

How can the service be accessed?

If you know someone that would benefit from Deafblind Support services, please contact us. You can do this in person, by telephone, fax, email, textphone or letter. You will be required to provide basic details such as client name, address and telephone number and a brief description of the support required. This information will be passed onto the Deafblind Specialist Worker who will then contact the client to arrange a meeting/appointment where their needs can be discussed in more detail.

Tips for Communication with Deafblind people

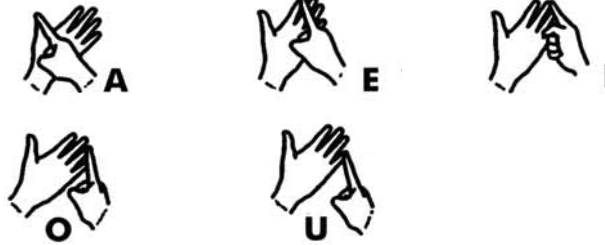
Communication with a Deafblind person can be greatly improved by following some of these simple steps:

- Use clear speech
- Be patient and creative
- Pay attention to lighting quality and position
- Be sensitive to feelings
- Don't shout
- Use gesture and facial expression
- Sign within the visual frame of the Deafblind person
- Clear writing with a thick pen
- Deafblind manual communication
- Block alphabet (writing letters on the palm)
- Large print.

The Deafblind manual alphabet

Vowels

The vowels a, e, i, o and u are all formed by touching the ends of a Deafblind person's fingers:



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Services for Deafblind People

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Services for Deafblind People

What does deafblind mean?

Deafblind people have a combined sight and hearing loss, this may cause difficulty with communication, access to information, mobility and daily living.

What support is available?

Through Deafness Support Network (DSN), Cheshire, Halton and Warrington have a specialist Deafblind Specialist Worker trained to assess, advise and equip people who have serious sight and hearing problems with the skills they need to live as independently as possible.

We offer assessment, training and advice for all aspects of daily life, including communication, access to information, mobility and daily living.

Communication

As sight and hearing deteriorates it is increasingly difficult for a deafblind person to communicate. It is the role of the Deafblind Specialist Worker to work with the Deafblind person to help them to develop their communication method.

This will vary greatly, depending on the individual and their first method of communication, for example British Sign Language or speech. The Deafblind Specialist Worker can also advise and train family members on how to communicate effectively with the Deafblind person.

Access to information

The Deafblind person may be having difficulty using the telephone, accessing a computer, reading or watching television. The Deafblind Specialist Worker can offer practical advice and discuss equipment that may help to eliminate these difficulties.

Mobility

Mobility is a term used to describe movement. This can be moving around safely and confidently in the home or outdoor mobility, moving around safely and independently in the local area. The Deafblind Specialist Worker can offer advice and training to enable the Deafblind person to travel with confidence. Most people with vision and hearing loss would greatly benefit from mobility training. The training offered will be completely person-centred and tailored to meet the Deafblind person's needs.

Activities of Daily Living

This includes activities such as:

- Choosing clothes and getting dressed
- Housework
- Cooking
- Shopping
- Making a Drink
- Telling the Time
- Watching Television.

People who are Deafblind can still live independently in their own home. It is one of the roles of the Deafblind Specialist Worker to discuss any problems that people may be facing in their own home and suggest ways that can be overcome, and also suggest equipment that could help practically.

Who is eligible for services?

Anybody who has both sight and hearing loss to the degree that it is causing them difficulties with communication, access to information, mobility and activities of daily living.

