

**Listening and responding to
children affected by sight loss,
their parents and families
throughout the Highlands**

**Visual Impairment Services Highland
38 Ardconnel Street,
Inverness IV2 3EX**

Tel: 01463 233663

**Visual Impairment Services
Highland**

A stylized graphic of an eye, rendered in light purple and pink tones, centered behind the text.

**Children
& Families
Services**

Visual Impairment Services Highland Children & Families Services

Visual Impairment Services Highland, formerly The Highland Society For The Blind, has been working with children and families throughout Highland for 140 years.

If you are interested in our services and activities please ask to speak to our Patient Support Staff at the hospital or contact us on 01463 233663.



Low Vision Aid Clinic

In our Resource Centre in Inverness we offer an opportunity for your child to attend our low vision aid clinic on an annual basis. The low vision aid clinic is a friendly and informal opportunity for your child to be seen by an optometrist (optician) where a suitable low vision aid can be provided. Low vision aids (magnifiers or similar devices) can be extremely helpful for use at home, school or can assist independent travel. Our staff will offer advice and support your child in their use.

Our Partners

Acting as agents for Highland Council we undertake specialist services to visually impaired children and families on their behalf.

We work in very close partnership with the Highland Education Vision Support Service, social work services, health professionals including ophthalmology, paediatrics; physiotherapy, and community GPs.

We are linked to school careers, further education and employment agencies.



Financial Benefits

Our staff can provide information and advice to ensure you receive all the financial benefits to which you are entitled. Advice and financial benefit checks are followed up with assistance to complete the necessary paperwork.

You will be supported through the whole process from application to completion, including the appeal process if this is necessary.



Toy Library
tel: 01463 233663

Play is such an important part of all children's lives. Playing helps children to understand and develop. Our toy library offers a wide range of toys and ideas which you can introduce to your child to help stimulate and encourage them. We can also source special toys which will help your child's continuing development.

Patient Support Service
tel: 01463 704000

Offers emotional support and information to parents of children with a serious sight loss at the time of diagnosis. Based at Raigmore Hospital our service can be accessed by anyone attending the Eye Clinic. You can ask to meet our staff when you are in the clinic or phone to make an appointment.

If you wish, your details can be passed to our Children & Families Team for further service input.

**Children & Families Team
tel: 01463 233663**

Our specialist staff can arrange to visit you at home. Meeting your child and yourself in a more informal setting can help our staff gain greater understanding of you and your child's needs and how we can support them.

We offer a wide range of practical skills to ensure that your child gets the very best from life and we can support you as parents to help your child overcome some of the difficulties they may face.

Family Fun Days



Family Fun Days

We provide you with opportunities to meet up with other parents and families in an informal and fun setting. This provides an opportunity for your children to meet up with others who may be experiencing the same difficulties. Playing with others gives them confidence and, through support and encouragement, they can try out new activities in a fun filled setting. It provides you with an opportunity to meet with other parents and through yourself wholeheartedly into play activities with your child.

Information and Emotional Support

Our staff can provide you with a wide range of information which you may find helpful. They can put you in touch with other professional staff who may be of help to you.

They offer emotional support to you as parents and can introduce you to other parents of children with a visual impairment should you wish to meet them.

Practical Support

We can offer you practical advice and suggestions that can assist your child's development and help them, through positive experiences, to overcome or adjust to many of the difficulties they may face whilst growing up as visually impaired

Pre-school Parent Support Group

This parent led support group provides an opportunity for you as parents and your children to meet up with other families, share your experiences or just chat. Often guest speakers attend the meetings to provide information and lead discussion. It provides an opportunity for you to meet informally with a range of professionals. Creche facilities are available for the children and lunch is provided.