

R N I B

See differently

Courses for health and social care professionals



RNIB specialist courses for health and social care professionals who support people with sight loss, or complex/additional support needs

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Introduction

This brochure gives you an introduction to our training and an overview of the courses we offer. Each course provides valuable insight for anyone in health, or social care, services working with people who have sight loss or who have complex/ additional support needs.

We include a short description of each course, as well as information on our other resources and how to book bespoke training tailored to the needs of your own organisation.

Our training is of the highest quality and our team is endorsed by Skills for Care. In addition, we offer a number of CPD-accredited courses (see page 5).



Why this training is essential

Around two million people in the UK are living with sight loss and this figure is set to double to more than four million by 2050 [1].

A high percentage of people supported by health and social care professionals have sight loss and, with numbers set to increase, training should be seen as an essential part of any staff induction or development. The older you are, the greater your risk of sight loss; 79 per cent of blind or partially sighted people are aged 65 or over [2].

Our training will help increase awareness and understanding of sight loss while ensuring staff have the tools and knowledge they need.

This enables staff to offer the best possible personalised care and support and will prepare teams to cope with the growing complexity of need for people they support.

Training is not only important for those supporting individuals with sight loss or older people but is vital for anyone supporting individuals with complex needs.

Adults with learning disabilities are 10 times more likely to experience sight loss than the general population [4]. In addition, there are at least a quarter of a million people living with both sight loss and dementia in the UK [3].



Our courses

Our courses can be delivered online, or in-house at your organisation and can be adapted to a time frame best for you.



Our courses are accredited by CPD UK, these are marked with a purple tick. For further information please visit www.cpduk.co.uk and search for RNIB.



Learning disabilities and sight loss

- **Visual awareness - Learning disabilities**



Understand the impact of sight loss for people with learning disabilities. This course can contain bespoke elements such as specific eye conditions linked to learning disabilities and communication advice.

- **Considering sight loss for people with learning disabilities and its impact on behaviour**



Increases awareness of the prevalence of sight loss for people with learning disabilities and how it can impact on behaviour.

- **Vision Friends – Learning disabilities**



Gain increased understanding of sight loss in people with learning disabilities and its impact. This course will empower staff to recognise signs of sight loss and better support people with learning disabilities through the eye care journey.

- **Vision Champions – Learning disabilities**

Provides information and resources to help you support people with learning disabilities through the eye care pathway, including providing better access to high street optometrists and hospital appointments. Training includes a Vision Champion toolkit and additional development resources.

Our courses (continued)

Sight loss awareness

- **Understanding sight loss** ✓
Understand the impact of sight loss related to common eye conditions and apply ways to reduce its impact.

Older people and sight loss

- **Vision Friends - Older people** ✓
Increase awareness and understanding of the impact of sight loss for older people. Vision friends are most likely to be professional staff, but may also include families, friends and blind and partially sighted people themselves.

Dementia and sight loss

- **Sight loss awareness - Dementia**
Identify and apply simple strategies to support people living with sight loss and dementia. This course includes the impact of sight loss, why sight loss can be 'hidden' and where to find additional resources for support.
- **Understanding the impact of sight loss for people living with dementia** ✓
Increase understanding and awareness of the causes, and impact of sight loss for older people living with dementia.



- **Enhancing communication when living with sight loss and dementia** ✓
Identify and apply simple strategies to enhance and optimise communication for people living with sight loss and dementia.

We used the RNIB to deliver training for optometrists around the area of dementia and sight loss. The training events were interesting, engaging and informative. The feedback we received after the events was overwhelmingly positive. I would not hesitate to work with RNIB again.

Gordon Elliott, Optometrist,
Cheshire and Merseyside
Local Eye Health Network

Our courses (continued)

Clinical setting and complex needs courses

- **Inclusive communication in clinical settings** ✓

Identify and use strategies to support communication for people with sight loss and complex needs so you can meet communication needs of people accessing your service.

- **Inclusive environments in clinical settings** ✓

Understand and reduce the impact of the clinical environment for people with sight loss and complex needs.

The course content has helped staff understand the impact of sight loss and take a more proactive response to promoting and raising awareness of good eye health.

Allison O'Donnell, Practice Development Nurse Specialist, Learning Disability Services, Greater Glasgow and Clyde

Environment-specific courses

- **Inclusive environments for people with sight loss** ✓

Understand and apply reasonable adjustments to reduce impact of sight loss by creating inclusive environments. This can help enhance confidence of movement and reduce risk of falls for people living with sight loss.

This module is a stand-alone course but also forms part of RNIB's Visibly Better accessible housing and buildings programme.

Visibly Better Living (for social housing) and Visibly Better Spaces (buildings other than homes) are certification schemes which provide guidance and support to ensure buildings are accessible for people with sight loss.

To find out more, visit:

Visibly better - accessible housing and buildings/RNIB

- **Sighted guide support training**

Sighted guide training can be offered as an individual course or as a component of other courses. This training enables staff/carers to support people with sight loss using sighted guide techniques. An introduction to sighted guide training can also be delivered through our accessible eLearning platform (see page 9 for more details).

Bespoke training



We can design and deliver bespoke training to your organisation, to meet your team's needs or, an individual service user's requirement. As well as tailoring content for the session, we can offer vision and autism or vision and stroke related training. Please contact the team to discuss learning needs and bespoke training options.

Contact us and we can help.

Email to:

HSCskillsdevelopment@rnib.org.uk

or telephone:

0141 739 3683.

Open learning

eLearning

RNIB's Learning Choices digital platform offers a wide range of courses, with topics including learning disability, dementia, assistive technology and low vision.

Our eLearning courses take an interactive multimedia approach with quizzes, case studies and content informed by lived experience. All our digital learning is designed to be accessible to screen reader users and all video/audio content has a text transcript.

Courses accredited by the General Optical Council (GOC):

- **Sight loss awareness**
Provides an overview including eye conditions, communication, support services and technology.
- **A holistic approach to low vision**
An in-depth view of low vision assessment, strategies, support, technology, and low vision aids.

Please contact
LearningChoices@rnib.org.uk
for a list of our latest courses.



Free online resources

We provide a range of free online resources to support your self-directed learning. There are top tip cards, good practice guides, podcasts and booklets relating to sight loss and older people, learning disabilities and complex needs. You can find these on **Health and Social care professionals | RNIB**.

Open Badges

Open badges are digital certificates which are quick and easy to earn. You can use these to formalise what you have learned from our resources. You can find them here: Open Badges **www.badges.sssc.uk.com/view-all-badges/**. Filter by issuer and select RNIB.

How to book

To book a course, talk to us about your training requirements, available training opportunities or to discuss training costs, email: HSCskillsdevelopment@rnib.org.uk or call us on **0141 739 3683**.

Eye care professionals please email eyecare.professionals@rnib.org.uk to find out about our other GOC CPD accredited courses.

Taster sessions

We offer a number of free taster sessions throughout the year which can be booked through the **RNIB website** via this link: **RNIB events and courses calendar**.



References

1. Pezzullo L, Streatfield J, Simkiss P, and Shickle D (2018) The economic impact of sight loss and blindness in the UK adult population. BMC Health Services Research, 18:63; Deloitte Access Economics (2019) The economic impact of sight loss and blindness in the UK adult population <https://bmchealthservres.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12913-018-2836-0> (accessed 6/3/2023)
2. Office for National Statistics (2015). "National Population Projections: 2014-based Statistical Bulletin". London: Office for National Statistics <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-population-projections-2014-based-projections> (accessed 6/3/23)
3. Bowen M, Edgar DF, Hancock B, et al. The Prevalence of Visual Impairment in People with Dementia (the PrOVIDe study): a cross-sectional study of people aged 60–89 years with dementia and qualitative exploration of individual, carer and professional perspectives. Southampton (UK): NIHR Journals Library; 2016 Jul. (Health Services and Delivery Research, No. 4.21) <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK374261/> (accessed 6/3/23)
4. Emerson, E., & Robertson, J. (2011). "Estimated prevalence of visual impairment among people with learning disabilities in the UK". London: Royal National Institute for the Blind & Seeability Learning Disabilities Observatory <https://www.rnib.org.uk/professionals/health-social-care-education-professionals/knowledge-and-research-hub/research-archive/prevalence-vi-learning-disabilities/> (accessed 6/3/23)