

NOTICE OF MOTION

**SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE FOR THE DEAFBLIND
IN BRIGHTON AND HOVE**

“Whilst there is no generally accepted definition of deafblindness there is a working description that has been accepted over many years; ‘persons are regarded as deafblind if their combined sight and hearing impairment cause difficulties with communication, access to information and mobility’.

Deafblindness is a visual and hearing impairment. These impairments can be of any type or degree and are sometimes called multi-sensory impairments (MSI). There are many different causes of MSI. Most people who are multi-sensory impaired have some useful vision and/or hearing.

This Council welcomes the Department of Health’s Social Care for Deafblind Children and Adults – LAC (DH) 2009 6 circular. The implementation of this guidance will have a positive impact upon the level of support that deafblind people in the City receive.

The improved deafblind guidance expects this Council to carry out the following:

- Identify, make contact with and keep records of deafblind people in the City
- Ensure that assessments are carried out by properly trained personnel
- Ensure that appropriate services are provided for deafblind people- remembering that individual services who are deaf or who are blind, may not be appropriate for someone who is both deaf and blind
- Ensure that all deafblind people in the City have access to fully trained, one-to-one support workers if necessary
- Provide information in a suitable format which is accessible to deafblind people

The Council therefore requests that the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health considers the guidance contained in the circular and how it could best be implemented to suit the particular local circumstances in Brighton & Hove.”

Proposed by: Cllr Jeane Lepper
McCaffery (with amendment from Councillor Brian Pidgeon)

Seconded by: Cllr Juliet

