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**Low Incidence Needs Service**

**LINS Darlington**

**Leaflet for parents explaining the support offered by the Low Incident Needs Service for children and young people who have a vision impairment in Darlington.**

LINS provides outreach support for children with a hearing, physical needs or vision impairment from a range of specialist staff. Children and young people are visited at home or their educational setting. The purpose is to ensure that the needs of children and young people with low incidence needs are fully met within their daily life.

The aim is that children and young people with low incidence needs:

* Make good educational progress and reduce or close any attainment gap that was existing between them and their peers on entry to school;
* Are happy as independent as possible at school, feel included and fully participate in the life of the school;
* Understand their visual condition and visual needs and can communicate this confidently.
* Move successfully on to a new school, further education

**Supporting Pupils with a Vision Impairment**

One of the roles of the LINS team is to support children with a vision impairment. This support is also offered to school staff, parents and any professional working with a child with a vision impairment. Jenny Hill is a Qualified Teacher of Vision Impairment QTVI and is the advisory teacher for the children and young people with vision impairments in Darlington.

**Who can access support?**

Any child from 0-16 who has vision impairment at home, nursery, primary school, secondary school or special school within Darlington and pupils 17-19 who attend Carmel College. Other further education settings can buy support from the service as needed.

**Referrals**

The Service has an open referral system. Referrals can be made by parents, education settings, health visitors, general practitioners, opticians, orthoptists and ophthalmologist. Our referral form can be found on our website http://www.hurworthprimary.com/vision-impairment/

**What happens after a referral is made?**

Jenny Hill will get in touch with the parents and school to arrange an initial visit to the child. Parents are very welcome to attend if they wish. Jenny will assess the child or young person’s functional vision and how it affects them.

 **How much support will a child receive?**

Support can vary from a weekly visit, monthly, half termly, termly or yearly. What happens during visits depend greatly on the needs of the pupil. A nationally agreed criterion from NatSIP is used to determine the level of support given.

**What does the service offer?**

• Assessment of pupil’s functional vision to determine what pupils see, how they use their vision and what conditions children and young people can see.

* Information, advice and training to parents, nursery, school or college staff about a pupil’s visual impairment, visual access needs, adaptations, exam access and assistive technology/ specialist equipment.
* Support for families with preschool children using the Developmental Journal for Vision Impairment to track and support each child’s development.
* Support to develop and encourage the use the child or young person’s residual vision.
* Direct support to assist the development of specialist curricula areas for individual pupils, for example Braille tuition or self-help /organisational skills.
* To liaise with other professionals in Education, Health, Social Care and voluntary organisations.
* Develop a support network by providing group social activities for children and their families.

**Ways to get in touch with the LINS VI Service**

**Jenny Hill** Advisory Teacher for Children and Young People with Vision Impairment

Office: 01325 720033 Work mobile: 07590020797

Email: jhill@hurworthprimary.com

Website: http://www.hurworthprimary.com/vision-impairment/

**Other useful contacts**

Jaqueline Wilson Assistant Rehabilitation Officer

Office: 01325 405406

Vane House Resource Centre in Darlington provides a range of support to blind & partially sighted people which enables them to gain knowledge, confidence and the skills necessary to enhance their quality of life. The centre provides a wide range of services to blind and partially sighted people. The equipment is available for use, not just for training. There is an assessment room where staff can demonstrate equipment which might be of use to visually impaired people including reading aids and talking watches.

 **Leaflet Updated February 2022**