Sensory Impairment Service for adults

Review - May 2018

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1. Introduction & Background

The Sensory Impairment Service is currently delivered by Herefordshire Vision Links (HVL) who provide a range of care and support in partnership with Deaf Direct (DD). HVL and DD have a memorandum of understanding to jointly deliver the service in partnership. The contract for sensory impairments commenced on 1 April 2014 with an initial end date of 31 March 2016. Within the contract there was provision for a 12 month extension to be taken by the council. The option for the extension was taken up.

A planned review of the service during 2016 was not undertaken and a further extension of 18 months to the end of September 2018 was granted in April 2017.

As background, the current contract was established following a formal competitive tendering process as part of the Next Stage Integration (NSI) project. This comprised a suite of procurements in relation to eight adult wellbeing services in 2014 which were recommissioned in order to enable the council to continue to fulfil its statutory obligations in relation to these services. The current provider delivers appropriate aids and adaptations for service users (including self-funders) via this scheme in addition to the contract delivered.

Since April 2014 the register of register of people who are severely sight impaired and sight impaired, a requirement under the Care Act, has been being kept by Vision Links as they provide our sensory impairment service however Certificates and records that pre-date April 2014 are stored in deep storage by the Council's Records Unit.

Herefordshire also currently benefits from a Low Vision scheme, funded by Herefordshire CCG. Service users must be registered with a Herefordshire GP and can access the scheme by either self-referral or request from a GP to one of six low vision practitioners in the county. HVL also link with this service. There is a longer term proposal currently being discussed to combine the Council's Vision impairment service with that of the CCG's Low Vision scheme. These discussions are still at an early stage.

2. Strategic Relevance

The contract helps the council to comply with its statutory obligations to residents of Herefordshire with a sensory impairment as the affected contract is the only sensory impairment service provided by the council and there is no alternative in-house provision for adults.

3. Service Provision

The Sensory Impairment Service provides a range of therapeutic services and interventions for people with visual and/or hearing impairments. Interventions are carried out to meet the specific needs of referred adults with sensory impairments within the context in which they live or work. The service promotes independence and social inclusion to minimize the impact of any disability.

The Service currently offers four core elements:

Assessments – working with those referred to them to establish the level of need and the eligibility of clients to receive services

Enablement – working with clients to enable them to live full and active lives. Enablement will support individuals to maximize choice and control over how their needs are met.

Support will be based on ordinary life solutions to enable individuals to access mainstream health, housing, employment, education and leisure services. The Service promotes a risk enabling approach and positive risk taking to enable people with sensory impairments to live ordinary lives.

Technical advice and support – advising clients on the best choice of equipment to meet their needs and making technical adjustments to equipment so that it operates at an optimal level.

Information advice and guidance – giving them information advice and guidance to clients and signposting them to other health and council related services where appropriate

4. Referral routes - Vision

The most common route for a service user to access the vision side of the service is via a hospital assessment where a consultant will, if appropriate, issue a Certificate of Visual Impairment (CVI). Clients can also be referred via the Eye Clinic Liaison Officer (ECLO)* to Vision Links. Clients can also currently self-refer to Vision Links.

*The ECLO is an RNIB employed officer embedded within the Eye Hospital.

Once a client is referred to HVL their level of need is assessed by the Rehabilitation Officer and aids/adaptations/advice & information are provided accordingly.

To illustrate the number of referrals to this service, in 2015 the proportion of referrals from various sources were as follows;

Referral source	number	%
Victoria Eye Unit, County Hospital	326	83.6%
BBR Optometry Low Vision Service	21	5.2%
RNIB Eye Clinic Liaison Officer	12	3.1%
Adult Referral Team / Locality Team Herefordshire Council	13	3.4%
External Agencies and Partner Organisations	17	4.5%
Self-referral	1	0.02%

These referrals resulted in 117 home visits by the Rehabilitation Officer and 51 Community Orientation and Mobility Training Programmes [multiple session] including 'Long Cane' training and Transport training.

5. Referral routes - Hearing

The current route for a service user accessing the deaf impairment service (DI) is via an auditory clinic hospital assessment – with referral to HVL (Deaf Direct) or, via a walk-in general enquiry to HVL (Deaf Direct); or via an Open 'drop-in' clinics that are held throughout the county.

Following an assessment a standard package of aid/adaptation/training is given irrespective of level of need.

To illustrate the number of referrals to this service, the number of referrals from various sources in 2015 were as follows:

	TOTAL
Referrals from Audiology and from clinics (altogether)	780
Referrals from teams at the council	4
Referrals from Vision Links	5
Referrals from the Fire Service	3
Referrals from Age UK	6

These referrals received the following service(s);

Number of home visits	179
Number of people who came to the offices for advice or to try equipment	106
Number of people who came to the support groups	73

Note; Clients may appear in more than one statistical group i.e. a client may be referred from audiology, be visited at home and come to a support group or other activity

6. Current demand and usage – Vision

Background note - The contract started in April 2014. For the 48 months from April 2014 to March 2018 only data for 27 of those months has been submitted (all of 2014 is missing for example).

There have repeated attempts to improve the flow of management information from the contractor but it is only in the past two years a reliable flow of data has been established.

Throughput

In the 27 months of data we have, 358 clients were seen by Vision Links. This gives an average of 13.25 clients per calendar month.

Location of service users

Around 90% of those seen came from the principle towns of Herefordshire;

Hereford	54%
Leominster	11%
Ross on Wye	9.5%
Ledbury	7.5%
Bromyard	5%
Kington	3%

Sight conditions (type)

Of those recorded 46% were recorded as sight Impaired and 49% were recorded as blind. The remainder were not recorded.

Age of service users

The ages of clients seen were as follows;

Those aged between 18-64	9.1%
Those aged between 65-74	5.3%
Those aged 75+	65.6%
Not recorded	20%

7. Current demand and usage – Hearing

Background note - Although the data for hearing is more comprehensive than that for vision it is still only partially complete. The data used here covers April 2014 to September and October 2017.

Market Town Clinics

Total number of clients seen at market town clinics April 2014 to September 2017 was 2901 – an average of 69 per calendar month. The ages of those seen at clinics was not recorded.

The number of clients seen at each market town clinic between April 2016 and August 2017 were;

Leominster	235
Kington	191
Bromyard	158
Ledbury	166
Ross on Wye	92

Home visits

The number of clients seen in their own homes between April 2014 and October 2017 was 766 – an average of 18 clients per month.

Age profile

Where the age of the client seen their own home was recorded the percentages were as follows;

Those aged between 18-64	9.6%
Those aged between 65-74	18.7%
Those aged 75+	71.3%

8. Cost of the service (Vision and Hearing)

The service was originally contracted at a cost of £109,422 per annum. This included a contribution of £5,000 from Children's Well Being (CWB) for a schools based service. CWB withdrew from this service in April 2017 and thereafter the annual cost of the service has been £104,422.

In addition there is a demand led equipment budget which has a value set at £20,000 per annum. Spend against this budget has consistently exceeded this notional limit – see below

	Vision equipment	Hearing equipment	Totals
2015-16	£13,025	£17,699	£30,724
2016-17	£14,191	£30,772	£44,963
2017-18	£18,481	£10,544	£29,025
Total	£45,697	£59,015	£104,712

This overspend has continued despite repeated attempts to manage it more effectively leading to cost pressures within AWB.

9. Staffing Levels & Experience: (VI – Visual Impairment), (DI – Deaf Impairment)

The service has a total of six personnel (not all full time) within the contract, trained to Level 2 (Communicator Guide) and 2 trained to undertake home assessments (Hearing Impaired).

Deaf Direct can also utilise staff from their Worcestershire Deaf Direct office should demand require it for clinics and promotional activities.

Additionally, HVL can also draw specialist personnel to undertake dealing with deafblind clients, if required, although demand at present is recorded as low. HVL have said that there may be an

element of underreporting in this area as many service users are reluctant to register themselves.

Vision Links has conducted a series of VI community events in the county. Some of these have been in partnership with Action for Blind people (AfBP), who are based in Birmingham, and promotional literature was produced in order to inform residents who have a sensory impairment, but may have been unaware of the support which is available to them, to advertise available regional services.

10. Quality of Service

There is little comprehensive data available on customer feedback. A survey was conducted by Vision Links in October 2016. Questionnaires were distributed by Vision Links & Deaf Direct with approximately 80 going to visually impaired clients and 60 to hearing impaired clients.

The responses showed the following;

Visual Impairment

- 23 completed questionnaires were returned.
- 19 respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied with the service provided, with 3 being unsure and 1 dissatisfied.
- The majority of referrals to the service were from the Victoria Eye unit.
- The support received was as follows:
- Assessment of need (15 respondents)
- Information & Advice (9 respondents)
- Equipment advice, support and guidance (12 respondents)
- Equipment supply of (15 respondents)
- Support received at home (18 respondents)
- 19 of the respondents felt that the support received has made a positive difference to their life and supported their independence.

Hearing Impairment

- 30 completed questionnaires were returned with all but 2 of the respondents being satisfied or very satisfied.
- The majority of referrals (13) came from the audiology department at the County Hospital. 8 respondents self-referred and 1 via Social Services, the remainder were unspecific.
- The support was received at home by 27 respondents.
- 25 respondents felt that the support has made a positive difference to their lives and supported their independence with 15 also receiving support from family or friends.

11. Predicted demand for the service - Vision

The number of people with eye conditions in the county is predicted to rise steadily over the next 15 years.

Herefordshire Eye Conditions - Prevalence predicted	2016	2020	2025	2030
Estimated number of people living with Drusen, an early stage				
age-related macular degeneration	9,770	11,030	12,230	13,380
Estimated number of people living with late stage wet age-				
related macular degeneration	1,580	1,680	2,090	2,440
Estimated number of people living with late stage dry age-related				
macular degeneration	770	870	1,010	1,170
Estimated number of people living with cataract	2,460	2,810	3,230	3,750
Estimated total number of people living with glaucoma	1,900	1,970	2,060	2,120

Sources; Pezzullo L., Streatfield J., Simkiss P., and Shickle D. (2016). RNIB and Deloitte Access Economics. Office for National Statistics (ONS) (2016). Subnational Population Projections, 2014-based projections release. ONS

The number and proportion of people living with sight loss is also expected to rise steadily over the next 15 years.

Living with Sight Loss - Prevalence	2016	2020	2025	2030
Estimated number of people living with mild sight loss	4,760	5,150	5,880	6,700
Estimated number of people living with moderate sight loss	1,650	1,780	2,000	2,250
Estimated number of people living with severe sight loss				
(blindness)	1,000	1,090	1,270	1,470
Estimated total number of people living with sight loss	7,410	8,020	9,150	10,420
Percentage of people living with sight loss compared to overall				
population	3.91%	4.15%	4.60%	5.14%

Sources; Pezzullo L., Streatfield J., Simkiss P., and Shickle D. (2016). RNIB and Deloitte Access Economics. Office for National Statistics (ONS) (2016). Subnational Population Projections, 2014-based projections release. ONS

12. Predicted demand for the service – Hearing

The number of people with hearing conditions in the county is predicted to rise steadily over the next few years.

The largest increases in demand are expected to be in the 75 year old plus age groups

People aged 18 and over, in Herefordshire, predicted to have <i>some</i> hearing loss by age, projected to 2021						
Age group	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	% change 2017-2021
18-24	228	224	218	212	207	-9.21%
25-34	477	481	488	493	495	3.77%
35-44	1,013	996	999	1,010	1,039	2.57%
45-54	3,474	3,448	3,391	3,304	3,193	-8.09%
55-64	6,756	6,828	6,942	7,103	7,194	6.48%
65-74	11,319	11,589	11,669	11,758	11,830	4.51%
75-84	10,406	10,771	11,208	11,610	12,020	15.51%
85+	5,829	5,980	6,166	6,373	6,573	12.76%
Total	39,504	40,317	41,081	41,863	42,549	7.71%

People aged	People aged 18 and over, in Herefordshire, predicted to have <i>severe</i> hearing loss by age, projected to 2021										
Age Group	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	% change 2017-2021					
18-24	0	0	0	0	0						
25-34	59	60	61	63	64	8.47%					
35-44	110	112	113	114	115	4.55%					
45-54	151	150	148	145	140	-7.28%					
55-64	377	381	387	396	400	6.10%					
65-74	729	747	753	759	764	4.80%					
75-84	1,470	1,520	1,562	1,612	1,660	12.93%					
85+	1,392	1,428	1,472	1,522	1,569	12.72%					
Total	4,288	4,398	4,496	4,610	4,711	9.86%					

Source; www.pansi.org.uk version 10.1

People aged 18 and over predicted to have some, or severe, hearing loss by age, projected to 2021

Dual sensory loss.

In Herefordshire, 415 people registered blind and partially sighted are also deaf or hard of hearing. 370 of these people are hard of hearing; 45 are deaf with speech and are deaf without speech.

Reference; RNIB Data Loss Tool http://www.rnib.org.uk/knowledge-and-research-hub-key-information-and-statistics/sight-loss-data-tool

Annex 1 Benchmarking the service against neighbouring authorities

Delivery models

An internal report written for AWB in 2016 noted that the service delivery model used by neighbouring local authorities (Shropshire, Worcestershire and, Gloucestershire) is different to that of Herefordshire in that they were in house Local Authority delivered services. The report found that;

"In Shropshire the Local Authority sensory impairment service works with people who are hard of hearing, deaf with speech, deaf without speech, severely sight impaired/blind, sight impaired/partially sighted, with a dual sensory impairment or are deaf blind.

The service offers an assessment to help maintain independence at home and has drop-in days where service users can get advice about equipment, and try equipment out before committing to buy."

"In Worcestershire the Local Authority Sensory Impairment Team is made up of a range of specialist workers who all work towards promoting the independence of people with a sight and/or hearing loss who are aged 18 and over, living in Worcestershire.

The service supports individuals to maintain or regain independence through the provision of specialist assessment, support planning, information, services, equipment, rehabilitation and mobility training.

At the time of the report the Worcestershire service was being reviewed with a view to externalizing it. The new service was anticipated to commence in April 2017."

"In Gloucestershire the service provides support for people with a hearing or visual impairment, their families and carers. This includes advice, guidance and support, an assessment to determine the amount of help they need and, help and advice to find pieces of equipment to help you with day-to day-living.

The support received will depend on an assessment of needs. It is a joint discussion on wants, need to achieve, and what support and aids would be appropriate."

Benchmarking statistics against near neighbours - Vision

The following tables show a comparison with near neighbours of the numbers of people living with a range of vision conditions;

Trend data (2015-2030) showing estimated change in number of	Hfds	Shrop	Worcs	Glous
people living with;	Percent	tage Incre	ases (201	5-2030)
Drusen, an early stage age-related macular degeneration	36%	38%	36%	39%
Late stage age-related macular degeneration	54%	60%	57%	57%
Late stage wet age-related macular degeneration	55%	61%	59%	57%
Late stage dry age-related macular degeneration	52%	59%	56%	55%
Cataract	54%	59%	57%	57%
Glaucoma	12%	11%	9%	13%

ONS (2013), Subnational Population Projections for 2015, 2012-based projections release. Office for National Statistics

Living with Sight Loss Prevalence (2016)	Hfds	Shrop	Worcs	Glous
Estimated number of people living with mild sight loss	4,760	7,750	13,530	14,060
Estimated number of people living with moderate sight loss	1,650	2,690	4,690	4,860
Estimated number of people living with severe sight loss				
(blindness)	1,000	1,630	2,830	2,920
Estimated total number of people living with sight loss	7,410	12,060	21,040	21,850
Overall population projection 2016 (total)	189,300	312,400	580,000	620,500
Percentage of people living with sight loss as a proportion of the	2 242/	2.252/	2.544	2 - 22/
overall population	3.91%	3.86%	3.64%	3.52%
Living with Sight Loss Prevalence (2020)				
Estimated number of people living with mild sight loss	5,150	8,560	14,900	15,390
Estimated number of people living with moderate sight loss	1,780	2,960	5,140	5,320

Sources; Pezzullo L., Streatfield J., Simkiss P., and Shickle D. (2016). The economic impact of sight loss and blindness in the UK adult population. RNIB and Deloitte Access Economics.

Office for National Statistics (ONS) (2016). Subnational Population Projections, 2014-based projections release. ONS.

Living with Sight Loss Prevalence – working age population (2015)	Hfds	Shrop	Worcs	Glous
Estimated number of working age people living with sight loss aged 18-64	1,200	1,990	3,630	3,900
Number of older people living with sight loss aged 66-74	1,560	2,590	4,480	4,480
Number of older people living with sight loss aged 76-84	2,070	3,360	5,670	5,890
Number of older people living with sight loss 86 and over	2,520	4,020	7,060	7,370
Totals	7,350	11,960	20,840	21,640
%age of total adult pop	4.83%	4.74%	4.50%	4.40%

Sources; Pezzullo L., Streatfield J., Simkiss P., and Shickle D. (2016). The economic impact of sight loss and blindness in the UK adult population. RNIB and Deloitte Access Economics.

Office for National Statistics (ONS) (2016). Subnational Population Projections, 2014-based projections release. ONS.

The following tables show the numbers of people registered or with Certificates of vision impairment loving in Herefordshire and its near neighbours;

Total number of people registered as blind or partially sighted (2015)	Hfds	Shrop	Worcs	Glous
People registered blind or partially sighted aged 18-49	175	160	300	335
People registered blind or partially sighted aged 50-64	115	165	260	285
People registered blind or partially sighted aged 65-74	125	135	270	260
People registered aged blind or partially sighted aged 75+	805	960	1,225	1,780
People registered as blind or partially sighted (includes 0-17)	1,235	1,445	2,095	2,775

Total number of Certificates of Vision Impairment (by year)	Hfds	Shrop	Worcs	Glous
Total number of Certificates of Vision Impairment (2010/11)	113	158	229	261
Total number of Certificates of Vision Impairment (2011/12)	117	182	232	240
Total number of Certificates of Vision Impairment (2013/14)	79	151	191	213
Total number of Certificates of Vision Impairment (2014/15)	85	178	226	234

Source; HSCIC (2014) Registered Blind and Partially Sighted People - England, Year ending 31 March 2014 and 2011. Health and Social Care Information Centre.

Benchmarking statistics against near neighbours - Hearing

The following tables show a comparison with near neighbours of the numbers of people living with some hearing loss;

Some hearing loss by age groups

Hearing data for Herefordshire, County of and neighbours - produced from www.pansi.org.uk version 10.1

HEREFO	HEREFORDSHIRE - some hearing loss by age group										
	2017	2020	2025	2030	2035	% change 2017-2035					
18-24	228	212	202	223	227	-0.44%					
25-34	477	493	488	453	452	-5.24%					
35-44	1,013	1,010	1,097	1,165	1,177	16.19%					
45-54	3,474	3,304	2,895	2,735	2,954	-14.97%					
55-64	6,756	7,103	7,649	7,302	6,497	-3.83%					
65-74	11,319	11,758	11,468	12,603	13,591	20.07%					
75-84	10,406	11,610	14,183	15,532	15,478	48.74%					
85+	5,829	6,373	7,589	9,572	12,317	111.31%					
Total	39,504	41,863	45,571	49,585	52,693	33.39%					

SHROPS	SHROPSHIRE - Some hearing loss by age group										
	2017	2020	2025	2030	2035	% change 2017-2035					
18-24	383	351	339	365	363	-5.22%					
25-34	743	768	748	686	682	-8.21%					
35-44	1,703	1,639	1,754	1,861	1,864	9.45%					
45-54	5,932	5,672	4,962	4,496	4,807	-18.96%					
55-64	11,162	11,830	13,035	12,540	11,093	-0.62%					
65-74	18,848	19,578	19,123	21,187	23,249	23.35%					
75-84	17,054	19,464	23,864	26,138	26,103	53.06%					
85+	9,387	10,225	12,623	16,227	20,976	123.46%					
Total	65,211	69,527	76,448	83,500	89,138	36.69%					

WORCES	WORCESTERSHIRE - some hearing loss by age group											
	2017	2020	2025	2030	2035	% change 2017-2035						
18-24	783	729	713	777	786	0.38%						
25-34	1,438	1,479	1,494	1,397	1,401	-2.57%						
35-44	3,391	3,262	3,431	3,559	3,671	8.26%						
45-54	10,763	10,411	9,329	8,594	9,058	-15.84%						
55-64	19,449	20,328	22,135	21,677	19,564	0.59%						
65-74	32,678	33,776	32,288	34,752	37,889	15.95%						
75-84	28,770	32,775	40,374	44,130	43,202	50.16%						
85+	16,553	18,019	21,900	27,958	36,277	119.16%						
Total	113,825	120,779	131,664	142,844	151,848	33.40%						

GLOUCE	GLOUCESTERSHIRE - Some hearing loss by age group										
	2017	2020	2025	2030	2035	% change 2017-2035					
18-24	873	837	827	922	944	8.13%					
25-34	1,570	1,608	1,609	1,534	1,554	-1.02%					
35-44	3,717	3,602	3,860	3,983	4,032	8.47%					
45-54	11,654	11,335	10,245	9,632	10,287	-11.73%					
55-64	20,668	22,195	24,437	23,989	21,868	5.81%					
65-74	32,654	34,399	34,531	38,687	42,490	30.12%					
75-84	29,752	33,376	41,157	45,986	47,056	58.16%					
85+	16,954	18,267	21,837	27,476	35,849	111.45%					
Total	117,842	125,618	138,502	152,208	164,080	39.24%					

Severe hearing loss by age groups

The following tables show a comparison with near neighbours of the numbers of people living with severe hearing loss;

Hearing data for Herefordshire, County of and neighbours - produced from www.pansi.org.uk version 10.1

HEREFOI	HEREFORDSHIRE - severe hearing loss by age group											
	2017	2020	2025	2030	2035	% change 2017-2035						
18-24	0	0	0	0	0							
25-34	59	63	66	61	57	-3.39%						
35-44	110	114	122	128	123	11.82%						
45-54	151	145	126	118	128	-15.23%						
55-64	377	396	429	414	367	-2.65%						
65-74	729	759	739	811	876	20.16%						
75-84	1,470	1,612	1,950	2,343	2,248	52.93%						
85+	1,392	1,522	1,812	2,285	2,941	111.28%						
Total	4,288	4,610	5,244	6,160	6,740	57.18%						

SHROPS	SHROPSHIRE - Severe hearing loss by age group											
	2017	2020	2025	2030	2035	% change 2017-2035						
18-24	0	0	0	0	0							
25-34	92	97	101	92	85	-7.61%						
35-44	179	181	194	202	192	7.26%						
45-54	258	248	217	194	208	-19.38%						
55-64	622	657	731	710	629	1.13%						
65-74	1,213	1,264	1,232	1,363	1,499	23.58%						
75-84	2,358	2,692	3,295	3,950	3,790	60.73%						

85+	2,241	2,441	3,014	3,874	5,008	123.47%
Total	6,963	7,581	8,784	10,384	11,410	63.87%

WORCESTERSHIRE - severe hearing loss by age group							
	2017	2020	2025	2030	2035	% change 2017-2035	
18-24	0	0	0	0	0		
25-34	179	183	200	186	173	-3.35%	
35-44	358	362	374	394	382	6.70%	
45-54	467	454	407	370	391	-16.27%	
55-64	1,085	1,129	1,237	1,222	1,106	1.94%	
65-74	2,103	2,180	2,081	2,236	2,441	16.07%	
75-84	4,026	4,557	5,543	6,673	6,338	57.43%	
85+	3,952	4,302	5,229	6,675	8,661	119.15%	
Total	12,169	13,166	15,071	17,757	19,493	60.19%	

GLOUCESTERSHIRE - Severe hearing loss by age group							
	2017	2020	2025	2030	2035	% change 2017-2035	
18-24	0	0	0	0	0		
25-34	199	205	214	205	192	-3.52%	
35-44	394	401	418	432	422	7.11%	
45-54	506	494	447	415	445	-12.06%	
55-64	1,148	1,232	1,367	1,353	1,235	7.58%	
65-74	2,100	2,219	2,223	2,489	2,738	30.38%	
75-84	4,170	4,657	5,658	6,892	6,782	62.64%	
85+	4,048	4,361	5,214	6,560	8,559	111.44%	
Total	12,565	13,569	15,541	18,346	20,373	62.14%	