

Rehabilitation Officers for Visually Impaired Children (ROVICs)

www.devon.gov.uk/cwan

April 2012

ROVICs are qualified and proficient in working with children and young people who have significant visual difficulties, which affects how they gain and develop skills.

We are part of the Integrated Children's Service based in the **Further Response Service (FRS)** and we are affiliated with the Devon Sensory Team for adults.

We work alongside ophthalmic professionals in paediatric eye clinics at the West of England Eye Unit, Exeter and Torbay hospitals

What do ROVICs do?

Assessment

We specialise in assessing functional and visual behaviours in babies, children and young people, who are identified with a visual difficulty which is affecting their:

- movement
- inclusion
- development
- learning
- communication.

We aim to provide a child-centered approach in the assessments, offering practical advice, information and support in home, social, health and educational settings.

Assessments often result in recommendations, or the need to provide or organise programs.

We can also be key workers, which means that the ROVIC becomes a named worker for your family: collating and co-ordinating service plans and resource allocations.

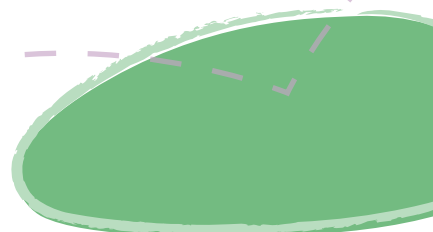
Development

ROVICs promote and support visual and non-visual understanding, confidence and independence in areas such as:

- developing and using functional or low vision
- acquiring non-visual skills
- communication
- orientation and mobility
- personal care and skills for daily living.

Alongside Advisory Teachers for visually impaired children ROVICs:

- undertake environmental audits of educational settings
- deliver awareness training to teaching and support staff
- undertake Orientation and Mobility assessments, and provide individually tailored habilitation programmes to develop independent and safe travelling skills.



Factsheet 20

Information

We can offer information about

- benefits and concessions specific to visual impairment and registration
- local and national resources, services and provisions
- design, modifications and accessibility for different environments
- support for parents and carers including awareness and training relating to visual impairment issues.

In response to an ophthalmologist completing a Certificate of Visual Impairment, ROVICs can offer advice and information on completing the registration process and further support.

What about children who are deafblind or have a dual sensory impairment?

Part of the ROVIC role is to identify and participate in assessment of children and young people who have dual sensory impairments. We also offer professional support to the Family Support Service (FSS) who have developed a service specific to meeting the assessed needs of deafblind children and young people.

We offer a professional support to the Enabling Service (FSS) which provides support to children in community and home settings. There is more information about the Family Support Service in the factsheets at www.devon.gov.uk/cypsfactsheets

For more information about the ROVIC service contact **01392 383794**.

Useful organisations

Devon Parent Partnership Parent Partnership officers can offer support, advice and training and help with issues around education www.parentpartnershipdevon.org.uk

The Devon Visual Impairment Team provides specialist support and advice about the educational needs of VI children aged 0-19. They can be contacted on **01392 384819**

DISCplus The Devon information service for all families with a child with additional needs www.devon.gov.uk/cwan-usefulinfoparentsandcarers

Micro and Anophthalmic Children's Society (MACS) bringing support and families together for children born without eyes or partially developed eyes. www.macs.org.uk

Moorvision A support group for anyone caring for a child 0-21 years who has a visual impairment. www.moorvision.org

National Blind Children's Society (NBCS) The largest independent provider of services to children with visual impairment www.nbcs.org.uk

Parent Carer Voice Forums A group of parents and carers to improve services for children with special needs www.parentcarersvoice.org

Royal National Institute of the Blind (RNIB) Provides over 60 services and support for blind and partially sighted people of all ages and their families. www.rnib.org.uk

V. I. Scotland Gives information about specific eye conditions and medical information about visual impairment written specifically for parents. www.viscotland.org.uk

VICTA (Visually Impaired Children Taking Action) Support for families with visually impaired children. www.victa.org.uk

SENSE SENSE provides support for people who have both visual and hearing loss. www.sense.org.uk