

## Vision Impairment Information on Organisations, Charities and Social Media

| Name                           | Focus  | Weblink   |
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| Kent Together                  | Kent County Council webpage providing support for vulnerable people, in response to Covid-19. You can apply for help and support with making sure you have enough food and supplies, walking your dog, picking up prescriptions, putting out the bins, taking in parcels, preparing meals for the freezer or to have someone to talk to. | <a href="https://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/health/coronavirus/kent-together">https://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/health/coronavirus/kent-together</a> |
| Kent Association for the Blind | Kent Association for the Blind is a UK charity. They work to prevent avoidable sight loss, deliver support services and enable people to get involved and live independently.  | <a href="https://www.kab.org.uk/">https://www.kab.org.uk/</a>   |

| National Charities                            |   |   |
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| RNIB – Royal National Institute for the Blind | The Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB), is of the UK’s leading sight loss charities and the largest community of blind and partially sighted people.   | <a href="https://www.rnib.org.uk/about-us">https://www.rnib.org.uk/about-us</a>       |
| RSBC – Royal Society for Blind Children       | RSBC aim to help every young person they work with find and fulfil their own unique potential. They are there from the point of diagnosis, guiding the young person and their families on their journey through sight loss. RSBC provide a combination of support, learning and development opportunities to help the young person build the resilience, and help with the skills they will need to navigate their own futures. | <a href="https://www.rsbc.org.uk/about/">https://www.rsbc.org.uk/about/</a>           |
| LookUK  | LookUK is a charity who support young visually impaired people and their families to thrive. They can do this through mentoring, transformational events, youth forums and parent support groups. They also support by linking to other charities and organisations who can help you access the support you need.   | <a href="https://www.look-uk.org/about-look/">https://www.look-uk.org/about-look/</a> |

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| Guide Dogs UK                                    | Guide Dogs provides a wide range of information and advice including family support, how to get around safely, assistive technology and apps and education support. They offer family events and Buddy dog schemes, as well as the funded Guide Dogs scheme. | <a href="https://www.guidedogs.org.uk">https://www.guidedogs.org.uk</a>                       |
| VICTA  | VICTA is a national charity that provides support to children and young adults from 0 to 29 who are blind or partially sighted and their families. They also offer grants for equipment.   | <a href="https://www.victa.org.uk/">https://www.victa.org.uk/</a>                             |
| SeeAbility                                       | Supporting children and young people with VI and complex needs in daily living skills, social networking and accessing community services.   | <a href="mailto:s.kerr@seeability.org">s.kerr@seeability.org</a><br>is the Maidstone contact. |
| VIEW   | View is a professional association of the visual impairment education workforce. They exist to help you support the education, development and opportunities of children with vision impairment.   | <a href="https://viewweb.org.uk/">https://viewweb.org.uk/</a>                                 |
| NatSIP – National Sensory Impairment Partnership | NatSIP, is a partnership of organisations working together to improve outcomes for children and young people with sensory impairment. It provides advice, support and training.  | <a href="https://www.natsip.org.uk/">https://www.natsip.org.uk/</a>                           |
| SENSE  | Sense is a charity that provides support for those living with complex disabilities including people who are deafblind. They offer information and advice including housing support. They also have centres and provide activities and short breaks.         | <a href="https://www.sense.org.uk/">https://www.sense.org.uk/</a>                             |

### Educational support

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| RNIB Bookshare   | RNIB Bookshare provide accessible textbooks and resources for learners with sight loss under The Copyright and Related Rights (Marrakesh Treaty etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 . Titles can be downloaded by learners who can read them electronically or adapt into various accessible formats (PDF, Word, DAISY, audio, BRF). | <a href="https://www.rnibbookshare.org/cms/">https://www.rnibbookshare.org/cms/</a> |
| Living Paintings | The Living Paintings postal library is provided free of charge to blind and partially sighted people in the UK. Their special Touch to See books are designed to bring the visual world to life through tactile images and audio descriptions.  | <a href="https://livingpaintings.org/">https://livingpaintings.org/</a>             |

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| Custom eyes               | Part of Guide Dogs for the Blind, they provide large print books that can be purchased. They have a huge range of books for ages 3 up to 16+  | <a href="https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/getting%20support/help%20for%20children%20and%20families/living%20independently/customeyes%20books">https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/getting%20support/help%20for%20children%20and%20families/living%20independently/customeyes%20books</a>   |
| Calibre audio Library     | Source of thousands of audio books that cover a range of ages and genres. This includes non-fiction as well as fiction and also include key GCSE and A-level texts. Membership is free to VI learners.                                    | <a href="https://www.calibreaudio.org.uk/about/overview">https://www.calibreaudio.org.uk/about/overview</a>   |
| Kent Libraries            | Provide free audiobooks for blind and partially sighted learners. Membership is free, you just need to complete a form and then they are posted to the home. When a book is returned a new book will then be sent out.                    | <a href="https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries/borrow-library-items/library-services-for-disabled-and-older-people/blind-and-partially-sighted-library-services#:~:text=Audiobooks%20are%20delivered%20and%20returned,gov.uk%20for%20more%20information">https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries/borrow-library-items/library-services-for-disabled-and-older-people/blind-and-partially-sighted-library-services#:~:text=Audiobooks%20are%20delivered%20and%20returned,gov.uk%20for%20more%20information</a> |
| ClearVision Project       | ClearVision is a postal lending library of children's books designed to be shared by visually impaired and sighted children and adults. Their books all have braille, print and pictures.   | <a href="http://www.clearvisionproject.org/">http://www.clearvisionproject.org/</a>   |
| Partially Sighted Society | The Partially Sighted Society provides information, advice, training, magnifiers and electronic low vision aids and clear print material for anybody with a visual impairment to help them to make the best use of their remaining sight. | <a href="https://www.partsight.org.uk/">https://www.partsight.org.uk/</a><br><br>Link to their exercise and stationary catalogue.<br><a href="https://www.partsight.org.uk/media/pdf/2019-autumn-winter-school-exercise-book-and-stationery-web-catalogue.pdf">https://www.partsight.org.uk/media/pdf/2019-autumn-winter-school-exercise-book-and-stationery-web-catalogue.pdf</a>  |
| Vocaleyes                 | An organisation who make it possible to experience art and culture through audio description. They bring theatre, museums, galleries and heritage sites to life for blind and visually impaired people.                                   | <a href="https://www.vocaleyes.co.uk">https://www.vocaleyes.co.uk</a>   |
| Paths to Literacy         | Website focussing on literacy for learners who are blind or have visual impairment. It offers a range of activity ideas and resources at different levels, covering a range of skills.  | <a href="https://www.pathstoliteracy.org/topic/deafblind">https://www.pathstoliteracy.org/topic/deafblind</a>   |

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| Blind in Business        | Supporting people with visual impairments into employment through mentoring, training and support.  | <a href="https://blindinbusiness.org.uk/">https://blindinbusiness.org.uk/</a>             |
| Thomas Pocklington Trust | A charity supporting people with visual impairments. They have a focus on education, employment and engagement.   | <a href="https://www.pocklington-trust.org.uk/">https://www.pocklington-trust.org.uk/</a> |
| Blind Sports UK          | The work of the charity enables blind and partially sighted people to have the same opportunities as sighted people to access and enjoy sport and recreational activities in the UK | <a href="https://britishblindsport.org.uk/">https://britishblindsport.org.uk/</a>         |

### Charities offering support related to specific VI conditions

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| CVI Society   | The CVI Society is a charity that aims to raise awareness of Cortical Visual Impairment. It offers advice and support to those affected by CVI, their families and caregivers.  | <a href="https://cvisociety.org.uk/">https://cvisociety.org.uk/</a>                 |
| Nystagmus Network   | The charity provides advice, support and information to everyone living with nystagmus and their families, an educational advocacy service and benefits advice, training for teaching staff and eye care professionals.   | <a href="https://nystagmusnetwork.org/">https://nystagmusnetwork.org/</a>           |
| MACS<br>Microphthalmia,<br>Anophthalmia and<br>Coloboma Support | UK's national charity for children born without eyes or with underdeveloped eyes. Supporting children and families at each stage of their journey by providing peer support, practical help and opportunities to take part in life-changing activity trips                        | <a href="https://macs.org.uk/">https://macs.org.uk/</a>                             |
| Albinism Fellowship   | Provides information, advice and support for people with Albinism and their families.   | <a href="https://www.albinism.org.uk">https://www.albinism.org.uk</a>               |
| Cerebra   | Provides support and advice for children with brain conditions and their families.  | <a href="https://www.cerebra.org.uk">https://www.cerebra.org.uk</a>                 |
| The CHARGE<br>Syndrome<br>Foundation                            | Provides information on CHARGE Syndrome.  | <a href="https://www.chargesyndrome.org/">https://www.chargesyndrome.org/</a>       |
| CHARGE Family<br>Support Group                                  | The CHARGE Family Support Group is a charity that support people with CHARGE Syndrome and their families. It aim is to create a positive, supportive network of individuals, parents, families and professionals to share ideas, experiences, information and give vital support. | <a href="https://www.chargesyndrome.org.uk/">https://www.chargesyndrome.org.uk/</a> |

## SEND Support in Kent

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| SEND Information Hub (Kent)               | SEND information hub shares information regarding the Kent's local offer which gives children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities and their families information about what support services are available in their area.                                  | <a href="#">SEND information hub - Kent County Council</a>  |
| Information, Advice and Support Kent      | Information, Advice and Support Kent (IASK) IASK support families of children and young people (0 – 25 years) with special educational needs or disabilities. They also support schools in working with parents.   | <a href="https://www.iask.org.uk/">https://www.iask.org.uk/</a>   |
| Kent PACT                                 | A parent carer forum for parents of children and young people with disabilities and additional needs   | <a href="https://www.kentpact.org.uk/">https://www.kentpact.org.uk/</a>                                 |
| Space 2 Be Me                             | Space 2 Be Me supports families in West Kent with disabled children who want to access local advice and support. They provide different activities for children.   | <a href="https://space2beme.org.uk/">https://space2beme.org.uk/</a>                                     |
| For Us Too (4us2)                         | For Us too supports families in East Kent with disabled children who want to access local advice and support. They provide parent workshops, training sessions, drop-in support groups, play events, family days out, direct information sharing and help with forms and applications. | <a href="http://www.4us2.org.uk">www.4us2.org.uk</a>  |
| We Are Beams                              | We Are Beams supports families in North Kent with disabled children who want to access local advice and support. They aim to support the whole family through a menu of services that directly benefit and assist those dealing with the challenges of raising a disabled child.       | <a href="http://www.wearebeams.org.uk">www.wearebeams.org.uk</a>  |
| Include Us 2                              | Include Us 2 supports families in South Kent with disabled children who want to access local advice and support. They aim to provide information and advice about services for disabled children and their families  | <a href="http://www.includesus2.org.uk">www.includesus2.org.uk</a>                                      |
| Social Care Adult Sensory and Autism Kent | This is the Kent Sensory Service Facebook page for Adult Social Care Sensory and Autism Team.  | <a href="https://www.facebook.com/KCCSensoryServices/">https://www.facebook.com/KCCSensoryServices/</a> |

## Grants and Funding

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| Children DLA days out, discounts tips and advice. Disability Living Allowance | Facebook page about holidays and days out for families with children with special needs. Shares discount advice and tips.  | <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/DLAchildrensDaysOut/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/DLAchildrensDaysOut/</a>  |
| The Family Fund   | The Family Fund assists families across the UK raising a child or young person with a disability or a serious illness. Their grants for essential items help ease the additional pressures that families face and increase their quality of life.                        | <a href="http://www.familyfund.org.uk">www.familyfund.org.uk</a>   |
| Gardners Trust for the Blind  | The Gardners Trust for the Blind provides financial assistance to registered blind and partially sighted individuals in the UK. They award one-off grants towards household items and educational purposes. The trust may also provide grants towards a pension.         | <a href="http://www.appaccessible.org/gardeners-trust-blind/">www.appaccessible.org/gardeners-trust-blind/</a>   |
| Blind Children's Society (NBCS)   | Blind Children UK, formerly National Blind Children's Society, offers a grants programme to help children and young people access the most appropriate technology and sensory equipment.   | <a href="http://www.blindchildrenuk.org/how-we-can-help-you/access-technology-and-grants">www.blindchildrenuk.org/how-we-can-help-you/access-technology-and-grants</a> |
| Children's Today Charitable Trust   | Children's Today is a charity that raises funds to provide specialised equipment and services for children and young people with disabilities throughout the UK.   | <a href="http://www.childrentoday.org.uk">www.childrentoday.org.uk</a>   |
| Snowden Trust   | The Snowden Trust assists physically and sensory disabled people to access vocational and academic courses in the UK by awarding grants. These can be for equipment and essential study needs. They only give awards where funding cannot be met through other channels. | <a href="http://www.snowdontrust.org/">http://www.snowdontrust.org/</a>  |

## Other useful Contacts

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| Kidz to Adulz Exhibitions                           | Provides exhibitions and events.   | <a href="https://www.kidzexhibitions.co.uk/kidz-south/">https://www.kidzexhibitions.co.uk/kidz-south/</a>       |
| RISE Expo   | RISE provides a regional disability exhibition & conference within the UK. | <a href="https://rise4disability.com/home">https://rise4disability.com/home</a>                                 |
| Sensory and Special Needs Equipment Buy and Sell UK | Facebook page for selling and buying sensory and specialist equipment.     | <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/482140011926800/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/482140011926800/</a> |

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| Special Needs Equipment Advice Page UK | Facebook page for advice about specialised equipment.                                    | <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/1485243548425316/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/1485243548425316/</a>   |
| CVI Awareness                          | Facebook page about CVI awareness.   | <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/68372023824/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/68372023824/</a>   |
| Etta Loves                             | Online shop selling visually stimulating baby accessories                                | <a href="https://www.ettaloves.com/?gclid=EAlaIqobChMlqv_zgNyw8AIVj7btCh3wQwamEAAAYASAAEgK7Z_D_BwE">https://www.ettaloves.com/?gclid=EAlaIqobChMlqv_zgNyw8AIVj7btCh3wQwamEAAAYASAAEgK7Z_D_BwE</a> |
| Special Needs Holidays and Days Out    | Facebook page about holidays and days out for families with children with special needs. | <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/807465622675204/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/807465622675204/</a>   |