

# What does a Rehabilitation Officer – Visual Impairment (ROVI) do?

## Factsheet 200 – 23 August 2011 (2 pages)

ROVIs are trained and qualified to work with people with serious visual impairment. The aim of a ROVI is to help visually impaired people to remain at home, staying as independent as possible.

ROVIs can give advice on:-

- almost every aspect of daily life
- leisure activities like hobbies, games and sports
- daily tasks such as cooking, making hot drinks, weighing and measuring
- overcoming problems of disorientation which can occur with poor sight in familiar places, indoors or out.

ROVIs can teach:-

A ROVI can help people learn new skills to offset the effects of visual impairment. They can teach someone to:

- follow a sighted guide or use a mobility aid such as a long white cane
- use a variety of communication skills such as Braille and ICT
- continue to carry out everyday tasks and, if necessary, help them to learn new skills to do this
- make the best use of any remaining sight a person may have, by using magnification, correct lighting and colour contrast.

ROVIs can also:-

- adapt a variety of household equipment such as cookers and washing machines with tactile markings and advise on using them safely
- assess a person for a wide range of specialist aids and equipment that can give them more independence, such as adapted telephones and long canes
- complete a person's registration as a severely sight impaired (blind) or sight impaired (partially sighted) person. (Note: a person can only register if an eye specialist - an ophthalmologist – indicates that they are eligible)
- work jointly with colleagues or voluntary organisations, depending on what help people need.
- counsel people with poor sight and give guidance and support

ROVIs can:-

Signpost to services for people:-

- interested in employment and training
- information on benefits and services linked with registration as a severely sight impaired (blind) or sight impaired (partially sighted) person

- housing related services
- organisations for specific eye conditions
- organisations providing specialist equipment for people with a visual impairment
- organisations giving support to severely sight impaired (blind) or sight impaired (partially sighted) people using ICT equipment
- local and National resources providing support for visually impaired people. Such as:-

Action for Blind People, 14/16 Verney Road, London SE16 3DZ.

Tel. 020 7635 4800 / 0303 123 9999

Email: [central@afbp.org](mailto:central@afbp.org)

[www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk](http://www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk)

Local contact: Suite 1, Chiltern House, 2 Sigford Road, Marsh Barton Exeter EX2 8NL 01392 458060

A range of support, information and advice covering:

- Employment, housing, leisure and equal access to sports.
- Support – a free and impartial national information and advice service and Sight Loss Information & Advice Service which travels around the country.

Devon County Council produces Seeing Sense - information for people with poor sight (Ref. 93).

This is available in large print and on audio cassette, please contact Care Direct 0845 1551 007

Big Button Telephone

(RNIB / BT)

A Big Button telephone (and amplifier) can be rented or bought from BT, or bought from the RNIB or other outlets.

British Association for Counselling & Psychotherapy

Tel. 01455 883 300

Email: [enquiries@bacp.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@bacp.co.uk)

[www.bacp.co.uk](http://www.bacp.co.uk)

Contact for counsellors in your area.

British Wireless for the Blind Fund (BWBF) 10 Albion Place, Maidstone, Kent

ME14 5DZ

Tel. 01622 754757

Email: [nfbuk@nfbuk.org.uk](mailto:nfbuk@nfbuk.org.uk)

[www.blind.org.uk](http://www.blind.org.uk)

BT Free Directory Enquiries

Tel. 195

To register for BT free Directory Enquiries call 195 and ask for the registration dept. or contact your local ROVI.

BT Talking Telephone Bills.

Tel. 150

Arrange for your bill to be read over the phone before being posted to you. BT can also send your bill in large print or Braille.

Care Direct at My Devon Customer Service Centre

Tel. 0845 1551 007

[www.devon.gov.uk/socialcare](http://www.devon.gov.uk/socialcare)

Free information and advice for older people, vulnerable adults and their carers about money and benefits, getting around at home, keeping well or care and support.  
Call between: 8 am and 8 pm Monday to Friday, 9 am and 1 pm Saturdays.

Devon In Sight, Station House, Holman Way, Topsham, Exeter EX3 0EN  
Tel. 01392 876666

Email: [devoninsight.org.uk](mailto:devoninsight.org.uk)

A Resource Centre and shop where items for visually impaired people can be tried and purchased and Social Clubs. The centre is open Tuesday to Friday 10am to 1pm. \*If you wish to be assessed for a magnifier an appointment must be made.

Exeter Society for the Blind

Tel: 01392 431282

- Monthly socials in winter.
- Monthly outings in the summer.
- Volunteer visiting service.
- Quarterly newsletter in large print or on tape.
- Isca tape on memory stick and player  
(tel. 01392 430289)

Guide Dogs for the Blind Association (GDBA) Suite 2, Chiltern House, Matford Court, Sigford Road, Exeter EX2 8NL

Tel. 08453 727407

Email: [exeter@guidedogs.org.uk](mailto:exeter@guidedogs.org.uk)

National Federation of the Blind, Sir John Wilson House, 215 Kirkgate, Wakefield, WF1 1JG

Tel. 01924 291313

Email: [nfbuk@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:nfbuk@globalnet.co.uk)

[www.nfbuk.org.uk](http://www.nfbuk.org.uk)

Organisation for people who are blind or partially sighted which campaigns for better service provisions and quality of life for blind and partially sighted people. An audio-cassette 'Eye Spy' for people who have recently lost their sight.

Partially Sighted Society, 7/9 Bennetthorpe, Doncaster DN2 6AA

Tel. 0844 477 4966

Fax: 0844 477 4969

Email: [doncaster@partsight.org.uk](mailto:doncaster@partsight.org.uk)

Royal National Institute of the Blind (RNIB), PO Box 173, Peterborough PE2 6WS

Tel. 0303 123 9999

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

RNIB Talk and Support, 105 Judd Street, London WC1H 9NE

Tel. 0845 330 3723

Fax. 020 7391 2079

Email: [talkandsupport@rnib.org.uk](mailto:talkandsupport@rnib.org.uk)

- Tele Befriending – social groups on the phone.
- Tele Support – Tele Support will help people remain independent by providing information and support at the right time.

SENSE, 9a Birkdale Avenue, off Heely Road, Sellyoak, Birmingham B29 6UG

Tel. 0121 415 2723

[www.sense.org.uk](http://www.sense.org.uk)

SENSE is an organisation for children and adults who are deafblind. They also support people with a sight or hearing impairment and additional disabilities

South West Water  
Tel. 0800 169 1133

Water meter reading and bill reading services available to people with a visual impairment.

Torch Trust for the Blind  
Tel. 01626 367489

Devon Co-ordinators:  
Mr and Mrs Colley

A non-denominational Christian Fellowship offering friendship and help to those who are visually impaired. Holidays, house parties and free library service. Literature in Braille, large print and on cassette tape.

Can a ROVI help you?

If you, or a relative or friend, think you need the help of a ROVI, please contact Care Direct 0845 1551 007

If you have any further questions please contact Care Direct 0845 1551 007.

A large print version of this factsheet is available on [www.devon.gov.uk/largeprint-factsheets](http://www.devon.gov.uk/largeprint-factsheets) but if you would like it in a different format such as Braille or audio, or in a different language, please contact our Customer Service Centre on 0845 155 1015 or email [customer@devon.gov.uk](mailto:customer@devon.gov.uk).

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