

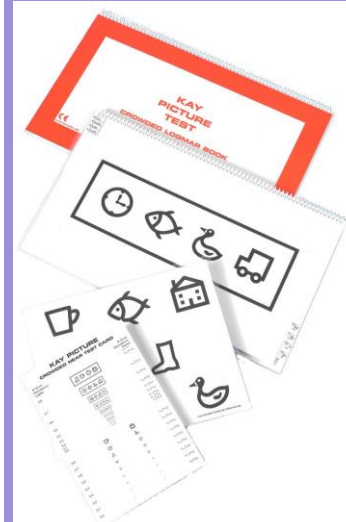
# South Lanarkshire Council's Early Years & Primary ASN Vision Impairment Service (Education)



Early Years &  
Primary ASN  
Information Leaflet



2026/27



BASED AT UDDINGSTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL, SOUTH LANARKSHIRE

**Who we are:** South Lanarkshire Council's Vision Impairment Service (Education) is based at Uddingston Grammar School, in Uddingston and serves Early Years, Primary ASN and Secondary Schools. This Vision Support Team (VIS), which is based at Uddingston Grammar School, is made up of Qualified Teachers of the Visually Impaired who are Secondary Qualified Teachers.

**What we do:** The Early Years' Visual Impairment Service (Education) assists the family, Nursery staff and School staff with the development of key strategies for the child so that they can access learning now and for their future education. We aim to minimise the effect, where possible, of a vision impairment through support and advice and also to promote understanding of visual impairment. It is vital for any child who has a vision impairment that early identification and assessment of the child's educational needs take place. This is to ensure that the child meets their developmental milestones and the correct supports are accessed for the child.

The **Early Years' Vision Impairment Service (Education)** is likely to be the first contact that a family has with SLC's Education Department if their child has a visual impairment. The **Early Years' Visual Impairment Service (Education)** role is to:

- meet with families to advise and support them with regards to their child's development and learning.
- assess the child's visual acuities and aspects of their functional vision and aspects of their mobility. However, we do not diagnose visual impairments.
- begin the planning process, with the family, key individuals and agencies for the child's transition to Nursery, Pre-School or Primary School.
- liaise with key professionals such as Health Visitors (the Named Person), Educational Psychologists, Nursery & School staff, Habilitation & Mobility services, Health / NHS, partner agencies & organisations.
- provide training, advice and strategies for Nursery and School staff in matters relating to the education and the learning & teaching of children who have a visual impairment.
- ensure that enhanced transitions are planned and in place for the child. This would include making a referral to VIAT.

*The Vision impairment Assessment Team (VIAT) is a Lanarkshire wide multi-agency team which includes QTVIs, teachers, Educational Psychologists, a Link Associate Specialist Community Paediatrician and the Heads of Service of NLC's and SLC's Vision impairment Services (Education).*

**Who we support:** The Early Years' Vision Service provides support to the following:

- Babies and children from birth to 5 years (or thereabouts), who have a vision impairment and who live in South Lanarkshire.
- Primary school age children who attend SLC Primary ASN schools.

**Who we link with:** As part of our role, which is to support children educationally who have a vision impairment (and their families), we also link in with:

- NHS staff in Orthoptics and Ophthalmology Departments in hospitals such as the Royal Hospital for Children - Glasgow, Wishaw General Hospital and Hairmyres Hospital, Community Paediatricians (including the Glasgow area) & Associate Specialist Community Paediatricians

- Education (SLC): All Nurseries and Early Years staff, Head Teachers, Educational Psychologists & the Early Years Multi-Agency Team (EYMAT)
- Social Work and Mobility Services
- Parents/carers
- Partner organisations: such as Visibility, the RNIB (and their Education and Children and Families Manager) and Guide Dogs Scotland.
- North Lanarkshire Council's Vision impairment Service based at the Sensory Support Base at Knowetop Primary School in Motherwell
- VIAT - The Lanarkshire wide Vision impairment Assessment Team

**The kinds of Requests for Assistance we receive:** Typically, we receive Requests for Assistance where a baby or a child in South Lanarkshire has a vision impairment or a concern regarding a possible visual impairment. Particularly conditions such as, but not exclusive to, this list:

- |                              |                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ❖ Albinism                   | ❖ Microphthalmia               |
| ❖ Cataracts                  | ❖ Nystagmus                    |
| ❖ Coloboma                   | ❖ Ocular-Motor Apraxia         |
| ❖ Cerebral Vision impairment | ❖ Periventricular Leukomalacia |
| ❖ Dorsal Stream Dysfunction  | ❖ Retinitis Pigmentosa         |
| ❖ Field Loss                 | ❖ Retinoblastoma               |
| ❖ Glaucoma                   | ❖ Retinopathy of Prematurity   |
| ❖ Hemianopia                 | ❖ Septo-Optic Dysplasia        |

The following are conditions where there would be no need to contact our Service as these are conditions which are considered as being correctable vision:

- |                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| ➤ Myopia        | ➤ Strabismus |
| ➤ Hypermetropia | ➤ Amblyopia  |

### **Contacting the Early Years and Primary ASN Visual Impairment Service (Education)**

|                         |                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Staff Member:</b>    | Mr Paul Telfer                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Role:</b>            | Head of SLC Visual Impairment Service & Depute Head Teacher                                                                                                 |
| <b>Address:</b>         | Uddingston Grammar School, Old Glasgow Road, Uddingston, Glasgow, G71 7BT                                                                                   |
| <b>Tel. No.</b>         | 01698 805050                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Email:</b>           | <a href="mailto:gw19telferpaul@glow.sch.uk">gw19telferpaul@glow.sch.uk</a>                                                                                  |
| <b>Service Webpage:</b> | <a href="http://www.uddingston.s-lanark.sch.uk/SLC-s-Visual-Impairment-Service/">http://www.uddingston.s-lanark.sch.uk/SLC-s-Visual-Impairment-Service/</a> |

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Our Mission                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                    |  |
| Having ...                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                    |  |
| Accessing ...                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                    |  |
| Being ...                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                    |  |
| Pupils <b>having...</b> the right equipment, ICT, assistive technology, low vision aids, adapted learning resources and a voice about their support and the things that matter to them. |                                                                                                                    |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                         | Pupils <b>accessing ...</b> the curriculum and learning, the school's environment and the community of the school. |  |
| Pupils <b>being ...</b> at the centre of what we do, resilient, knowing the impact of their vision loss and enjoying their lives to the full.                                           |                                                                                                                    |  |
| Our aim                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                    |  |
| Is for pupils with vision impairment to have:                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                    |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the right support</li> <li>• at the right time</li> <li>• every time</li> </ul>                                                                |                                                                                                                    |  |

Having ... Accessing ... Being ...