



# VISION SUPPORT

York's local offer for children and young people with a visual impairment.

## What We Do

We provide support for children and young people who have a visual impairment which has an impact on their education. We are a team of two people; a qualified teacher for the visually impaired and a specialist technician.

We accept referrals directly from NHS professionals who believe a child or young person has a visual impairment that would benefit from our support service. We also accept referrals from schools. We carry out Functional Vision Assessments which help us assess the difficulties of your child and we use My Support Plans, Education Health Care Plans and Benchmarking—National Sensory Impairment Partnership (NATSIP).

## Measuring Outcomes

We input into Individualised Education Programme (IEP) and for pre-school children use Oregon Project and the Developmental Journal for VI. Our termly teaching plans are evaluated at the end of each term. We contribute to annual review meetings and multi-professional meetings.

We believe it is important to keep you fully informed whilst supporting your child. We liaise with you individually or at parent groups, and at meetings, such as annual reviews. For our pre-school children, we have a regular pre-school group, which meet twice a week. We also work with other agencies including *York Blind and Partially Sighted Society*, *Guide Dogs*, *The Wilberforce Trust* and the *RNIB*. This means we can provide you and your child with the best support we can offer—and get your feedback.

# How We Prepare For Life's Transitions

We support your child through the different stages of life from pre-school right up to employment. Communication with the different settings, such as schools and colleges, is vital within this process. We can arrange:

- Familiarisation visits
- Environmental audits
- Staff training
- Advice on classroom management strategies
- Advice on managing learning environment
- ICT assessments and recommendations
- Provide training and advice on management of specialist equipment
- Set up equipment e.g. Necessary access software.
- Assessment of mobility needs

In relation to adaptations within the physical environment, we issue an environmental survey prior to transfer to new settings. We provide advice on classroom management strategies and on managing learning environments. We suggest ICT assessments and recommendations, as well as provide training on management of specialist equipment.

## Staff, Equipment, Training & Support

We can give advice on the educational implications of visual impairment. We can provide training in specific areas such as ICT, Braille and Best Practise Modelling. We can also give your child advice on curriculum access, including mobility and independence skills. We also support your child with certain sporting activities—such as goal-ball and tennis.

## **Equipment**

There is some specialist equipment that may be important for your child to cater for their impairment. We use specialist software provided by the service and equipment provided by the setting under advice from our qualified teacher of the visually impaired and our specialist vision technician.

## **Supporting your child**

It is important to us that your child is included in decisions within the support we offer. Your child will be invited to attend review meetings, where their opinions will be sought. Your child's views will also be discussed during monitoring visits. We are able to help your child with social and emotional wellbeing and development, through local groups and organisations.

# Contact Us

For more information on the services we provide and the City of York Council, please contact:


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York Family Information Service provides information for children, parents, young people and carers.



Yor-Ok is the home of help for young people, parents and professionals.



This will take you to the Specialist Teaching Team's site, for information on our services.

This information can be provided in your own language.

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

 01904 551550

If you would like this information in an accessible format (for example in large print, on CD or by email) or another language please telephone: 01904 554322 or email: [jessica.haslam@york.gov.uk](mailto:jessica.haslam@york.gov.uk)