



Secondary School Deaf Resource Base for Deaf Children and Young People

The Virtual School Sensory Support (VSSS) is exploring ways to provide the very best service to the widest number of deaf children and young people across the county.

What are we proposing?

In order to continue providing an excellent service across the county we are considering a new model for our delivery.

We are proposing to move our focus from the Deaf Resource Base at City Academy to the wider delivery across Norfolk. This will build capacity in a larger number of settings for children and young people who meet the criteria for admission to a Deaf Resource Base.

The VSSS is the employer of the staff and will start implementing a new model from September 2018, by deploying staff in an outreach capacity to these children and young people in their local school to reach a greater number of students.

The VSSS has been considering a different model of secondary school Resource Base provision for deaf students for the following reasons;

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CONTACT US



Check us out on Facebook

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sensorysupport@norfolk.gov.uk

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Virtual School Sensory Support - deaf children, young people and families

Virtual School Sensory Support - visual impairment

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SEND PARTNERSHIP

Telephone: 01603 704070

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- The current base is in Norwich at City Academy and therefore access is not possible from many parts of Norfolk

- Students and families are choosing their local mainstream school more and more

- Numbers of students in the base fluctuate from year to year so resources could be used more effectively if not committed to one setting

- It is Norfolk County Council's ambition to support children and young people to attend their local mainstream school wherever possible

- We want to use resources more flexibly and effectively to reach a greater number of students and build capacity in a larger number of settings, using the funding for secondary Deaf Resource Base provision which will remain at the same level as currently.

There will be no more admissions to the Deaf Resource Base at City Academy from September 2018. The deaf students who attend City Academy will continue to get the same level of support until they leave school. There will be no change in the level of service provided to them.

Consultation

We would welcome your feedback on this proposal via the following link online;

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/deafresourcebase/>

This online consultation will run for a period of six weeks ending on Friday 13th April.

If you would like a hard copy of the consultation please contact sensorysupport@norfolk.gov.uk or telephone 01603 704040.

Invitation to Research Study at UEA

Dear Parent,

You and your child are invited to participate in a research study being conducted in the Developmental Dynamics Laboratory in the School of Psychology at the University of East Anglia. The purpose of this study is to investigate how hearing impaired children remember and learn new

PORTAGE TEAM
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information in the absence of early auditory information and what areas of the brain help to enact these abilities.

We are inviting children between the ages of 2.5 to 10 years participate in this research study. The study involves one visit to our laboratory located in the Lawrence Stenhouse Building on the university campus in Norwich.

During your visit, your child will be seated at a table while completing simple interactive tasks. For example, your child will respond to a series of images on the screen and make responses based on a rule. We will record your child's responses to these tasks. In addition, your child will wear a special cap that has been fitted with multiple sensors. These sensors use infrared light to measure blood flow changes in the brain, providing a measure of how the brain is responding as they make decisions. The infrared light used is very low power and is less than the amount of light the head would receive during an outdoor walk on a sunny day. This technique is called functional near infrared spectroscopy (fNIRS) and is a safe and non-invasive technique, this measure of brain activity is considered harmless. You will also be asked to fill out brief questionnaires providing, for instance, basic demographic information.

The fNIRS test lasts approximately 40 minutes and your entire visit to the lab should last between 1.5-2 hours. You will remain with your child the entire time. We have used these procedures successfully many times before, most children like them, and parents often find the sessions quite interesting. Testing will be stopped if you think your child is uncomfortable in any way (for instance, if your child becomes tired or doesn't like the cap). Your child will receive a small gift for participating. Free parking in designated bays for lab visitors will be provided and we will reimburse any bus or taxi fees.

We hope you will be interested in this study to help us learn more about young children's development. If you are or if you have any questions at all, please contact us either via phone at 01603 592366, text phone 07957753342 or email: V.Cardin@uea.ac.uk. We will then answer any questions you may have and set up a time for you and your child to visit the laboratory. Thank you for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,

Dr Velia Cardin, PhD

Lecturer

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deafbrainplasticity.com

Vision England Residential Weekends - RNIB

Sign up for the experience of a lifetime with Vision England!

Build your confidence and independence, learn new skills, have fun and make new friends – what are you waiting for?

Vision England is an exciting residential programme for young people aged 14 – 17 years with vision impairment, in partnership with the Field Studies Council (FSC). Young people are supported to play a leading role in changing their communities and the environment for the better.

Why sign up?

- Three fun-filled residentials over a year.
- Supported by an amazing team of staff experienced in working with young people with vision impairment.
- You shape the activities you do, which may include conservation activities like coppicing and tree planting, and other activities like wildlife walks, bush craft, hiking and camping.
- Opportunity to gain a John Muir Award certificate (environmental award scheme).

Who can apply?

You must be:

- able to attend all residential dates for your chosen venue
- blind or partially sighted
- at least 14 years old on 1 April 2018.
- aged 17 or under on 1 November 2018.
- reasonably able to maintain your own personal hygiene and routine.
- Willing and physically able to camp outdoors in the summer and take part in set outdoor activities designed as a group.
- willing to undertake small tasks at home that will lead you towards obtaining the John Muir Award.

You can only attend the Vision England programme once, to allow more young people to benefit from the programme.

What does it cost?

Just £25 for three residentials and introduction day.

How are places allocated?

Places are allocated on a first come first served basis, however, young people aged 17 years will be given priority. We aim to get a mix of gender, ages and levels of ability, and will accommodate all medical and physical needs where possible. All places are assessed on an individual basis. We reserve the right to withdraw an offer of a place.

Dates and venues for 2018

Castle Head, Cumbria

- Introduction day: 3 March 2018. Venue TBC
- Residential 1: Wednesday 4 to Friday 6 April
- Residential 2: Wednesday 29 August to Saturday 1 September
- Residential 3: Saturday 20 to Monday 22 October

Preston Montford, Shropshire

- Introduction day: 24 February 2018. Venue TBC
- Residential 1: Wednesday 4 to Friday 6 April
- Residential 2: Tuesday 7 to Friday 10 August
- Residential 3: Friday 26 to Sunday 28 October

Juniper Hall, Surrey

- Introduction day: 3 March 2018. Venue TBC
- Residential 1: Wednesday 4 to Friday 6 April
- Residential 2: Sunday 19 to Wednesday 22 August
- Residential 3: Monday 22 to Wednesday 24 October

Sign up today!

To sign up or for more information please contact:

- Call Phil Wagstaff, Vision England Project Officer on 07894 598766
- Email visionengland@rnib.org.uk
- Visit www.rnib.org.uk/vision-england
- RNIB Helpline 0303 123 9999

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