

GATESHEAD M.B.C.

EDUCATION SERVICES

Lead Teacher for Visually Impaired

Amanda Ross

Dryden Professional Development Centre

Evistones Road

GATESHEAD, NE9 5UR

Telephone 0191 4338500 ext. 8536

Fax 0191 4338713

Giving support to visually impaired children, within the Borough, at Harlow Green Primary

Tutor for Special Education

Gateshead College

Quarryfield Road

GATESHEAD, NE9 3BE

Telephone 0191 4900300

GATESHEAD M.B.C.

MEDICAL SERVICES

School Health Co-ordinator

Head of Service

Susan Hay

Bensham Hospital

Saltwell Road

GATESHEAD, NE8 4YL

Telephone 0191 4455259

The aim is for all pre-school children to be tested by the Orthoptist and in the reception class if missed at the pre-school check and year 6 (10 - 11 years)

GATESHEAD M.B.C.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Sensory Support Team

Dave Hughes

Community Based Services

Civic Centre

GATESHEAD, NE8 1HH

Telephone 0191 4332382/84 Fax 0191 4782224

Minicom 0191 4785981

Social Services Day & Occupation Centres

Situated throughout the Borough, for those people over retirement age, (handicraft, bingo, hairdressing, outings etc.).

Minimum charge for lunch.

Contact the Sensory Support Team Duty Officer.

Community & Voluntary Day Centres

Spread around the Borough on various days of the week, i.e.

Age Concern

Hardman Centre

Gateshead

The Sensory Support Team offers assessment under NHS and Community Care Act for all people who have a sensory loss.

Advice and information can be given about equipment and services.

For further information contact the Sensory Support Team Duty Officer.

See Voluntary Services for Talking Newspapers etc.

GATESHEAD M.B.C.

VOLUNTARY SERVICES

Gateshead Trust Fund for Registered Blind People in Gateshead M.B.C.
Applications for assistance can be made direct to the Director of Social Services or through your Technical Officer.

Sight Service (Gateshead & South Tyneside)

Registered Charity No. 1107499

Sight Service (Gateshead Resource Centre)

Sight Service offers a range of information, services and support for visually impaired people and also their carers, families, friends and advocates in the Gateshead area. This includes an accessible resource centre with a display of helpful daily living equipment; an IT training suite; a training kitchen; a low vision suite; a meeting room and an area for service users to meet. Services include 'Supporting People' (under contract to Gateshead MBC); a low vision service (in partnership with Gateshead PCT, Gateshead MBC, RNIB and local optometrists); IT training; activity groups; home visits; telephone support; a newsletter; equipment ordering service; welfare benefits advice; volunteering opportunities for visually impaired people; an annual regional exhibition; a group for young people who are visually impaired and specialist peer group sessions for people who have recently begun to lose their sight.

To find out more contact:

Sight Service

Bensham Hospital

Saltwell Road

GATESHEAD, NE8 4YL

Telephone 0191 4785959

e-mail contactus@sightservice.co.uk

Website www.sightservice.co.uk

Teams and District Social Club

Derwentwater Road

GATESHEAD, NE8 2SJ

Telephone 0191 4200921

GATESHEAD M.B.C.

VOLUNTARY SERVICES

Gateshead Visually Impaired Forum (GVIF)

Gateshead Visually Impaired Forum is a service user group for blind and partially sighted people from the Gateshead area who campaign and lobby to improve access to everyday activities and services including shopping, health services, local authority services, public transport and utility services. The forum meets once a month, on the second Tuesday afternoon of each month, to discuss their views. The group also try out new specialist equipment and have social outings.

To find out more contact John Robinson:

Telephone 0191 4222799
Email johngvif@yahoo.com

Talking Newspapers & Magazines

Three different tapes and USB stick service each week available from:

A.I.R.S. (Access to Information and Reading Service)

Gateshead Central Library

Prince Consort Road

GATESHEAD, NE8 4LN

Telephone 0191 4338450

Email airs@gateshead.gov.uk

Website www.airs.org.uk

Readers' groups for visually impaired people in Blaydon Library (4th Wednesday of the month) and Central Library (2nd Thursday of the month)

For full details contact:

Ann Ruddick Information Assistant (Braille)

Telephone 0191 4338453

Professional transcription services – Braille, audio, large print and British Sign Language video.

For details contact:

Janice Holmes Production Manager

Telephone 0191 4338458