

# NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

## **Action for Blind People appoints new Director of Services**

National visual impairment charity, Action for Blind People, has appointed a new Director of Services. Miriam Martin, has stepped up to the post after 12 years with the charity and will report directly to the charity's Chief Executive, Stephen Remington.

Miriam Martin will be responsible for leading all of Action for Blind People's services across the UK. Action's services include: a network of sports clubs for children and four hotels offering holiday breaks; a housing support and advice service which also includes two housing units owned by the charity; employment services across the UK assisting blind and partially sighted people into work; and finally, Action's Information and Support service which includes a mobile unit demonstrating assistive technology across the country and a National Freephone Helpline.

Miriam Martin joined Action for Blind People as Deputy Manager at one of the charity's housing units in 1994, working her way up to manager of the unit before becoming Head of Housing in 2004. As Head of Housing she oversaw both charity residences as well as Action's independent housing projects.

Action for Blind People is currently developing its regional teams so that each location offers local blind and partially sighted people the full range of Action services, working in partnership with other organisations to fill any gaps. In her new post as Director of

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Services, Miriam's vision is simple. She aspires to lead her teams to provide a seamless service so that any visually impaired person can get all their needs met with one phone call. She hopes to inspire colleagues to care so much for each caller, that they go above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that the caller gets all the practical support and advice they need and want.

Miriam Martin comments:

"I want to level the playing field in terms of equality for blind and partially sighted people. Many of the visually impaired people who I come into contact with, don't want special treatment, they don't consider themselves different, they just want to be treated fairly and equally. In simple terms this can mean the ability to read their own mail, to be able to access transport systems, to be able to work and to participate in life, with the same choices and control that sighted people have."

**-Ends-**

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## Notes to editors:

- 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.
- The name 'Action for Blind People' can be abbreviated as 'Action'. The charity does not recognise the acronyms AFBP or ABP.