

## Services & Support for visually impaired people

### **Who can access services and support?**

Anyone with a visual impairment can access services and support; it is not necessary to be registered.

(A visual impairment is an eye condition that cannot be corrected by spectacles).

### **Getting help from the Council**

- Kingston Council's Sensory Impairment Team: **0208 547 6600**  
(Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9.00am – 1.00pm)
- Kingston Council leaflet: 'Helping Adults Keep Safe and Independent' – for a copy phone: **020 8547 6123**

### **Kingston Association for the Blind**

Kingston Association for the Blind (KAB): **020 8605 0060** (office hours)

[www.kingstonassociationforblind.org](http://www.kingstonassociationforblind.org)

Support from KAB includes:

- General advice and help filling in forms
- Buddy schemes where trained volunteers are introduced to visually impaired people
- Talking Newspaper
- Quarterly newsletter for members
- Craft and social club

### **Other voluntary organisations**

- Kingston Centre for Independent Living: **020 8546 9603**  
(Direct payments service, newsletter (including in alternative formats), holiday grants, black and minority ethnic disability project)  
[www.kcil.org.uk](http://www.kcil.org.uk)
- Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB): Helpline **0303 123 9999**  
(Information, support and advice to people with sight loss)  
[www.rnib.org.uk](http://www.rnib.org.uk)
- Macular Disease Society: **0845 241 2041**  
(Self-help society for those diagnosed with any of the eye conditions encompassed by the overall name of Macular Disease)
- Action for Blind People: Helpline **0800 915 4666**  
(employment support, housing services, leisure, holidays, information and support)  
[www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk/](http://www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk/)
- Guide Dogs for the Blind: **0118 983 5555**  
(training and provision of guide dogs, research, campaigning)  
[www.guidedogs.org.uk/](http://www.guidedogs.org.uk/)

'Stay Independent' factsheets are produced by a partnership of statutory and voluntary sector organisations providing information and advice for disabled and older people in Kingston.  
For latest version see [www.kingston.gov.uk/stayindependentfactsheets](http://www.kingston.gov.uk/stayindependentfactsheets)