

## Market Stalls and Exhibits

Action for Blind People

Action on Hearing Loss (the new name for RNID)

Adult Community Learning ECC

Anglia Ruskin University

Art Exhibition: Kelly Leane, Arts Development ECC (Vibe Cube)

Art Exhibitor: Philip Melling, Braille Art

Disabled Employees Network (DEN) ECC

Essex Benefits Plus ECC

Essex Cares Limited

Essex County Fire & Rescue Service

Guide Dogs for the Blind Association

Hearing Help Essex

Libraries, ECC

The Manacular Disease Society

The Royal Association for Deaf People

Sense National

Support 4 Sight (Essex)

Travel Training Team, ECC

ZINC



**Action for blind people**

Part of **RNIB** Group

Action for Blind People is a national charity with local reach, providing practical help and support to blind and partially sighted people of all ages. We listen, we understand, we act.

Action speaks louder for nearly 30,000 visually impaired people every year, always placing their needs at the heart of everything we do. We support these individuals in many aspects of their lives and help them to find the right services and products they need to live independently.

Action works with other expert organisations to draw on a wide range of skills and resources. Our close relationship with RNIB enables us to provide a unique combination of complementary strengths and expertise to help an ever increasing number of people with sight loss.

**ACTION ON**  
**HEARING**  
**LOSS**

## **Action on hearing loss (the new name for RNID)**

Who we are

Action on Hearing Loss is the new name for RNID. We're working for a world where hearing loss doesn't limit or label people, where tinnitus is silenced and where people value and look after their hearing.

We want:

- people to acknowledge their hearing loss and take action
- more support for people with hearing loss
- no one to be isolated through their hearing loss
- people to protect themselves against hearing loss and tinnitus
- to cure hearing loss and tinnitus.

What we do:

We offer a range of services for people with hearing loss, including people who are profoundly deaf. We provide information and support on all aspects of deafness, hearing loss and tinnitus. As a membership charity, we aim to achieve a radically better quality of life for people with all levels of hearing loss throughout the UK. Our work included campaigning and lobbying; providing training, products and equipment; and medical and technological research.

[www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk](http://www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk)

Information Line (Freephone)

Our Information Line offers free confidential and impartial information on a range of subjects including tinnitus, employment, equipment, legislation and benefits, as well as many issues relating to deafness and hearing loss.

Telephone: 0808 808 0123

Textphone: 0808 808 9000



## Essex Benefits Plus

Supporting and enabling internal and external staff with benefits advice, information and training to maximise income for Essex residents.

Visit our stall for information about benefits entitlement for either yourself or for your service users, or to find out more about our services:

- Benefits helpline (not for the public): 01245 434205, Mon-Fri 9.30am-4pm or [benefits.helpline@essex.gov.uk](mailto:benefits.helpline@essex.gov.uk)
- Free training, plus ongoing training support sessions
- Up to date benefits factsheets and checklists
- Quarterly bulletin
- Regular networking events
- Campaigns encouraging Essex residents to claim entitlement

[www.essex.gov.uk/essexbenefitsplus](http://www.essex.gov.uk/essexbenefitsplus)



Essex Cares offers high quality home care and community support services for vulnerable, disadvantaged, disabled and elderly people, helping them to live independent and active lives.

In order to improve independence, confidence and quality of life, the Essex Cares Sensory Service provides rehabilitation and mobility training, equipment, information and advice for:

- Adults who are blind or partially sighted
- Adults who are deaf or hard of hearing
- Adults who have a combined sight and hearing loss - Deafblind

## **Essex Libraries**

Libraries today are fascinating places. Whether you are interested in reading for pleasure, or want to learn something new, whether you need information or simply somewhere to relax and meet people, your local library is the place to be. There's something for everyone, from reading groups and free computer access and wi-fi, to baby and toddler rhyme times and Summer Reading Challenge.

Visually-impaired people can choose from large print, audio and e-audio, e-books, the RNIB Talking Book Service, and DVDs with audio description. For hearing-impaired people all our libraries have induction loops and a range of DVDs with subtitles while some libraries also have British Sign Language material.

If getting to a library or mobile library is difficult then we can bring the library service to you in your own home via our Home Library Service. Our Answers Direct central enquiry service is there to answer all your questions [www.answersdirect.info](http://www.answersdirect.info)

For details of all these services and more ask at the Essex Libraries stand at the Sensory Conference, look on our website [www.essex.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.essex.gov.uk/libraries) or contact us on 0845 603 7628





Essex County Fire & Rescue Service delivers Home Fire Safety Visits to residents of the County deemed to be most at risk from accidental dwelling fires. The visit is undertaken by dedicated Technicians as well as Operational Crews. We will be displaying our range of Sensory Alarms on our stand for participants to look at.



The Macular Disease Society is the only UK charity dedicated to helping people with MD. It was founded in 1987 and is now the largest patient group for visually impaired people in the UK with 15,500 members. The Society is a national charity with its head office in Andover, Hampshire, and a growing network of over 225 local support groups across the UK. The groups are run by volunteers, most of whom are elderly and they have MD; we have a growing network of over 1,500 dedicated volunteers across the UK.

The work of the Macular Disease Society can be broadly broken down into three areas:

Providing information, communication, help and support

Sponsoring research

Lobbying for better services and access to treatments for visually impaired people

## 1 Information, communication and support:

Our helpline is often the first point of contact for someone diagnosed with MD and takes over 600 calls a month.

Counselling & Emotional Support – a free telephone counselling service provided by a team of qualified counsellors, many of whom have MD themselves.

Advocacy – a service which helps people denied funding for treatment for Wet MD to lobby their PCTs for funding

Low Vision support includes advice on low vision aids and rehabilitation including our project training volunteer trainers in eccentric viewing technique which enables optimisation of remaining peripheral vision– the volunteers then pass on the skill to local sufferers. We have a network of almost 200 volunteer trainers

Side View – our quarterly colour magazine and Digest our annual scientific journal

Conferences – held twice or three times a year

Leaflets & brochures – more than 30 leaflets on aspects of macular conditions and living with MD

Local MDS Groups – a network of over 217 support groups throughout the UK

Network of local speakers – we have a growing network of over 150 volunteer speakers who raise awareness locally, reaching out to people who have MD and who may be isolated and not know where to turn for help, by giving talks to local organisations

Support for Working Age Members (W@M) – to offer mutual support in training, job retention and technology for the visually impaired at work

MDS Website – [www.maculardisease.org](http://www.maculardisease.org) - a vital channel of communication and source of information receiving over 200,000 visitors a year.

## 2 Research:

The Macular Disease Society sponsors research into the causes, cures and low vision assistance for macular degeneration. Over the last ten years we have invested over £1million into research.

## 3 Campaigning:

The Society represents those with central vision loss in order to improve access to treatments and low vision services. A recent success has been influencing NICE to recommend funding for the new drugs for Wet MD and working with NICE to ensure implementation of the treatments.

## Trustees and Staff

We have 16 trustees 8 of whom have MD; we also have a board of advisors comprised of medical professionals. We are volunteer led and have only 24 staff at our offices in Andover, 6 of who are part time. This means that our administrative costs are very low and that we apply as much of our funding as possible to our charitable activities.



**Royal Association for Deaf people**

Royal Association for Deaf people

Voice Phone: 0845 688 2525

Fax: 0845 688 2526

Text Phone: 0845 688 2527

Email: [info@royaldeaf.org.uk](mailto:info@royaldeaf.org.uk)

Website: [www.royaldeaf.org.uk](http://www.royaldeaf.org.uk)

Royal Association for Deaf people (RAD) mainly work with Deaf people who use British Sign Language (BSL) but also support people with all forms of deafness.

Please come and visit our stand to find out more about our services including:

- **Interpreting** –BSL interpreters and communication services for all Deaf people's needs
- **Advocacy** – supporting Deaf people to achieve independence
- **Legal Services** – legal advice in British Sign Language available face to face and online via webcam
- **Social Care** – community support service and advice for deaf carers (request a copy of a new deaf carer's toolkit)
- **Children, Families and Youth Service** –parent support groups, family events and activities for young deaf people
- **Our new Deaf Achieve project** (funded by The Big Lottery) supporting isolated Deaf people to improve confidence and skills

## Essex Travel Training

**EssexWorks.**

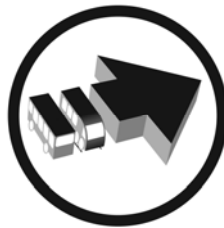
For a better quality of life

Travel training is designed to help people to get more from life by giving them the confidence to travel independently.

Being able to access public transport helps people to make their own choices about how they live and what they want to achieve.

Travel training can help overcome barriers to:

**Employment> Social Inclusion> Access to Leisure Facilities**



**Contact us on 01245 437767 or visit our website [travel-training.co.uk](http://travel-training.co.uk) for more details.**



Sense, The National Deafblind and Rubella Association, is the leading national charity supporting and campaigning for children and adults who are Deafblind. We provide expert advice and information as well as offer specialist services for Deafblind people, their families, carers and the professionals who work with them. We also support people who have one sensory impairment and additional disabilities. People of all ages, and with widely varying conditions, come to us for help and support.

If you would like to find out more about The Anne Wall Centre please visit our webpage on [www.sense.org.uk](http://www.sense.org.uk) or contact us:

Tel: 0208 449 0964  
Fax: 0208 364 8083  
[awcenquiries@sense.org.uk](mailto:awcenquiries@sense.org.uk)

The Anne Wall Centre  
12 Hyde Close  
Barnet  
Hertfordshire  
EN5 5TJ

[info@sense.org.uk](mailto:info@sense.org.uk)  
Tel: 0845 127 0060  
Textphone: 0845 127 0062  
Fax: 0845 127 0077

Visit sense's website [www.sense.org.uk](http://www.sense.org.uk)  
Patron: HRH The Princess Royal  
Charity no. 289 868

# Support 4 Sight

The logo for Support 4 Sight features the text "Support 4 Sight" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. A large, blue, curved swoosh arches over the text, starting from the top right of the word "Sight" and extending to the right edge of the frame.

Essex Vision is a campaigning group consisting of Support 4 Sight, Essex Blind Charity, PAVIS, Deafblind UK, Action for Blind people and Guide Dogs. Our aim is to develop a unified plan for action on all issues relating to visual impairment in Essex. We are endeavouring to work with partners in adult social care and in health, to highlight the problems that affect visually impaired people and implement a Vision Strategy across Essex.

Essex Vision will be represented by Support 4 Sight and Essex Blind Charity, two local sight loss charities in Essex, as well as Action for Blind People. The local sight loss organisations have Resource Centres and outreach locations in Saffron Walden, Harlow, Braintree, Frinton-on-Sea, Colchester, Clacton, Loughton, Brentwood, Manningtree, Chelmsford, Epping & Harwich. Their services include providing emotional support, advice and equipment to people newly diagnosed with sight loss as well as those coping with long term blindness. The support they provide includes equipment, low vision aids, computer training, Braille instruction, benefits and employment advice, sports & social clubs & home visiting, as well as giving advice about dealing with sight loss in a positive way following diagnosis. Access to their services is free and can be reached by calling Support 4 Sight (01799 523700) and Essex Blind Charity (0870 2405418)."



Zinc (formerly Theatre Resource), is a different kind of arts organisation. We believe passionately in 'arts without exception' and provide opportunities for EVERYONE to enjoy or become involved in creative activities, acquire new skills, gain qualifications and make the arts a part of their lives. A core part of our mission is the development of artists with disabilities or those from disadvantaged backgrounds. We wish to showcase art from under-represented groups and ensure their visibility in society.

We specialise in developing work with people who have the least opportunity to benefit from what the arts have to offer, but providing high quality arts activities which support the development of individuals, artists and communities irrespective of their age, ability or background.

Access and inclusion is at the heart of all we do. We are currently developing our home in Chipping Ongar, Essex into a community arts resource and a place dedicated to education, innovation and excellence in the arts for disabled people and socially excluded groups.

The residential centre, which is costing £6.2million to develop, will also provide a hub for emerging and established artists seeking ongoing professional development, training and support, and its scope, philosophy and facilities will make it the first of its kind in the country. The new centre is due to open later this year.

[www.zincarts.org.uk](http://www.zincarts.org.uk)