

Charity is looking to expand its operation

AFTER nearly 10 years serving blind and visually-impaired people, a Grimsby charity is planning to expand its operation to include all disabilities.

Foresight, based at new premises in the town's Newmarket Street, also plans to offer accredited training courses and set up new clubs for its ever-expanding membership.

Speaking at an open day to celebrate the past, present and future achievements of the centre, chief officer Paul Silvester said the organisation now plans to involve more young people following a bid for £60,000 from V, an independent charity championing youth volunteering in England.

The centre will also offer Open College Network qualifications in various skills to its members.

The charity, which moved from its Hainton Road premises to the new building off Freeman Street earlier this year, has seen a marked rise in its membership since the upheaval.

By SHARON BAKER

sharon.baker@gsmg.co.uk

Mr. Silvester said: "In the old building, our annual footfall was about 10,000.

"The first month of the move has generated a near 25 per cent increase in the number of coming people to us and we're envisioning about a 33 per cent increase in footfall for the year.

"Before we got Lottery funding in 2003, there was a huge gulf in facilities for disabled people in North East Lincolnshire but we've attempted to plug the gap and it's just snowballed from there.

"Since then, Foresight has gone from strength to strength."

As the membership has grown, Foresight has moved several times since its inception and the latest facility was opened by Princess Anne in May.

Denise is heavily involved with the 10-pin bowling club there and provides IT training on a one-to-one basis for other members.

"Coming here has given me a lot of confidence and it's improved my life tremendously," she said.

"I've seen Foresight grow right from the beginning when there was hardly anybody here and every year it's got bigger and bigger."

Find out more

For more information about Foresight, visit Foresight-NELincoln.co.uk or phone (01472) 269666.

Centre 'gave me my life back'

DENISE has been using the centre and volunteering there since the then-named Foresight Project was first launched in 1999.

Denise (58), of Cleethorpes, lost 75 per cent of her sight more than 20 years ago when she suffered an attack of intracranial hypertension.

This is a sudden increase of pressure in the skull which damages the optic nerve behind the eye. She said: "I just woke up one morning and I'd lost the sight in my right eye, and I only have 50 per cent of the vision in my left eye.

"When you lose your sight, you think your world is finished, but when I came here and started doing the activities, it gave me my life back."