

Deafblind Guidance Assessment

What is it?

The Deafblind Guidance Assessment is an easy way of referring to the legal guidance for local authorities who provide services for children, young people and adults who have MSI / Deafblindness. In England, the latest version of the guidance, 'Care and Support for Deafblind Children and Adults', was issued in December 2014 by the Department of Health.

What is MSI / Deafblindness?

The definition provided by the guidance is: *"Persons are regarded as deafblind if their combined sight and hearing impairment cause difficulties with communication, access to information and mobility."*

This means that anyone who has both a vision and hearing loss that results in them experiencing difficulties in everyday life is covered by the guidance. People do not have to be completely deaf or completely blind.

What can it provide?

This assessment can potentially provide funding to meet the non-educational needs of a person with MSI/ deafblindness such as help to support:

- inclusion to family life
- access to community life
- communication support
- help with getting around
- assistive technology
- habilitation

The Guidance asks local authorities to identify, make contact with, and keep a record of MSI /deafblind people in their area in order to plan ahead for services.

You can volunteer to be included on their disability register by going on SCS's website and clicking the link for **What's local to you**

Related Links

W: berkshiresensoryconsortium.co.uk

W: sense.org.uk/



Related Sheets

Visual acuity: Mild/Moderate/ Severe/
 Profound Hearing Loss