

# Low Incidence Needs Service LINS Darlington



## Low Incidence Needs

**Leaflet for parents, educational settings and professionals explaining the support offered by the Low Incident Needs Service for vision impaired children and young people in Darlington.**

The service provides outreach support from a range of specialist staff. The aim is to ensure that the needs of children and young people with low incidence needs are fully met within their daily life at home, school or other learning establishment.

The aim is that children and young people with low incidence needs:

- make good educational progress and reduce or close any attainment gap that was existing between them and their peers on entry to school;
- are happy at school, feel included and fully participate in the life of the school;
- move successfully on to a new school, further education or work or training.

## **Supporting pupils with a vision impairment**

One of the roles of the LINS team is to support children with a vision impairment. This support is also offered to school staff, parents and any professional working with a child with a vision impairment. Jenny Hill is the advisory teacher for the children and young people with vision impairments in Darlington.



### **Who can access support?**

Any child with vision impairment from 0-16 and pupils 17-19 who attend Carmel College.

### **Referrals**

The Service has an open referral system. Referrals can be made by parents, education settings, health visitors, general practitioners, opticians, orthoptists and ophthalmologist. Details can be found on the reverse of this leaflet.

### **What happens after a referral is made?**

Jenny Hill will get in touch with the parents and school to arrange an initial visit to the child. Parents are very welcome to attend if they wish. Jenny will assess the child's functional vision and how it affects them at home or school.

## **How much support will a child receive?**

Support can vary from a weekly visit, monthly, half termly, termly or yearly. What happens during visits depend greatly on the needs of the pupil. A nationally agreed criterion is used to determine the level of support given.

## **What does the service do?**

- Assessment of how the pupil uses their vision at home or educational setting. (Functional Vision Assessment).
- Advice to parents and the educational setting about the best conditions for learning.
- Support and advice on the use of specialist equipment.
- Advice and training in accessing ICT and specialist software.
- Training and advice on the adaptation of learning materials.
- Information on access arrangements for exams.
- Provide information, advice and training to parents, nursery, school or college staff.
- Deliver specialist teaching and support to children with a severe vision impairment e.g. Braille and touch typing.
- To liaise with other professionals in Education, Health, Social Care and voluntary organisations.
- Develop a support network by providing group social activities for children and their families.

## **Ways to get in touch**

Jenny Hill

Advisory Teacher for Children and Young People with Vision Impairment

Low Incidence Needs Service (LINS)

Office: 01325 720033

Work mobile: 07590020797

Email: [jhill@hurworthprimary.com](mailto:jhill@hurworthprimary.com)

## **Other useful contacts**

Dawn Rafferty

Eye Clinic Liaison Officer (ECLO)

Dawn can offer you advice, emotional support and information about: eye conditions, benefits your child may be entitled to, useful organisations, registering your child's sight loss, rehabilitation, and more.

Office: 0132 574 3575 (Only available on a Wednesday)

Email: [dawn.rafferty@actionforblindpeople.org.uk](mailto:dawn.rafferty@actionforblindpeople.org.uk)