



## **Sensory Support Services**

Sensory Teams in local authorities provide specialist support for adults and children with sight loss, hearing loss, or dual sensory impairment (deaf blindness). They promote independence through needs assessments, specialist equipment provision, mobility training, and rehabilitation.

These teams are generally divided into Adult Social Care and Children's Services (Education/SEND), offering a wide array of tailored support.

### **To help me guide you further, let me know:**

- Is this support for an adult or a child?
- Is the main concern related to sight, hearing, or both?
- What specific local authority do you fall under?

### **How to Access Support**

Access typically begins by requesting a **Care Act Assessment** via your local council's adult social care portal. Contact your local council or local authority for guidance.

### **It is very important to highlight the level of service varies in each local authority**

- Visual impairment
  - Hearing impairment (Deaf services)
  - Dual sensory loss (deafblind)
- Help ensure people understand safeguarding processes
  - Support communication during assessments or investigations
  - Advocate for accessibility and inclusion

### **1. Assessment**

They carry out specialist sensory assessments, often alongside or separate from Care Act assessments.

#### This might include:

- How sight/hearing loss affects daily living
- Communication needs
- Safety risks (e.g. cooking, crossing roads)
- Impact on education, work, or social life
- Need for adaptations or equipment



## **2. Specialist equipment and adaptations**

They can assess for and arrange:

- Assistive technology (talking clocks, magnifiers, alerting devices)
- Doorbells, fire alarms, and smoke alarms adapted for hearing loss
- TV loop systems
- Mobility aids for visually impaired people
- Software for screen reading or magnification

(Some items are free; others may be subject to funding criteria.)

## **3. Communication support**

For people with hearing loss: such as BSL, signing interpreter, lip speaking support, hearing aid support

- British Sign Language (BSL) interpreters (often via commissioning)

For people with sight loss:

- Information in accessible formats (large print, audio, Braille)
- Training in using residual vision effectively

## **4. Mobility and independence training**

Especially for visual impairment:

- Support with travelling safely and confidently
- Skills for independent living (cooking, budgeting, personal care)

## **5. Education support (children and young people)**

- Specialist teachers of the deaf / visually impaired
- Support in mainstream schools



- Advice on reasonable adjustments
- Input into EHCPs
- Support during transitions (e.g. school to college/university)

## **6. Employment and vocational support**

They can:

- Advise employers on reasonable adjustments
- Support access to assistive tech at work
- Liaise with Access to Work
- Help people remain in or return to employment

## **7. Emotional and social support**

- Support around adjustment to sight/hearing loss
- Reducing isolation
- Signposting to voluntary sector support (RNIB, Action on Hearing Loss, Sense, Deaf clubs)
- Peer support opportunities

## **8. Safeguarding and advocacy help with Sensory loss understanding safeguarding and advocate for accessibility and inclusion**

### **How Sensory services are accessed :**

GP and hospital or Social Services can help or contact your local authority

2026 “Sensory Support Services”, Isha Kallay Social Worker and Alison Baker *Clinical Nurse Specialist Lead NF2 related Schwannomatosis*

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**Please seek further information from [www.nervetumours.org.uk](http://www.nervetumours.org.uk), or contact the NTUK Helpline for specialist advise:**

**The helpline** is operational from 9am to 5pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

**Tel: 07939 046 030 / [helpline@nervetumours.org.uk](mailto:helpline@nervetumours.org.uk)**

(Tuesdays and Thursdays) you will be able to call the helpline number between 10am and noon to book an appointment to talk to the Specialist NF Nurse within a set time on one of the operational days.

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