

## **Do you have sight loss?**

Diagnosis of an eye condition can be hard for people to come to terms with which is why we have a service which is designed to offer you help. The Eye Outpatient Department has a worker from a national charity who works within the clinic to provide specialist information and advice to people who have just been diagnosed with sight loss.

We would like to ensure that no one is left without support and information at any stage of the eye care journey. Busy clinicians often have limited time to explain to patients the vast array of opportunity and support that is available to them. Our Eye Clinic Liaison Officers do have the time and the information that you need.

If you would rather research information for yourself, we have also put together a list of trusted links that we hope you will find useful. These can be accessed [here](#).

### **Eye Clinic Liaison Officers**

Our Eye Clinic Liaison Officers (ECLO) work in conjunction with the opticians, orthoptists, doctors, health services, social care services and other voluntary organisations to ensure our patients get access to appropriate services.

The ECLO is there to ensure that those who attend eye clinics, including low vision clinics, have access to targeted relevant advice and support. Experienced

staff providing practical information to clients that helps put their diagnosis in context.

If you would like to talk to an Eye Clinic Liaison Officer please ask for an appointment. They can support you to maintain your independence and provide tailored guidance regarding:

- Day to day living support (advice about appropriate aids, etc.)
- Employment advice
- Housing issues
- Access to benefits and concessions
- Benefits of registration
- Support agencies locally and nationally.

Our Eye Clinic Liaison Officers also support visually impaired children and young people to enjoy full and active lives through access to information, education, leisure, sporting and social activities. They also provide a Transition Service for older young people adapting to higher education, independent living and the world of work.

The Eye Clinic Liaison Officers at James Cook University Hospital are employed by Action for Blind People and support anyone who is experiencing a problem due to their sight loss – not just registered patients.

Our Eye Clinic Liaison Officers are: Cathie Burke & Fiona Ferguson

Information about Eye Condition Organisations

<http://www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk/resources/where-to-get-help/national-sight-loss-organisations/>

Starting Point – a guide for parents who have a child with a visual impairment

<http://www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk/assets/Uploads/downloads/Starting-Point.pdf>

Understanding Sight Loss booklets on key eye conditions in four community languages (Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, and Welsh) are available to download and print and also in audio format at

[http://www.rnib.org.uk/eyehealth/eyeconditions/translations/Pages/translations\\_eye\\_conditions.aspx](http://www.rnib.org.uk/eyehealth/eyeconditions/translations/Pages/translations_eye_conditions.aspx)

**Understanding Children's Eye Conditions:**

<http://www.nbcs.org.uk/eye-conditions-explained>