

NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

Cornwall Library Service works with Action for Blind People

National charity, Action for Blind People, will be offering employment advice to local blind and partially sighted people when the charity tours Cornwall's libraries from March to July 2006. The visual impairment charity's first stop will be the Newquay Library on Thursday 23 March, 10am-2pm.

Anyone who would like to find work, return to employment, or who, through recent loss of sight may be in danger of losing their job, is welcome to come along. Action for Blind People's advisor can assist with job searches, help with applications, advise on interview technique and provide information on initiatives available to assist visually impaired people into work.

Helen Adams, Employment Opportunities Coordinator with Action for Blind People, comments:

"Employment amongst blind and partially sighted people of working age in the UK is shockingly low, with three out of four people unemployed. Action for Blind People works with people to help them regain their confidence and think positively about their employment options. I would like to say a big thank you to the libraries in Cornwall for giving us the opportunity to support visually impaired people across the county."

The Cornwall Library Service already offers visually impaired people the chance to learn how to use a computer for free. It also has specialist technology available such as screen magnification and software which can convert text into speech. This

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free service is provided by the libraries' Study Support Officers. The Cornwall Libraries Service also provides large print books, talking books on cassette and CD and a free home delivery library service. More information can be obtained from local libraries or by visiting www.cornwall.gov.uk/library or calling their freephone helpline on 0800 032 2345.

Action for Blind People's Helen Adams will be visiting libraries on the dates listed below and will be pleased to see all interested visually impaired people, and their friends and family. For further information please call Helen on 01752 794570.

Newquay Library - Thurs 23 March, 10am-2pm

Redruth Library - Thurs 13 April, 10am-2pm

St Austell Library - Mon 8 May, 10am-2pm

Saltash Library - Fri 9 June 10am-2pm

Liskeard Library - Thurs 6 July 9.30am-2pm

-Ends-

For further media information please contact Zoë Patel, PR Officer for Action for Blind People on Tel: 020 7635 4898 or email: zoe.patel@actionforblindpeople.org.uk

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.