

# FOD Digital Inclusion Collaboration project- Project Pilot Expression of Interest

Pilot Project Name: Virtual Sight Loss

Please complete the below document to provide background details to support your EOI.

No	Question
1	<p><u>Values</u></p> <p>Please tell us how the proposed pilot project aligns with the project's values?</p> <p><u>Project Values</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Collaboration</li><li>• Co-production</li><li>• Lived Experience</li><li>• Inclusivity</li><li>• Accessibility</li></ul>
<p>Your answer:</p> <p>The project has been designed with all of the project values in mind.</p> <p>We are co-producing with The Lab to get the Virtual Sight Loss project off the ground, once we come to the testing phases, we will also be looking to collaborate with other partners to get their feedback as a lot of partners have client bases who are affected by sight loss in some capacity.</p> <p>Those with lived experience will be at the forefront of the project, we are looking at how Forest Sensory Services clients eye conditions vary from person to person. The first group of testers will be our clients and their support networks, this will make a huge difference to those with lived experience as it will give the support networks a much larger understanding of how their loved ones see.</p> <p>The project is inclusive, the VR headsets that we wish to obtain are lightweight, so it is easy for anyone to wear. The only issue is VR headsets have an age restriction of 13 due to children's eye development, this means that primary school aged children would be unable to use the headsets, however their teachers would be. Going forward it could be a possibility to connect the headset to the in-school computers so the children can see the AR on the screen.</p> <p>The project should also be fully accessible, as above if the user is unable to wear the headset there are other ways for them to see the AR. Its also worth noting the people with a visual impairment may be interested in other eye conditions, so to make this accessible further down the line we could look at including audio description, however due to time constraints and the fact that the project will directly impact the visually impaired community, I feel that it is ok to look at adding audio description at a later date if it proves that there is a need for it.</p>	

2	<p><b><u>Innovation</u></b></p> <p><b>Please describe how the proposed pilot project displays innovation that benefits the individual / target audience, resulting in increased digital inclusion?</b></p>
<p><b>Your answer:</b></p> <p>For many years, Simi specs have been the fundamental resource for providing an understanding of visual impairment. Unfortunately, at £300 a pair, which limits the user to one unchangeable eye condition they are priced out of budget for many organisations and for a sighted person it is very easy to adjust your own eyesight to see around the eye condition.</p> <p>By introducing the Virtual Sight Loss project, means that more people will be able to have empathy towards those with sight loss. By creating the software for specific eye conditions, that can be adjusted by severity, our target audience will be able to see through the eyes of a visually impaired person, to encourage the user to support those around them and think about how their actions will affect others.</p> <p>By using the VR headsets and software we are increasing digital access to a wide range of individuals which in turn will benefit the visually impaired,</p>	
3	<p><b><u>Coproduction and Reach of Pilot Project</u></b></p> <p><b>Describe how the project design and or delivery of project will involve people with “lived Experience”?</b></p> <p><b>How does the project reach (or could potential reach) target audiences?</b></p> <p><b>(target ‘lived experience’ audience)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning Disabilities/ Additional Needs</li> <li>• Physical Disabilities</li> <li>• Sensory Disabilities</li> <li>• Mental Health/ Wellbeing</li> <li>• Children &amp; Young People that may experience any of the above</li> </ul>
<p><b>Your answer:</b></p> <p>Those with lived experiences will be involved in the testing stages of the project to ensure we are meeting the needs of those with visual impairments. We will be running questionnaires with our clients to see how they feel about peoples understanding their eye condition beforehand, we will then ask for the same questionnaire to be completed after we have started using the headsets within external groups.</p> <p>The external groups include but aren’t limited to; children’s groups, schools, colleges, universities, WI groups, care homes and hospitals. These groups will all know someone with a sight impairment whether it’s a relative, friend, peer or patient, therefore any of these people could affect the target audience by having more empathy for the individual.</p>	

Please use the table below to indicate your intended reach.

<u>Lived Experience Group</u>	Co-design involvement	Access to project	Potential Access after pilot
Learning Disabilities/ Additional Needs	2	4	∞
Physical Disabilities	2	20	∞
Sensory Disabilities	10	200	∞
Mental Health/ Wellbeing	14 + families	224	∞
Children & Young People			∞

**Ability to deliver within the project timelines**

- 4 Does the project have the ability to be delivered within the 6-month project timeline?  
Are there contingencies plans in place in the event of project delays?**

*N.B. This section will be scored in conjunction with the detail provided in the EOI Project Charter.*

**Your answer:**

**We have the ability to deliver 1 or 2 augmented reality eye conditions within the project timeline, we will research which eye conditions will be the most beneficial for our target audiences and use that as a starting point. The project timeline is tight however we have added timing extensions to each part of the project so that we can fall back on that if required.**

**Success Measures**

**Does the pilot project have bespoke systems and processes in place to capture success measures of the project for future evaluation?**

**Barnwood Evaluation measures**

**5**

- How your project has **benefited** disabled people and people with mental health conditions.
- How disabled people and people with mental health conditions have been **involved** in the planning, delivery and/or evaluation of your project.
- How you have made your projects **accessible** to a wide range of people.
- How you have considered the **sustainability** of your project beyond the life of the funding.

**Numeria Data**

- How many disabled people and people with mental health conditions were involved in co-producing the work (e.g. involved in designing, planning and/or delivering the work)
- How many disabled people and people with mental health conditions took part in/accessed the activities or services you delivered (e.g. the number of people who attended workshops you delivered or accessed a service you provided)

**Please describe the specific measures you will put in place.**

**Your answer:**

**The first testing phase will include a questionnaire for the visually impaired testers to rate how they feel about their support networks understanding of their lives before using the equipment, we will then use the same questionnaire to measure their feelings approximately a week after the equipment has been used. This will give us time for the support networks to adjust their behaviours if there is a need.**

**We will also ask the support networks to complete a questionnaire before and after using the equipment to see how their thoughts about their visually impaired loved one have changed.**

**Included in all of the questionnaires will be a question regarding which 'lived experience' groups they categorise themselves into, this will give a better understanding of those within the survey. There will also be a broad question relating to the individuals mental health struggles and whether they believe that the equipment will have an affect on their mental health. Again these questions will go across both questionnaires to ensure continuity.**

**During the second stage of testing we will be using external groups. To track any progress within them we will provide a scoring system before and after their experience to see how their views surrounding visual impairment have changed. If there is time we may also run 'Simi specs only' session beforehand to compare the differences between the current sessions and the digital session.**

**If this project has comparable data, we should be able to look at funding the other eye conditions through other grant givers. This project has the potential to spread worldwide and be used for a range of conditions including various eye conditions, hearing loss, and those who are neurotypical. The vast majority of these groups don't just come with one condition, more often then not they have mental health conditions, physical disabilities and additional needs.**