

Action for blind people

# Supporting blind and partially sighted people

If you or anyone you know has lost or is losing their sight, we can help.



**Action for Blind People is a national charity that provides free and confidential support for blind and partially sighted people in all aspects of their lives.**

One call to Action ensures that visually impaired people receive help with anything from finding a job, applying for benefits, housing issues, aids and adaptations, holiday breaks or information on local services. We can also offer advice to people who have a visually impaired friend or family member. Whatever the need, Action can help.

For issues outside our areas of expertise, we have developed a network of partners who are experts in their field and we work with them to get the best possible deal for blind and partially sighted people. We guide people to the right partner, but we don't stop there. We ensure that the service received was right for them. If it wasn't then we find out why and help to solve the problem.

**If you need help with anything to do with visual impairment, talk to our experts - talk to Action.**



## Inside Action

Our **Action Coordinators** provide general information and support on a wide range of visual impairment matters. We also employ specialists who are experts in the fields of employment, housing, welfare rights and assistive technology.



## Employment matters

Our **Employment Coordinators** work hard to prepare visually impaired people for employment, find the right job, or keep their job if they lose their sight whilst working. We can also help employers with the recruitment of blind and partially sighted people and provide advice on equipment and adaptations which can enable them to remain in their job. We also offer Visual Awareness Training to enable employers to understand the needs of their visually impaired employees.



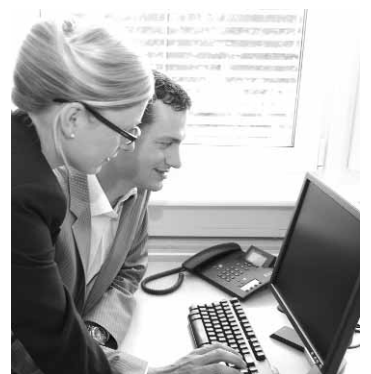
## There's no place like home

Everyone wants somewhere to live where they feel comfortable and safe. Our **Housing Coordinators** help people make the right housing choice. We provide real options for blind and partially sighted people about where they live, whether it's information and support in choosing a new home, or a move to supported housing or residential care.



## Advice on IT

The use of computers and the Internet has become an essential part of peoples' lives. This is especially important to blind and partially sighted people as they offer access to information at home or at work which they may not otherwise be able to use. Our **Assistive Technology Coordinators** provide practical support with clients' needs, ranging from access technology to advice on buying the best computer.



## Money matters

Our **Welfare Rights Officers** guide visually impaired people and their advisers through the benefits maze. Last year Action ensured that over £1.5 million of benefits went to people who really needed them.



# Did you know that there are over 2 million blind and partially sighted people in the UK and that one person starts to lose their sight every 15 minutes?

## Introducing George

George first came into contact with us through Action's Point of Diagnosis service at the Sunderland Eye Infirmary. He was gradually losing his sight, due to a degenerative macular condition and was struggling to cope. Since then, George has been supported by Action for Blind People's team in Middlesbrough.



George said, "Action has been so supportive to me. Before, my confidence was at rock bottom, to the point where I wouldn't even answer the phone. When they visited me at home for the first time I was slightly anxious, but they were so friendly that it made me feel completely at ease. My confidence has really grown. I feel as though I have my life back and I can't thank them enough."

George had not been working or claiming sick pay for some time so we helped him to access the Incapacity Benefit to which he was entitled and supported him with Disability Living Allowance (DLA) applications and reviews. He has since been awarded DLA and mobility training, arranged through the local Rehabilitation Officer.

Due to a further loss in vision, George had a bad fall in his home so Action arranged an urgent home assessment from Social Service's Sensory Team. We are now assisting him with a request for re-housing and in the meantime we have provided aids for his home to help prevent further injuries.

George coached football for 15 years before he lost his sight and wanted to coach again. Action helped him with information about courses and funding so that he could undertake training. He is now coaching at one of our Actionnaires Sports clubs for visually impaired children. George's wife said, "Action has been marvellous, all the support has been amazing and has given George something to live for."

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## Action for Blind People

14 - 16 Verney Road

London

SE16 3DZ

National Freephone Helpline: **0800 915 4666**

Email: [info@actionforblindpeople.org.uk](mailto:info@actionforblindpeople.org.uk)

Website: [www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk](http://www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk)



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