



supporting blind and
partially sighted people

RNIB Pathway, Fife Visual Impairment and Learning Disability Services

RNIB Pathway Visual Impairment and Learning Disability (VILD) Services have been providing services to adults who have a learning disability and suspected or confirmed sight problems since 2000. Pathway was established in Fife by Frances Miller, VILD Services Manager, as a direct result of successful Springfield VILD services established in Bishopbriggs. VILD services have been striving, with notable success, to raise awareness of the high incidence of undetected sight loss in the learning disability population. Of the people with a learning disability assessed, approximately 80% have some form of visual impairment.

The effect of having a learning disability coupled with undetected sight loss can be catastrophic. In addition to recognised levels of exclusion, people with a learning disability and sight loss are further disadvantaged by the low expectations of carers and professionals who have limited knowledge and understanding of the hidden need in this group of people.

To combat this inequality Pathway has established referral routes to specialist vision assessment through local councils and through building based assessment and the work of project assessment workers who work in community settings. Assessment workers receive specialist , accredited training delivered by VILD Practice Development Team.



RNIB Pathway Services in Fife are

- **Bridge to Vision Fife Assessment Service:** providing functional vision assessment and support for clinical assessment and intervention alongside a holistic overview of individuals need. The assessment process is funded by Fife Council so there is no cost to people being assessed
- **Day service:** providing continuation after assessment, of specialist support for skills development and opportunities for independence in a therapeutic environment
- **Bridge to Vision Fife Outreach Service:** providing continuation of the specialist support for skills development and opportunities for independence and inclusion in community settings, volunteer roles and employment
- **Children's ViITAL Service:** Providing specialist assessment and support to parents/carers and professionals in Vision Assessment and Learning disability to support inclusion, specialist support to young people in the transition journey from education services to social care services.

Working alongside VILD and Fife Sensory Impairment Centre colleagues, Pathway has extended services across Fife, Tayside and Stirling areas to many people who may otherwise have had undetected sight loss. Their day to day living and quality of life has been improved by specialist knowledge and support of VILD services available to them.

For more information on Pathway services please contact Anne McMillan, Operations and Development Manager, on 01592 583279

