

Freedom of Information request - social care provision for blind and partially sighted adults"

Rehabilitation for blind and partially sighted people

1. Do adults who your local authority registers as blind or partially sighted ordinarily get offered a structured programme of rehabilitation?

Yes, this is called the Reablement Service in Leicester which is provided up to 6 weeks jointly with Health Therapists.

Service users can also access directly to the Deafblind Reablement at VISTA if people are recognised as having a hearing difficulty as well as registered blind or visually impaired. The service offers intensive short-term support, focusing on specialist communication techniques, and sets out an achievement plan for people to regain or maintain their independence.

By rehabilitation we mean at least six weeks and usually a longer period of intermediate care which is not charged for and the provision of which does not depend on an adult being assessed as having eligible care needs. The legal provisions underpinning intermediate care were originally set out in the Community Care (Delayed Discharges) Act. The primary focus of rehabilitation (or re-ablement) for blind and partially sighted adults is the development of specialist skills to adapt to living with a visual impairment, so for example mobility skills to independently and safely get around. By "structured programme of rehabilitation" we also cover rehabilitation delivered by a voluntary organisation or independent provider under contract with your local authority. All local authorities are required under statute to maintain a register of sight impaired adults and report data to the NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care every three years.

2. Do adults who are newly registered as blind or partially sighted in your local authority area ordinarily get offered a structured programme of rehabilitation prior to a community care assessment of eligible needs?

Yes.

3. Does your local authority typically offer a structured programme of rehabilitation to adults with sight loss who have not been registered as sight impaired or severely sight impaired?

Yes.

Needs assessments for blind and partially sighted people

4. Of those adults newly registered by your local authority as blind or partially sighted, how many have received a community care assessment of needs? By "community care assessment of needs" we mean the assessment to determine eligibility for local authority-funded care based on the adult's level of care and support needs.

For adults newly registered blind or partially sighted in your local authority area in 2009/2012:

During the period 01/01/2009 to 31/12/2012

1487 people were registered as Partially Sighted
826 people were registered as Blind. This includes people who had previously been registered as Partially Sighted.

Alternatively, the number of Newly Registered which excludes those previously registered as Partially Sighted is:

513 people were newly registered as Blind (never previously registered as Partially Sighted)

Eligibility

5. Of those adults newly registered by your local authority as blind or partially sighted, how many individuals who received a community care needs assessment were assessed as having eligible care needs that met your local authority's minimum eligibility threshold? By "minimum eligibility threshold" we mean the four bandings used as part of the Fair Access to Care Services and 'Prioritising Need' frameworks, so for example "low" needs, "moderate" needs, "substantial" needs or "critical" needs.

i. Please state your minimum eligibility threshold:

We don't define this at the time we receive the referrals for this particular group of service users.

The Council does not hold this information. Therefore this letter acts as a refusal notice under section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because, in accordance with section 1.1 of the Act, this information is not held by Leicester City Council.

For adults newly registered blind or partially sighted in your local authority area in 2009/10:

For adults newly registered blind or partially sighted in your local authority area in 2010/11:

For adults newly registered blind or partially sighted in your local authority area in 2011/12:

For adults newly registered blind or partially sighted in your local authority area in 2012/13:

For adults in your local authority area recorded as blind or partially sighted in 2012/13, the total is:

Personalisation

6. What data does your local authority collect on the impairment or health condition of adults in receipt of direct payments?

Each person is allocated a primary client type based on the client's circumstances.

The categories of primary client type used are:

Physical disability with the following subset categories: Physical disability, frailty and /or temporary illness, Hearing impairment, Visual impairment and Dual sensory loss

Mental health with the following subset categories: Mental health – Aspergers Syndrome, Mental health – Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Dementia

Learning Disability with the following subset categories: Learning Disabilities Aspergers Syndrome, Learning Disabilities Autistic Spectrum Disorder

Substance Misuse

Other Vulnerable People includes Asylum Seekers/refugees and welfare benefits clients

7. Does your local authority collect statistics on the numbers of adults in receipt of a direct payment who are registered blind or partially sighted?

Yes.

8. As a percentage of all those adults who have been assessed by your local authority as having eligible care needs and currently receive a direct payment, how many in total are recorded as blind or partially sighted?

As of the 31st March 2013, 1,127 people aged 18 and over, were in receipt of a direct payment, of which, 27 (2.4%) had a visual impairment or dual sensory loss.

Thank you in anticipation of your response.