**The Ulster Society for Promoting the Education of the Deaf and the Blind c/o Jordanstown School,**

**85 Jordanstown Road, Newtownabbey, BT37 8NP**

**Cost of Living Grant Scheme 2024**

**Introduction**

The Ulster Society for Promoting the Education of the Deaf and the Blind is an historic charitable body which supports the education of those with sensory loss. We are conscious of the disproportionate impact of the current cost of living crisis on families with a child/children with sensory impairment and the resultant impact on a child’s education. To help support children in this situation we launched a small grants scheme in 2023, the success of this programme has resulted in a commitment to continue the scheme in 2024.

**Scheme Details**

The scheme will support children in full-time education and their families through the distribution of £50 LIDL gift cards. These cards may be used in any store to make purchases (with the exception of alcohol)

The scheme is limited to 160 awards and will open on 15th November and close on 30th November 2024.

Applications must be made via a nominating organisation. These currently are: Jordanstown School; RNIB; Angel Eyes; Guide Dogs; Action Deaf Youth; NDCS; Sound Friends, British Deaf Association and Sense. Applications must be completed on behalf of the child/family by a representative of the nominating organisation or supporting professional (teacher/social worker/family support worker/GP etc.) who knows the child in a professional capacity.

**Application Process**

The application process has been streamlined for ease of completion, application forms may be copied to enable multiple applications from each professional. Awards are made per family rather than per child, so only one award per household should be submitted.

The child’s initials are requested to help minimise any duplication and their age and details of sensory loss are requested for monitoring purposes. Postcode data is also collected for monitoring purposes, as are details of the referring professional.

The name of the parent/guardian is required to monitor the distribution of the awards.

Applications should be returned via email to ulstersocietydeafandblind@gmail.com and awards will be made on a first come first served basis. Only fully completed applications will be accepted.

**Processing of Applications**

Applications will be made on a first come first served basis providing the form is completed in full. Awards will be limited to 1 per household and will be assessed by a subcommittee of Trustees. There will only be 160 awards made and therefore there is no right of appeal against the decision of the Trustees.

If an award is made, we would ask the referring professional to distribute it to the family and return to us a signed confirmation from the recipient that the award was received.

Details of successful applications, gift cards and confirmation slips will be forwarded to the referring professional no later than 13th December and we would ask that all completed confirmation slips are returned to The Ulster Society for Promoting the Education of the Deaf and the Blind by 24th January 2025.

**Further Information**

If you have any questions or require further information please contact: Colette Gray

Chief Executive – The Ulster Society for Promoting the Education of the Deaf and the Blind

Email: ulstersocietydeafandblind@gmail.com Tel: 07974 140221