

NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

World Cup England Player supports Action for Blind People

England player, Jamie Carragher, is supporting Action for Blind People's latest Direct Mail fundraising appeal. The appeal, which includes a letter of support from the England Defender, is being mailed to 140,000 warm donors nationwide this June.

The appeal focuses on the sports clubs the visual impairment charity runs for blind and partially sighted children, known as the Actionnaires clubs. Action currently runs 16 clubs across England and hopes to double this over the next year.

In his appeal letter the Liverpool FC player says:

"I'm shocked to learn about the lack of sporting opportunities for blind and partially sighted children across the UK. I believe it's incredibly important that all youngsters be given the chance to take part in sport. It builds confidence, fitness and social skills.

"Sport has been a hugely important part of my life since I was a child. Being involved in football from a young age has enabled me to stay fit, make friends and pursue a rewarding career."

Action for Blind People's Direct Mail Team hopes the appeal will generate in excess of £167,000.

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Notes to editors:

- There are currently 16 Actionnaires clubs across the UK in Huddersfield, Portsmouth, Essex, Sunderland, Blackburn, Coventry, Manchester, Liverpool (2), West London, South London, Hull, Birmingham, Southampton, Nottingham and Peterborough.
- Action for Blind People supports over 20,000 blind and partially sighted people in the UK every year. Action for Blind People's National Freephone Helpline is 0800 915 4666.
- Action works to inspire change and create opportunities to enable blind and partially sighted people to have equal voice and equal choice and to live a full and valuable life.
- Action provides visually impaired people with opportunities through employment, housing, leisure and information and support.