations collaborate

to help with the digital inclusion, and get as many using technology as we can.

Coming to you can't, and say if anyone has questions, kindly put them into the Q and A sections, questions that

are unanswered as live, we'll put them up on the website in the next few cases with a link.

So you have access.

Karthik Kannan, I'll focus this question around education, there has been a lot of questions in education,

we'll ask you two questions in one.

Sharon Edwards and Williams asked is there case studies of people using Envision to read white boards et

cetera.

And Victoria Morris asked are and will the Envision be available through DSA?

KARTHIK: I can answer the first question, I understand - I don't understand does DSA mean, maybe you

can help me out.

CHRIS: It's a disability student assessment grant for universities.

KARTHIK: I'll come to the second part later on.

We don't have, like, official case studies or public case studies, there's a lot of students who use the

Envision to read what is on a screen, what is on a whiteboard as well.

Currently we are doing pilots with people from the Duke University in the USA, who are using the glasses, you

know, and we have other, you know students who use the glasses regularly.

The glasses are good at reading any surface.

So you can go ahead and read text that is on an iPad for example, or on a computer screen, you can go ahead and

read handwriting with the glasses, so they are capable of reading not just handwritten stuff.

Cursive as well.

That helps a lot when you want to read on a whiteboard.

Essentially speaking there's a lot of students using the glasses right now, and since the glasses are capable of

reading pretty much text in any format.

Be it printed, handwritten, it's versatile when it comes to, you know, being used within classrooms.

For this question.

About the DSA.

What would be best is to reach out to us, and we can put you in touch with our distributor in the UK, and they'll

have more information on how to go ahead and apply for the grant if the Envision are eligible.

I am not sure about the specifics in the U.K.

Get in touch with Envision, we'll put you in touch with the distributor, and they can help you answer this question

better than I can.

CHRIS: Thank you.

Time has really caught up.

I cannot believe where this hour has gone, thank you to Karthik Kannon, Davinder Kullar and Adi Latif on the

video and Alex Barker.

There are questions, we'll answer online in the next few days and you'll receive an email with a link to access

them.

Finally a bit of information that may be of interest to you.

We are running online training sessions on accessibility, and you find out more on the website at

abilitynet.org.uk/training there's a special code to use on the trainee courses.

And if you use the code AbilityNetwebinar10 to save 10% on all of our courses.

We do have three great courses coming up.

The first removing neurodiversity barriers on Wednesday 29th, tomorrow.

At 1:00p.m. BST.

Then next Wednesday, 6 July is inclusive recruitment at 10:00a.m.

Standard time.

British Standard Time and accessible mobile development the following Wednesday, Wednesday, 13 July at

1:00p.m.

BST time again.

You can sign up to our enewsletter for the latest announcements about digital accessibility and we'll have a seat of

accessibility services to suit all organisations, and don't forget about the next webinar which you can access

at abilitynet.org.uk/webinars.

Joins us Tuesday, 19 July for inclusive and Agile Learning and Working in a Post COVID World with a speaker from

the university of greenism.

Thank you Karthik Kannan, Davinder Kullar Adi Latif and Alex Barker, Denise, Kelly, donna and Louise for

their support and everyone that joins us, please complete the feedback form you'll be directed to.

Feedback is appreciated.