

Job Description

Job Title: Deafblind Reablement Officer

Department: Deafblind Services

Primary Objectives: To promote independence through reablement programmes that enable individuals and their families to overcome the effects of Dual Sensory Loss.

Main Duties:

1. To respond to appropriate referrals from external providers and internal Vista Teams for people identified as having a significant hearing loss as well as sight loss.
2. To undertake home visits to people identified as having a dual sensory loss, and to offer advice and information to enable an independent living outcome.
3. To carry out a reablement assessment and use these to design and implement comprehensive reablement programmes for people with a dual sensory loss, either on an individual or group basis.
4. To teach people a range of independence skills appropriate to their needs. This may be conducted on an individual basis or in groups, within people's own homes, or elsewhere in the community.
5. To teach communication skills as appropriate to the person.
6. To work with Vistas Rehabilitation Team to teach mobility skills, ranging from indoor mobility to total independent travel, as appropriate. This may also include making maps, either tactile or written, to assist orientation.
7. To assess the need for equipment, aids and gadgets that will enable people to retain skills and independence. To make recommendations for items according to assessment and to train individuals in their use.
8. To be able to develop a range of short term outcome-focused reablement programmes for people with a dual sensory loss, in line with local authority commissioning outcomes.

9. To be able to develop a range of Long Term Reablement outcomes which are focused programmes for people with a sight loss which have clear timescales .
10. To use strengths and asset-based approaches when working with partially sighted, blind and deafblind people to enhance their inclusion, participation and independence.
11. To refer PA's, families and carers of people with a dual sensory loss to Vista's VI training.
12. To work closely with and refer to other agencies in order to achieve the desired outcomes for a dual sensory impaired person.
13. To maximise opportunities for acquiring or enhancing the social skills of dual sensory impaired people and those with additional disabilities of all ages, in co-operation with other Vista teams .
14. To keep up to date with all new technologies and equipment.
15. To be able to meet deadlines and keep to timescales in accordance with the SLA (Service Level Agreement).
16. To write up concise records of work within agreed timescales in accordance with the policies and procedures of Vista.
17. Flexibility is required to provide Community Support cover for service users.

Resources (refer to Guidance Notes):

a) People

To meet with the coordinator as appropriate to the reablement workload.
Support people with a dual sensory loss on a one-to-one basis.

Meet with families/carers of the person undergoing reablement as necessary.
Contact Social Work teams and any other agencies which may aid in the reablement process. Contact with Health Care professionals.

Support the person through a Community Care Assessment as necessary.

b) Financial

No responsibility for budgets, grants or financial process within Vista.
Externally aid people to understand their own finances.

c) Non-financial

Keep correct records of visits and the reablement process.

d) Special Factors

Physical: Guiding, lifting, including wheelchairs in and out of cars. Carrying shopping whilst guiding, wheelchair use.

Environmental: The nature of the role means a reablement officer can be in any internal or external environments.

Working in the home environment, supermarkets, hospitals, vets, banks, doctors surgeries and rural settings i.e. parks etc. The role also means the reablement officer will be out in all weather conditions.

People: People who have a dual sensory loss can be very isolated so the reablement officer will need to be empathetic to all emotional situations which may arise.

Additional responsibilities

- 1) To ensure activities comply with current law
- 2) To operate within the law at all times, with particular reference to health and safety; safeguarding; equality and data protection legislation
- 3) To work flexibly, including additional hours from time to time to meet the needs of the job, and some unsocial hours working.

Prepared by: CB

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This job description sets out the duties of the post at the time when it was drawn up. Such duties may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the duties or the level of responsibility entailed. Such variations are a common occurrence and cannot of themselves justify a reconsideration of the grading of the post.

Person Specification

Criteria	Essential	Desirable	How Identified (e.g. form, interview, test)
Qualifications & Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Guiding and Communicating with Deafblind People Level 3 ▪ Guide Communicator Qualification ▪ BSL Level 2 or commitment to undertake the qualification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Diploma in Deafblind Studies. ▪ Certificate in Deafblind Studies ▪ Trained Intervenor 	Application form Interview
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Experience with visually impaired people, preferably in a variety of settings ▪ Experience of general assessments for older people or people with a disability ▪ Experience in supporting people in communication. ▪ Experience in supporting people to develop social interaction. ▪ Experience in supporting people to have autonomy and make choices. ▪ Experience of using assistive technology to increase independence. ▪ Experience of writing up case notes. ▪ Experience of working to deadlines. ▪ Experience of collating statistics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with adults. 	Interview
Skills & Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Can demonstrate an understanding of reablement. ▪ Knowledge of Section 78 of the Care Act 2014 (for adults) “Care and support for deafblind children and adults policy guidance” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Knowledge of latest Government initiatives in the Social Care Agenda 	Interview

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proven written and verbal communication skills and excellent interpersonal skills. ▪ Ability to work as a member of a team. ▪ Ability to keep concise and accurate records. ▪ Knowledge/skill in the use of Microsoft Office/ Data Management Systems and Virtual Platform such as TEAMS ▪ Ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines. ▪ Knowledge of data protection and confidentiality 		Application & Interview
Personal Qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Patience ▪ Excellent communication skills ▪ Good interpersonal skills ▪ The ability to understand each person as an individual. ▪ To be encouraging and non-judgemental ▪ Empathetic ▪ The ability to be able to prioritise outcomes 		Interview
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ability to work flexibly. 		