



# DERBYSHIRE LOCAL OFFER VISION IMPAIRMENT

## HABILITATION INFORMATION

### WORKING IN SCHOOLS WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH VISION IMPAIRMENTS AGED 0-19

#### What is Habilitation?

Habilitation is one to one training for children and young people with a vision impairment. This typically is starting from their existing skills or introducing such skills for the 1st time. It is important to highlight the differences with rehabilitation – as this focuses on previously acquired skills after vision is lost. Habilitation aims to develop a child's personal mobility, navigation and independent living skills. The main aim of Habilitation is to maximise independence.



#### What is a Habilitation and Mobility Officer?

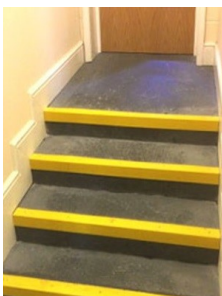
The Habilitation and mobility officer works with visually impaired children, educational professionals, parents and their carers. The Habilitation and Mobility Officer is the lead specialist in the assessment, planning, implementation and review of training for a child. This training is mobility, orientation and independent living skills, using a range of strategies customised to the age, needs and development of the child.

#### What does a Habilitation and Mobility Officer do in an educational setting?

The Habilitation and Mobility Officer will be working with the child and collaboratively with the team supporting them. The work underpins the Quality Standards from Habilitation VIUK. The Habilitation and Mobility Officers will support on the following:



- **Mobility Skills:** Supporting a child to move safely and use specific techniques such as sighted guide, pre cane skills (trailing, body protection and squaring off). It also includes the introduction of using a cane and the development and monitoring of these skills.
- **Orientation:** Support the child to ensure they can find where they want to go. This is a detailed approach teaching specific mapping techniques enabling awareness of their surroundings, including fixed landmarks. Work around supporting moving about in their classroom, school and surrounding environment.
- **ILS (Independent Living Skills):** Support the child to gain fundamental skills to develop independence. This includes basic hygiene, dressing, kitchen skills, food preparation, money management and recognition (list not exhaustive).
- **Environmental Audits:** We work with the child, their family and key school staff, and highlight the environmental features of the setting that would be unsafe and occur accessibility issues.





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### How to access a Habilitation and Mobility Officer for your setting:

1

Qualified Teacher for the visually impaired will be involved and visiting the child.

Request they make the referral.

2

QTVI completes referral form and sends to parents for consent to be completed.

3

The Habilitation and Mobility Officer visits the student with the QTVI in school.

4

The Habilitation and Mobility Officer makes observations, assesses, plans, implements and trains a person-centred Habilitation programme.

5

The Habilitation and Mobility Officer will monitor and review the Habilitation programme and support with transitions to new settings.

### Further Information:

**Habilitation VIUK:** [www.habilitationviuk.org.uk](http://www.habilitationviuk.org.uk)

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

**British Blind Sport:** [www.britishblindsport.org.uk](http://www.britishblindsport.org.uk)

**Sight Support Derbyshire:** [www.sightsupportderbyshire.org.uk](http://www.sightsupportderbyshire.org.uk)

**Royal Society for Blind Children:** [www.rsbc.org.uk](http://www.rsbc.org.uk)

**Look: Supporting visually impaired young people to thrive:** [www.look-uk.org](http://www.look-uk.org)

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