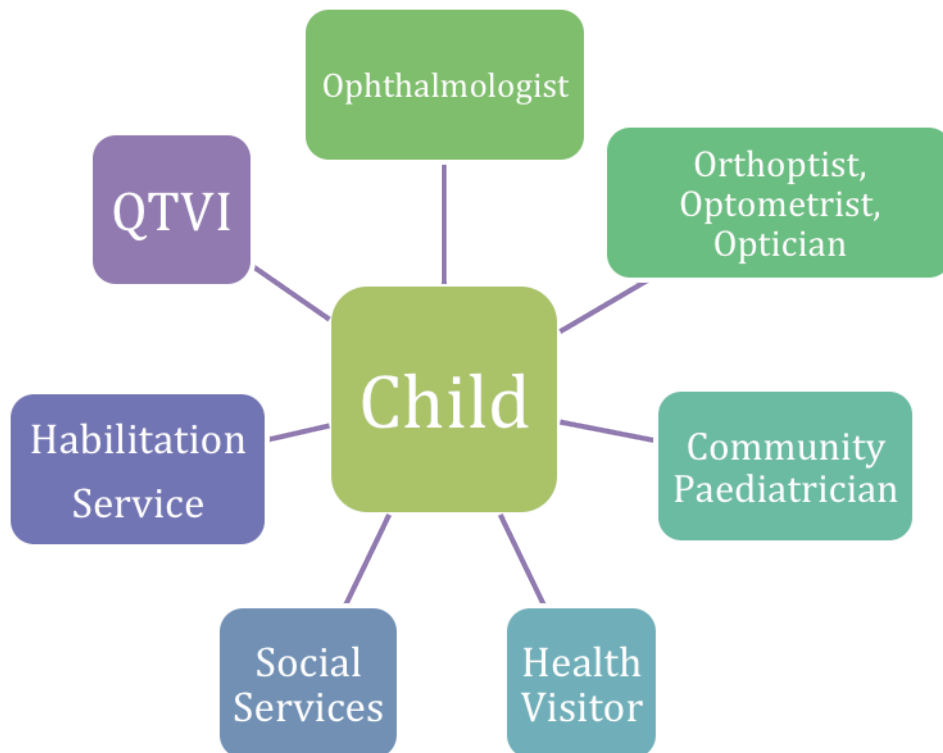


What do the different professionals do?



Ophthalmologist

An ophthalmologist is a person who has qualified as a doctor and specialises in the diagnosis and treatment of eye conditions. They can prescribe spectacles and treatments. Most ophthalmologists will perform surgery although they may specialise in different types of surgery

Orthoptist

An orthoptist is a person who assesses vision and eye movements. They use methods of assessing vision that are most suitable for young children. They assess and manage children and adults with lazy eye, squint and double vision. They usually work in eye clinics with ophthalmologists.

Optometrist

An optometrist is a person who examines eyes to see if spectacles will improve vision and to check for eye disorders. Optometrists write a spectacle prescription that is given to the patient and passed on to the dispensing optician to make lenses.

Dispensing Optician

A dispensing optician is a person who makes spectacles based on a prescription. They can decide on the best type of lens and spectacle frame to suit the individual. Optometrists are sometimes called opticians.

Community Paediatrician

Community paediatricians in Scotland are children's doctors who are expert in child development and in how ill health/disability affect children at school. They work in child development centres, health centres, schools and sometimes hospitals. They assess and monitor children who have a visual impairment or other special needs, and link with other services - education, social work, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy etc, to ensure children are adequately supported. They link with the general practitioner and hospital services too. They assess and monitor the functional vision of children who have other developmental problems or disabilities, advising how best to make use of the intact vision. They are responsible for providing medical advice and support to schools.

Health Visitors

Health Visitors are all Registered General Nurses who have specialised in Community Health Care. They work to promote Individual, Family and Public Health. They provide a wide range of nursing services including: home visiting, accident prevention, behaviour management, continence and feeding advice. They also offer advice on family stress, welfare, and benefits.

Social Services

Finding out about services and benefits can sometimes be confusing and frustrating for families. Contact with local social services allows families to have as much information as possible in the early stages of diagnosis and beyond. A child does not have to be registered as blind or partially sighted to obtain help and advice. Here is a website list of all the local councils should you wish to get in touch with them: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/Government/councils>. Some aspects of social services are occasionally offered by local Societies.

Habilitation Service

Children with visual impairments need specialist help to develop daily living skills and independent travel, this differs markedly from adult rehabilitation. Children who are born without sight have particular requirements when learning to get about independently and trained specialists are essential to the appropriate development of those skills. This excellent document sets out the case for habilitation support:

<http://www.ssc.education.ed.ac.uk/resources/vi&multi/habilitation.pdf>

Qualified Teacher for the Visually Impaired (QTVI)

The QTVI is a teacher with additional qualifications to teach children with visual impairment from birth onwards. They should visit families at home and offer advice about early visual stimulation, suitable play materials, optimal parenting approaches and facilities available locally. They may also be able to introduce local families who have visually impaired children or offer advice on local support groups. The teacher maintains contact during the pre-school years and beyond and advises parents on suitable nursery and school placements. They follow a child's progress throughout school and assist with any problems that may arise. Commonly the community paediatrician will make a referral to the QTVI or the

appropriate Additional Support Needs service after a diagnosis has been made. Enquire has produced a website list of all the Additional Support Needs services in Scotland: <http://enquire.org.uk/local-authorities>

Support Organisations

As well as national groups and societies, there are also local organisations in some areas of the country, which are run to help parents of children with visual impairment. Below is a list of some of the national and local organisations, along with Visual Impairment societies in Scotland.

Visual Impairment

Guide Dogs

As well as training guide dogs for blind and partially sighted people, Guide Dogs Scotland provides a range of additional services including sighted guiding, Buddy Dogs and guide dogs for children and young people. We also campaign for visually impaired people to have the same freedom of movement as everyone else targeting transport, shared spaces and irresponsible parking.

Guide Dogs Scotland, The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, c/o RNIB, 24d Milton Road East, Edinburgh EH15 2NJ

Telephone: 0845 372 7406

Fax: 0845 372 7443

Email: scotlandengagement@guidedogs.org.uk

Website: <http://www.guidedogsscotland.org.uk>

Haggeye Youth Forum

Supported by RNIB Scotland, Haggeye offers opportunities for children and young people to campaign for change; influence the provision of services; meet new people and make new friends; take part in social activities and discuss issues. If you would like to know more about the work of Haggeye, please contact Mo Colvin, Telephone: 0131 652 3146, or email mo.colvin@rnib.org.uk.

The National Blind Children's Society

This is a national organisation that offers a wide range of services to visually impaired people aged between 0 and 24. In particular the CustomEyes Book Service provides tailor-made large-print books for the benefit of children who find it hard to read commercially available print.

National Blind Children's Society, Bradbury House, Market Street, Highbridge, Somerset TA9 3BW

Telephone: 01278 764 764

Email: enquiries@nbcs.org.uk

Website: <http://www.nbcs.org.uk/>

RNIB Scotland

RNIB Scotland's Education and Family Services promotes the interest of children and young people with sight problems and those who support them. They provide training, information and advice, technology, political representation and host the

TELL (Technology Education Loan Library) service allowing children the opportunity to try out a range of aids and technology.

RNIB Scotland, 12-14 Hillside Crescent, Edinburgh EH7 5DZ

Telephone: 0131 652 3140

Fax 0131 652 3199

Email: dominic.everett@rnib.org.uk

Website: <http://www.rnib.org.uk>

The Royal Blind School

A National Grant Aided Special School located in Edinburgh, providing day and boarding enrolment for children aged 5-19 years who are visually impaired, including those with additional support needs. It also provides pupil assessment, advice and support and bespoke training. A playgroup for children under 5 years of age and their parents/carers is run each Friday morning. Forward Vision is a residential service for young adults aged 18-24 who have visual impairment and additional support needs.

Telephone: 0131 667 1100

Fax: 0131 662 9700

Email: office@royalblindschool.org.uk

Website: <http://www.royalblind.org/royalblindschool>

Scottish Sensory Centre

SSC promotes and supports new developments and effective practices in the education of children and young people with sensory impairments. An annual programme of CPD short courses, conferences and research is underpinned by information services including a postal resource library and a packed website.

Scottish Sensory Centre, Moray House School of Education, University of Edinburgh, Holyrood Road, Edinburgh EH8 8AQ

Telephone: 0131 651 6501

Email: sscmail@ed.ac.uk

Website: <http://www.ssc.education.ed.ac.uk>

Deafness and Deafblindness

Action on Hearing Loss

Formerly RNID, they provide day-to-day care for people, communication services and training, practical advice to help people protect their hearing, campaigns to change public policy and research.

Action on Hearing Loss Scotland, Empire House, 131 West Nile Street, Glasgow, G1 2RX

Telephone: 0141 341 5330

Textphone: 0141 341 5347

Fax: 0141 354 0176

Email: scotland@hearingloss.org.uk

Website: <http://www.hearingloss.org.uk>

Deaf Action

Provide support for deaf people in Lothian, Aberdeenshire, Argyll & Bute, Dundee, Fife and Highland. Involved in projects

49 Albany Street, Edinburgh EH1 3QY

Tel: 0131 556 3128

Text Phone: 0131 557 0419, SMS: 07775 620757

Fax: 0131 557 8283

Email: admin@deafaction.org

Website: <http://www.deafaction.org/>

Deafblind Scotland

This organisation is run by deafblind people for deafblind people. Its focus is adults and they provide guide/communicators and training in communication and awareness raising.

Deafblind Scotland, 21 Alexandra Avenue, Lenzie, Glasgow, East Dunbartonshire G66 5BG

Telephone: 0141 777 6111

Fax: 0141 775 3311

E-mail: info@deafblindscotland.org.uk

Website: <http://www.deafblindscotland.org.uk>

NDCS Scotland

National Deaf Children's Society offers support and advice to deaf children, their families and the professionals involved in the lives of deaf children.

Second Floor, Empire House, 131 West Nile Street, Glasgow G1 2RX

Telephone: 0141 354 7850

Fax: 0141 331 2780

Email: ndcs.scotland@ndcs.org.uk

Website: http://www.ndcs.org.uk/family_support/support_in_your_area/scotland/

SENSE Scotland

Sense Scotland provide a huge range of services for everyone with dual sensory loss. "We can assist you and your family throughout your life, and all the changes

life brings - from learning to play, to starting school, to moving into your own home or taking up a new interest for just a few hours per week.”

Sense Scotland, 43 Middlesex Street, Kinning Park, Glasgow G41 1EE

Telephone: 0141 429 0294

Email: info@sensescotland.org.uk

Website: <http://www.sensescotland.org.uk/>

Disability

Contact a Family

Contact a Family have a team of parent advisers who will help parents to find further information on their child's condition as they keep a directory of conditions and self-help groups.

Contact a Family, 209-211 City Road, LONDON EC1V 1JD

Telephone: 020 7608 8700

Email: helpline@cafamily.org.uk

Website: <http://www.cafamily.org.uk>

CALL Scotland

Provides specialist expertise in technology for children who have speech, communication and/or writing difficulties, in schools across Scotland, including a Loan Bank, Training and research. CALL Scotland hosts the Books for All service providing accessible texts. <http://www.booksforall.org.uk/Home/>

University of Edinburgh, Moray House, Paterson's Land, Holyrood Road, Edinburgh EH8 8AQ

Telephone: 0131 651 6235

Fax: 0131 651 6234

Email: call.scotland@ed.ac.uk

Website: <http://www.callscotland.org.uk>

Local Centres and Visual Impairment Societies

A visual impairment society is an organisation that provides statutory and non-statutory help at a local level. This can include needs assessment, provision of equipment, advice, and information. Each visual impairment society is different; contact your local one directly to get information on the full range of services they provide. Some areas have centres where several organisations and services such as social or health can be accessed together in one place.

Centre for Sensory Impaired People (CSIP)

Provide a range of services for sensory impaired people. Services include assessment of social care and technical needs, provision of equipment and assistive devices to help with independent living. Specific support is available through Sign Language Interpreter Services, Rehabilitation Workers with Blind People and Resources Services.

17 Gullane Street, Partick, Glasgow G11 6AH

Telephone: 0141 276 5252

Dundee Blind and Partially Sighted Society

As well as providing services through charitable donations, the Society is allocated funds by Dundee City Council to give the statutory provision of services that they are obliged to offer to blind and partially sighted people in Dundee.

Thomas Herd House, 10-12 Ward Road, DUNDEE DD1 1LX

Telephone: 01382 227101

<http://www.dundeeblindsociety.org.uk>

Fife Sensory Impairment Centre

Fife Sensory Impairment Centre houses services for people with sensory loss including Fife Council's Deaf Communication Service, Fife Society for the Blind, NHS Fife, RNIB Scotland and Sense Scotland.

13 Wilson Avenue, Kirkcaldy, FIFE KY2 5EF

Telephone: 01592 644979

E-mail: info@fsbinsight.co.uk

<http://www.fsbinsight.co.uk>

Forfarshire Society for the Blind

Although the Forfarshire Society for the Blind still exists as an independent charity, its services are delivered through the local council's Social and Health Department. The telephone number given is for them.

Camus House, West Path, Carnoustie, Angus, DD7 7DB

Telephone: 01241 803 500

Forth Valley Sensory Centre

Forth Valley Sensory Centre provides a range of services for anyone with sensory impairment, their carers, families and related service providers. The centre runs in partnership with Falkirk Council, RNIB Scotland, NHS Forth Valley, Stirling Council, Clackmannanshire Council, Action on Hearing Loss and the Guide Dogs.

Forth Valley Sensory Centre, Redbrae Road, Camelon, Falkirk FK1 4DD

Telephone: 01324 590888

Fax: 01324 590889

Email: sensory@falkirk.gov.uk

The Highland Society for Blind People

Their Children's Service offers emotional support and information to parents of children with a serious sight loss at the time of diagnosis. There is a preschool parent support group, family days, advice and a Low Vision Aid clinic.

38 Ardconnel Street, INVERNESS IV2 3EX

Telephone: 01463 233663

<http://www.highlandsocietyforblindpeople.co.uk>

North East Sensory Services (NESS)

Previously known as Grampian Society for the Blind has resource centres in Elgin and Aberdeen, NESS provides social services, a young people's sensory service, training and information.

21 John Street, Aberdeen AB25 1BT

Telephone: 01224 625622
<http://www.nesensoryservices.org>

Perth and Kinross Society for the Blind

Services include mobility and rehabilitation, information on social and leisure activities and advice on eye conditions, daily living, benefits, education and employment.

St Paul's Centre, 14 New Row, PERTH PH1 5QA

Telephone: 01738 626969

E-mail: enquiries@pkbs.org.uk

<http://www.pkbs.org.uk>

RNIB Edinburgh and the Lothians

The part of RNIB Scotland that provides specific local services to people with sight loss who live in Edinburgh, West Lothian, Midlothian and East Lothian. Services include: mobility, communication, independent living skills and low vision assessments, social work, resource centre, vision assessment, and leisure groups and activities.

12-14 Hillside Crescent, EDINBURGH EH7 5DZ

Telephone: 0131 557 1004

E-mail: rniblothian@rnib.org.uk

<http://www.rnib.org.uk>

Sight Action

Charity supported by NHS Highland, Highland Council and Western Isles Council.

38 Ardconnel Street, Inverness IV2 3EX

Telephone: 01463 233663

Fax: 01463 242249

Visibility

Formerly Glasgow and West of Scotland Society for the Blind (and Dumfries & Galloway Association for the Blind) provides services such as information, training and emotional support for people and their families experiencing sight loss or visual impairment.

2 Queens Crescent GLASGOW G4 9BW

Telephone: 0141 332 4632

E-mail: info@visibility.org.uk

<http://www.visibility.org.uk>

Other Websites

Early Years

ClearVision: UK postal lending library of mainstream children's books with added braille. The books all have braille (or Moon), print and pictures, making them suitable for visually-impaired and sighted children and adults to share.

<http://www.clearvisionproject.org/>

Developmental Journal for babies and children with visual impairment
<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/EarlySupport/Page3/ES50>

Grounds for Learning: supports outdoor learning and play for children.
<http://www.ltl.org.uk/scotland/>

Play Scotland: Promoting children's right to play
<http://www.playscotland.org/>

Education

Brite Initiative: assistive technologies for students (mainly FE & HE)
<http://www.brite.ac.uk/>

iPads for communication, access, literacy and learning (iCALL) - CALL Scotland guide
<http://www.callscotland.org.uk/Resources/Books/iPads-for-Communication-Access-Literacy-and-Learning/>

RNIB Parent's Place: a safe place for parents to meet, share experiences and get hold of up to date and relevant parenting information.
http://www.rnib.org.uk/livingwithsightloss/copingwithsightloss/parentsplace/Pages/parents_place.aspx

SSC Course materials, articles and publications on visual impairment organised by topic <http://www.ssc.education.ed.ac.uk/resources/vilist.html>

Starting Point has been written by five expert organisations to give parents the information, support and guidance needed at the time of your child's sight loss diagnosis.
<http://www.nbcs.org.uk/startingpoint>

Teaching children with sensory impairments: strategies for mainstream teachers: Web publication
<http://www.trinity.edu/org/sensoryimpairments/index.htm>

Habilitation

Action for Blind People is more active in England but the website contains useful information on independent living.
<http://www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk>

Guide Dogs
<http://www.guidedogs.org.uk>

MISE: Specialists in Mobility and Independence Education - a national support and development group of Professionals who work with children who have visual impairment

<http://www.mise.org.uk/>

Thomas Pocklington Trust: housing and support for people with sight loss useful for documents on topics such as lighting etc.

<http://www.pocklington-trust.org.uk/>

Medical

Contact a Family have a full listing of medical conditions, with description of the background, symptoms and treatments of each condition

<http://www.cafamily.org.uk/medical-information/conditions/>

Medline - part of the US Library of Medicine, eyes and vision topics

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/eyesandvision.html>

Employability

Blind in Business: Help blind and partially sighted people into work through training and employment services.

<http://www.blindinbusiness.co.uk/>

RNIB Employment and Learning service: help to obtain a job or keep your current one and to know your rights

<http://www.rnib.org.uk/livingwithsightloss/working/Pages/working.aspx>

SITE: Supported Integration, Training and Employment, a charity for blind and visually impaired people covering Glasgow and the West of Scotland.

<http://www.sitescotland.org/>

Leisure

Artlink: An Edinburgh-based organisation supporting individuals to access the Arts

<http://www.artlinkedinburgh.co.uk/access/>

Access Scottish Theatre: search for accessible performances across Scotland

<http://www.accessscottishtheatre.com/>

Cinema Exhibitors' Association Card - allows free entry for a person to accompany a registered blind person

<http://www.ceacard.co.uk/>

VocalEyes: Nationwide audio description charity providing access to the arts for blind and partially sighted people. Offers listing of local audio-described events.

<http://www.VocalEyes.co.uk/>

Miscellaneous

Vision 2020 (UK) an umbrella organisation which facilitates greater collaboration and co-operation between organisations within the UK

<http://www.vision2020uk.org.uk>

Email bulletins

Here are some organisations which offer news updates by e-mail, this is a convenient way to keep up-to-date for those of us addicted to e-mail! Search your favourite organisations' websites to see if they provide this service.

CALL Scotland <http://www.callscotland.org.uk/Newsletter/>

Children in Scotland (subscription required):
http://www.childreninscotland.org.uk/html/abo_m_bm.htm

Enquire e-newsletter: <http://enquire.org.uk/e-newsletter>

Equality & Human Rights News:
<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/publications/email-newsletter/>

International Council for Education and Re/habilitation of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI) Newsletter <http://www.icevi-europe.org/enletter/index.html>

RNIB Education Update (1 per term):
http://www.rnib.org.uk/professionals/education/news/Pages/education_newsletter.aspx

SSC Bulletin: <http://www.ssc.education.ed.ac.uk/aboutSSC/bulletins.html>

SITE eNewsletter <http://www.sitescotland.org/p/newsletter.html>

Team Around the Child (TAC) Bulletin:
<http://www.teamaroundthechild.com/subscribe-to-the-bulletin.html>

Together e-newsletter: <http://www.togetherscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/newsletter-sign-up/>

Twitter/Facebook

Almost all of the organisations above have presence(s) on social media sites such as Twitter and Facebook. Both are excellent sources of official and less official information and good conduits of news items in specific subject areas. Have a browse and "join the conversation".

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