



Berkshire Sensory Consortium Service

Habilitation and Mobility Officer

About the service

The Berkshire Sensory Consortium Service (BSCS) is a specialist educational service for children and young people (CYP) 0-25yrs who have a hearing, vision or multi-sensory impairment. The Service works with pre-school children and their families and with early years settings, pupils in Local Authority (LA) maintained and Academy schools, LA Special schools and colleges. Additional support is also purchased for pupils in independent and non-maintained provision and for some of the HI and VI resource bases.

BSCS has a national reputation for delivering outstanding support for sensory impaired children and young people. The joint arrangements are held up as an example of good practice by national voluntary agencies working in the field of sensory impairment (SI) and by the DFE as a positive delivery model to meet the needs of a low incidence group. As a pan Berkshire arrangement, the Service can provide economies of scale and a highly specialist workforce. SI pupil outcomes are above national benchmarking, and the Service provides a transparent but flexible approach to service delivery.

BSCS works collaboratively with all its stakeholders to provide opportunities for holistic approaches to the learning and development of SI CYP through sharing of information, partnership working, fostering positive relationships and transparency.

The Service is hosted by Achieving for Children on behalf of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

BSCS is committed to safeguarding all children and young people and candidates are required to have a Disclosure and Barring Service (**DBS**) check.

About the role

- Coordination and delivery of Habilitation training for Children and Young People (CYP) who are blind or vision impaired (VI) 0-25yrs.
- To maximise the independence and inclusion of CYP with VI through working with professionals and parents in a range of educational and social settings.

Job Accountabilities

- Development and delivery of individual habilitation training programmes following assessment in a range of settings for CYP with VI in partnership with the young person, QTVI and/or, where appropriate, parents and the educational setting both during term time and in the school holidays.
- To work with the QTVI to provide schools with advice and reports on environmental adaptations, mobility and independence skills training where required for the individual needs of a CYP with VI and their setting.
- To work with the VI Team Coordinator with line management responsibility for Habilitation staff and QTVIs in the Service in the preparation and development of service materials and resources for CYP with vision impairment.
- Undertake risk assessments and put in place appropriate risk management strategies
- Undertake environmental audit and or risk assessments at home, in school and early years settings, colleges and in public areas.
- Provide guidance and support to parents/carers, educational settings and school staff in order to ensure habilitation training in the home and settings is complementary and consistent.
- Provide support in habilitation for CYP with VI at times of transition to and between educational settings.
- Attend school parents' evenings or other events where the sharing of habilitation information would be helpful.
- Undertake home visits and, on occasions, work in the evenings, weekends and when it is dark to assess and train CYP with night blindness.
- Participate in and, as agreed, organise extracurricular activities and workshops for CYP with VI as part of their habilitation training and their social and emotional wellbeing.
- To work closely with relevant Adult Sensory Needs Social Care teams and LA Social Care teams to enable transitions between service providers as relevant to agreed needs and provisions.
- To liaise and work directly with voluntary agencies such as Berkshire Vision and Guide Dogs on specific projects and events for families and CYP with VI.
- Supervise and monitor the use of BSCS habilitation loan equipment to support the delivery of Habilitation training.
- Develop and provide advice to relevant Local Authorities regarding the habilitation needs of CYP with VI from the area.
- To maintain a personal caseload and keep up to date case notes on the Service record system which provides evidence of the impact of the specialist support on outcomes for CYP with VI.

The post holder will be expected to undertake other duties commensurate with the grade of the post, including deputising or working flexibly across the week to meet the business demands. This job profile is provided for guidance only.

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- Maintain an awareness of current thinking, research and relevant developments in the area of Habilitation and Habilitation Training, in order to improve and further develop service provision.
- To develop positive relationships with pupils which challenge, motivate and promote and develop self-esteem, independence and resilience so that they can achieve their full potential
- To be fully aware of and understand the duties and responsibilities arising from the Children's Act and Working Together in relation to child protection and safeguarding children and young people.
- Manage and organise the deployment of any Qualified Habilitation Assistants (QHA) or those in training.
- To provide advice and reports for Education Health and Care (EHC) Need Assessments, Annual Reviews and provision and transition plans as part of fulfilling statutory duties and joint working.
- To contribute to the development of Service policies, procedures and resources for use with pupils, schools, colleges and families.
- Carry out individual habilitation (mobility and independence) assessments
- Provision of non term time cover for new referrals of CYP with VI

Person Specification

	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications and training	Degree qualification which fulfils entry requirement for Habilitation Course if not already qualified as a Habilitation Specialist working with young people. Or Qualification as a Habilitation Assistant who will complete the full accreditation in due course And English and Maths at GCSE Grade C and above	Knowledge of visual impairment Habilitation Certificate course for working with children and Young People Alternative communication skills ie Braille qualification, deaf/blind communication, BSL IT qualifications.
Knowledge, skills, abilities and experience	Experience of working with children and young people with special educational needs in schools and / or home environment Ability to write concise and effective reports.	Experience of working with children and young people with a broad range of special needs and additional training for children with complex profiles.

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	<p>Effective communicator with adults and young people</p> <p>Experience of working as part of a team with a commitment to promoting inclusion of CYP</p> <p>Committed to personal, professional and service development.</p> <p>A thorough understanding of the impact of vision or multi-sensory impairment on CYP</p> <p>Significant experience in the delivery of habilitation programmes for children and use of adaptive technology.</p> <p>Ability to set and evaluate programme targets for a mobility or independent living teaching programme.</p> <p>Commitment to equal opportunities</p>	<p>Knowledge of formal assessment procedures.</p> <p>Additional qualifications in education and/or related areas.</p> <p>Experience and/or training in in-service delivery</p>
Other requirements	Car driver/independent traveller.	

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