

**2- Information & Support**

**The Sensory Impairment Team**

The Sensory Impairment Team includes specialist Social Workers for deaf and hard of hearing people, specialist Social Workers and Rehabilitation Workers for visually impaired people and a specialist Deafblind Services

Co-Ordinator.

The team offers a countywide service to people with a visual and/or hearing impairment in their own homes.

The team also provides specialist support to deafblind people. The overall task of the team is promoting independence and assisting people to live in the community.

The Sensory Impairment Team can offer an assessment of a person’s needs in their own home. From the identified issues they may:

Help people to remain or become independent.

Provide rehabilitation services enabling people to take increasing control of their own lives, enhancing their independence, quality of life and personal choices

Discuss practical problems or other issues relating to sight and hearing loss.

Offer registration to people who have had a CVI (certificate of visual impairment) completed by an Ophthalmologist.

Help people learn new skills to enable them to continue with daily tasks, such as how to get around safely and cooking.

Assist service users and carers to maximise their income and advise on welfare benefits.

Highlight other services and organisations relevant to needs.

The team may offer some items of specialist mobility, and also aids and equipment without charge following an assessment. They may also be able to demonstrate some other items in the person’s own home and advise on purchasing equipment.

**Worcestershire County Council**

Access Triage and Intervention

Sensory Impairment Section

County Hall, Spetchley Road

Worcester

WR5 2NP

01905 765 707

**Hospital Services**

Within Worcestershire, there are a number of Ophthalmology units based within local hospitals.

These are:

Worcestershire Royal 01905 763333

Kidderminster 01562 823424

Tenbury 01584 810643

Redditch 01527 503030

Bromsgrove 01527 488000

Evesham 01386 502449

These clinics see and treat patients with varying degrees of sight loss and different eye conditions. Many people go to an Ophthalmology clinic on a regular basis.

**Low Vision Clinics**

Most hospitals within the county hold Low Vision Clinics on a regular basis. These are run by Orthoptists who assess a

person’s level of vision and then issue the appropriate strength magnifier on loan. During this appointment, different types of lighting may also be discussed.

Clinics within Worcestershire are held at the following hospitals:

Worcestershire Royal 01905 763333

Kidderminster 01562 823424

Redditch 01527 503030

Bromsgrove 01527 488031

Evesham 01386 502449

Sight Concern Worcestershire also holds low vision clinics. All magnifiers issued during these appointments are loaned free of charge. During this appointment the individual has the opportunity to find out about other aids and equipment which can help with day to day tasks.

**Children’s Services**

Information about services for children with disabilities can be obtained from the Children with Disabilities Team at Worcestershire County Council by telephoning the Family Front Door Team on 01905 822 666

**Contact A Family**

Help for families who care for children with any disability or special needs. Telephone: 0808 808 3555 [www.cafamily.org.uk](http://www.cafamily.org.uk/)

**LOOK - National Federation of Families with Visually Impaired Children**

Telephone: 01432 376314 [www.look-uk.org](http://www.look-uk.org/)

**Blind Children UK**

Telephone: 0800 781 1444 [www.nbcs.org.uk](http://www.nbcs.org.uk/)

**RNIB Children’s Services**

Telephone helpline: 0303 123 9999 [www.rnib.org.uk](http://www.rnib.org.uk/)

**Local Organisations**

**Sight Concern Worcestershire** is a local charity that offers a wide range of services, information, advice and support for people affected by sight loss across Worcestershire.

Our community based activities take place across the districts and include local based social groups, advice and support officers and volunteers who enable people to remain living independently at home and enjoying their community.

Our other services include:

-Low Vision Clinics and loan of magnifiers.

-Resource room stocked with aids and equipment. We operate an appointment system for this service, so please call us for further information.

-Agents for British Wireless for the Blind.

-Sight loss awareness training.

If you would like further information about any of Sight Concern’s services please telephone 01905 723245 or email [info@sightconcern.co.uk](mailto:info@sightconcern.co.uk)

**Macular Degeneration Groups**

There are three local groups in Worcester, Kidderminster and Barnt Green.

For more information, contact the Macular Society Helpline on 0300 3030 111.

**Pershore Pathfinders** is a group that meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday mornings each month at the Civic Centre in Pershore. This group has guest speakers, quizzes and outings. Like the other groups, the members are all visually impaired and they find that the information sharing is invaluable.

For more information please contact Sue Sharman on 01386 710294

**Redditch Association for the Blind** is a local society that supports visually impaired people living in and around

Redditch. They meet once a fortnight on a Thursday afternoon between 12.00pm and 2.00pm.

For further information contact Mrs Barbara Bakewell on 01527 68379

**Share and Learn Evesham** is a local group of visually impaired people who meet at Yates Court, 95-97 High St, Evesham WR11 4DN every Monday morning. A variety of activities take place throughout the morning.

For more information please contact Jean Smyth on 01386 244 873.

**National Organisations**

**Guide Dogs for the Blind Association (GDBA)**

The head office is based in Reading and can be contacted on 0118 983 5555, www.guidedogs.org.uk.

Alternatively, there is a team based in Worcestershire and they can be contacted on 0845 372 7434. GDBA can provide information and advice for anyone wishing to apply for a guide dog.

**Listening Eye**

Telephone: 0800 783 1979 (free phone)

A National helpline for anyone with a sight problem and their carers. They can be contacted Tuesday to Thursday from 6.00pm– 10.00pm.

**Partially Sighted Society (PSS)**

Telephone: 01302 965 195 [www.partsight.org.uk](http://www.partsight.org.uk)

PSS provides information and advice on all aspects of living with sight loss. They can be contacted Monday to Friday, 9.30am – 4.30pm.

**SENSE Information and Advice Service**

Telephone: 0300 330 9256 or 0207 520 0972 [www.sense.org.](http://www.sense.org.)uk. SENSE provides support for people who have both visual and hearing loss. For further information contact SENSE on the number above.

**Royal National Institute of the Blind (RNIB)**

Telephone: 0303 123 9999 [www.rnib.org.uk](http://www.rnib.org.uk/)

The RNIB provides comprehensive support and information service, including publications, talking books and products. They also operate a helpline from 9.00am – 5.00pm Monday to Friday.

**www.whitestick.co.uk** is a website specifically to assist visually impaired people to locate information and services relating to sight loss.

**QAC Sight Village**

Telephone: Queen Alexander College on 0121 428 5050 [www.](http://www/) qac.ac.uk Sight Village is held at a large venue in Birmingham, every July and showcases the latest technology, products and support services available to people with sight loss.

**The Accessible Friends Network** [www.tafn.org.uk](http://www.tafn.org.uk/)

A registered charity providing computer training, support and social networks for people with a visual impairment.

**Organizations for Specific Eye Conditions**

The following organizations provide support for those with a specific eye condition:

**Macular Society**

Telephone Helpline: 0845 2412041 www.macularsociety.org

Open Monday to Friday 9.00am - 5.00p

**International Glaucoma Association**

Telephone: 01233 648170 www.glaucoma-association.com

**Charles Bonnet Syndrome**

Some people who have significant sight loss may experience visual hallucinations. For more information contact Sight Concern Worcestershire on 01905 723245 or RNIB on 0303 123 9999

**RP Fighting Blindness**

Telephone: 01280 821334 [www.rpfightingblindness.org.uk](http://www.rpfightingblindness.org.uk/)

Primarily to raise funds for research and offer support and advice to people and their carers who have Retinitis Pigmentosa. They also operate a national helpline open

Monday to Friday 9.00am - 9.00pm which can be contacted on 0845 1232354.

**The Albino Fellowship**

Telephone: 01282 771900 [www.albinism.org.uk](http://www.albinism.org.uk/). A helpline which is open Tuesday and Friday from 2.00pm - 3.00pm.

**Behcet’s Syndrome Society**

Helpline: 03451 307329 www.behcets.org.uk

**The Childhood Eye Cancer Trust (CHECT)** formally the Retinoblastoma Society Telephone: 020 7377 5578 [www.chect.org.uk](http://www.chect.org.uk)

**Cone Dystrophy Information**

(Visual Impairment Scotland - VIS)

Telephone: 0131 651 6078 [www.viscotland.org.uk](http://www.viscotland.org.uk/)

**Diabetes UK**

Telephone: 0345 123 2399 www.diabetes.org.uk. Advice and support on all aspects of Diabetes including sight loss.

**Keratoconus Self Help and Support Group**

Telephone: 020 8993 4759 [www.keratoconus-group.org.uk](http://www.keratoconus-group.org.uk/)

**Laurence-Moon-Bardet-Biedl Syndrome**

Telephone: 01633 718415 [www.lmbbs.org.uk](http://www.lmbbs.org.uk/)

**Nystagmus Network Helpline**

Telephone: 0845 634 2630 or 02920 454242

www.nystagmusnetwork.org Helpline is open from Monday to Thursday, from 6.30pm - 8.00pm.

**Stargardt’s Macular Dystrophy**

Contact the RNIB helpline on 0303 123 9999

[www.rnib.org.uk](http://www.rnib.org.uk/)

**Stroke Association**

Telephone: 0303 3033 100 [www.stroke.org.uk](http://www.stroke.org.uk/)

**Uveitis Information Group**

Email: [info@uveitis.net](mailto:info@uveitis.net) www.uveitis.net