



**SOCIAL SERVICES AND HOUSING
DIRECTORATE & SIGHT CONCERN**

**JOINT CRITERIA FOR PRIORITISING
ENVIRONMENTAL EQUIPMENT FOR
PEOPLE WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT**

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JOINT CRITERIA FOR PRIORITISING ENVIRONMENTAL EQUIPMENT FOR

PEOPLE WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

A system for determining priorities with regard to the provision of aids/equipment to people with visual impairment is necessary to ensure that those with the greatest need are given priority.

Service Objective

To provide services for people who are blind and partially sighted to enable them to be as independent as possible. They do not have to be registered. The Society works with people of all ages. An assessment of need is carried out by a member of the rehabilitation team.

Loan of Equipment

In certain circumstances the Society is able to loan items of equipment either long-term or short-term, so the person can make sure it is going to be of use before purchasing it.

Charges for Equipment

White canes/sticks are provided free of charge. The rest of the equipment is charged for. At the discretion of the rehabilitation workers, some equipment may be given free of charge following an assessment. If the equipment needed is not in stock it will be ordered immediately.

Audio Cassette Players

These are charged for unless the person is on Income Support, when they will be offered free of charge. Some radio/cassette players are issued free of charge on behalf of the British Wireless for the Blind Fund.

RNIB Talking Book Service

This service is provided free of charge.

Isle of Wight Society for the Blind

Audio tape library and Talking Newspaper are provided free of charge.

Lighting Equipment

Where there is an assessed need for enhanced lighting, advice and/or assistance with the provision of equipment will be considered by the social services and housing directorate.

Priority One:

Where the provision of equipment will prevent the breakdown of a living situation

resulting in higher care support needs or residential placement.

Parent/s with significant impairment with a young child/children.

Priority Two:

Where the equipment will significantly increase the person's independence in daily living tasks.

Priority Three:

Where the equipment will significantly increase the person's independence in occupational tasks and where no other agency has a responsibility for the provision of equipment.

Martin Henson
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