

**Information for professionals working with children, young people with sensory impairment in Essex to share with families**



**ECL Sensory Service** (on behalf of Essex County Council) works in partnership with other agencies to co-ordinate services for people of all ages with sight and/or hearing impairments.

ECL can provide specialist information, advice and guidance to children, young people and their families on sight and/ or hearing loss support.

ECL can also provide and refer to additional specialist services such as rehabilitation/ Reablement, registration, and emotional support once the young person turns 18 years of age.

Contact details:

Email: [sensoryservices@essexcares.org](mailto:sensoryservices@essexcares.org)

Website: <http://www.eclsensoryservice.org/>

Phone: 03330 133 262.

Textphone: 01245 261715

SMS: 07921 397547

This information is also available on **the Local Offer**.

Professionals can make referrals for children with sight and/or hearing loss requiring social care support through the **Children and Families Hub**.

Telephone: 0345 606 1212 or email: [FOH@essex.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:FOH@essex.gcsx.gov.uk).

Where Social Care intervention is required the referral will be directed to the appropriate Children with Disabilities Team and support will be provided to the allocated Social Worker by the quadrant's sensory specialist worker.

ECC Internal referrals for specialist support by **Occupational Therapists or the Habilitation Officer** (for children with visual impairment)

Telephone: 0333 013 9951 or Email: [OT.ChildrenCounty@essex.gov.uk](mailto:OT.ChildrenCounty@essex.gov.uk)  
(<http://www.essexlocaloffer.org.uk/habilitation/>)

ECC has a [Specialist Teaching and Preschool Service](#) details can be found on **the Local Offer**.

The service includes a team of qualified **Teachers of the Deaf** who provide specialist educational and audiology advice and support for children and young people with a hearing impairment and their families from the point of diagnosis. For babies and preschool children support is offered both in the home and in preschool settings. The team includes British Sign Language instructors and Family Support keyworkers (<http://www.essexlocaloffer.org.uk/node/2253>)

The service provides specialist educational advice and support by qualified **Teachers for Vision Impairment** (QTVI) for children and young people with vision impairment and their families from the point of diagnosis. The role of the QTVI is specified in the RNIB [factsheet](#) (February 2014).  
(<http://www.essexlocaloffer.org.uk/node/2251>)

The service provides specialist support from a qualified teacher **for multi-sensory impairment (MSI)**, as part of the service's sensory impairment provision (visual and hearing impairments). Specialist Teacher support is provided for those children with a dual sensory impairment, i.e. pupils who have a combination of visual and hearing difficulties, who are sometimes referred to as deafblind, but may have some residual sight and/or hearing. Some may have additional disabilities.  
(<http://www.essexlocaloffer.org.uk/content/multi-sensory-impairment>).

ECC provides **short breaks for families with children with disabilities** which can be found in the **Short Breaks Services brochure**. The brochure contains details of services available to families, the eligibility criteria for these services and how the range of services is designed to meet the needs of the families with disabled children in Essex. (<http://shortbreaks.essex.gov.uk/media/1330/shortbreaks-brochure.pdf>)

**Contact:**

Email: [shortbreaks@essex.gov.uk](mailto:shortbreaks@essex.gov.uk)

Web: <https://shortbreaks.essex.gov.uk/>

Telephone: **03330 139889**

[www.facebook.com/ShortBreaksECC](http://www.facebook.com/ShortBreaksECC)