



# Deafblind Enablement Ltd

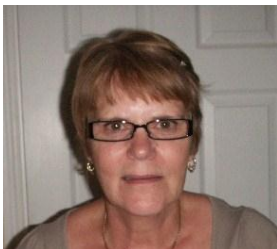
## Welcome to Deafblind Enablement's July 2011 edition of "Network Newsletter"

Some of you may have heard of us, the rest of you may be thinking 'who'?

So introductions, Deafblind Enablement is a new organisation - it's been going for just 6 months with **Debbie, Director**, who has nearly 30 years' experience in the field of dual sensory loss, **Nic Clark, Services Development Manager**, who has over 10 years' experience of working with congenital and acquired deafblind people.

We also have an elite team of fully trained freelance professionals and then there is me - some of you will know me from my previous role providing support within the field of deafblindness, I am **Services Co-ordinator**, it's an exciting time, I'm pleased to be involved and look forward to you dropping me an email to say 'hello'.

The aim is to publish "Network Newsletter" bi-annually; if you would like to be added to our mailing list to receive this and any updates or wish to provide us with your feedback to help us improve future issues, please do not hesitate to contact me.



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Registered No: 7480324

Our mission is to enable people with a sight and hearing loss to learn new skills, develop existing skills, gain access to their community and existing services with dignity, respect, control and choice.

### News Update:

Did you know that in 2011 we celebrate the **10 year anniversary of Section 7 "Social Care Guidance for Deafblind Adults and Children"**. Debbie James, Director (and founder) of Deafblind Enablement, was involved in campaigning for it's implementation and continues to push it forward by training assessors and fighting for the rights of deafblind people.

#### Deafblind Awareness Week:

27 June – 3 July is Deafblind Awareness Week and to celebrate, **Deafblind Enablement** is offering special discounts on all training courses providing they are booked before 31 July 2011. For more information please request our 'Awareness Week Offers' leaflet.

#### Good Practice Local Authorities:

We would like to congratulate the following Local Authorities in this pressurised time in working with Deafblind Enablement providing the following:

- **Essex:** 23 specialist assessors fully trained
- **Essex:** providing specialist assessments and reviews to over 50 dual sensory impaired people
- **Dudley:** 13 specialist assessors fully trained
- **Slough:** commissioning two specialist assessments for two deafblind children.
- **Oldham:** providing a venue for training courses.

**WELL DONE & THANKS!**

**New Initiative:** After many years of research and listening to feedback from Commissioners and Service Users we have identified a gap in the market – **providing ad-hoc flexible support in line with requirements of individual services users.** We have set up a database of freelance qualified & CRB checked staff, this allows us to be flexible. We are currently recruiting experienced and trained people to register; to request a registration pack or for further information to book a worker please contact us: [info@deafblind-enablement.co.uk](mailto:info@deafblind-enablement.co.uk)

The following is taken from feedback received from Philip, deafblind himself, following Debbie James undertaking a Specialist Assessment and preparing a report which was commissioned by the Local Authority.

“For at least 20 years I have been struggling with daily independent living because I did not have access to the specialist 1-1 support services, making for a very restricted lifestyle with few opportunities to

pursue interests and join in social activities. Matters came to a head when I experienced a sudden drop in my sight and was diagnosed with a long-term medical condition with the potential for additional disabilities on top of having sight / hearing problems. Clearly a specialist assessment of my needs was needed; this could only be done by a professional with a full understanding of deafblind people and the kind of problems they face in everyday life.

Debbie carried out the assessment in a friendly and sympathetic manner, allowing me the time to talk about my problems and aspirations. Her extensive knowledge and experience were very much apparent in terms of the ideas and suggestions put forward. Social Services then decided to let me manage my own support services through a Personal Budget. This was a life-changing experience for me as it opened many doors to activities and projects that I could only have aspired to, but could not do without the 1-1 support. It has been just over 2 years since my regular support began and, looking back, it is hard to imagine how I would have coped without it. Life seems more interesting these days and I feel more confident in going about my day-to-day activities that everyone else takes for granted.

It is really important that deafblind people have these specialist assessments as it will lead to them exercising choice in their lives with some dignity and respect. Without 1-1 support, what may seem like difficult problems with everyday living could easily escalate into more serious problems that may become entrenched and ultimately lead to even more resources being expended to put things right. The saying "prevention is better than cure" springs to mind and should be the main rationale for specialist assessments for deafblind people.” Philip

#### FORTHCOMING TRAINING DATES:

**6 July:** Deafblind Awareness, Braintree, Essex; in association with Foley House

**12 July:** Deafblind Awareness, Oldham

**15 & 16 August:** Specialist Assessment Course, QAC Birmingham

**5 September:** Deafblind Awareness, Redbridge, in association with Guide Dogs for the Blind Association

**19 September:** Deafblind Awareness in association with, Dudley MBC

**27 & 28 September:** Specialist Assessment Course, Oldham

**17 & 18 October:** Specialist Assessment Course, Redbridge, in association with Guide Dogs for the Blind

**26 October:** Deafblind Awareness, Reading, in association with Brookfields School

**16 November:** Deafblind Awareness, Atherton, in association with Guide Dogs for the Blind

Contact us for further information regarding these and other courses or to request a booking form contact us on 01733 746538.

We would like to thank the organisations working in partnership with us to raise awareness.

If you are interested in working with us to provide a course in your area please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss this further.