



Sight for Surrey Children & Young Peoples Service (CYPS)

Sight for Surrey offers a range of services for children/young people and their families, who are either vision impaired or have a multi-sensory impairment. This booklet will give you information about our services. We have also included a directory of other organisations that may also be of assistance to you and your family. Below is the Sight for Surrey CYPS Team.

Jane Vincent



Alison Holt



Nicola Lawson



Julie Fairey



Loretta Knibbs



Tori Awbery



Lesley McCarthy



Michelle Winstone



Carol Perryer



SFS Children Recreation

We aim to put on a range of events throughout the year that will cater to children's different ages, interests and abilities. We recognise the importance of supporting the whole family, so whenever possible our activities include places for siblings.



Our recreational events cover a wide range of activities, including theatre trips, music workshops, craft activities, cooking, use of technology etc. We provide opportunities to try a range of different sports and plan family fun days and outings. Michelle Winstone is our children and families recreation coordinator and is always on the lookout for new ideas, so do talk to her if there are particular ideas that you would be interested in and, finances permitting, we will try to accommodate them.

Some of our recreational events have a small charge; however, we would not want this to preclude anyone from attending. Please do talk to us if paying is a problem.

SFS Young People's Group

At the beginning of 2016 we were awarded a grant that enabled us to employ a Youth Worker and begin offering bespoke activities for older children. In June 2016 a grant from Children in Need enabled us to keep these activities going. Since then we have been organising at least one activity a month for young people who attend Secondary School. Families can decide themselves whether parents stay or leave their YP with us. Activities have included indoor sky-diving, skiing, bowling, water-skiing and horse-riding and they have also experienced chocolate and drawing workshops. This group also enables young people to have additional opportunities to increase their independence and their understanding of how things work. Our Youth Worker is called Carol Perryer.

Habilitation Specialists

Sight for Surrey is contracted by Surrey County Council to deliver mobility and other life skills training to children and young people who have vision impairment or a combined sight and hearing loss. The lessons are usually on an individual basis taught by Habilitation Specialists (sometimes referred to as Mobility Officers). These are delivered as part of the school curriculum and sometimes during school holidays depending on individual needs. The aim of these lessons is to teach students the strategies and techniques required to manage independently in a sighted world.

Our Sight for Surrey Habilitation Officers are Alison Holt and Nicola Lawson. We also have a contract with Guide Dogs which enables us to also employ Julie Fairey, Tori Awbery and Loretta Knibbs. Carol Perryer is a qualified Habilitation Assistant and is employed in this role on a part time basis.

Registration

Sight for Surrey is contracted by Surrey County Council to hold and maintain the register of people who are eligible to be registered as Severely Sight Impaired or Sight Impaired. (See our website for more information).

The terminology for these two levels of registration has changed over the years; Severely Sight Impaired (SSI) can also be known as being registered as Blind (B). Sight impaired (SI) can also be referred to as partially sighted (PS).

Surrey County Council's Children with Disabilities Register

When children become eligible to be registered as SI or SSI they are also entitled to be recognised on Surrey County Council's register for all children who are disabled. This can also help families to access additional support; for example the Max Card which can give discounts or free admission on days out at attractions across the country. A Max Card should be applied for through Surrey County Council.

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/childrens-social-care/support-for-children-with-disabilities/surrey-short-breaks-for-disabled-children>

Surrey County Council Physical & Sensory Services (PSS)

Sight for Surrey Children and Young People's department is contracted by Surrey County Council's Physical and Sensory Services to deliver the formal life skills training to children and young people. Parents are an important part of the process and by working together we will have the best opportunity to ensure positive outcomes for your children. Do contact us if you have any questions.

Partnership with Guide Dogs

Sight for Surrey Children and Young People's service, work in partnership with other organisations whenever possible. Our most successful partnership is with Guide Dogs. By working in partnership, we are able to buy in additional services and link our families in with the benefits offered by a large national organisation.

Surrey's Local Offer

Every local authority is required to publish the services available to meet the needs of the children who have special educational needs and disabilities up to the age of 25 years and the support in place for those young people's families. This is known as "The Local Offer" and can be found at:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/young-surrey/learning-training-and-working-for-young-people-in-surrey/the-local-offer-for-young-people-in-your-area>

Education, Health & Care Plans

A key element of the Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) reforms is the transition to a single Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in place of Statements of Educational Needs.

EHC Plans and Legislation

An EHCP can only be issued after a child or young person has gone through the process of EHC needs assessment. At the end of that process, the local authority has to make a decision, either to issue an EHC Plan or not.

Content of the Education, Health and Care Plan

An EHCP must include the following information:–

1. The views, interests and aspirations of the CYP and their parents.
2. The CYP's special educational needs. For CYPS with a vision impairment this should include mobility and life skills needs.
3. The outcomes sought for the CYP including outcomes for adult life, where appropriate.
4. The special educational provision required by the child or the young person.
5. Any health or social care provision reasonably required as a result of learning difficulties and/or disabilities which result in the CYP having SEN.
6. The name and type of the school, maintained nursery school, post-16 setting or other setting.
7. Where there is a personal budget, the details of this and the outcomes to which it is intended to contribute.
8. The advice and information gathered during the assessment (i.e. appendices). There should be a list of this advice clearly stated in the EHC plan.

For more information go to: www.surreycc.gov.uk

The following pages give information regarding relevant organisations in the following categories:

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EDUCATION

Physical & Sensory Support Surrey County Council

Website address: www.surreycc.gov.uk/physicalandsensory

Tel: 01372 833774

Physical and Sensory Support (PSS) uses specialist knowledge to support children and young people with visual, physical or hearing impairment.

Support includes:

- ◆ Assessment
- ◆ Advice and information
- ◆ Classroom, curriculum and access support
- ◆ Monitoring
- ◆ In-service training
- ◆ Home/school liaison
- ◆ Liaison and contacts with other professionals
- ◆ Information & communication technology advice
- ◆ Support package for students in further education and higher education

RNIB Pre-16 Education Services

Website address: www.rnib.org.uk

A detailed fact sheet can be found on the RNIB Website.

SEND (The Local Offer)

Website address: www.thelocaloffer.co.uk

The Local Offer champions education, health & social care services from across the sectors, transforming the landscape of specialist provision - raising expectations and changing lives. Each authority has a legal duty to publicise their area's offer to parents about how they intend to meet the needs of children who have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

FAMILY SUPPORT

Action for Carers (Surrey)

Website address: www.actionforcarers.org.uk

Tel: 01483 302748

Email: info@actionforcarers.org.uk

Action for Carers work with health care and social care teams to support carers in Surrey and raise awareness of their needs.

See also: Surrey Young Carers

Action for Sick Children

Website address: www.actionforsickchildren.org

Tel: 0800 074 4519

Email: enquiries@actionforsickchildren.org

Action for Sick Children provides information and support to families with sick children.

Contact a Family

Website address: www.cafamily.org.uk

Tel: 0808 808 3555

Email: info@cafamily.org.uk

Contact a Family offers a contact line that gives advice and support to parents of children with any disability or special need.

Family Action

Website address: www.family-action.org.uk

Tel: 020 7254 6251

Email: info@family-action.org.uk

Family Action provides one-off grants for families in severe financial need. Applications must be made via a professional body, e.g. health visitor, social workers, or through any Citizens Advice Bureau.

Family Voice

Website Address: <http://www.familyvoicesurrey.org/>

Tel: 01372 705708

Email: contact@familyvoicesurrey.org

Family Voice Surrey champions the needs and rights of SEND families in Surrey: families with children or young adults up to the age of 25 who have special educational needs, chronic illnesses, including mental health conditions, or disabilities.

The Family Fund

Website address: www.familyfund.org.uk

Tel: 08449 794099

Email: info@familyfund.org.uk

The purpose of the Family Fund Trust is to ease the stress on families who care for very severely disabled children under 16, by providing grants and information related to the care of the child.

Home Start

Website address: www.home-start.org.uk

Tel: 0116 258 7900

Email: info@home-start.org.uk

Trained volunteers visit families at home for a couple of hours each week, supporting families with at least one child who is under 5 years old.

Partnership with Parents

Website address: www.sendadvice.surrey.org.uk

Tel: 01737 737300

Email: spp@surreycc.gov.uk

Partnership with parents is a Surrey County Council service and aims to ensure that parents are able to play an informed part in any decisions about the educational provision made to meet their child's special educational needs (SEN) and to build partnerships between parents, the LEA and schools.

Surrey FIS

(Families Information Service)

Tel: 0300 200 1004

Email: surrey.fis@surreycc.gov.uk

Website address: www.surreycc.gov.uk/peopleandcommunity/family-information-service

FIS is a free, impartial information service for families with children aged 0-19 (or up to 25 for young people with a disability of special educational need)."

Surrey SEND Information, Advice, and Support Service (SSIASS)

SSIASS offers impartial, confidential and free support. The services include:

- Telephone Support provided by SEND trained advisors
- Face to Face support
- Community support through workshops and surgery sessions

Tel: 01737 737300

Email: ssiass@surreycc.gov.uk

<http://www.sendadvice.surrey.org.uk/>

Surrey Young Carers

Website address: www.surrey-youngcarers.org.uk

Tel: East and Mid Surrey Office: 01737 248111, West Surrey Office: 01483 568269

Email: syc@actionforcarers.org.uk

Surrey Young Carers Project supports carers throughout Surrey up to 18 years old. This is a voluntary project managed by Action for carers (Surrey).

Through Scarlett's Eyes

Website address: www.throughscarlettseyes.com

Tel: Mobile: 07412572121 Landline: 0161 9004365

Email: cmellor@victa.org.uk

Our aim at Through Scarlett's Eyes is to create a catalogue of advisory, informative and inspirational stories from parents of Visually Impaired children. I believe it will be a great way of sharing and connecting, in turn creating an online platform for us all to share with the world our experiences.

The help and support we receive from the professionals is important, but I have found so much benefit in chatting with other parents, I have no doubt other parents will feel the same way too.

Vision 2020 UK

Website address: www.vision2020uk.org.uk/startingpoint

Tel: 020 3829 2900

Email: info@vision2020uk.org.uk

Vision 2020 UK is the umbrella organisation which leads collaboration and co-operation between organisations with an interest in eye health and sight loss. The main aim is to improve the information given to families at the point of diagnosis of their child's vision impairment.

Wonderbaby

Website address: www.wonderbaby.org

Email: help@wonderbaby.org

WonderBaby.org, a project funded by Perkins School for the Blind, is dedicated to helping parents of young children with visual impairments as well as children with multiple disabilities. Here you'll find a database of articles written by parents who want to share with others what they've learned about playing with and teaching a blind child, as well as links to meaningful resources and ways to connect with other families.

READING

Bag Books

Website address: www.bagbooks.org

Tel. 020 7627 0444

Email: office@bagbooks.org

Bag Books is a not-for-profit organisation that creates, produces and distributes hand crafted multi-sensory stories, which are in pack form.

Calibre Audio Library

Website address: www.youngcalibre.org.uk

Tel: 01296 432339

Email: enquiries@calibre.org.uk

Free lending library of books on USB memory sticks and MP3 disk for anyone who cannot read ordinary print books.

ClearVision

Website address: www.clearvisionproject.org

Tel. 020 8789 9575

Email: info@clearvisionproject.org

ClearVision is a UK postal lending library of mainstream children's books with added Braille. The books all have Braille, print and pictures, making them suitable for visually impaired and sighted children and adults to share.

Guide Dogs – Custom Eyes

Website Address: <http://www.guidedogs.org.uk/services/children-and-young-peoples-services/customeyes>

Tel: 0118 983 8275

Email: customeyes@guidedogs.org.uk

Custom Eyes service produces tailor-made large print books for children and young people up to and including age 25 with a visual impairment or Dyslexia. We support children and young people across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. You can choose from over 4,000 large print books with new titles being added monthly. Books available include picture books, fiction, non-fiction, Oxford Reading Tree, GCSE and A Level English texts and textbooks, plus revision guides for Key Stages 2, 3 and 4.

Our books are tailor made to suit each child or young person in the best: font, font size, spacing, paper colour, binding (for example spiral binding so books lie flat).

Living Paintings Trust

Website address: www.livingpaintings.org

Twitter: @LivingPaintings

Tel: 01635 299771

Email: info@livingpaintings.org

Living Paintings is a FREE library of Touch to See books that bring to life the visual world for blind and partially sighted people.

RNIB National Library Service

Website address: www.rnib.org.uk

Tel: 0303 123 9999

Email: helpline@rnib.org.uk

Anyone who wants to read books in alternative formats can join the library. A variety of books for study and leisure are available, for all ages. Braille books, large print books, Moon books and music books in accessible formats are available.

RNIB Talking Books Service

Tel: 0303 123 9999

Email: helpline@rnib.org.uk

RNIB Talking Books Service has a vast selection of titles, including children's books. Talking Books are free of charge to anyone who cannot see well enough to read large print. Lists of titles for different age ranges are available on request.

Seeing Ear

Website Address: <http://www.seeingear.org/>

Tel: 01424 777 466

Email: librarian@seeingear.org

Our library is available to people who are unable to enjoy reading a book because they are blind, visually impaired, have print blindness due to dyslexia or are physically impaired.

All our books are available in a variety of formats, including Microsoft Word, plain text and Braille. The books in Microsoft Word format are marked up in order to make it as easy as possible to customise the book to suit the way you want to read them.

We continue to add books to our library all the time, covering every subject. Our Seeing Ear school librarians can request the books they want, but if you have a suggestion you are welcome to contact us.

Surrey Library

Tel: 01483 543599

Email: libraries@surreycc.gov.uk

The Right Card?

There is a range of membership options; VI users can have a membership card that allows them to access audio books free of charge.

eBooks and eAudiobooks

Read or listen to one of the titles wherever you are using a smart device. These are free to download.

An eBook is an electronic version of a book. It can be read on a computer, or with an eBook reader, on a tablet or on a smartphone. Some eBooks can be read via a webpage, and others need to be downloaded.

eAudiobooks are books borrowed as an audio file. You can listen to these on your computer or laptop, an MP3 player, on a tablet or on a smartphone.

Assistive Technology

Software on Library computers enables the text on the screen to be read aloud, personal profile can be saved to a USB device to be reused.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

SPORT:

Active Surrey Sports Partnership

Website address: www.activesurrey.com

Tel: 01483 518944

Email: active.surrey@surreycc.gov.uk

Active Surrey Sports Partnership has produced a directory showing a wide range of disability sports activities within Surrey. The directory is distributed to schools, clubs and organisations. The directory is not available to individuals, but can be accessed via the above website address. It covers all disabilities, sports and ages.

British Blind Sport

Website address: www.britishblindsport.org.uk

Tel: 01926 424247

Email: info@britishblindsport.org.uk

BBS aims to organise and develop sporting activities for visually impaired people. BBS organises “have a go” days two or three times a year at various venues around the country so that visually impaired people (especially the young) can try out the sports available to them.

Goalball UK

Website Address: www.goalballuk.com

Tel: 0114 223 5670

Email: enquiries@goalballuk.com

Goalball is a fully inclusive Paralympic sport for blind and partially sighted people. We are expanding across the UK – more players taking up this great game and new clubs being launched across the country.

Holiday Activities

Some of the Surrey Borough Councils have put together some helpful information to keep everyone entertained during the school holidays: play schemes, sport academies, arts and crafts, drama clubs, family days out and much more. Details can be found on the following websites:

Guildford:

www.guildford.gov.uk/holidayactivities

Waverley:

www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/recreation/sports_fields/margaret_whitlam_recreation_centre/school_holiday_activities

Runnymede:

www.runnymede.gov.uk/article/5175/Activities-for-children-and-young-people

Elmbridge:

www.elmbridge.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/childrens-activities/

Epsom and Ewell:

www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/728760CF-0FE2-4A91-8555-ADA5FDAA697D/0/

Reigate and Banstead:

www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/youthactivities/

MetroBlind Sport

Website address: www.metroblindsport.org

Email: saul.wynne@metroblindsport.org

Metro Blind Sport welcomes people of all ages and abilities

Metro is a London-based charity; our aim is to open doors to sport for all vision impaired people, regardless of age or ability. We also encourage our members to get together to enjoy social as well as sporting activities. Explore our website to find out about the range of activities on offer. Why not visit the Metro Blind [Sports Page](#) to see what we have available for you.

Riding for the Disabled

Website address: www.rda.org.uk

Tel: 01926 492915

Email: info@rda.org.uk

Riders receive a high standard of professional tuition tailored to their personal ambitions and capabilities. RDA instructors work closely with physiotherapists and other health professionals to encourage every individual to aim for attainable goals – some modest, others far more ambitious. For details of groups in Surrey please go to the Locations page on the website.

Sight for Surrey arrange for some group riding sessions with RDA for children who are vision impaired. Details of these are included in our recreation programme.

For children who are unable to hold themselves in a seated position, facilities are available at **The Diamond Centre** in Carshalton.

Website address: www.diamondcentre.org.uk

Tel: 020 8643 7764

RNIB Action for Blind People

Information & Advice Helpline: 0303 123 9999

Email: helpline@rnib.org.uk

The Children & Families Team is a service for 0 – 14 year olds and their families.

RYA Sailability

Website address: www.rya.org.uk/programmes/ryasailability

Tel: 02380 604100

Sailability encourages and supports people with disabilities to take up the sport.

Surrey Canoe Club

Website address: <http://surreycanoecub.org.uk/>

Tel: 020 8399 1858

Email: info@surreycanoecub.co.uk

We offer young people a diverse range of opportunities to begin and sustain an involvement in paddlesport.

Surrey VI Cricket

Website address: <http://www.bcew.co.uk/surrey-vicc/>

Tel: 75164 675164

Email: davidgavrilovic@yahoo.co.uk

The BCEW have been working in partnership with British Blind Sport and the England and Wales Cricket Board since 2006 to deliver competitive cricket for those who are blind or partially sighted running national and international competitions.

Surrey Wheels for All

Website address: www.cyclinguk.org/map-feature/surrey-wheels-for-all-1

Tel: 01925 234213

Email: matthew.wing@cycling.org.uk

Surrey Wheels for All is an inclusive cycling programme operated by Cycling Projects offering children and adults of all abilities the opportunity to cycle either independently or with their family or with a group.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Council for Disabled Children

Website address: www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk

Tel: 020 7843 1900

Email: cdc@ncb.org.uk

Part of the National Children's Bureau, the Council for Disabled Children promotes collaborative work between different organisations providing services and support for children and young people with disabilities and special educational needs. Its services include consultancy, training, information, publications and conferences.

Disabled Living Foundation

Website address: www.dlf.org.uk

Tel: 0300 999 0004

Email: helpline@dlf.org.uk

Disabled Living Foundation provides advice on equipment for independent living.

Guide Dogs

Website address: www.guidedogs.org.uk

Tel: 0118 983 5555

Email: guidedogs@guidedogs.org.uk

Guide Dogs For the Blind Association helps children with vision impairments and their families by providing; practical help and advice, educational support, habilitation (mobility and life skills) training, large-print books through CustomEyes, advice on technology and equipment, family support including early diagnosis support and recreation events for the whole family, partnering some young people with a guide dog and partnering some children with a buddy dog, a well-trained companion dog

LOOK (National Federation of Families with Visually Impaired Children)

Website address: www.look-uk.org

Tel: 0121 450 7754

Email: information@look-uk.org

LOOK offers support for families with visually impaired children and advice from birth to age 21, providing information on education and special needs, benefits and eye conditions. It also offers practical help and has family support officers who will visit

the home. It has a network of support groups and a database to link up families with others in a similar position.

Partially Sighted Society

Website address: www.partsight.org.uk

Tel: 01302 965195

Email: reception@partsight.org.uk

Information and support for partially sighted people, helping them make best use of their remaining sight.

Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB)

Website address: www.rnib.org.uk

Tel: 020 7388 1266 (Switchboard)

Helpline: 0303 123 9999

Email: helpline@rnib.org.uk

The RNIB is the UK's leading charity offering information, support and advice to over two million people with sight problems.

RNIB runs family weekends countrywide for children, siblings and their parents, offering a chance to meet other families. Other vacation schemes are also available, enabling partially sighted children to mix with mainstream school children and get involved in shared activities.

RNIB provides a calendar of leisure information; also a braille magazine for children, comics, books etc., available via their library (Tel. 0303 123 9999). Publishes a catalogue of toys recommended for visually impaired children (The Toy Catalogue).

RNIB's Resource Centre operates on a "drop in" basis and houses a permanent display of various adaptive and assistive devices for people who are blind or partially sighted – telephone 020 7388 1266 Ext 2356. There is now a Children's Section with a wide range of items including games, toys, IT resources, light resources for sensory stimulation, and tactile toys.

RNIB runs education centres for families and their carers, with information available on all the various eye conditions.

VICTA

Website address: www.victa.org.uk

Tel: 01908 240831

Email: admin@victa.org.uk

Originally a parents' support group, Victa's aim is to work towards parents obtaining early diagnosis, correct medical treatment and the best social and educational support, to enable children to reach their full potential.

Victa Children Ltd considers grant applications from individual visually impaired young persons (up to 25 years of age) for the purchase of equipment / services which will aid their educational or social skills.

MULTI-SENSORY IMPAIRMENT

Deafblind UK

Website address: www.deafblind.org.uk

Tel: 01733 358100 (voice/text)

Information & Advice Line: 0800 132 320

Email: info@deafblind.org.uk

Our free Information & Advice Line offers support and guidance to deafblind people, their carers, family and friends, as well as professionals working with people who have a loss of both hearing and sight.

Sense

Website address: www.sense.org.uk

Tel: 0300 330 9250 or 020 7520 0999

Textphone: 0300 330 9252

Email: facilities@sense.org.uk

SENSE is a national charity that supports and campaigns for children and adults who are deafblind or have sensory impairments. Sense offers high quality, flexible services across the UK, using skilled staff and a dedicated network of volunteers.

Children's Specialist Services is a team of specialist teachers, children's therapists and children and family support workers that offers a range of services including: help when a child is first diagnosed assessments and advice to help children learn and develop, plus extra support at times of crisis and transition.

TRANSITION INTO ADULTHOOD

This section of the book will be of particular interest to young people between the ages of 14-19. However, there is also information in the main body of the book that remains relevant.

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BENEFITS (Transition)

Benefits for Students studying on Further Education or Higher Education Courses

Most full-time students can't claim welfare benefits. However, if you're living with a health condition or disability, you may still be able to apply for the benefits listed in this section. It is important to let the Benefits Agency or Job-Centre Plus know that you're starting a course. This is a change in your circumstances, so you must tell them even if you believe it won't affect your benefits.

For individual advice it's best to speak with a welfare rights specialist in the student money advice team at your university or college or try your local Citizens Advice Bureau www.citizensadvice.org.uk/getadvice.htm.

Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

You can continue to receive DLA as a student. Starting further education does not usually result in DWP reassessing your entitlement. If your condition has changed in a way that means you qualify for a different rate, or your award is due to end, you may have to claim PIP instead.

DLA is ending for people of working age. From October 2015 most people with a current DLA award will start to be contacted about Personal Independence Payment (PIP) and re-assessed by 2018.

You may also be eligible for Housing Benefit and income related Employment and Support Allowance or Universal Credit.

Personal Independence Payment (PIP)

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is for people who need help taking part in everyday life or who find it difficult to get around. PIP replaces DLA for people between the ages of 16 and 64. Sometimes the activities you do as part of your course can suggest that your daily living or mobility needs have changed and you can be asked to undergo a reassessment.

You may also be eligible for Housing Benefit and income related Employment and Support Allowance or Universal Credit.

Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)

As a full-time non-advanced further education student you can only claim income-related ESA if you also receive DLA or PIP.

You'll be treated as having a limited capability for work without having to pass the work capability assessment if you are 20 or over, or are 19 and were already 19 when you were accepted on, enrolled on or started the course. You may still have to complete an ESA50 form and attend a face to face assessment but this should be only to determine whether you meet the criteria for the work related activity group or the support group.

If you are a qualifying young person you will still be assessed. You're a qualifying young person if you are under 19, or are 19 but were under 19 when you were accepted on, enrolled on or started the course.
Income-related ESA is means-tested.

Contribution based ESA

There is no rule that says you cannot get contribution based ESA while you're studying and there is no official limit on the number of hours you can study. Sometimes Job Centre Plus or the Benefits Agency might assume, if you study, that you may no longer have a limited capability for work. This is not automatically the case. A decision about your benefit should only be made after looking at your individual circumstances. Many courses are in fact different from employment. You can have 'limited capability for work' but still be able to study because:

- Studying tends to be flexible and you have more control over your timetable
- Colleges and universities will provide you with support on the course
- Academic tasks are less physical
- There is generally less pressure
-

In any event, if you receive any disability or health related benefits and you start to study, you should inform the DWP in case this suggests a relevant change.

Housing Benefit

You can't usually claim housing benefit if you're a full-time student. However there are some exceptions. For example you may be able to claim if you receive any part of DLA or PIP or you've had limited capability for work acknowledged for the last 28 weeks (you don't have to be receiving ESA to qualify). You may also be able to claim Housing Benefit if you're registered blind.

Tax Credits

Means-tested Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit should not be affected by studying as long as you meet the eligibility criteria. Both credits are treated as income when calculating entitlement to other welfare benefits.

For further information on the above and the support that is available for disabled students, please contact:

[Disabled Students Helpline](tel:08003285050): 0800 328 5050 (free) Tues and Thurs 11am to 1pm

Email: students@disabilityrightsuk.org

The helpline provides free information and advice to disabled students in England, their parents, carers and key advisers about opportunities in post-16 education and training. This includes further and higher education and apprenticeships. We also provide general information on the Equality Act as it applies to education and give advice on UK students' entitlement to welfare benefits.

They produce a range of factsheets covering these subjects and frequently asked questions which you can access through the [education and skills section](#) of our website at www.disabilityrightsuk.org.

The Sight for Surrey Benefits team may be able to support you with questions and applications please contact them at:

Tel: 01372 377701 or Email: info@sensoryservices.org.uk.

EDUCATION (Transition)

GASP Motor Project

Website address: www.gaspmotorproject.org

Tel: Telephone 07876 588128

Email: info@gaspmotorproject.org

At the GASP Motor Project, young people aged between 14 and 19 years who are living in Surrey and the surrounding area learn basic motor mechanics and practical engineering skills in a modern workshop, based at Albury.

Queen Alexandra College

Website address: www.qac.ac.uk

Tel: 0121 428 5050

Email: enquiries@qac.ac.uk

Queen Alexandra College (QAC) is a leading national independent specialist residential further education college located in Harborne, on the south side of Birmingham. Learners at QAC are people aged 16+ with disabilities.

Royal National College for the Blind (RNC)

Website address: www.rncb.ac.uk

Tel: 01432 376621

Email: info@rnc.ac.uk

RNC is a residential college of Further Education that aims to promote the independence and potential of visually impaired people through managing their own learning, living and travel, gaining employment and participating socially with confidence. New technology enables RNC to offer NVQs in Administration and Information Technology, which can be studied from home via computer (Teletutoring).

RNIB College, Loughborough

Website address: www.rnibcollege.ac.uk

Tel: 01509 611077

Day/residential college for people with disabilities aged 16-63, works in partnership with mainstream Loughborough College on a shared campus.

RNIB New College Worcester (NCW)

Website address: www.newcollegeworcester.co.uk

Tel: 01905 763933

A residential school and college for young people who are blind or partially sighted, aged 11-19, who are able to access the National Curriculum and progress to study beyond sixteen.

West of England School and College

Website Address: <https://www.wescfoundation.ac.uk/>

Tel: 01392 454200

The WESC Foundation is a specialist day and residential centre for young people and adults with visual impairment including complex needs in Exeter, Devon.

SEND (The Local Offer)

Website address: www.thelocaloffer.co.uk

The Local Offer champions education, health & social care services from across the sectors, transforming the landscape of specialist provision - raising expectations and changing lives. Each authority has a legal duty to publicise their area's offer to parents about how they intend to meet the needs of children who have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

EMPLOYMENT (Transition)

Advance2Work

Tel: 0800 234 6859

Funded by the Department for Work and Pensions, Advance2Work provides individual programmes of support, training, work experience and job coaching for people with disabilities.

Blind in Business

Website address: www.blindinbusiness.org.uk

Tel: 0207 588 1885

Email: info@blindinbusiness.org.uk

Blind in Business is a charity which operates across the United Kingdom, helping blind and partially sighted students into work through training and employment services. They encourage blind and partially sighted people to identify and achieve their ambitions.

All of their services are free to students.

RECREATION (Transition)

Other opportunities for Young People

RNIB Action for Blind People

Website address: <http://www.rnib.org.uk/young-people>

Information & Advice Helpline: 0303 123 9999

Email: helpline@rnib.org.uk

The Young People's Service, for 14 – 25 year olds, offers support in sports, leisure and social activities, transition from school – college – university, help gaining volunteering, work experience and paid employment, accessible technology, independent living and mobility.

The person managing this at AFBP is Lynne Pierce, Transitions Co-ordinator, she can be contacted on 07766968850 or email Lynne.pierce@actionforblindpeople.org.uk

Cue and Review Recording Service

(Also known as "Print speaking to the Blind")

Website address: www.cueandreview.com

Tel. 0141 772 3976

Email: information@cueandreview.com

At Cue and Review – "Print Speaking to the Blind", we transcribe print magazines and newspapers into audio format for the benefit of the visually and reading impaired. This can be accessed and downloaded online daily, free of charge.

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

Heads Together (Youth Information and Counselling Service)

Website address: www.ymcaedhill.com

Tel: 01737 378481

Email: admin@ymcaedhill.com

Heads Together services are open to all young people age 14-24 (up to 25th birthday).

Free professional counselling service – sessions private and last for an hour. Young people talk about anything that concerns them. Usually 12 sessions are offered.

RNIB

Website: <http://www.rnib.org.uk/young-people-free-time/your-feelings-about-your-eye-condition>

Email: ess@rnib.org.uk

Tel: 020 7391 2186

Eikon

Website: <http://eikon.org.uk/>

Email: info@eikon.org.uk

Tel: 01932 347 434

Eikon is an award-winning Surrey based charity that has been working in the local Surrey communities for over two decades. We provide long-term support to some of the county's most vulnerable young people. Our vision is to develop happy, thriving and resilient young adults who make a positive contribution to society.

Kooth

Website: <https://kooth.com/>

Email: parents@xenzone.com

Kooth is an online counselling and emotional well-being platform for children and young people. It is accessible through a mobile, tablet and desktop/ Councillors are available Mon-Fri – 12pm-10pm, Sat-Sun – 6pm-10pm, 365 days a year.

SUPPORT FOR NOW AND FUTURE

AbilityNet

Website Address: <https://www.abilitynet.org.uk/homepage>

AbilityNet exists to change the lives of disabled people by helping them to use digital technology at work, at home or in education.

Direct Gov

The Connexions Direct website has now become part of Directgov Young people. All relevant content for young people can now be found on the Directgov website at: www.direct.gov.uk/en/YoungPeople/index.htm

Information on careers for young people can be found on the Next Step website at: <https://nextstep.direct.gov.uk/planningyourcareer/jobprofiles/Pages/default.aspx>

To contact an adviser for careers advice, visit the contact an adviser page on the Directgov website above.

Disability Pregnancy and Parenthood International

Website address: www.dppi.org.uk

Tel: 0800 0184 730

UK Textphone: Free-text: 0800 018 9949

Email: office@dppi.org.uk

The mission of this organisation is to provide Deaf and disabled people, their families and service providers with information and shared experience on all aspects of pregnancy, childbirth and parenting.

Disabled Parents Network

Website address: www.disabledparentsnetwork.org.uk

Telephone helpline: 0300 3300 639

Email: info@disabledparentsnetwork.org

Disabled Parents Network provides information and support for disabled people through pregnancy, childbirth and early parenthood.

Disability Rights UK

Website address: www.disabilityrightsuk.org

Tel: 020 7250 8181

Email: enquiries@disabilityrightsuk.org

Disability Rights UK works to create a society where everyone with experience of disability or health conditions can participate equally as full citizens.

Disability Rights UK is led, run and controlled by disabled people, with disabled people making up at least three-quarters of its board members.

EmployAbility 2012-2017

(Transition from School to Employment)

Surrey County Council website: www.surreycc.gov.uk

Tel: 01483 519690

Email: employability@surreycc.gov.uk

EmployAbility is part of an initiative by Surrey County Council to help ensure that young people with a disability have access to a range of experiences designed to improve independence.

Muslim Youth Helpline

Website address: www.myh.org.uk

Helpline: 0808 808 2008

Email: info@myh.org.uk or help@myh.org.uk

Muslim Youth Helpline is a confidential helpline where young Muslim people can talk about a wide range of issues.

Preparing For Adulthood

Website: <http://preparingforadulthood.org.uk/>

Tel: 01225 789135

Email: info@preparingforadulthood.org.uk

The Preparing for Adulthood programme provides expertise and support to local authorities and their partners to embed preparing for adulthood from the earliest years.

They will be continuing to work with the Department for Education and its partners to ensure that young people with SEND achieve paid employment, independent living and housing options, good health, friendships, relationships and community inclusion as they move into adulthood.

Surrey Young Carers

Website address: www.surrey-youngcarers.org.uk

Tel: East and Mid Surrey Office: 01737 248111

West Surrey Office: 01483 568269

Email: syc@actionforcarers.org.uk

Surrey Young Carers Project supports carers throughout Surrey up to 18 years old, who may themselves have a disability. This is a voluntary project managed by Action for Carers (Surrey). The organisation runs a number of Young Carers groups and activities around the county of Surrey.

EYE CONDITION NETWORKS

Albinism Fellowship

Website Address: <http://www.albinism.org.uk/>

The Fellowship is a positive and sociable volunteer-run organisation that aims to provide information, advice and support for people with albinism and their families. We also provide information about the condition to professionals working with people with albinism, and other appropriate interested parties.

Childhood Eye Cancer Trust

Website: <https://chect.org.uk/>

The Childhood Eye Cancer Trust (CHECT) is a UK charity dedicated to helping people affected by retinoblastoma, a rare form of eye cancer.

MACS

Website Address: <http://www.macs.org.uk/>

The UK's national charity for children born without eyes or with underdeveloped eyes. We support individuals born with Microphthalmia (small eyes), Anophthalmia (no eyes) and/or Coloboma (cleft of the eye) and their families and currently have approximately 1500 members around the UK.

Nystagmus Network

Website Address: <http://nystagmusnetwork.org/>

Nystagmus is a complex eye condition characterised by involuntary eye movements. The Nystagmus Network is a UK based charity which supports people affected by the condition and leads the research into finding a treatment.

RP Fighting Blindness

Website: <https://www.rpfightingblindness.org.uk/home.php?home=yes>

To stimulate and support high quality medical research with the aim of increasing scientific understanding of retinitis pigmentosa (and related conditions) and finding treatments for the condition that, when developed, are accessible to anyone affected, and to identify or provide good quality and universally-accessible information and support services for people affected.