

Edinburgh and Lothians Joint Sensory Partnership

Hidden Sensory Loss Project

Working to ensure a better quality of life for people with complex needs – learning disability, stroke and/or dementia – and hidden sensory loss.

The aim of the project is to work with individuals, carers and professionals to support adults with “hidden” sensory loss to access community eye care, audiology and other support services.

We will also help to establish Sensory Champions to raise awareness of hidden sensory loss and ensure that sensory loss issues are addressed for those with complex needs.



Hidden sensory loss – the issues

Hearing or sight problems may be unrecognised or undiagnosed because:

- behaviours associated with sensory loss may be thought of as being symptoms of complex needs such as learning disability, dementia or stroke
- people with complex needs may not be aware that they have a sensory problem and may not be able to tell others.

This results in carers and professionals thinking the individual can see and hear perfectly well when this may not be the case. This “hidden sensory loss” can have a serious impact on the quality of life of a person with complex needs.



Background to the partnership

Following two-year funding from the Scottish Government, RNIB Scotland and Deaf Action have launched the Edinburgh and Lothian Joint Sensory Partnership (ELJSP).

The partnership will deliver better services for people with hearing or sight loss by:

- maximising existing resources and networks
- introducing sustainable support services
- raising awareness of sensory loss issues throughout the region.

The service will also develop training for community groups and health and social care staff, in addition to producing a toolkit with advice and information on local support groups.

About the charities

RNIB Scotland is the leading charity working with blind and partially sighted people in Scotland.

As a membership organisation we are dedicated to delivering services our members need and campaigning for their civil and welfare rights. We support children and adults with sight loss to live full and independent lives.

rnib.org.uk

Deaf Action is a deaf-led charity that has been working for an equal and better future for deaf people (includes deaf British Sign Language users, deafened, deafblind and hard of hearing people) since 1835. This vision remains at the heart of everything we do today and is central to all the services we provide.

deafaction.org.uk

Further information

If you would like to know more about the project and/or sensory champion training, please get in touch.

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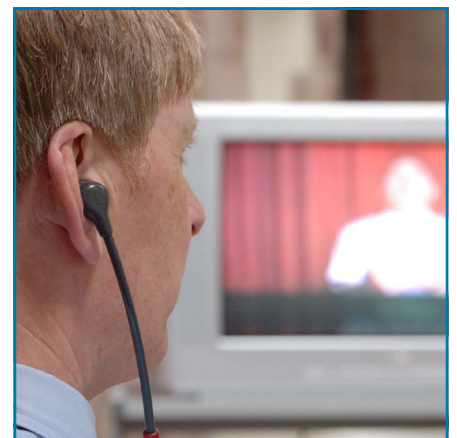
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Please contact us for a copy of this leaflet on audio, braille or large print formats.



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