





SENSORY IMPAIRMENT







VERSION No	2	
REVIEWED BY	Mariana Philipova	
NUMBER OF PAGES	2	

Policy Statement

'Sensory impairment' is a general term that encompasses people with deaf or blind impairment or loss and includes dual sensory impairment or loss. Sensory services are specialist, but it is vital that such services should be integrated into the broader health and social care structures, including community care services. Local authorities should identify, make contact with and keep a record of people with hearing impairment, visual impairment and dual sensory impairment or loss, and keep a record of sensory impaired people in their area. This is to encourage specialist services at the appropriate level, with the required skills and knowledge in order to promote the following:








-  *Assessments to be carried out by trained and competent staff.*
-  *Services to be provided that are appropriate to meet the identified needs of deaf, visually impaired and dual sensory impaired users.*
-  *Involvement of the individual in the planning of services.*

Principles

-  **Dignity:** people should be given the care and support they need in a way that supports their independence and dignity.
-  **Privacy:** people should be supported to have choice and control over their lives.
-  **Choice:** care should be based on the identified needs and wishes of the individual.
-  **Safety:** people should be supported to feel safe and secure, without being overprotected.
-  **Realising potential:** people should have the opportunity to achieve all they can and to make full use of available resources.
-  **Equality and diversity:** people should have equal access to information assessment and services, and all such services should work to redress inequalities and, where appropriate, challenge such discrimination.

The Policy

In accessing our services, individuals will be supported by competent, well-trained staff whose practice is informed by the above principles. **The Department of Health Statutory Guidance 2015 "Social Care for Deafblind Children and Adults requires Local Authorities to:**

-  Identify, make contact with and keep a record of all Deaf / blind people in their catchment area (including those people who multiple disabilities including dual sensory impairment).
-  Ensure that when an assessment is required or requested, it is carried out by a person or team that has specific training, expertise and experience to assess the needs of a Deafblind person particular to assess the need for communication, one-to-one human contact, social interaction and emotional wellbeing, support with mobility assistive technology and habilitation / rehabilitation.
-  Ensure services provided to Deaf / blind people are appropriate, recognised that they may not necessary be able to benefit from mainstream services or those services aimed primarily at blind people or deaf people who are able to rely on their other sense.
-  Ensure that Deafblind people are able to access specifically-trained one-to-one support workers if they are assessed as requiring one.
-  Provide information about services in ways which are accessible to Deaf / blind people.
-  The Care Act 2014 Regulations on assessment include provision for the assessment of deaf / blind people. They state that: "An assessment which relates to an individual who is deaf / blind must be carried out by a person who has specific training and expertise relating to individuals who are deaf / blind." (Care and Support Assessment Regulations 2014, 6 (1))
-  The Care Act guidance states that "the type and degree of specialism required should be judged

on a case by case basis, according to the extent of the person's condition and their communication needs.

Useful Contacts

Hearing Link

<http://www.hearinglink.org>

National Association of Deafened People

www.nadp.org.uk

Sense (includes implementing the Care Act)

www.sense.org.uk

Royal National Institute for the Blind

www.rnib.org.uk

Guides to support and self-help groups for the blind and partially sighted

www.self-help.org.uk/directory/blindpartially-sighted

Training Statement

Some of these organisations above offer specific awareness training, as do the local specialist team within the social services department. All staff will undertake appropriate level of training to deliver the required service to the required standard.

Related Policies

Assessment of Need and Eligibility

Care and Support Planning

Equality and Diversity

Equal Opportunities

Meeting Needs

Dignity and Respect