



Vision Support Services for children and young people

RNIB
Scotland

Supporting people
with sight loss

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Foreword

Being there for children and young people with sight loss

Imagine what it must be like to be a child or a young person hearing the news that you have sight loss. Imagine what it must be like to be a parent.

In Scotland only a third of children, young people or their families are offered any form of emotional or practical support.

We want to be there for every child and young person to help them to face the future with confidence, reach their fullest potential and to support their families.

John Legg, Director, RNIB Scotland

“Information when our child was diagnosed was limited. We didn’t know where to turn.”

Julie, Parent, Dundee

Vision Support Services – Scotland

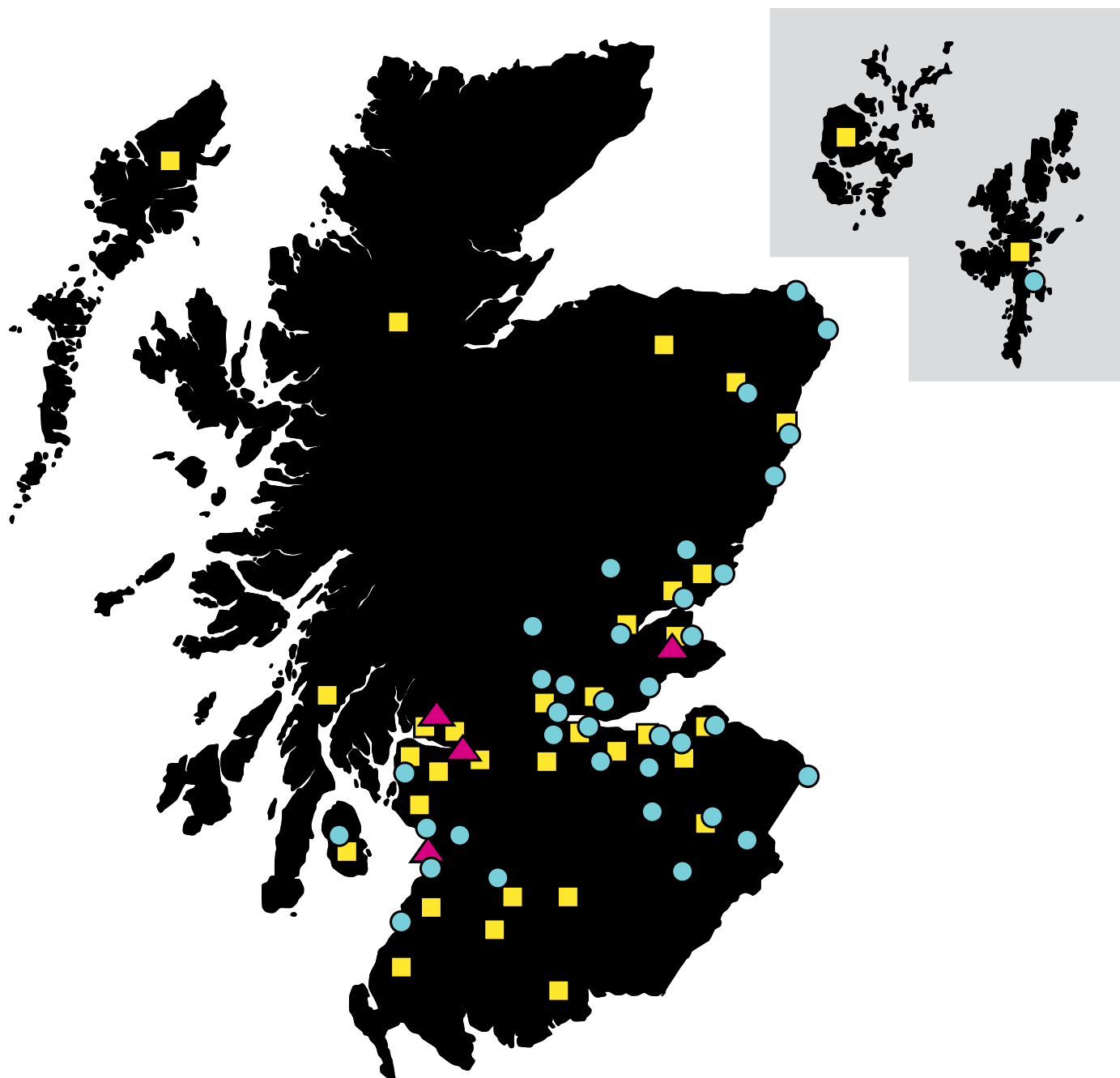
Most children with sight loss are born with an eye condition so the need for early identification and intervention is crucial.

RNIB Scotland is the leading charity supporting people with sight loss throughout their lives. We are there for families, children and young people from early years through all the important times of transition, from nursery into school, from childhood to adolescence and on into further and higher education or employment.

“In Scotland, there are an estimated 3,370 children and young people living with sight loss.”
Education Scotland, 2014



Vision Support Services Locations



- Vision Support Services in the hospital
- Vision Support Education and Family Services – in the community
- ▲ Vision Support Services – complex needs

Support within the hospital

Our services support children with sight loss and their families every step of the way. We deliver vital emotional and practical support from eye clinics across Scotland.

Our Vision Support Officers provide an essential link between hospital-based diagnosis and vital support services in the community.



Emotional support

Emotional support is fundamentally important for children, young people and their families facing a life with sight loss. All our Vision Support Officers are skilled professionals who have undertaken the London City University accredited Eye Clinic Support Studies course.

Our Vision Support Officers in the hospitals offer:



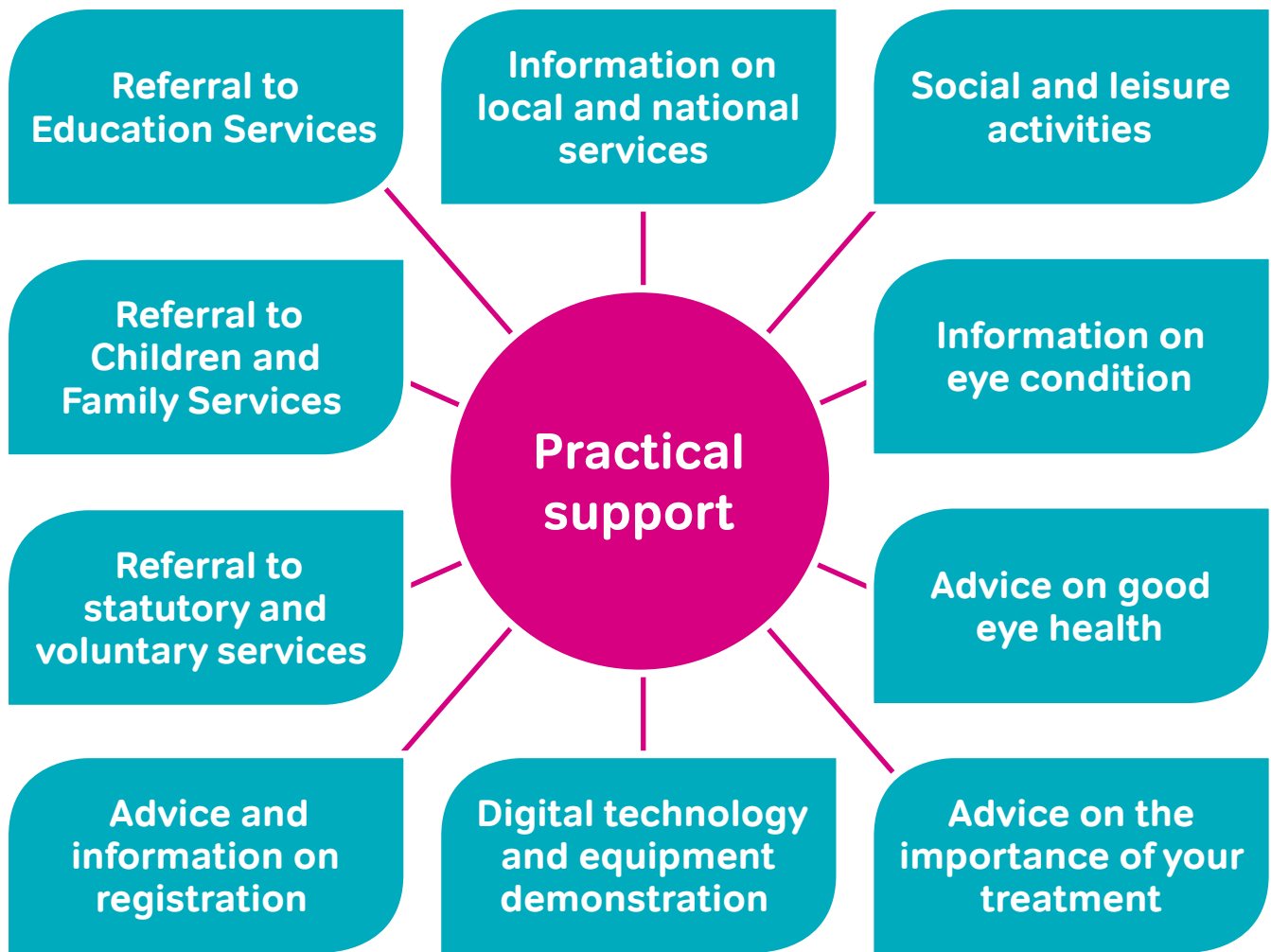
Daniel, 15 from Ayrshire, about to go into his fourth year of school, was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa.

“After I saw the doctor I wasn’t sure what would happen next with things like school, my dreams of going to university and how would I still be able to go out with my friends. After I spent time with the Vision Support Officer I knew I could still do things like my friends can and my dreams of going to university are still possible.”

Practical support

Practical support for children, young people and their families living with sight loss is central to building their confidence, maximising independence and helping them to reach their potential in life.

Our Vision Support Officers in the hospitals offer:



Vision Support Education and Family Services – in the community

Learning the right skills at the right time is especially important for children and young people with sight loss to ensure that they are included and able to contribute to society, reaching their fullest potential as people and citizens of the world.

Our Vision Support Education and Family Services offer:



Matthew, our son, aged four, was diagnosed with nystagmus.

“We didn’t even know what it was, never mind how to support it. We contacted RNIB Scotland and we were supported really well. We received excellent advice on his eye condition and now have a better understanding of the challenges he faces. Going to Family Days where we had the opportunity to meet other families was also a great help.” Matthew’s mum and dad, Glasgow

Vision Support Services – complex needs

Vision is the key to learning, communication and movement. Sight loss in children with complex needs can often go undetected. Our specialised Vision Support Officers can help with a suspected sight loss by offering information and support to access eyecare services as well as emotional and practical support. The more a child or young person can see, the easier it is for them to make sense of their world.

Our specialised Vision Support Officers offer:



Adrian, five years old, has complex needs.

“The Vision Support Services team provided Adrian with resources to create a mini sensory area; he really enjoys having his own special place to go to. I feel, having the team to talk to, has helped to reduce the anxieties I had, and I feel confident in supporting my son with his sight loss.” Adrian’s mum, Fife

Interested in finding out more?

Vision Support Services – in the hospital

Clare Jewell

t: 07824 409 816

e: clare.jewell@rnib.org.uk

Vision Support Education and Family Services – in the community

Dominic Everett

t: 0131 652 3144

e: dominic.everett@rnib.org.uk

Vision Support Services – complex needs

Janice Bain

t: 01592 646015

e: janice.bain@rnib.org.uk

Alternatively contact our head office on 0131 652 3140
(further details on back page)





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12-14 Hillside Crescent
Edinburgh EH7 5EA
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e: rnibscotland@rnib.org.uk
rnib.org.uk/scotland

RNIB is there for anyone living with sight loss.
Call our Helpline on 0303 123 9999 or email helpline@rnib.org.uk

Breathing Space is a free, confidential phone and web based service for people in Scotland experiencing low mood, depression or anxiety.

Call 0800 83 85 87 or visit breathingspacescotland.co.uk

Lines are open:
Weekends from 6pm Friday to 6am Monday,
Monday to Thursday from 6pm to 2am.

