

INFORMATION SHEET

CERTIFICATE OF VISION IMPAIRMENT AND REGISTRATION (CVI)

A Certificate of Vision Impairment (CVI) is completed and issued by the Ophthalmologist involved. The CVI formally certifies someone as sight impaired (previously referred to as partially sighted) or as severely sight impaired (previously referred to as blind) so that the local authority is able to make contact to offer an explanation.

Registration is voluntary, and access to various, or to some, benefits and social services is not dependent on registration. If the person is not known to social services as someone with needs arising from their sight impairment, the CVI acts as a referral for a needs assessment or a care and support assessment.

There are some advantages to getting registered. There is a range of concessions (these depend on whether the registration is for SSI or SI).

Concessions may include:

- Half-price TV licence
- Help with Council Tax
- Leisure discounts
- Financial help with public transport

The Local Authority may give a registration card that proves registration status.

In the case of a child, the CVI form can act as a referral to the children's social services but it is not the referral route for special educational support, which is usually accessed via school or through the local offer. Each local authority has a local offer page on its website which sets out services for children and young people with special educational needs and how they can be accessed.

All babies, children and young people should be referred direct to the local authority as soon as sight impairment is identified. This includes those who are below the threshold for certification.

As stated in the Care Act Statutory Guidance, upon receipt of the CVI, the local authority should make contact within 2 weeks with the person issued with the CVI (regardless of whether the person has decided to register or not) to arrange their inclusion on the local authority's register (with the person's informed consent) and also offer the patient a registration card as identified on the CVI registration form. Where there is an appearance of need for care and support, local authorities must arrange an assessment of their needs in a timely manner.

Further Information

RNIB www.rnib.org.uk/eye-health/registering-your-sight-loss

Action for Blind www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk/support-and-information

JCES Leaflet <https://www.whitefield.org.uk/page/?title=Booklets&pid=207>