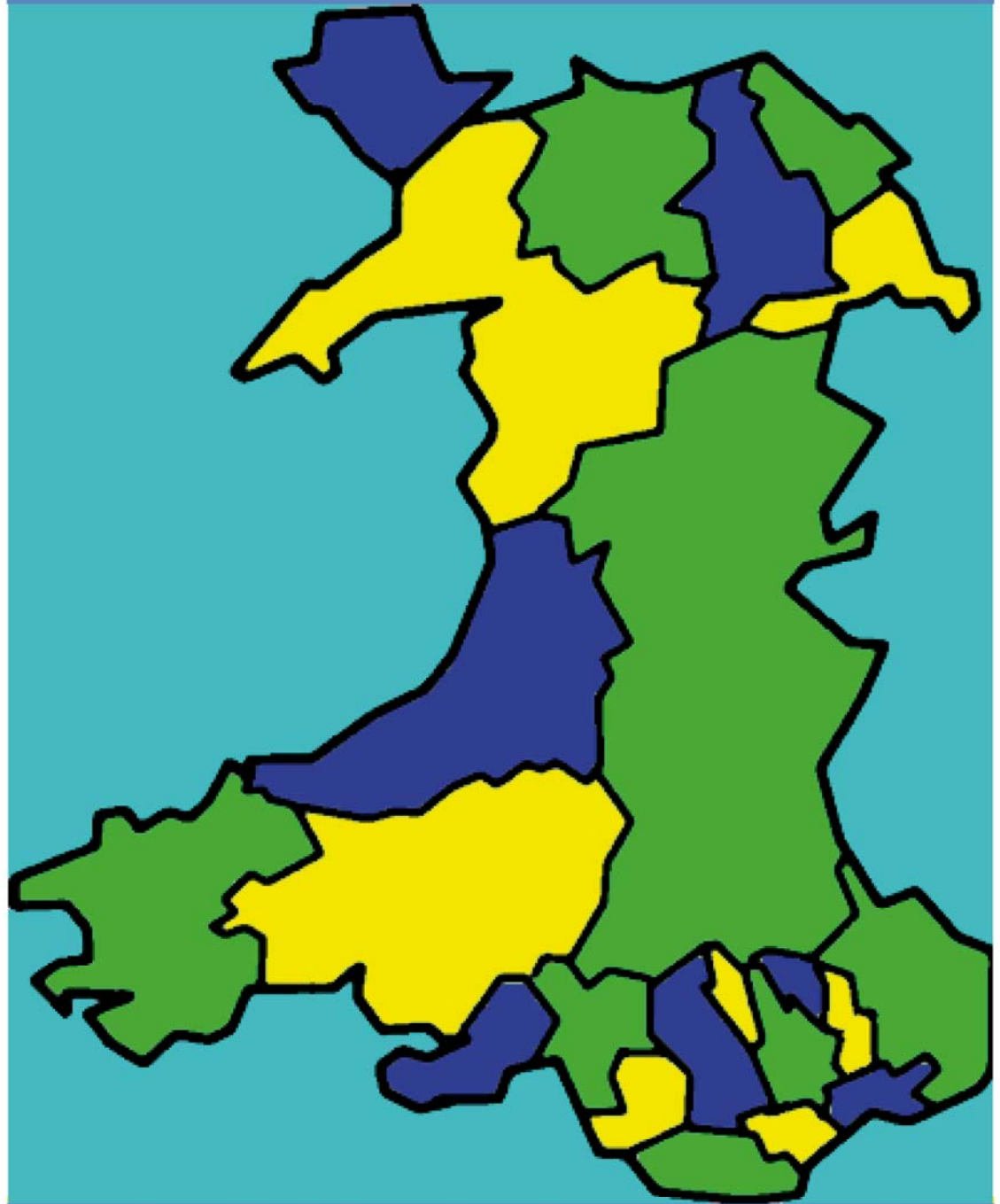


Growing Up and Moving On



Service Provision for Children and Young
People with Visual Impairment in Wales

Service Directory

Service Delivery

The term 'postcode lottery' has become synonymous with the way local budgets and decision-making can lead to different levels of public services in different places. To what extent does this describe specialist VI services for children and young people across the twenty two authorities in Wales today?

The following is a directory of specialist VI service provision for children and young people across Wales. It is not a comprehensive account of all services but a brief outline of service provision related to the mobility, independent living and social skills needs of children and young people.

Directory of Service Provision for children and young people in Wales

Notes:

1. Full-time equivalent (fte) indicates part-time hours worked, if fte is not specified then post is full-time. In education full-time refers to term time only if not otherwise stated.
2. The only roles specified in the VI Staff table for each local authority are QTVIs/Heads of Service, Mobility Specialists, ROVIs and Specialist Social Workers only. All other roles have been omitted from the table but may be referred to in the body of the description for each service depending on their relevance to this report.

Isle of Anglesey County Council

Visual Impairment Staff	
Education	SEN Joint Committee Anglesey and Gwynedd
Social Services	2 ROVI <i>adults & children</i> on contract from North Wales Society for the Blind (1.1 fte)

Education:

See Isle of Anglesey and Gwynedd Council – Education

Social Services:

Rehabilitation Service for adults and children is provided by North Wales Society for the Blind. ROVIs work in Physical Disability Team which is an adult team. Habilitation is provided at school, home and in the community during term-time and in the school holidays. This includes working in the Special School if requested. If habilitation programme is needed at home then this is usually provided during the school holidays. ROVIs work closely with QTVIs and Teaching Assistants (TAs) to provide service in school settings. ROVI supports with applying for funding for specialist equipment for home as needed.

Specialist Children's Service is a multi-agency service incorporating professionals from social services, education and health.

Registration: Certificates of Visual Impairment (CVIs) for children are received by Specialist Children's Service. A Unified Assessment is carried out by a duty officer and a referral is made to ROVI. ROVI carries out home visit offering registration and habilitation follow-up.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Visual Impairment Staff	
Education	Gwent Visual Impairment Service
Social Services	1 ROVI <i>adult</i> (0.4 fte)

Education

VI service is provided by GVIS. There is one Special School in Blaenau Gwent.

Social Services:

ROVI works with adults only in the Community Reablement Team. Until recently, a Social Worker VI worked in the Sensory Impairment Team but the team been disbanded and there is no longer a dedicated Social Worker VI.

Children with Disabilities Team is a team of social work staff providing services for children with severe learning, physical and sensory disabilities. An Occupational Therapist also works in the team.

Registration: CVIs for children are received by the Children with Disabilities Team. Receipt of CVI is logged on client database. An assessment is only offered if a Multi Agency Referral Form is received.

Bridgend County Borough Council

Visual Impairment Staff	
Education	2 QTVI (1.8 fte) 1 Mobility Specialist (0.5 fte – flexible to meet needs)
Social Services	1 Social Worker VI <i>adults & children</i> 3 ROVI <i>adults & children</i> (2.5 fte)

Education:

The Visual Impairment Service is part of the Inclusion Service. The service is an outreach service as well as having two VI Resource Bases, one in a primary school and the other in the corresponding Comprehensive School. The service is moving towards becoming a full outreach service. There are two Special Schools in the area. 8 Specialist Support Officers also work in the service. Head of VI Service retired at the end of the 2011/12 academic year and one of the existing QTVIs has taken on this role.

Mobility Specialist works in the school, home and community settings. If any independent living skills are needed at home or more extensive mobility training is needed in the community a referral is made to ROVIs in Social Services, usually for older children. For babies and pre-school children, a QTVI assesses and refers to Mobility Specialist for skills development and mobility incorporating independent living skills within the home setting.

A Specialist Support Officer and IT Specialist assesses for ICT needs and any specialist equipment is provided for school and home use.

Support for multi sensory impairment (MSI) children is provided by a Specialist Teacher for the Deaf who has a qualification in MSI.

A monthly parent support group offering the opportunity to meet with other parents and share advice and information is run by the Visual Impairment Service.

The previous Head of Service and Mobility Officer developed a 'Preparation for School' pack, a guide for parents on developing core daily living and mobility skills needed for starting school.

Social Services:

The Visual Impairment Service is part of the Community Independence and Wellbeing Team (CIWT) based in Adult Services. One Social Worker VI and three ROVIs (one Senior Practitioner -Sensory Impairment) provide a service to both adults and children with VI. Although working with all ages, there has been more demand for habilitation skills training for older children and young people (age 12+).

The Disabled Children's Team is a social care team with two Transition Workers who work with children from the age of 14+. There is also a temporary Transition Key Worker funded by European Social Fund (ESF).

Registration: CVIs for children are received by CIWT. A copy of CVI is sent to Disabled Children's Team. A ROVI or Social Worker VI undertakes a visit offering registration and follow-up.

Caerphilly County Borough Council

Visual Impairment Staff	
Education	Gwent Visual Impairment Service
Social Services	2 ROVI <i>adult</i> (1.5 fte)

Education:

Service is provided by GVIS. There is one Special School in the area.

Social Services:

Senior Practitioner ROVI and a part-time ROVI work in the Physical Disability and Sensory Impairment (PDSI) Team. It is an adult team but young visually impaired people of age 16+ may become known to Senior Practitioner ROVI if a need has been identified following a multi-agency Transitions Group meeting. When this is the case, ROVI may be involved in an advisory capacity until the age of 18. The Rehabilitation Service liaises with GVIS regarding provision of mobility training to young people who are moving to Further Education or Higher Education.

Children with Disabilities Team consist of Social Workers, Support Workers and Community Occupational Therapists. They are involved with the Integrated Services for Children with Additional Needs (ISCAN) project.

ISCAN was set up by Health, Education, Voluntary Agencies and Social Care two years ago providing an integrated service with a lead professional approach for early years children with additional needs and has recently been extended to age 12.

Registration: CVIs for children are received by the Adult Duty Team and passed to Senior Practitioner ROVI in the PDSI Team. Senior Practitioner contacts parents by telephone, explains the registration process, concessions, services and offers registration. Following this, registration card and details of concessions/services are sent to parents in post.

Cardiff Council

Visual Impairment Staff	
Education	5 QTVI (including Head of Service) 2 Mobility Specialist (1 fte)
Social Services	2 Social Worker VI <i>adult</i> 2 ROVI <i>adult</i> on contract from Sight Support (1.5 fte)

Education:

The Visual Impairment Service is part of the Achievement Section of the Education Service. Six Specialist Teaching Assistants support the service which is provided on an outreach basis including working in the Special Schools in the Authority. In addition, a VI Specialist Resource Base is currently located in one of the Comprehensive Schools but will be moving to a new school in 2014. One of the QTVIs in the service takes the lead for Early Years intervention.

Specialist IT equipment is provided for school use only.

Mobility Specialists work in school, home and community settings. Independence skills are incorporated into mobility training programmes as much as possible. Mobility Specialists work directly with pre-school children in home environment.

There is a Specialist Multi Sensory Impairment Teacher (QTMSI) based in a Special School for severe/profound/multiple learning disabilities.

The Visual Impairment Service liaises with the Child Health and Disability Team in Social Services when required, as well as relevant medical personnel in St David's Children's Centre.

An Early Years Forum made up of Health, Education and Social Services meet to plan services for any child with special needs. The Forum is lead by a Senior Psychologist.

Social Services:

The Sensory Team is an Adult team including two Social Workers VI and two ROVI (on contract from Sight Support). The team works with adults only but Social Workers VI co-work cases of 16-17 year olds with Child Health and Disability Team if referred.

The Child Health and Disability Team is a social care team of Social Workers and Occupational Therapists. Health professionals including eye Clinic staff refer using a Multi-Agency Referral Form. Social Workers carry out a transition report and a multi-agency transition meeting determines which service is most appropriate to meet the young person's needs.

Registration: CVIs for children are received by the Adult Sensory Team and a letter of registration and a registration card is sent out. A copy of the CVI is sent to Child Health and Disability Team. For the Child Health and Disability Team a CVI is not regarded as a referral on its own as a multi-Agency Referral form is required to initiate a referral.

Carmarthenshire County Council

Visual Impairment Staff	
Education	2 QTVI 1 Mobility Specialist (0.5 fte)
Social Services	2 ROVI <i>adult</i>

Education:

The VI Service is part of the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Service which lies within the Governance and Inclusion Service. A part-time Resource and Braille Technician works directly for the service and all other support staff is provided by schools. The Manager is based with the Children's Disability Team.

The service is an outreach service although there is a Sensory Resource Base in one school which is only accessed by children with hearing impairments. There are four Special Schools in the authority.

Mobility Specialist provides mobility training in school, home and community settings. This includes working with children of pre-school age. Mobility Specialist liaises with ROVIs regarding equipment provision and planning intervention as young person approaches 18 years of age.

MSI support is provided by the South West Wales Regional Multi Sensory Impairment Service and regular meetings with the service take place.

Social Services:

Rehabilitation Service for adults is provided by a Senior ROVI working in the North Community Resource Team and a ROVI working in the South Community Resource Team.

The Children's Disability Team is a multi-agency team of Social Workers, Teachers, Health Visitors, and Nurses. Eligibility criteria is fixed and a severe or profound VI would be required in order to access the service.

Registration: CVIs for children are received by Senior ROVI who contacts family by phone and provides information on registration. ROVI sends a copy of CVI to Manager of VI Service in Education. Manager ensures that children's details are recorded on Children's Disabilities Team database. If appropriate referral is made from education to Children's Disability Team to undertake assessment.

Ceredigion County Council

Visual Impairment Staff	
Education	2 QTVI (1.75 fte) 1 Mobility Specialist (0.5 fte)
Social Services	1 ROVI <i>adult</i> (0.8 fte) 1 Mobility Officer VI <i>adult</i>

Education:

The Sensory Service is within the Special Educational Needs Support Team. It is co-ordinated by one of the QTVIs who is also a Qualified Teacher of the Deaf. A QTVI and a part-time Braille technician are based in a secondary school dedicated to supporting one VI student.

Ceredigion does not have a special school. At present there is one Specialist Resource Base attached to a secondary school. There are three generic special units and VI pupils with additional difficulties attend these units.

The Co-ordinator of the Sensory Service works closely with Disabled Children's Team and attends reviews three times a year for VI and HI children. Referrals are also made directly to ROVI for an independent living skills assessment. A Support Assistant or Nursery Nurse (NNEB) in education ensures that advice is followed up and correct use of equipment is made in the school environment.

Mobility Specialist undertakes mobility in school, home and in the community. The Mobility Specialist does not usually work directly with pre-school children but is a point of contact for parents until they go to school. When a young person is leaving education, the Mobility Specialist undertakes a hand-over to Mobility Officer or ROVI working with adults in Social Services.

MSI support is provided by the South West Wales Regional Multi Sensory Impairment Service and regular meetings with the service take place.

Social Services:

ROVI and Mobility Officer VI are based in the Community Occupational and Sensory Support Team (COTSS) which is an adult team. When referred from the Sensory Service in education, ROVI carries out an assessment of independent living skills for a child or young person at the Sight Resource Centre. Equipment may be issued for home use and home visit undertaken if needed. ROVI does not provide any mobility training for children and young people under 18 years.

The Disabled Children's Team is a multi-agency team set up in partnership by Ceredigion Social Services, Education and Hwal Dda NHS Trust. It consists of practitioners including specialist teachers, health visitors, social workers and Occupational Therapists. The team provides a transitions service providing a Transition Key Worker for 14-19 year olds.

Registration: CVIs for children are received by the COTSS Team and a visit offering registration and follow-up (no mobility training) is carried out by ROVI.

Conwy County Borough Council

Visual Impairment Staff	
Education	3 QTVI (2.5 fte) 1 Mobility Specialist
Social Services	1 Children and Adult VI Social Worker (0.7 fte) 1 ROVI <i>adult & children</i> on contract from Vision Support

Education:

The Sensory Support Service lies within the SEN Service. The service is an outreach service which is supported by a number of Teaching Assistants. There is one Special School in the area.

The Mobility Specialist post is unique in Wales in that it is full-time including school holidays. This enables more flexibility with time, for example teaching train travel during half term and flexibility to provide Independent Living Skills both in school and at home. Mobility Specialist works with children from pre-school age and liaises closely with the Child Development Centre, a multi-disciplinary team consisting of educational and health professionals.

VI equipment is assessed and provided for school and for home if appropriate. Practitioners refer to Children and Adult VI Social Worker to support with funding for specialist equipment for home use.

Support for children with MSI is provided from within the Sensory Support Service.

Social Services:

The Sensory Impairment Team provides services to adults and children of all ages with visual impairment. The Children and Adult VI Social Worker provides a holistic service to VI children and their families. This includes referring to various specialist services for VI children and providing support to carers. Children and Adult VI Social Worker and QTVIs liaise closely and have annual meetings to discuss the needs of VI children.

ROVI works with adults and children providing re/habilitation training. There is good communication with Mobility Specialist in education.

Children with Disabilities Team provide a transitions service for disabled young people.

Registration: CVIs for children are received by Children with Disabilities Team who undertake a core assessment and refer to Social Worker VI. The Children and Adult VI Social Worker completes a visit offering registration followed by appropriate timed reviews and ongoing monitoring, if required.

Denbighshire County Council

Visual Impairment Staff	
Education	2 QTVI (1.8 fte) 1 Mobility Specialist (0.6 fte)
Social Services	3 ROVI <i>2 adult, 1 children</i> on contract from Vision Support (2.2 fte)

Education:

The Vision Support Service lies within the Pupil Support and Inclusion Service. The service provides support on an outreach basis to children in mainstream and Special Schools. There are two Special Schools in the authority, including one regional Special School for children with Autistic Spectrum Condition.

Mobility Specialist provides mobility training in school, home (for pre-school children) and community settings. Independence skills are incorporated into mobility training programmes as much as possible. For pre-school children, QTVI undertakes initial assessment and refers to mobility officer for assessment and subsequent mobility skills training if appropriate.

If required, MSI provision is accessed through the regional MSI resource in Wrexham.

Social Services:

A ROVI from Vision Support works within the Children in Need with Additional Needs Service Team one day a week. This is a multi-disciplinary team consisting of Social Workers and Occupational Therapists. ROVI works closely with other professionals to provide full habilitation service to children at home and in the community. There are also two full-time ROVIs on contract from Vision Support who work with adults only.

All referrals for children are received by the Intake and Interface Service who carry out an initial assessment. Referral is passed to the Needs Matching Panel who decides which service is most appropriate. The Children in Need with Additional Needs Service Team has a Transition Co-ordinator working with 14-18 year olds.

Registration: CVIs for children are received by the Children in Need with Additional Needs Service Team. The CVI is passed to ROVI who undertakes an assessment.

Flintshire

Visual Impairment Staff	
Education:	1 Learning Advisor for Vision Support 1 Mobility Specialist (0.2 fte)
Social Services	2 ROVI <i>adults & children</i> on contract from Vision Support (1.6 fte)

Education:

Vision Support Service lies within the Sensory Support Service in education. The service is provided to both mainstream pupils and those in the two special schools in the area, one primary and one secondary. A Nursery Nurse (NNEB) also works in the service and Teaching Assistants provide support to match need of visually impaired pupils within schools.

Specialist equipment is generally provided for school use only.

MSI provision is available if required through a QTMSI who is based in the secondary special school. Parents can also access a regional MSI resource in Wrexham.

Mobility Specialist works one day a week and generally carries out six week training blocks with pupils in schools, providing a programme for Teaching Assistant to carry out. A large amount of mobility training is provided to multi disabled visually impaired children in special schools.

Social Care:

The rehabilitation service consisting of two ROVIs and one Rehabilitation Assistant (0.4 full-time equivalent) are based in the Physical Disabilities and Sensory Impairment Team (PDSI). Although it is an adult team, ROVIs in the team work with both adults and children. They provide a comprehensive habilitation service for visually impaired children.

ROVIs work closely with the Transition Support Team who provide support to 14-25 year olds with disabilities. The Children's Integrated Disability Service (CIDS) is a multi-disciplinary team consisting of Social Workers, Occupational Therapists, Care Co-ordinators and Specialist Nurses. The service aims to provide one team around the child, providing information and services for children aged 0-18.

Registration: CVIs for children are received by the Adult Duty Team who initiates a referral to PDSI Team. A waiting list letter is sent from PDSI team to parents and a ROVI undertakes visit. Registration card is provided on initial visit or is posted shortly after.

Gwynedd Council

Visual Impairment Staff	
Education	SEN Joint Committee for Anglesey & Gwynedd
Social Services	3 ROVI <i>1 adult, 1 adult & children, 1 children*</i> on contract from North Wales Society for the Blind (1.9 fte)

* One ROVI (experienced working with children) is spot-purchased from North Wales Society for the Blind to work with individual children

Gwynedd is divided into regions, Arfon, Dwyfor and Meirionnydd (north to south), the majority of the population being in the Arfon (north) area.

Education:

See **Isle of Anglesey and Gwynedd Council – Education**, page 44.

Social Services:

Rehabilitation Service for adults and children is provided by North Wales Society for the Blind. Senior ROVI works in Arfon and half of Meirionnydd. Dwyfor and the other half of Meirionnydd is covered by the other ROVI. ROVIs are based in Adult Social Care Team but do not have access to client database or files.

ROVIs work in school settings as well as in the home and the community. This includes working in the three Special Schools in Gwynedd. Referrals from education for mobility training increase at times of transition for pupils, such as moving from primary to secondary school.

Due to the increased incidence of babies born with a visual impairment in the last two years, a ROVI experienced with working with children in education, is providing a specialist habilitation service for babies and young children. This service is currently being provided to six young children in Gwynedd and ROVI liaises closely with education professionals and Children's Services.

The Children's Specialist Service is a multi-agency service incorporating professionals from social services, education and health. The team provides a key worker for young disabled people aged between 14-25 and have annual multi-agency reviews.

Registration: CVIs for children are received by Social Services Elderly Team. A letter of registration including registration card is sent to the family and a referral and copy of CVI is sent to North Wales Society for the Blind. This acts as a referral for North Wales Society to initiate a Rehabilitation Service.

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

Visual Impairment Staff	
Education	1 QTVI (variable fte) 1 Mobility Specialist (0.1 fte*)
Social Services	1 ROVI <i>adults and children</i>

* working with a total of two children in 2011/12

Education:

The VI Service is part of the Additional Learning Needs Service which lies within the Integrated Children's Service. It is an outreach-based service managed by the Team Leader ALN and a Specialist LSA provides support in schools. Services of a QTVI are purchased from Rhondda Cynon Taff. There is one Special School in the authority.

Mobility Specialist also works part-time as a Learning Support Assistant within the Special School and is currently providing mobility and orientation training to two VI children.

Social Services:

ROVI has recently moved from the Community Care Team to the Reablement Team in Adult Social Care. A comprehensive re/habilitation service is provided for children as well as for adults. ROVI provides habilitation service to children and young people but does not provide mobility training in education settings.

The Children with a Disability Team is a social care team which liaises closely with ROVI with providing services to visually impaired children. The transitions process begins at age 14 when a multi-disciplinary meeting is held on a quarterly basis to decide on future intervention for young people.

Registration: CVIs are received by ROVI who carries out an assessment offering registration and follow-up. ROVI contacts the Manager of Children with a Disability Team requesting a core assessment.

Monmouthshire County Council

Visual Impairment Staff	
Education	Gwent Visual Impairment Service
Social Services	1 Practitioner for Sensory Impairment 2 ROVI <i>adult</i> on contract from Sight Support (1.3 fte)

Education:

VI service is provided by GVIS.

Social Services:

A qualified ROVI works as the Practitioner for Sensory Impairment in the Independent Living Team in Adult Services and two ROVI cover the north and south of the county. All three work with adults only.

Children with Disabilities Team is a social care team working with children with physical, learning or sensory disability. Multi-agency referral forms are used by practitioners in health to refer to the service.

Registration: CVIs for children are received by the Registrations Officer for the County who sends out a letter notifying of registration and a registration card.

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

Visual Impairment Staff	
Education	1 ALN Coordinator – VI Resource Base 2 QTVI (1.8 fte) 1 Mobility Specialist
Social Services	1 Social Worker VI <i>adults and children</i> 1 ROVI <i>adults and children</i>

Education:

The Visual Impairment Service is within the Learning Support Service in education. A Visually Impaired Resource Base is located at one of the Comprehensive Schools and is run by an ALN Coordinator and a team of Teaching Assistants. The outreach service supports all other children and young people from 0-19. Two Sensory Support Workers work directly for the outreach service. In 2011/12 VI service provision has been affected by maternity leave.

The numbers of children with complex needs is relatively high in the area. One of the QTVIs takes the lead with working with children with complex needs in the three Special Schools in the authority.

Specialist IT equipment is assessed by the QTVI and School Development Officer for ICT and is provided for school and home use as appropriate.

Mobility Specialist works in school, home and community settings and provides both mobility and independence skills training. QTVI and a Sensory Support Worker assess VI babies and pre-school children, provide follow-up and refer to Mobility Specialist.

MSI support is provided by the South West Regional Multi Sensory Impairment Service and regular meetings with the service take place. They work together to assess, support and monitor children's functional vision and access to the curriculum.

The VI and HI Service run a Sensory Play Group for children with sensory impairments of pre-school age.

Social Services:

Services for adults and children with VI are provided by the Sensory Support Team based in Adult Services. The team also consists of a Care Management Assistant VI and a Rehabilitation Assistant VI. The Social Worker VI and ROVI are usually first contact to provide advice and support to visually impaired children and their families regarding sight loss issues. However all staff with VI may carry out this task, depending on the complexity and need.

Habilitation skills training is provided to VI children and young people. Mobility is provided both at home and in community for example, accessing college independently.

The Child Care Disability Team (CCDT) consists of Social Care Workers who provide a service to children with sensory, physical or learning disabilities. Health professionals attached to the team provide a specialist service for children with complex health needs. CCDT has a criteria for access and co-works with the Sensory Support Team and other services as required.

Registration: CVIs for children are received by the Sensory Support Team and processed towards Registration. Within two weeks of receipt, Social Worker VI (or another worker as required) contacts family and requests agreement to Register, and if required, to refer to education service, RNIB and Cardiff Vale and Valleys for further resource options. Social Worker VI carries out an assessment during a home visit and refers to Rehabilitation Officer VI and other services as appropriate.

The VI Service (education) and Sensory Support Team (social services) are actively working towards developing working practices and closer links to improve provision for visually impaired children and their families.

Newport City Council

Visual Impairment Staff	
Education	Gwent Visual Impairment Service
Social Services	1 Social Worker for Children with Sensory Impairment 2 ROVI <i>adult</i> on contract from Sight Support (1 fte)

Education

VI service is provided by GVIS. There is one Special School in Newport.

Social Services:

A Social Worker for Children Sensory Impairment (Visual impairment D/deaf and hard of hearing) works in the Disabled Children's Team. The team is based at the Serennu Children's Centre, a multi-agency centre providing care, treatment and activities for children and young people with disabilities in Newport, South Monmouthshire and South Torfaen. Referrals are received by the Duty and Assessment Team who complete an Initial Assessment and refer to Social Worker for Children with Sensory Impairment. Usually, children are already known to GVIS. A Transition Planning Officer is based in the Disabled Children's Team working with age 14-18.

Two ROVIs work in a generic Adult Team along with Social Workers and Community Occupational Therapists, providing rehabilitation for adults only.

Registration: CVI is received by Children's Duty and Assessment Team and passed onto Social Worker for Children with SI. VI registration process is not undertaken by Social Worker for Children with SI.

Pembrokeshire County Council

Visual Impairment Staff	
Education	2 QTVI (1.2 approx fte)
Social Services	2 ROVI, <i>1 adult, 1 adults & children</i>

Education:

The service for VI children in education is provided by two QTVIs who work in the SEN and Pupil Support Service. One QTVI also holds a qualification in working with physically disabled (PD). A full-time Brailist works directly for the service. The service is outreach-based, supporting children in mainstream schools and in the Special School in the County.

MSI support is provided by QTHI and QTVI (PD qualified) who is currently undertaking MSI qualification. Specialist service is requested from Sense if required.

Mobility and independence skills training in education is provided by ROVI based in Social Services. QTVI refers to ROVI as soon as baby/young child becomes known to service. QTVI and ROVI undertake joint visits and habilitation intervention continues throughout childhood as required.

QTVI assesses for specialist ICT equipment and it is provided for school and home use if appropriate.

In 2012 a group of LSAs directly employed by schools completed an RNIB VI training course.

Social Services:

Habilitation service for children is provided by one of two ROVIs in the Visual Impairment Team. The ROVI works in school, home and community environment working closely with parents, advisory teachers, SENCOs and LSAs. In schools, ROVI provides mobility training to children and young people, teaches and advises LSA on dependent living skills, and reviews progress as appropriate.

The Children with Disabilities Team consists of Social Workers and Social Care Assistants. The Charity Action for Children provide a Transition Worker based in the team.

Registration: CVIs are received by the Visual Impairment Team and ROVI who works with children makes contact and completes a visit offering registration and follow-up.

Powys County Council

Visual Impairment Staff	
Education	3 QTVI
Social Services	3 ROVI <i>adults & children</i> (2.4 fte)

Education:

The VI service is provided by the Vision Team which lies within the Pupil Inclusion Service. It is an outreach service managed by a QTVI. One QTVI works predominantly in the north while the other works in the south. A Higher Level Teaching Assistant for hearing impairment is attached to the service who works closely with QTVIs. There are three Special Schools in the Authority, two in the north and one in the south.

Specialist equipment is assessed by QTVI (with the support of an IT ALN Adviser) and provided for school and home use as appropriate.

Mobility needs identified by QTVIs are provided by Rehabilitation Officers VI in Social Services.

MSI support is provided by the South West Wales Regional Multi Sensory Impairment Service and regular meetings with the service take place.

Social Services:

Services for both adults and children with VI are provided by the Visual Impairment Team, a rehabilitation team based in Adult Social Care which is managed by a Senior Rehabilitation Officer VI. The team work closely with the Vision Team in Education and the Children with Disabilities Team. ROVIs work with children in school, home and community settings providing a full habilitation service including mobility, independent living, and communication skills.

The Children with Disabilities Team is a social care team which forms part of the ongoing development of an Integrated Disability Service for Children in Powys for health, social services and education. Transition begins for a young person at age 14 when Adult Services are notified. A Social Worker in Adult Services is allocated and invited to reviews and 'Child in Need' meetings.

Registration: CVIs for children are received by the Senior ROVI who makes referral to Childrens with Disabilities Team. They contact family and offer assessment. ROVI allocates case to one of the ROVIs to undertake an assessment offering registration and providing a habilitation service as appropriate.

Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council

Visual Impairment Staff	
Education	3 QTVI (2.5 fte) 2 Mobility Specialists: 1 Mobility Specialist 1 Support Assistant (mobility qualified) (1 fte)
Social Services	4 ROVI <i>adults & children</i>

Education:

Within the Learning Support Service, the Visual Impairment Service is managed by the SEN Co-ordinator VI. It is an outreach service with most Support Assistants working directly for the service. There are four special schools in RCT. Specialist IT equipment is provided for school use only.

The Mobility Officer works in school, home and community settings and independence skills are incorporated into mobility training programmes as much as possible. An experienced Mobility Officer provides guidance to the Support Assistants who have more recently qualified in Mobility & Orientation (Newport). The provision is flexible and independence skills alone can be provided if a need has been identified or requested by parents. For children of pre-school age, the SEN Co-ordinator VI takes the lead working closely with the mobility officer. SEN Co-ordinator VI and SEN Co-ordinator HI work together to meet the needs of

children with MSI. There is also a Qualified Teacher MSI based in one of the Special Schools.

The SEN Co-ordinator refers to Sensory Services Team in Social Services for young people of transition age if any further rehabilitation skills are required.

The VI and HI Service in education, Sensory Services Team Manager and Disabled Children's Team meet once a term to discuss needs of VI and HI children and young people.

Social Services:

Habilitation services for visually impaired children are provided by ROVIs in the Sensory Services Team. ROVIs work closely with mobility officer in education and provide habilitation skills training to young people. They support with applying for funding for equipment if required.

The Disabled Children's Team is a team of social care workers providing a service to children with physical, sensory or learning disability and their families.

Registration: CVIs are received by Sensory Services Team and are passed to Adult Duty Desk. A duty worker contacts the family and completes a contact assessment over the phone, using guidance from Sensory Services Team. The contact assessment is returned to Sensory Services Team manager who informs SEN Co-ordinator VI in Education that CVI has been received and liaises with both education and Disabled Children's Team to inform prioritising and allocating process.

The Authority organises a Sensory Support Group who meet quarterly to discuss developments and exchange information. This is open to all agencies working with Adults and Children with sensory impairments including health, education, social services and local third sector organisations.

City and County of Swansea

Visual Impairment Staff	
Education	3 QTVI (2.8 fte) 2 Mobility Specialists (1 fte)
Social Services	1 Social Worker VI <i>adult</i> 2 ROVI <i>adult</i> (1.5 fte)

Education:

The Sensory Service is part of the SEN Service in education. Visual Impairment Service provision is on an outreach basis and VI children are supported by Support Assistants funded directly by schools.

There are two Special Schools in the Swansea area.

Specialist IT needs are assessed by the SEN Assistive IT Assessment Service and provision is made for school and home use if appropriate. QTVIs support with funding for any other specialist ICT equipment if required for home use.

Mobility Specialists work in school, home and community settings and independence skills are incorporated into mobility training programmes as much as possible. For pre-school children, QTVIs work directly with child and the Mobility Specialists usually act as a point of contact.

MSI support is provided by the South West Wales Regional Multi Sensory Impairment Service and regular meetings with the service take place. QTVIs also have regular meetings with Eye Clinic Staff in Singleton Hospital.

QTVIs and MOs liaise directly with the Child Disability Team in Social Services when required.

Social Services:

The Child Disability Team is a specialist team consisting of Social Workers, Support Workers, Specialist Health Visitors, Paediatric Nurse, Health Support Workers and Occupational Therapists. Referrals are taken by the Children's Central Advice, Referral and Assessment Team (CARA) and passed to the Child Disability Team.

Registration: CVIs are received by the Elderly and Disabled Team. CVI is processed; a letter including registration card is sent to parent by post and a referral to the Child Disability Team is also made.

Torfaen County Borough Council

Visual Impairment Staff	
Education	Gwent Visual Impairment Service (GVIS)
Social Services	1 ROVI <i>adult</i> on contract from Sight Support

Education

VI service is provided by GVIS. There is one Special School in the county.

Social Services

A ROVI is based in the Disabled People's Service within Adult Services and works with adults only.

The Disabled Children's Team is divided into two teams, providing services to the North and South of the Borough. The team consists of Social Workers, Key Workers (tri-partite funded) and Community Occupational Therapists (health funded).

The Transitional Team work with 14-25 year old young people. There is a transitional link Social Worker in Adult Services who attends transition meetings and works closely with young person until the age of 18.

Registration: It is unclear as to how CVIs are processed. Referrals from health are made using a multi-agency referral form.

Vale of Glamorgan Council

Visual Impairment Staff	
Education	2 QTVI 1 Mobility Specialist (0.4 fte)
Social Services	1 Social Worker – Children with Sensory Impairment 1 ROVI <i>adult</i>

Education:

The Visual Impairment Service is part of the Pupil Support Service in Education. Seven Specialist Learning Support Assistants (LSAs) provide support in school settings. The Team Leader is a QTVI and special support for children with multiple difficulties and ICT is provided by the second QTVI. In 2011/12, QTVI provision has decreased due to maternity leave. Support is provided in the local schools that the pupils attend. There are no resourced VI schools or bases within the authority but there are three Special Schools, catering for a range of learning difficulties.

A QTVI assesses for Specialist ICT equipment which is for school use only. For MSI children, the VI and HI services work closely together to meet needs.

A Mobility Specialist works with VI pupils primarily in school. Mobility between home and school is provided but not mobility in community settings. Mobility required for community setting and independent living skills provision is requested by parents / VI service and spot-purchased by Children's Service from an Independent Provider.

Social Services:

Social Worker has responsibility for providing a service for children with Sensory Impairment within in the Child Health and Disability Team. Due to the needs identified for mobility and independence skills training in home and community environment by education or parents a formal process has been set up by Social Worker SI to purchase the service from an Independent Provider. If any further sessions are identified as needed at a later date then process has to be initiated again.

The transition process officially begins at age of 16. Before this a Social Worker can refer to the Transition Referral Integrated Group (TRIG) who meet every 3 months to determine needs of young person. When a young person reaches the age of 16 Social Worker in Adult Service begins joint-working with Social Worker in Child Health and Disability Team.

There is a Rehabilitation Officer VI who works within Adult Services.

Registration: CVIs for children are received by the Child Health and Disability Team and the Social Worker SI undertakes registration visit and follow-up.

Wrexham County Borough Council

Visual Impairment Staff	
Education	1 QTVI 1 Mobility Specialist
Social Services	1 Social Worker VI <i>adult</i> 3 ROVI 2 <i>adult</i> , 1 <i>children</i> , on contract from Vision Support (2.2fte)

Education:

The VI Service is provided by the Education Inclusion Service, which lies within the Children & Young People Department. There is also a Curriculum Facilitator who works full-time in this service which is outreach based (no VI Specialist Resource Base). There is one Special School and several Specialist Resourced Provisions attached to mainstream schools in the region (all non-VI). Children who require individual support in school because of their visual impairment are given this by specialists (including Braillists) who are centrally funded by the Authority.

The Mobility Officer works full-time in school and other linked settings (including homes). Independent Living Skills are incorporated into the programme as much as possible, where relevant and time allows. The Mobility Officer also provides advice, support and training to Teaching Assistants regarding Independent Living Skills.

MSI Service is provided by a QTMSI who is head of a Resourced Provision for children who have complex needs.

Social Services:

Rehabilitation Officer VI is spot purchased by Children's Services to provide rehabilitation for VI Children.

Rehabilitation Officer VI works within the Child Health and Disability Team, a social services team which is part of a larger Integrated Service. Rehabilitation Officer VI provides a full range of rehabilitation skills training and support to parents and carers. A transitional social worker works with young people up to 19 years if required.

A Social Worker VI is based in the Physical Sensory and Neurological Issues Team, and adult team working with ages 18-65.

Registration: CVIs are received into this team for all ages, including children. The SWVI completes a registration visit and provides advice but does not work long-term with a child. SWVI refers to Child Health and Disability Team if appropriate. Cases of young people at the age of 16-18 can be co-worked between Child Health and Disability Team worker with the SWVI if support is needed.

Gwent Visual Impairment Service (GVIS)

GVIS Staff	
8 QTVI	Head of Service (does not have caseload) Deputy Head Multi Disability and VI Co-ordinator Multi Sensory Impairment Co-ordinator Key Stage 2 Co-ordinator Key Stage 3-4 Co-ordinator QTVI: Mainstream QTVI: MDVI
Other Specialist Staff	Mobility Specialist Mobility Assistant Independent Living Skills (ILS) Co-ordinator ILS Assistant (0.5 fte) ICT Co-ordinator Family Support Worker (0.5 fte)

GVIS is a unique service in Wales being a regional specialist educational service for children and young people with VI or multi-sensory impairment across five authorities. The service is hosted by Caerphilly County Borough County and supported by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Monmouthshire County Borough Council, Newport City Council and Torfaen County Borough Council. It is both an outreach and resource-based service with a purpose-built Resource Centre located outside Cwmbran in Torfaen. The service is supported by a range of Teaching and Learning Assistants (11.5 fte).

The MSI Regional Centre is encompassed within the GVIS service and there is an outreach and assessment worker specific for MSI.

Pre-school support is flexible and can take place at home or at the Centre. There are three weekly pre-school groups at the Centre, one for children preparing for nursery, one nursery group and one sensory group for babies and children with MSI or MDVI.

The ILS Co-ordinator's post is unique in Wales as it is the only post of its kind in Wales and it is full-time including school holidays. The ILS Co-ordinator works closely with Teaching Assistants in schools and parents to provide daily living skills programmes. The co-ordinator runs two weekly after-school clubs incorporating independent living skills into the activities.

The Family Support Worker's role is also unique in education in Wales. The role promotes the emotional wellbeing of VI and MSI children by working closely with schools and providing support to parents and carers.

Mobility is provided by a Mobility Specialist and a recently-appointed Mobility Assistant. Mobility is provided at school, home and in the community. Mobility Assistant provides non-cane mobility skills training under the direction of Mobility Specialist.

Isle of Anglesey and Gwynedd Council – Education

Visual Impairment Staff	3 QTVI (2.5 fte)
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The Visual Impairment Service is part of the Additional Learning Needs Service which lies within the SEN Joint Committee for Anglesey and Gwynedd. An Additional Learning Needs Advisor manages the service and three QTVIs work across both authorities. It is an outreach only service with Support Assistants attached to the service working in schools. There is one Special School in Anglesey and three in Gwynedd.

As there is not a dedicated Mobility Specialist within the service, QTVIs meet some of the mobility needs of children in the school environment. If there is a particular need identified for mobility a referral is made to Rehabilitation Service at North Wales Society for the Blind and joint working takes place.

A Specialist Teacher MSI (QTMSI) meets the needs of MSI children across both Anglesey and Gwynedd. This MSI service is also offered to other authorities in North Wales.

Funding for ICT equipment provision varies depending on circumstances and may involve tri-partite funding by the Specialist Children's Services in Anglesey or Gwynedd.

Regular meetings between staff of Specialist Children's Services and QTVIs take place.

South West Wales Multi Sensory Impairment (MSI) Service

The MSI Service is run by a Specialist MSI Teacher and a Teaching Assistant covering five Local Education Authorities; Neath Port Talbot, Ceredigion, Carmarthenshire, Powys and Swansea with Neath Port Talbot being the lead Authority. The Service is based in Maes Y Coed Special School in Neath and provides an outreach service for MSI children and young people from the age of 0-19 across the five authorities.

Referrals are made by Head of Sensory Services in each authority and the service works directly in schools and with families. For young people who move onto FE College, each authority works differently when it comes to funding the MSI service.

In 2011/12 academic year, the service is working with a total of 33 children and young people across five authorities.

Regular VI-specific Groups for Children and Young People

North Wales:

Weekly VI football sessions for juniors and seniors with Kinmel Bay Football Club have been set up by the Disability Sports Co-ordinator in Conwy in Feb 2012. It is run by volunteers and two visually impaired youngsters currently attend. The sessions are adapted to suit the needs of participants. For example, a 4 year old VI boy and his brother partake in a multi-sports session in conjunction with football to improve their participation and enjoyment.

South Wales:

1. Swansea City Visually Impaired Football Club is well established and the team play in the National VI League. There is weekly VI football training for visually impaired youngsters aged 4-18 and 5 youngsters currently train regularly.
2. Cardiff City Football Club Community Foundation has developed a new series of weekly football coaching sessions for blind and visually impaired people aged 5+ since April 2012.
3. Action for Blind People run two Actionnaires Clubs for visually impaired children and young people, one in Gwent area and the other in Neath Port Talbot/Swansea area. The clubs meet fortnightly on Saturdays and a range of activities such as drumming, archery, raft building, are provided for children and young people who are visually impaired and their siblings.

Nationally:

- Action for Blind People provide residential weekends for Welsh children and young people aged 10-16 in Field Study Centres in Wales during half term and school holidays.
- RNIB run many children's events such as Sports Days as well as Family Events throughout the year. There are also Residential Activity Schemes for children and young people from age 10-17 in Llangrannog and St Clears. This includes a summer scheme for 14-17 year olds in self-catering accommodation with an emphasis on developing independence skills.
- UCAN Productions is an independent 'not for profit' Cooperative based in Cardiff providing children and young people with VI access to the arts. UCAN run music and drama workshops in schools all over Wales. It is run by a Young People's Steering Committee and is open to all children and young people with VI from ages 8-25.

Third Sector Support for Children, Young People and Families

North Wales Society for the Blind, Vision Support, Sight Support, RNIB Cymru, Cardiff Vale and Valleys and Wales Council for the Blind all provide advice and support to visually impaired children and young people and their parents, families and carers.

Specific services are provided by:

1. RNIB Cymru

A range of well-established services is provided by the Children's Officer for both families and professionals:

- i. 'Families First' Family Support Service – incorporates the whole family. Includes providing home visits, peer support, infant massage.
- ii. 'Starting Right' Early Years Service – for children under 5 including early support materials, parent support groups, support with childcare.
- iii. 'Play Matters' Play and Recreation Support Service – advising on appropriate toys, the importance of play, recreation events, parent and children 'Come and Play' sessions.

A Children & Family Support Officer based in Rhyl has recently been appointed to develop peer support networks across North and Mid Wales.

The Education Service provides information, training and advice about all phases of education and supports children and young people of school age. The service has been central to the development of the Visual Impairment Pathway and development of the 'Beyond Vision' project with Neath Port Talbot College.

2. Vision Support

A service for VI children and families in North Wales (Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Wrexham) was started in 2009 in partnership with National Blind Children's Society. Parent input determines the direction of the service with various events and activities for children with VI and their siblings being held as well as talks on specific topics for parents.

3. Cardiff Vale and Valleys

There are two Young People's Groups for 16-25 year olds, one in Cardiff and one in Rhondda Cynon Taff.

In Swansea and Neath Port Talbot, a Young People's Buddy Service is provided for visually impaired young people aged 11-25. Young sighted volunteers befriend visually impaired youngsters and support them with pursuing their interests and on outings. A Parent Support Group has been set up recently with parents of VI children providing support to other parents who need it.

Cardiff Vale and Valleys have also teamed up with RNIB, Guide Dogs and Info-Nation, Swansea's information and advice service for young people, to provide specialist services for 11-25 year olds who are visually impaired. The service is called 'EYE CAN' and specialist VI support is available fortnightly.