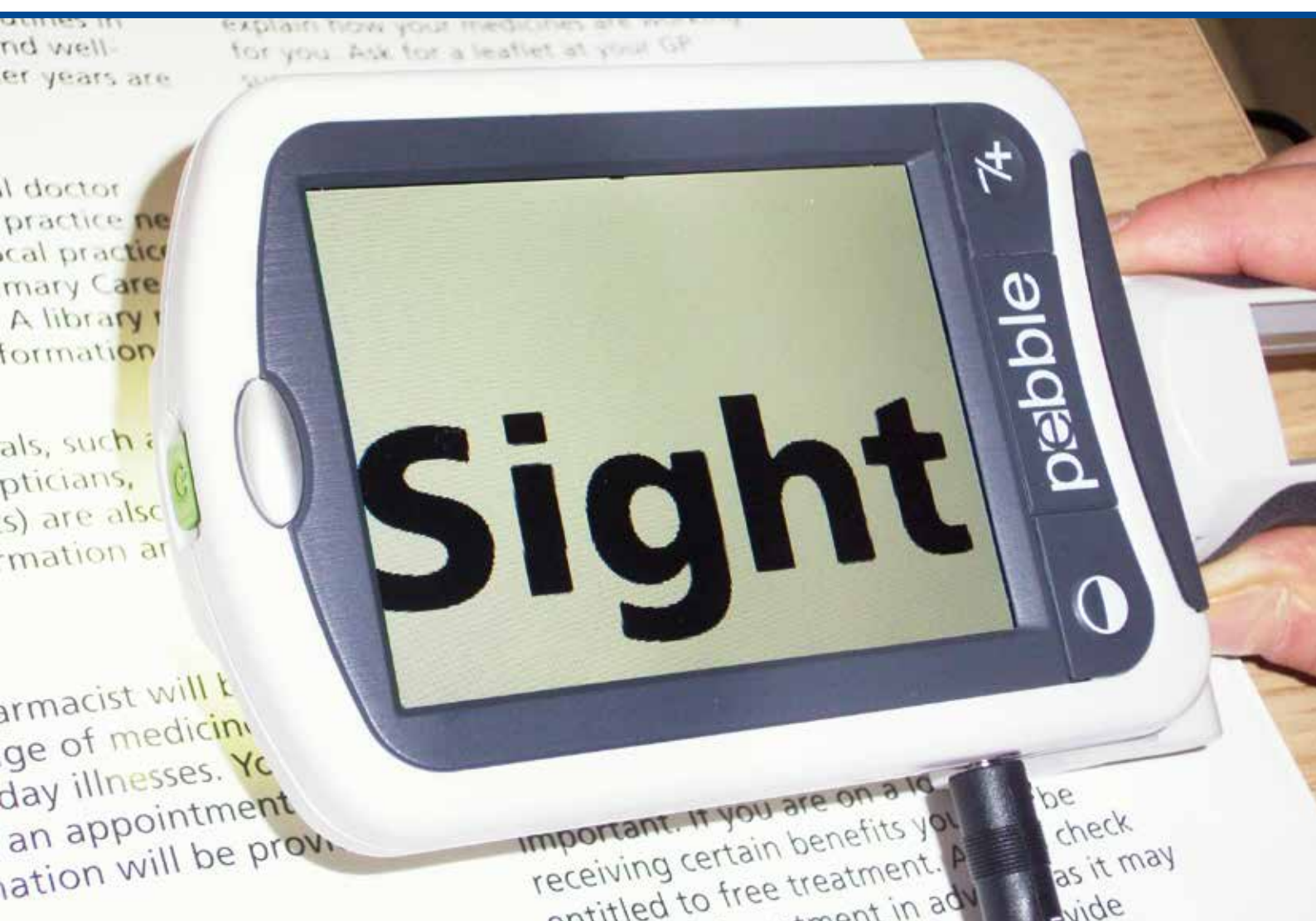


# Living with sight loss

Information on visual impairment services in Barnsley



With all of us in mind

Living with sight loss can be difficult, especially if you are not sure where to turn for help. This booklet aims to provide useful information and advice to visually impaired people, their carers, family and friends.

The booklet was developed in partnership with a number of organisations in the sight loss sector, people with a visual impairment, family and carers.

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## Registration

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Every Local Authority is required to keep a register of people who have a visual impairment. Registration is voluntary, but can make it easier to access services, equipment and advice.

In order to be registered, a consultant at the eye clinic completes a form called a Certificate of Visual Impairment (CVI) which confirms the patient has significant sight loss. This may be either sight impaired (partially sighted) or severely sight impaired (blind). The patient is asked to sign the certificate to consent to copies being sent to other agencies.

In Barnsley, the CVI is sent to the Sensory Impairment Service which is part of Equipment, Adaptations and Sensory Impairment Services. The patient and their GP will also receive a copy. Sensory Impairment Services will then make contact to ask people whether they would like to be added to the register and discuss any sight related difficulties that they may be experiencing.

People in Barnsley do not have to be registered to receive help from the Sensory Impairment Service.

## The Sensory Impairment Service

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This service is for adults who are experiencing difficulties due to sight loss. The service has Rehabilitation Officers who can provide information, advice and training:

- To help you learn new skills or adapt old ones to carry out a full range of daily living tasks.
- To help you move about safely and confidently in your own home or outdoors.
- To advise you about reading and writing techniques, magnifiers and lighting, computer technology and teaching new skills such as Braille or Moon.
- To Carers; including talking to them about their role and their right to a carer's assessment and support.

We also run a 'Living with sight loss' course which is open to people who are newly diagnosed. The course provides a chance for people to access peer support from other attendees, as well as receiving demonstrations of available equipment and useful information.

### **Equipment, Adaptations and Sensory Impairment Services**

PO Box 634

Barnsley

S70 9GG

Tel: 01226 775800

Fax: 01226 772093

Minicom: 01226 787856 (Monday-Friday office hours only)

Mobile SMS Text only: 07825 454888 (Monday-Friday 9am-3pm)

Email: [Equip.adapt@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:Equip.adapt@barnsley.gov.uk)

[www.barnsley.gov.uk](http://www.barnsley.gov.uk)

## Low Vision Clinic

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The purpose of the low vision clinic is to help people who have sight loss, whose sight cannot be improved by ordinary glasses, to make the best use of their vision.

For example, a magnifying aid may be suggested or techniques taught to help people read their post. Any equipment issued is on a loan basis.

The referral to the low vision clinic is normally via the eye clinic you are attending. You can discuss this with your ophthalmologist.

## Services for children with a visual impairment

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Inclusion Services provide specialist advice and guidance to educational settings, with an aim to enable children and young people with visual impairment to achieve their full potential. Support is offered from birth across the range of educational settings through to 25 years. As well as having qualified teachers for children who have a visual impairment the service also has a Habilitation Officer who, following an assessment, can provide support with a range of mobility, orientation and independent living skills enabling children to become as independent as possible for their age and stage of development.

### Sensory Service

Inclusion Services  
PO Box 634  
Barnsley  
S70 9GG

Tel: 01226 773377  
Fax: 01226 773599

## Emotional wellbeing and support

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Loss of sight or finding that your sight is deteriorating can be difficult to cope with. Some common themes highlighted by those experiencing difficulty coping with sight loss were depression, anxiety, loneliness, reduced quality of life and mental health difficulties.

Some hospitals may have an Eye Clinic Liaison Officer who can talk to you about difficulties you may be experiencing and signpost you to appropriate services. You can also contact the Sensory Service in Barnsley for advice, or speak to your GP.

The Mental Health Access Team in Barnsley can provide assessment and a range of 'talking therapies' to help you understand and manage your anxiety and depression symptoms. You can contact the team directly from Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm.

### **Community Mental Health Access Team**

Rose Tree Avenue  
Cudworth  
Barnsley  
S72 8UA

Tel: 01226 707600 and ask to speak to the Duty Worker.  
Fax: 01226 707683

# Employment

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## **Disability Employment Advisor (DEA)**

If you have a health condition or a disability that affects your ability to work, Jobcentre Plus offers a service for disabled workers by putting them in touch with a DEA. Whether you have just lost your job or have been out of work for a long time, a DEA can help you to find work or to gain new skills for a job.

Barnsley Cooper House Jobcentre Plus  
Cooper House  
59 Peel Street  
Barnsley  
S70 2RL

Tel: 0845 604 3719

Textphone: 01226 263032

[www.gov.uk/contact-jobcentre-plus](http://www.gov.uk/contact-jobcentre-plus)

## **Access to Work**

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Access to Work is a specialist disability service delivered by Jobcentre Plus. It provides practical advice and support to disabled people in employment or self-employment and their employers, to help them overcome work related obstacles resulting from disability.

### **Access to Work**

Tel: 0345 2688489

Textphone: 0345 608 8753

[www.gov.uk/access-to-work](http://www.gov.uk/access-to-work)

## Finance and benefit information

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Do you know if you are receiving the correct income or are entitled to benefits?

If you need any advice about finding out what benefits are available and how to claim them, contact Barnsley Council Welfare Rights Service or DIAL Barnsley.

### **Welfare Rights Service**

Advice line: 01226 772360

Opening hours: Monday – Thursday, 9am - 4.45pm  
Friday, 9am - 4.15pm

Email: [welfarerightsteam@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:welfarerightsteam@barnsley.gov.uk)

### **DIAL Barnsley**

Unit 6-9  
3rd Floor  
McLintocks  
Summer Lane  
Barnsley  
S70 2NZ

Tel: 01226 240273

Fax: 01226 287269

Email: [info@dialbarnsley.org.uk](mailto:info@dialbarnsley.org.uk)

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



## Local societies

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### **Barnsley Blind & Partially Sighted Association (BBPSA)**

BBPSA is the local society for people who have a visual impairment. BBPSA has a resource centre, social clubs and a range of equipment to demonstrate. They also offer support to all ages in all areas including welfare, benefits and grants.

The Resource Centre  
22 Regent Street South  
Barnsley  
S70 2HT

Tel: 01226 200618

### **Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind (SRSB)**

SRSB offer a wide range of services including computer courses and a resource centre stocked with a range of equipment for demonstration. The resource centre is open to anyone in the Barnsley area who can travel to the centre independently.

5 Mappin Street  
Sheffield  
S1 4DT

Tel: 0114 272 2757

Email: [info@srsb.org.uk](mailto:info@srsb.org.uk)

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

## Healthwatch

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The new Health and Social Care Act 2012 requires local authorities to commission Healthwatch in their area to provide a stronger local voice for patients, service users and the public across health and social care services.

The organisation appointed to set up and support the Healthwatch service in the Barnsley area is Voluntary Action Barnsley. Healthwatch Barnsley will aim to support local people in having a greater say about the services they receive from their local health and social care services, whether it's improving them today or helping to shape them tomorrow. If you would like to know more or be part of Healthwatch Barnsley, contact Voluntary Action Barnsley.

### **Healthwatch Barnsley,**

C/O Voluntary Action Barnsley  
The Core  
County Way  
Barnsley  
S70 2JW

Tel: 01226 320106

Mobile SMS Text only: 07870 599445

Email: [Healthwatch@vabarnsley.org.uk](mailto:Healthwatch@vabarnsley.org.uk)

[www.healthwatchbarnsley.co.uk/](http://www.healthwatchbarnsley.co.uk/)

## Carers support group

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Although not specific to sight loss, Barnsley has a Friends and Carers group which meets twice a month to ensure that carers have a voice in issues that may affect them. The purpose of the group is to provide a place where ideas can be shared, to provide a support network, to advocate on behalf of other Carers and Friends and to feed into the Carers Expert Partnership.

Tel: 01226 775983 or 01226 772308

Email: [participation@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:participation@barnsley.gov.uk)

## Connect to Barnsley

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Do you need advice or information about health and social care, or are you looking for some support to help you to live independently at home? Connect to Barnsley is a health, wellbeing and social care information hub that brings together a wide range of local services, advice and support onto one helpful website.

[www.barnsley.gov.uk/connecttobarnsley](http://www.barnsley.gov.uk/connecttobarnsley)

## Connect to Support Barnsley

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Connect to Support Barnsley is an online marketplace for adult social care. The website can help you to do things such as shop for a piece of equipment or look for local groups and activities.

[www.connecttosupport.org/Barnsley](http://www.connecttosupport.org/Barnsley)

## Useful contacts

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### National organisations

**Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB):** Offers support and advice to blind and partially sighted people in the UK.

Tel: 0303 123 9999

Email: [helpline@rnib.org.uk](mailto:helpline@rnib.org.uk)

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

**Action for Blind People:** Action for Blind People is a national charity with local reach, providing practical help and support to blind and partially sighted people of all ages.

Tel: 0113 386 2800

Email: [helpline@rnib.org.uk](mailto:helpline@rnib.org.uk)

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

**Guide Dogs:** Formerly known as The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, Guide Dogs provides mobility for people who are blind and partially sighted.

Tel: 0845 372 7427

Email: [guidedogs@guidedogs.org.uk](mailto:guidedogs@guidedogs.org.uk)

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

**SeeAbility:** A specialist registered charity supporting people who have multiple disabilities, including visual impairment, learning and physical disabilities, mental health difficulties, acquired brain injury and life limiting conditions.

Tel: 01372 755 000

Email: [enquiries@seeability.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@seeability.org.uk)

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

## Local equipment, demonstration and assessment centre

### Enable Barnsley

Tel: 01226 787855

Email: [enablebarnsley@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:enablebarnsley@barnsley.gov.uk)

[www.barnsley.gov.uk](http://www.barnsley.gov.uk)

## Information for parents and carers of children with special educational needs

### The Parent Partnership Service

Tel: 01226 773377

Email: [parentpartners@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:parentpartners@barnsley.gov.uk)

## Daily living/low vision equipment suppliers

**Cobalt Systems:** Daily living equipment, low vision aids and mobility aids.

Tel: 01493 700172

Email: [sales@cobalt.co.uk](mailto:sales@cobalt.co.uk)

[www.cobalt.co.uk](http://www.cobalt.co.uk)

**Edward Marcus:** CCTVs/magnification and low vision aids.

Tel: 01226 764082

Email: [sales@edwardmarcus.co.uk](mailto:sales@edwardmarcus.co.uk)

[www.edwardmarcus.co.uk](http://www.edwardmarcus.co.uk)

**Enhanced Vision:** CCTVs/magnification, low vision aids, screen enlargers, and screen readers.

Tel: 0115 9442317

Email: [salesuk@enhancedvision.com](mailto:salesuk@enhancedvision.com)

[www.enhancedvision.co.uk](http://www.enhancedvision.co.uk)

**Humanware:** Braille equipment, computers, software, text reading equipment, and screen readers.

Tel: 01933 415800

Email: [eu.sales@humanware.com](mailto:eu.sales@humanware.com)

[www.humanware.com](http://www.humanware.com)

**MediView:** Specialist filters for degenerative eye conditions.

Tel: 0208 9337914

Email: [info@mediviewspecs.co.uk](mailto:info@mediviewspecs.co.uk)

[www.mediviewspecs.co.uk](http://www.mediviewspecs.co.uk)

**Optima Low Vision:** CCTVs/magnification, education and training, and low vision aids.

Tel: 01803 864218

Email: [info@optimalowvision.co.uk](mailto:info@optimalowvision.co.uk)

[www.optimalowvision.co.uk](http://www.optimalowvision.co.uk)

**Pamtrad:** Braille equipment, computers, software, text reading equipment, screen readers, education and training, daily living equipment, and mobility aids.

Tel: 0115 9816636

Email: [info@pamtrad.co.uk](mailto:info@pamtrad.co.uk)

[www.pamtrad.co.uk](http://www.pamtrad.co.uk)

**Partially Sighted Society:** Information, advice, equipment and clear print material.

Tel: 0844 4774966

Email: [reception@partsight.org.uk](mailto:reception@partsight.org.uk)

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

**Shop - RNIB:** Daily living equipment, mobility aids, low vision aids, Braille equipment, text reading equipment, and screen readers.

Tel: 0303 1239999

Email: [helpline@rnib.org.uk](mailto:helpline@rnib.org.uk)

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

**SW Retail – IC Vision:** Screen enlargers, screen readers, low vision aids, and mobility aids.

Tel: 01226 762513

Email: [sales@sw-retail.co.uk](mailto:sales@sw-retail.co.uk)

[www.icswretail.co.uk](http://www.icswretail.co.uk)

