

Membership and Needs Assessment Policy

What do we mean by Needs Assessment?

Deafblind Scotland carries out a needs assessment in order to offer access to appropriate programmes and/or services to deafblind people or people with single sensory loss and at risk of progressive second sensory loss whether that is a sight or hearing loss. Deafblind people may also have their needs assessed as part of the procedure involved in being offered full membership of Deafblind Scotland. People with single sensory loss and at risk of progressive second sensory loss whether that is a sight or hearing loss will be offered associate membership.

Policy Statement

Deafblind Scotland seeks to provide a guide/communicator service to deafblind people as part of a whole range of services which may improve their quality of life. People with single sensory loss and at risk of progressive second sensory loss whether that is a sight or hearing loss will be offered access to appropriate programmes and/or services. In order to do this Deafblind Scotland will carry out a straightforward assessment of need which will include both needs as stated by the individual and also those observed by the qualified member of staff who undertakes the assessment.

Where needs are noted during the assessment for membership, the agreement of the individual will be secured before these needs are notified to any appropriate agency. Where possible the potential member will be made aware of other available statutory and voluntary services and the pathway to accessing these services. This will include Deafblind Scotland projects which may include the provision of a guide/communicator service within medical settings, health improvement activities, quality of life activities, etc. Further assessment for membership will include supporting those who have a single sensory loss and are at risk or progressive second sensory loss whether that is a sight or hearing loss.

Where needs are noted during an assessment to receive a contracted guide/communicator service then the terms of the agreement under which the service is offered will be adhered to, in which case the individual user will be informed of these.

Definition of Deafblindness

To be assessed for membership of Deafblind Scotland there is a particular focus on people who have a dual sensory loss, that is both a severe sight and hearing loss.

To be assessed for a guide/communicator service the following needs of the person will be specifically considered:

- Communication
- Mobility problems
- Health issues
- Mental health issues

- Family support available
- Community support available
- Statutory support available
- Housing support needs
- Shopping support needs
- Independent living support needs
- Social support needs
- Involvement in their community
- Interests and hobbies

Relevant forms will be completed to ensure this information is captured and recorded. Relevant agencies will be informed where the individual has agreed to this or contracted service requires the reporting of need.

Deafblind Scotland will report to the individual when information has been forwarded to other agencies (in compliance with UK GDPR)

Deafblind Scotland will monitor the response of other agencies to any need reported by Deafblind Scotland.

Deafblind Scotland's staff will include this assessment of need in the service-user's file and ensure any necessary Risk Assessment is undertaken, any identified risks are minimised and control measures implemented.

An assessment of need will be undertaken on request from the individual deafblind person, family members, carers, a statutory agency, voluntary agency, funding agency, Deafblind Scotland projects.

Relevant Forms

DBS Referral Form

Hard & See Hear Leaflet