

Sensory Services – August 2010

For people who have sight loss or who are deaf/hard of hearing or who have a combined hearing and sight loss

Who can get help and what services do we provide?

The Sensory Services team works within Children, Adult & Family Services and provides services to people who have a sight loss, or who are deaf or hard of hearing, and who live in Blackpool. We also provide services for people who have a combined hearing and sight loss.

The type and amount of help you may get varies from person to person. For this reason, we will carry out an assessment before arranging a service.

We can provide the following types of service:

Information about local services and activities

Equipment to help you manage at home

Referral to social workers or other services (such as local voluntary groups and charities) for help with practical and social issues.

Advice and support with getting out and about.

If you have a sight loss...

We can offer specialist information about sight loss, and support and training. Our service is flexible and is tailored to meet individual needs. Our aim is to support people to live an independent life.

We can support you by listening to your concerns regarding your sight loss and helping you to get other services from the council or other agencies. We offer specialist mobility and orientation training, such as using public transport and moving about safely indoors and outdoors. We offer independent living skills and general helpful advice on how to carry out household tasks that have become difficult. We offer advice on environmental equipment to help improve your remaining vision, these can include lighting and advice on contrast and colour.



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If you are deaf or have a hearing loss....

Hearing difficulties and hearing loss covers a wide range of conditions, from slight hearing loss to deafness.

We can offer advice and support on environmental equipment, which can enable you to live as independently as possible.

Regarding hearing tests and hearing aids – we do not carry out hearing tests nor do we supply or repair hearing aids. For hearing tests, contact your GP who will then pass your details to the Audiology Department. If you have hearing aids already, but are experiencing problems with them, contact the Audiology department directly.

If you need advice about booking or using Sign Language Interpreters...

If you are a professional and you need the services of a Sign Language Interpreter, we can offer advice and information on how to use this specialist service to maximum benefit.

If you have a dual sensory loss....

Dual sensory loss is a combined sight and hearing loss and can range from being deaf and blind, to being hard of hearing and partially sighted.

We can offer help with communication, mobility and can give you information about local services. We can also carry out a specialist assessment and provide you with equipment to assist you.

We can also help if you are a carer for someone with a dual sensory loss or a professional working with people with a dual sensory loss.

How to be in contact with the team...

You can contact the team on the following numbers

Tel: 01253 476939

Fax: 01253 477577

If you are deaf and need to contact the team the mobile text number is: 07796 994 908

To ensure our services are accessible to all, documents produced by Blackpool Council are available in large print, Braille, on audio cassette or on computer disc upon request. We can also provide help for British sign Language users and provide information in other languages. Please ask for details or telephone 477117.