

Bradford Adult Social Care Factsheet

Sensory Needs Service



Who we are:

The Sensory Needs Service, which includes vision rehabilitation officers, community care officers and social workers, can provide information, advice, and access to services as well as support from a network of national and local agencies.

The service also has a BSL (British Sign Language) interpreting service which offers communication support to people who use BSL as their first language.

The Sensory Needs Service has a Deaf Independence Project which offers support to people who are Deaf, to enable them to live independent lives, by offering one to one support as well as group sessions.

Our services are available for anyone living in the Bradford Metropolitan District who are:

- Blind or sight impaired.
- Deaf or hard of hearing.
- Deafblind or have a degree of dual sensory loss.

How can we support

General advice and information about living with sight and/or hearing loss or Deafness.

The Sensory Needs Service operates a duty service to respond to requests for information and advice or any urgent concerns. You can contact us

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Monday to Friday between 8.30am and 4.30pm. You can call on 01274 435001 or email sns.general@bradford.gov.uk

Registration of your Visual Impairment

1. If your specialist at the hospital issues you a Certificate of Visual Impairment (CVI), a copy is sent to the Sensory Needs Service.
2. We receive your CVI, we enter your details on our system and send you a pack of useful information and an invitation to register your sight loss with the Bradford District local authority.
3. It is then up to you if you wish to register or not – you do not need to be registered to access support from the Sensory Needs Service.
4. If you choose to be registered, we can issue you a visual impairment registration card. If you would like a registration card, you will need to send us a head and shoulder passport type photo to go on your registration card – this will then be posted out to you

Demonstration of specialist equipment for people who are visually impaired

We have specialist equipment we can show you that can make living with sight loss easier. Please contact us and make an appointment for demonstration by calling us on 01274 435001 or emailing sns.general@bradford.gov.uk

Blind or sight impaired. We can help by

- Assisting you to adjust to your sight loss and the challenges it can cause.
- Showing you how to make the most of the vision you have.

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- Helping you to find ways to manage safely in your home.
- Mobility and orientation training – to help you find your way around safely.
- Assessing the lighting in your home and providing advice on adaptations you can make
- Teaching you how to use specialist equipment, such as magnifiers.

Deaf or hard of hearing. We can

- Assist you to adjust to your hearing loss and the challenges it can cause.
- Help you to find ways to manage safely in your home.
- Demonstrate equipment that you might find useful, for example:
 - Loop systems
 - Pagers
 - TV amplifiers
 - Amplified telephones
 - Personal listening devices

We can also provide advice on other equipment which may be suitable and how you can purchase these.

Deafblind or Dual Sensory Loss

Sensory Needs Service has specially trained staff to support Deafblind adults. We can help you by providing:

- A full assessment of your needs including the need for specialist equipment, enablement or a support package
- Training in independent living skills and the development of new communication skills, including the use of assistive technology

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- Orientation and Mobility training to help you find your way around safely

Deaf Independence Project

The Deaf Independence Project support people who are Deaf or who have significant hearing loss, to promote independence and wellbeing. The project can support people who are Deaf or who are going through the experience of losing hearing. The project provides both group sessions as well as one to one support with a range of essential daily living skills to enable people with Deafness or hearing loss to manage daily life to promote independence and wellbeing.

Sensory Needs Assessment

The outcome of assessment may include the following:

- provide information and offer advice
- support such as mobility or daily living skills training to enable you to stay as independent as possible.
- explore other services that may be of interest or support
- a more in-depth assessment
- issue of specialist equipment

BSL Interpreting Service

The Sensory Needs Service offers a unique BSL Interpreting service to Bradford residents. This includes:

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- BSL interpreting in many different settings including health related appointments, social work (adults and children's), mental health, other council departments such as housing, employment etc.
- BSL interpreting service also resource specialist language professionals when requested, this includes:
 - Deafblind Interpreters
 - Relay Intralingual Interpreters
 - Lip speakers
 - Notetakers and speech to text reporters
- Mail reading service – Deaf BSL residents can access our mail reading service where an interpreter can offer support to make a phone call, translate a letter and signpost as required. This service is offered by appointment, remotely or face to face.

Technology Enabled Care (TEC) in Bradford District

We have an online guide for residents, families and professionals that explains how TEC and Sensory Needs devices can be used at home. It has a number of short films about the devices. You can undertake a self-assessment to help decide what products might be suitable for you and book a home assessment with a member of the Safe and Sound Team. You can access the guide on our Technology Enabled Care website, use link:

<https://tec-bradford.co.uk/>

Metro Blind or Disabled Person's Travel Pass and Companion Pass

If you have a sensory impairment, you may be eligible for a Metro concessionary travel pass. If you would like to apply for a Metro disabled person's concessionary travel pass, please apply online at www.wymetro.com or contact Metro direct on 0113 3481611.

If you are unable to apply online, you can pick up a paper application form from a Bus Station Travel Centre and send it by email to:

Inclusivetravel@westyorks-ca.gov.uk

or by post to:

The Inclusive Travel Team, P O Box 917 Leeds, LS1 9WS.

Key Links

<https://tec-bradford.co.uk/>

