



Sensory Impairment

Who are the Sensory Impairment Team?

The Sensory Impairment Team is a multi-disciplinary team consisting of Social Workers, a Care Coordinator and Rehabilitation Officers. The team also have funding agreements with Wakefield Deaf Society and Wakefield District Sight Aid to provide low level assessments for the provision of equipment, advice and support for people with sight, hearing or dual sensory loss. Eye Clinic Liaison Officers provided by Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) are based at both Pinderfields and Pontefract hospital to ensure early intervention for people with a vision impairment.

What does the Sensory Impairment Team do?

The Sensory Impairment Team undertakes assessment and care management functions for people who have a sensory impairment as their primary need. Specialist assessments for people with a dual sensory loss, visual and hearing impairment are undertaken within the team or through referral to local agencies for low level equipment provision. Under The Care Act 2014, there is a specific requirement for individuals who meet the Department of Health deafblind criteria to be assessed by a person who is suitably qualified. Practitioners within the Sensory Impairment Team are able to undertake such assessments or refer onwards to a more qualified service/practitioner. The team is here to offer information/advice around sensory impairment and ways in which to ensure that service users can fully participate within their assessment (such as use of interpreters).

The Sensory Impairment Team delivers rehabilitation services (such as mobility, daily living and communications training) to people with a visual impairment and provides a range of equipment either directly or through local voluntary agencies acting on our behalf. The rehabilitation officers can train a person's carer to safely assist someone with a visual impairment when out and about in the community. Rehabilitation officers also undertake specialist assessments of a person's home and can provide advice, further rehabilitation and equipment to promote independence with daily living skills.

The Sensory Impairment Team also holds the registers of individuals who are sight impaired/severely sight impaired and Deaf/Hard of Hearing and identifies individuals with a dual sensory impairment.

The focus of the Sensory Impairment Team sits very firmly within the Prevent, Reduce and Delay agenda of The Care Act 2014. The rehabilitation officers explore the individual's daily life in detail including how they can improve their personal wellbeing by exploring and supporting to engage in their hobbies and interests, return to work or education and lead fulfilling lives.

Access & Support

Referrals to the team for individuals' resident within the Wakefield area can be made through a number of ways: Referrals made through the Hub Co-ordination Units will be screened and passed to the Sensory Impairment Team where appropriate. Individuals or professionals can refer directly through Social Care Direct, or professionals with access to CareDirector can click on the "refer to Sensory Impairment Team" within the Conversations Record (Forms section of the referral)) and complete the relevant questions for direct referral into the team. All referrals are triaged by a practitioner upon receipt to the team to identify the service required and urgency.

Referrals are also made directly into the team through the Eye Clinic Liaison Officers or through receipt of a Certificate of Visual Impairment completed by a Consultant Ophthalmologist.

The Sensory Impairment Team operates a duty system and a practitioner within the team is available every day during office hours to assist with enquiries and to support referrals into the team.

Locations & Opening Hours

The Sensory Impairment Team is based at the Civic Centre:

Monday to Thursday	8.30am to 5.00pm
Friday	8.30 am - 4.30pm

Team Telephone Number:	01977 723922
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Social Care Direct:	01924 303456
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