
**Training pathways and professional development
for careers in sensory impairment**

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Preface



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0. Foreword

This document has been developed by the NatSIP Training Pathway Development Group during 2017. The leads for this group were:

Hearing impairment: Jackie Salter
Vision Impairment: Rory Cobb
Multi-sensory impairment: Steve Rose (Workstream lead)

Our thanks also go to the many NatSIP colleagues who have contributed to this document at all stages of its development.

1. Introduction

There are many different training options available for roles supporting children and young people with sensory impairment. It is less clear just what training should certain roles have. How do courses relate to each other and do they follow on from each other?

The following NatSIP training pathways have been developed to help answer just these sorts of questions and illustrate the types of training available for specific roles working in the field of sensory impairment.

1.1 What are the pathways for?

The training pathways in this document could be used as a guide to minimum training requirements of a certain role.

Example:

- An audiology technician or intervenor needs to undertake specific training to ensure competency in their role.

The pathways may also be used to plan career progression in the field:

Examples:

- A teacher who has taught a pupil with hearing impairment, who has undertaken training aimed at a more general level, may want to move on to train to become a specialist Teacher of the Deaf through studying for the Mandatory Qualification (MQ)

(For clarification about the Mandatory qualifications for specialist teachers of pupils with hearing impairment, vision impairment or multi-sensory impairment please see:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/mandatory-qualifications-specialist-teachers>

To teach a class of pupils with hearing impairment (HI), vision impairment (VI), or multi-sensory impairment (MSI), a teacher must hold a mandatory qualification. This qualification is required in addition to qualified teacher status.

Teachers working in an advisory role to support such pupils should also hold the appropriate qualification.)

- A teaching assistant who supports a pupil with vision impairment may wish to develop their skills and become a Habilitation Officer.

1.2 How the pathways are organised

Within this document, there is a separate section for each type of sensory impairment (vision impairment, hearing impairment, multi-sensory impairment)

Within each impairment there are two main divisions:

- Mainstream and more generic roles which require awareness-level training only
- Specialist roles which require specific skills to undertake a job. This is further divided into:
 - Teaching assistant/communication support worker/audiology technician/intervenor roles (including accredited and non-accredited options)
 - Professional qualifications such as teacher, therapist or specialist assessor roles

Finally, there is a section about further specialist qualifications.

Within each division is listed a series of underpinning skills and continuous professional development opportunities relevant to each sensory impairment.

1.3 How the information is laid out in each pathway's tables

The underpinning skills courses are shown in the lower part of the tables (as they are like the foundations of a building). The specialist skills courses are above these.

Within the specialist skills section, mainstream courses are on the left, with increasingly specialist courses shown as you work further to the right.

This arrangement is shown in the diagram below.

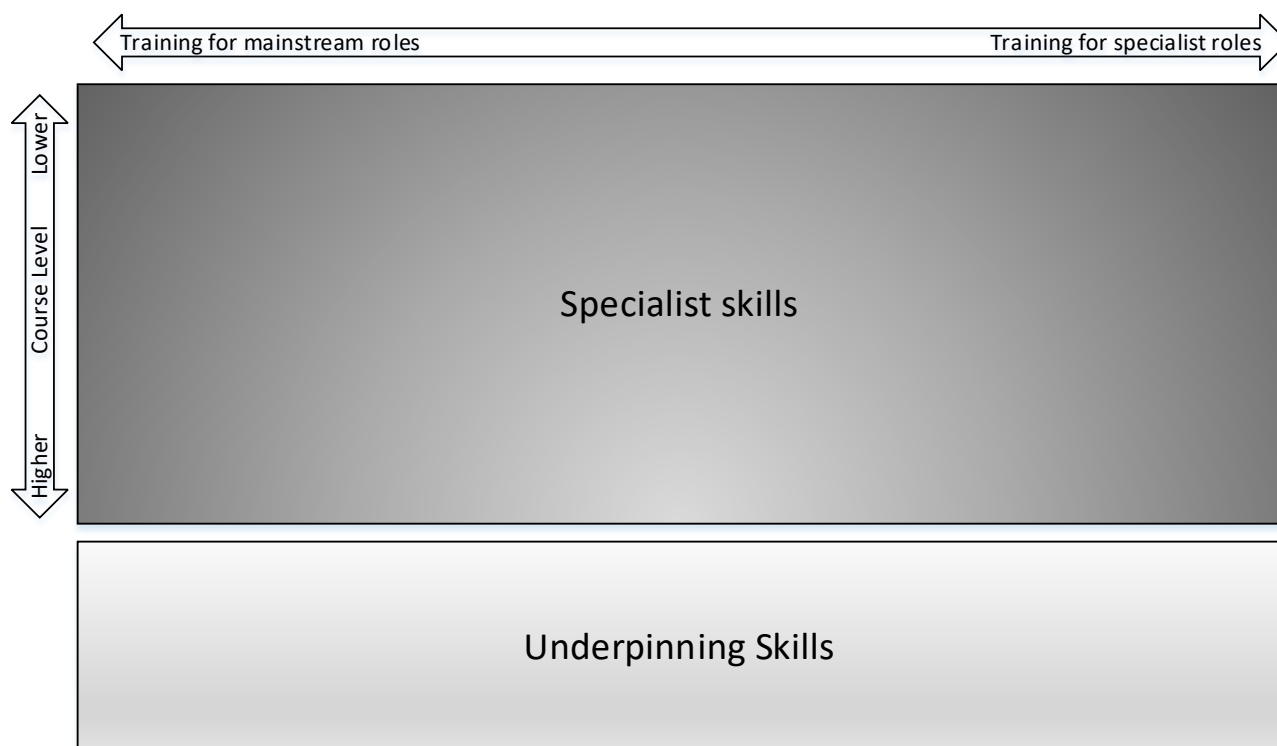


Diagram 1 – How the information is arranged in each pathway's tables.

1.3 How to navigate this document

Within each table in this document, there are blue-coloured links starting with a section sign, e.g. [§1.4](#). Clicking on these will take you direct to the appropriate section of the document. If you are reading a paper copy, the §X.X number is the section number, shown at the beginning of each section.

1.4 How comprehensive is this document?

This document aims to provide a comprehensive guide to key training courses from the major providers.

There may be other local training opportunities or independent trainers who offer additional CPD or other courses.

Training and courses change all the time, and we aim to keep this document up to date. If you are aware of a course which should be included, or have any other questions about the pathways, please contact NatSIP using one of the feedback options in the NatSIP Sensory Learning Hub.¹

1.5 Take me straight to the...

The links below take you directly to the following sections of the document:

Hearing Impairment: See: [§2.0 The Hearing Impairment Pathway](#)

Vision Impairment: See: [§3.0 The Vision Impairment Pathway](#)

Multi-sensory impairment See: [§4.0 The Multi-Sensory Impairment Pathway](#)

¹ See <https://www.natsip.org.uk/leave-feedback>

2.0 The Hearing Impairment Pathways

Specialist Skills	Mainstream awareness day courses	Specialist roles: Teaching Assistants, Communication Support Workers, Audiology Technicians	Specialist roles – Professional Qualifications	Further specialist qualifications/training
	½- to 2-day introductory awareness courses – see §2.1 NatSIP 2-day courses for TAs – see §2.2 Online Training HI Course – see §2.3	BTEC Audiology Technicians in Educational Settings – see §2.4 BTEC Advanced Award for TAs – see §2.5	PG Diploma Courses (without MQ) – suitable for other professionals – see §2.6 Masters level courses (without MQ) – suitable for other professionals – see §2.7 Education Audiologist roles PG Dip Educational Audiology – see §2.8 MSc Educational Audiology – see §2.9 Mandatory Qualified (MQ) teacher roles: PG Dip Courses – see §2.10 Masters level courses – see §2.11	EdD/PhD Deaf Education Courses – see §2.12
Specialist CPD – day courses (various local providers including voluntary sector and sensory services – see §2.13)				

Underpinning skills	British Sign Language (BSL) Introducing BSL (online course) – see §2.14 Levels 1-2 Certificate in BSL – see §2.15 Level 6 NVQ Certificate in BSL – see §2.16
	Note Taking Manual or Electronic note taking to support deaf and disabled people – see §2.17
	Auditory Verbal Therapy Foundation level - working through audition – see §2.18 Advanced level - auditory principles in everyday practice – see §2.19
	Cued Speech Learn to Cue – online course – see §2.20 Level 1-2 Qualifications in Cued Speech Proficiency – see §2.21
	Oral Language Modifiers Guidance for oral language modifiers – see §2.22
	Counselling Skills Listening with the third ear – counselling skills for audiologists – see §2.23

2.1 Introductory/awareness-raising courses

Name of course	Introductory/awareness-raising courses
Description	Introduction to hearing impairment
Duration	½ to 2 days
Provider(s)	Many local providers including voluntary sector, sensory services. Some national providers include: NatSIP: https://www.natsip.org.uk The Ewing Foundation: http://www.ewing-foundation.org.uk The Ear Foundation: http://www.ear-foundation.org.uk Scottish Sensory Centre (SSC): http://www.ssc.education.ac.uk National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS): http://www.ndcs.org.uk
Level	Introductory
Accreditation	No
Main delivery mode	Direct contact

2.2 NatSIP course for TAs

Name of course	NatSIP course for TAs
Description	Introductory course for teaching assistants new to working with hearing impairment
Duration	2 days
Provider(s)	NatSIP: http://www.natsip.org.uk
Level	Introductory
Accreditation	No
Main delivery mode	Direct contact

2.3 OnLineTraining International HI course

Name of course	OnLineTraining (OLT) HI training course
Description	Introductory course for teachers and teaching assistants who support pupils with hearing impairment
Duration	Registered for 12 months. Average of 4 months study
Provider(s)	OnLineTraining: https://www.oltinternational.net/hearing-impairment
Level	Introductory
Accreditation	OLT Completion Certificate
Main delivery mode	Online/direct contact blended

2.4 BTEC Audiology Technicians in educational settings

Name of course	BTEC Audiology Technicians in educational settings
Description	Aimed at professionals wishing to specialise in providing technical support to hearing-impaired learners
Duration	7 days teaching plus 4 days placement
Provider(s)	Mary Hare/The Ewing Foundation: https://www.maryhare.org.uk/professional-courses/btecs
Level	NQF level 3
Accreditation	BTEC advanced certificate
Main delivery mode	Contact + placement

2.5 BTEC advanced award for teaching assistants working with sensory impaired children and young people

Name of course	BTEC advanced award for teaching assistants working with sensory impaired children and young people
Description	Consists of 5 individual study days delivered by experienced professionals. All students attend a common day 1 of the course and specialise in either vision impairment or deafness for days 2-5.
Duration	5 days direct teaching
Provider(s)	Mary Hare/Berkshire Sensory Consortium: https://www.maryhare.org.uk/professional-courses/btecs
Level	NQF level 3
Accreditation	BTEC advanced certificate
Main delivery mode	Direct teaching

2.6 PG Diploma courses (without MQ) suitable for other professionals

Name of course	PG Diploma courses (without MQ) suitable for other professionals
Description	Post graduate diploma level programs suitable for a range of professionals with an interest in hearing impairment, including communication support workers, psychologists and therapists.
Duration	2 years
Provider(s)	University of Birmingham: Teachers of Children with Hearing Impairment: https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/distance/edu/teachers-hearing-impairment.aspx#CourseOverviewTab University of Leeds: Post Graduate Diploma in Deaf Education: http://www.education.leeds.ac.uk/postgraduates/taught-postgraduates/ma-deaf-education-by-distance-learning-teacher-of-the-deaf-qualification Mary Hare School/University of Hertfordshire: PG Dip/Cert– Educational Studies (Early Years and Deafness): https://www.maryhare.org.uk/professional-courses/postgraduate-courses
Level	NQF level 7
Accreditation	PG Dip
Main delivery mode	Part-time distance learning

2.7 Masters level courses (without MQ) suitable for other professionals

Name of course	Masters level courses (without MQ) suitable for other professionals
Description	Masters level programs suitable for a range of professionals with an interest in hearing impairment, including communication support workers, psychologists and therapists.
Duration	2 years
Provider(s)	University of Birmingham: Teachers of Children with Hearing Impairment: https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/distance/edu/teachers-hearing-impairment.aspx#CourseOverviewTab University of Leeds: Post Graduate Diploma in Deaf Education: http://www.education.leeds.ac.uk/postgraduates/taught-postgraduates/ma-deaf-education-by-distance-learning-teacher-of-the-deaf-qualification Mary Hare School/University of Hertfordshire: PG Dip/Cert– Educational Studies (Early Years and Deafness): https://www.maryhare.org.uk/professional-courses/postgraduate-courses
Level	NQF level 7
Accreditation	Masters
Main delivery mode	Part-time distance learning

2.8 PG Dip in Educational Audiology

Name of course	PG Dip Education audiology
Description	The course trains students to become Educational Audiologists or Audiologists in Education. The British Association of Educational Audiologists defines the former as a professional who is a qualified Teacher of the Deaf (ToD) with a PGDip or MSc in Educational Audiology; and the latter as a professional who is qualified in Audiology and working in Education but is not a qualified ToD
Duration	120 hours
Provider(s)	Mary Hare School/University of Hertfordshire: https://www.maryhare.org.uk/professional-courses/postgraduate-courses
Level	NQF level 7
Accreditation	PG Dip
Main delivery mode	Blended learning

2.9 MSc Education Audiology

Name of course	MSc Education audiology
Description	The course trains students to become Educational Audiologists or Audiologists in Education. The British Association of Educational Audiologists define the former as a professional who is a qualified Teacher of the Deaf (ToD) with a PGDip or MSc in Educational Audiology; and the latter as a professional who is qualified in Audiology and working in Education but is not a qualified ToD
Duration	120 hours
Provider(s)	Mary Hare School/University of Hertfordshire: https://www.maryhare.org.uk/professional-courses/postgraduate-courses
Level	NQF level 7
Accreditation	MSc
Main delivery mode	Blended learning

2.10 PG Diploma courses (with MQ)

Name of course	PG diploma courses
Description	Post graduate diploma level programs aimed at teachers who hold QTS and are seeking qualification as a Teacher of the Deaf. Qualifications include the mandatory qualification for teaching children who are hearing-impaired.
Duration	1-2 years depending on provider
Provider(s)	University of Birmingham: PG Dip Teachers of Children with Hearing Impairment: https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/distance/edu/teachers-hearing-impairment.aspx The University of Edinburgh: PG Dip Inclusive Education (deaf learners): https://www.ed.ac.uk/education/graduate-school/taught-degrees/inclusive-education/pathways University of Leeds: PG Dip Deaf Education (Teacher of the Deaf): http://www.education.leeds.ac.uk/postgraduates/taught-postgraduates/ma-deaf-education-by-distance-learning-teacher-of-the-deaf-qualification The University of Manchester: PG Dip Deaf Education: http://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/masters/courses/list/08632/msc-pgdip-deaf-education/ Mary Hare School/University of Hertfordshire: PG Dip Education Studies (Hearing Impairment): https://www.maryhare.org.uk/professional-courses/postgraduate-courses
Level	NQF level 7/SCQF level 11
Accreditation	PG Dip
Main delivery mode	Part-time distance learning / full-time depending on provider

2.11 Masters level courses (with MQ)

Name of course	Masters level courses
Description	Masters level programs aimed at teachers who hold QTS and are seeking qualification as a Teacher of the Deaf. Qualifications include the mandatory qualification for teaching children who are hearing-impaired. Often these are linked to PG Dip courses as an extension of study.
Duration	2-3 years part time, some options 1 year full time
Provider(s)	University of Birmingham: Med Teachers of Children with Hearing Impairment: https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/distance/edu/teachers-hearing-impairment.aspx The University of Edinburgh: MSc Inclusive Education (Deaf Learners): https://www.ed.ac.uk/education/graduate-school/taught-degrees/inclusive-education/pathways University of Leeds: MA Deaf Education (Teacher of the Deaf Qualification): http://www.education.leeds.ac.uk/postgraduates/taught-postgraduates/ma-deaf-education-by-distance-learning-teacher-of-the-deaf-qualification The University of Manchester: MSc Deaf Education: http://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/masters/courses/list/08632/msc-pgdip-deaf-education/ Mary Hare School / University of Hertfordshire: MA Education Studies (Hearing Impairment): https://www.maryhare.org.uk/professional-courses/postgraduate-courses
Level	NQF level 7/SCQF level 11
Accreditation	Masters
Main delivery mode	Part time distance learning. Some options available full-time

2.12 Ed D/PhD Deaf Education

Name of course	Ed D/PhD Deaf Education
Description	Higher Education Institutions providing EdD/PhD study programs
Duration	Full time 3-4 years, part time 6-7 years
Provider(s)	University of Birmingham: PhD Deaf Education: https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/research/edu/education.aspx University of Leeds: PhD Deaf Education: http://www.education.leeds.ac.uk/postgraduates/research-postgraduates/phd University of Leeds: Ed D Deaf Education: http://www.education.leeds.ac.uk/postgraduates/research-postgraduates/edd
Level	NQF level 8
Accreditation	Ed D / Ph D
Main delivery mode	Varies

2.13 Specialist CPD courses

Name of course	Specialist CPD courses
Description	Various providers of ad hoc events and opportunities
Duration	N/A
Provider(s)	National providers include: BATOD: http://www.batod.org.uk NatSIP: http://www.natsip.org.uk The Ewing Foundation: http://www.ewing-foundation.org.uk Scottish Sensory Centre (SSC): http://www.ssc.education.ed.ac.uk National Deaf Children's Society/National Deaf Children's Society Scotland: http://www.ndcs.org.uk The Ear Foundation: http://www.Earfoundationearfoundation.org.uk
Level	N/A
Accreditation	N/A
Main delivery mode	Contact

2.14 Introducing British Sign Language

Name of course	Introducing British Sign Language
Description	Introductory (online) BSL course for beginners
Duration	Typically takes 8 weeks to complete/6 week direct training depending on provider
Provider(s)	british-sign.co.uk: www.british-sign.co.uk/learn-online-british-sign-language-course/ Deaf Action: http://www.deafaction.org.uk/our_services/british-sign-language-bsl-courses
Level	N/A
Accreditation	N/A
Main delivery mode	Online. Access for 12 months

2.15 Level 1-4 certificate in British Sign Language

Name of course	Level 1-4 certificate British Sign Language
Description	Qualifications in British Sign Language from Level 1 to Level 4
Duration	90 – 360 hours depending on level
Provider(s)	Signature (levels 1-4): http://www.signature.org.uk/british-sign-language BSL Courses (levels 1-4): https://www.bslcourses.co.uk/courses School of Sign Language (levels 1-2): http://www.schoolofsignlanguage.com/british-sign-language-courses/ Deaf Action (levels 1-4): http://www.deafaction.org.uk/our_services/british-sign-language-bsl-courses/ BSL Scotland (levels 1-3): http://www.bslscotland.com/index.html Deaf Perspective (levels 1-3): http://deafperspective.co.uk/courses/ Tayside Deaf Hub (levels 1-3): http://www.taysidedeafhub.org.uk/home/deaf-links/training/
Level	NQF levels 1-4
Accreditation	Signature level 1-4 certificate
Main delivery mode	Blended learning

2.16 Level 6 NVQ certificate in British Sign Language

Name of course	Level 6 NVQ certificate in British Sign Language
Description	Courses for those who work professionally with deaf people (for example teachers and lecturers in BSL, social workers, teachers of the Deaf, trainee interpreters, voluntary workers, workers within Deaf organisations, schools, etc) or those who aspire to work in these contexts.
Duration	360 hours blended learning/online learning depending on provider
Provider(s)	Signature providers (level 6): http://www.signature.org.uk/british-sign-language BSL Courses (level 6): https://www.bslcourses.co.uk/courses Deaf Perspective (level 6): http://deafperspective.co.uk/courses/
Level	NQF level 6
Accreditation	Signature level 6 certificate
Main delivery mode	Varies

2.17 Note taking to support deaf and disabled people

Name of courses	Manual and electronic note taking to support deaf and disabled people
Description	2 courses: Manual note taking to support deaf and disabled people Electronic note taking to support deaf and disabled people
Duration	3 days
Provider(s)	Note Able: http://www.note-ablenotetakers.co.uk/
Level	OCN level 3
Accreditation	OCN certificate
Main delivery mode	Direct teaching

2.18 Working through audition – foundation level

Name of courses	Working through audition – foundation level
Description	This foundation course is designed to equip professionals with the core skills needed to develop auditory verbal practice when working with children with hearing loss and their families.
Duration	6 months
Provider(s)	Auditory Verbal UK: https://www.avuk.org/Pages/Category/become-an-av-therapist
Level	N/A
Accreditation	AVUK certificate
Main delivery mode	On-line or direct teaching options available

2.19 Auditory principles in everyday practice – advanced level

Name of courses	Auditory principles in everyday practice
Description	This advanced course supports participants who want to become certified auditory verbal therapists to meet the eligibility criteria set by the AG Bell Academy to sit the LSLS CertAVT® examination.
Duration	2½ years
Provider(s)	Auditory Verbal UK: https://www.avuk.org/Pages/Category/become-an-av-therapist
Level	N/A
Accreditation	AVUK certificate
Main delivery mode	Blended learning

2.20 Cued Speech - learn to cue

Name of courses	Cued Speech - learn to cue
Description	Working systematically through the easy-to-use 'Learn to Cue' website, you can learn all the basics of Cued Speech.
Duration	N/A
Provider(s)	Cued Speech Association UK: http://www.learntocue.co.uk
Level	N/A
Accreditation	Cued Speech Association certificate
Main delivery mode	Online, free to access, remote examination

2.21 Level 1-2 qualifications in Cued Speech proficiency

Name of courses	Level 1-2 qualifications in Cued Speech proficiency
Description	As well as training the Cued Speech Association UK (CSAUK) offers two exams in Cued Speech proficiency
Duration	N/A
Provider(s)	Cued Speech Association UK: http://www.cuedspeech.co.uk/index.php?page=examinations
Level	N/A
Accreditation	Cued Speech Association certificate
Main delivery mode	Remote examination

2.22 Guidance for oral language modifiers

Name of courses	Guidance for oral language modifiers
Description	This is not a course, but guidance available for people responsible for oral language modifications for HI learners
Duration	N/A
Provider(s)	BATOD: http://www.batod.org.uk/index.php?id=/resources/materials/training-materials/language-modification/OLMguidance0609.htm
Level	N/A
Accreditation	N/A
Main delivery mode	Self-study

2.23 Listening with the third ear – counselling skills for audiologists

Name of courses	Listening with the third ear – counselling skills for audiologists
Description	This extended course provides delegates with the opportunity to not only learn and understand a set of basic counselling strategies, but also to apply, discuss and evaluate the effectiveness of these strategies.
Duration	2 days
Provider(s)	The Ear Foundation: http://www.earfoundation.org.uk/education/articles/810
Level	N/A
Accreditation	N/A
Main delivery mode	Direct teaching

3.0 The Vision Impairment Pathway

Specialist Skills	Mainstream awareness day courses	Specialist roles (e.g. Teaching Assistants, working with VI)	Specialist roles – Professional Qualifications	Further specialist qualifications/training
	½- to 2-day introductory awareness courses – see §3.1 NatSIP 2-day courses for TAs – see §3.2 Online Training VI Course – see §3.3	Understanding visual impairment in children and young people – see §3.4 Visual impairment and complex needs in children and young people – see §3.5 Specialist Accredited Roles Level 3 BTEC Partners in learning – see §3.6 BTEC Advanced Award for TAs – see §3.7	Habilitation roles PG Dip in Habilitation and Disabilities of Sight (CYP) – see §3.8 Mandatory Qualified (MQ) teacher roles: Mandatory qualification for teachers of children and young people with vision impairments – see §3.9	MEd Education of children and young people with vision impairment – see §3.10 Effective teaching of literacy through Braille – see §3.11
	Specialist CPD – day courses (various local providers including voluntary sector and sensory services – see §3.12)			

Underpinning skills	Note Taking Manual or Electronic note taking to support deaf and disabled people – see §3.13
	Braille Proficiency Courses – see §3.14 RNIB Certificate in Contracted Braille (UEB) Positive Eye Braille Course SSC Braille Competency Course (UEB Contracted Grade 2) UEB Online

3.1 Introductory/awareness-raising courses

Name of course	Introductory/awareness-raising courses
Description	Introduction to vision impairment
Duration	½ to 2 days
Provider(s)	Many local providers including voluntary sector, sensory services. Some national providers include: NatSIP: https://www.natsip.org.uk
Level	Introductory
Accreditation	No
Main delivery mode	Direct contact

3.2 NatSIP Course for Teaching Assistants

Name of course	NatSIP Course for TAs
Description	Introductory course for teachers and teaching assistants who support children with vision impairment
Duration	2 days
Provider(s)	NatSIP: https://www.natsip.org.uk
Level	Introductory
Accreditation	No
Main delivery mode	Direct contact

3.3 OnLineTraining International VI course

Name of course	OnLineTraining (OLT) VI training course
Description	Introductory course for teachers and teaching assistants who support pupils with vision impairment
Duration	Registered for 12 months. Average of 4 months study
Provider(s)	OnLineTraining: https://www.oltinternational.net/vision-impairment
Level	Introductory
Accreditation	OLT completion certificate
Main delivery mode	Online/direct contact blended

3.4 Understanding visual impairment in children and young people

Name of course	Understanding visual impairment in children and young people
Description	Implications of vision impairment for learning, and key strategies to address these
Duration	Registered for 12 months, average 6 months study
Provider(s)	VIEW: http://vieweb.org.uk/training
Level	N/A
Accreditation	VIEW certificate
Main delivery mode	Online

3.5 Visual impairment and complex needs in children and young people

Name of course	Visual impairment and complex needs in children and young people
Description	Course on strategies to facilitate development in children and young people who have vision impairment and complex needs
Duration	Registered for 12 months, average 6 months study (30-50 hours)
Provider(s)	VIEW: http://vieweb.org.uk/training
Level	N/A
Accreditation	VIEW certificate
Main delivery mode	Online

3.6 Partners in learning

Name of course	Partners in learning
Description	In-depth training for education professionals on key aspects of vision impairment and support strategies
Duration	Timetabled over 12 months
Provider(s)	VIEW: http://vieweb.org.uk/training
Level	BTEC level 3
Accreditation	BTEC advanced certificate
Main delivery mode	Blended

3.7 BTEC advanced award for teaching assistants working with sensory impaired children and young people

Name of course	BTEC advanced award for teaching assistants working with sensory impaired children and young people
Description	5 individual study days delivered by experienced professionals. All students attend Day 1 of the course and then specialise in either vision impairment or deafness for days 2-5
Duration	5 days
Provider(s)	Mary Hare School and Berkshire Sensory Consortium: https://www.maryhare.org.uk/profesional-courses/btecs
Level	NQF level 3
Accreditation	BTEC advanced certificate
Main delivery mode	Direct teaching

3.8 PG Dip in habilitation and disabilities of sight

Name of course	PG Dip in habilitation and disabilities of sight
Description	Trains students to support, plan, carry out, supervise and evaluate children's and young people's (from birth to 25 years) habilitation skills at home, in public settings, and in educational transitions
Duration	2 years part time
Provider(s)	University College London
Level	NQF level 6
Accreditation	PG Dip
Main delivery mode	Distance blended

3.9 Mandatory qualification (MQ) for teachers of children and young people with vision impairment

Name of course	Mandatory qualification for teachers of children and young people with vision impairment
Description	Open to teachers with Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) or equivalent, seeking the Mandatory Qualification (MQ) for specialist teachers of children and young people with vision impairments
Duration	2 years part time
Provider(s)	University of Birmingham: https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/distance/edu/vision-impairments.aspx University of Edinburgh: https://www.ed.ac.uk/education/graduate-school/taught-degrees/inclusive-education/pathways Liverpool John Moores University: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/mandatory-qualifications-specialist-teachers
Level	NQF level 7
Accreditation	PG Dip
Main delivery mode	Blended

3.10 M Ed Education of children and young people with vision impairment

Name of course	M Ed Education of children and young people with vision impairment
Description	Available to students who have successfully gained the MQ via PG Dip
Duration	1 year part time
Provider(s)	University of Birmingham: https://www.postgraduatesearch.com/university-of-birmingham/54649282/postgraduate-course.htm
Level	NQF level 7
Accreditation	M Ed
Main delivery mode	Distance

3.11 Effective teaching of literacy through braille

Name of course	Effective teaching of literacy through braille
Description	Specialist training for qualified teachers of children and young people with vision impairment (QTVIs) who wish to extend their knowledge, understanding and skills in teaching braille to children and young people
Duration	6 months
Provider(s)	VIEW: https://viewweb.org.uk/training
Level	N/A
Accreditation	VIEW Certificate
Main delivery mode	Blended

3.12 Specialist CPD courses

Name of course	Specialist CPD courses
Description	Various providers of ad-hoc events and opportunities
Duration	Varies
Provider(s)	Some national providers include: NatSIP: http://www.natsip.org.uk Scottish Sensory Centre (SSC): http://www.ssc.education.ed.ac.uk/index.html Braille Network days: https://viewweb.org.uk/training/rnibview-braille-network-days/ VITAL (VI and complex needs) regional meetings: vital@rnib.org.uk Positive Eye training events: https://www.positiveeye.co.uk/our-services/practical-courses/
Level	N/A
Accreditation	N/A
Main delivery mode	Contact

3.13 Note taking to support deaf and disabled people

Name of course	Note taking to support deaf and disabled people
Description	2 courses: Manual and electronic note taking to support deaf and disabled people Training to become a note taker to support deaf and disabled people
Duration	3 days
Provider(s)	Note able: http://www.note-ablenotetakers.co.uk/
Level	OCN level 3
Accreditation	OCN certificate
Main delivery mode	Direct contact

3.14 Braille proficiency courses

Name of course	Braille proficiency course
Description	Structured courses teaching skills of reading and writing in contracted Braille
Duration	Varies
Provider(s)	RNIB: RNIB Certificate in Contracted Braille (UEB): http://www.rnib.org.uk/braille-and-moon-%E2%80%93-tactile-codes-learning-braille-braille-courses-adults/rnib-certificate-contracted Positive Eye: Braille Course: https://www.positiveeye.co.uk/our-services/braille-courses Scottish Sensory Centre: SSC Braille Competency Course, Unified English Braille Contracted (Grade 2): http://www.ssc.education.ed.ac.uk/courses/contracted.html UEB Online: UEB Online course: http://uebonline.org/
Level	N/A
Accreditation	Varies
Main delivery mode	Distance and online

4.0 The Multi-Sensory Impairment Pathway

Specialist Skills	Mainstream awareness day courses	Specialist roles (e.g. Teaching Assistants, working with MSI)	Specialist roles – Professional Qualifications	Further specialist qualifications/training
	½- to 2-day introductory awareness courses – see §4.1 Online Training MSI Course – see §4.2 Regional Centre of Expertise (5 day) – see §4.3 Regional Centre of Expertise (Mainstream) – see §4.4 Signature Deaf and Blind Awareness Course – see §4.5	Teaching assistants working with MSI Intervenor course – see §4.6 Specialist Accredited Roles Intervenor course – see §4.6	Specialist assessment roles: Deafblind certificate – see §4.7 Advanced Certificate: Education of learners with MSI – see §4.8 Deafblind diploma – see §4.9 Mandatory Qualified (MQ) teacher roles: B Phil Education of learners with MSI – see §4.10 PG Dip Education of learners with MSI – see §4.11	MEd Education of learners with MSI – see §4.12 MEd Communication and congenital deafness – see §4.13 PhD Studies – see §4.14
Specialist CPD – day courses (various local providers including voluntary sector and sensory services – see §4.15)				

Underpinning skills	British Sign Language Introducing British Sign Language Online Course – see §4.16 Levels 1-4 Certificate in British Sign Language – see §4.17 Level 6 NVQ Certificate in British Sign Language – see §4.18
	Working with deafblind people Communicating with Deafblind People – see §4.19 Communication and Guiding Deafblind People – see §4.20 Working Effectively with Visual Frame Hands On – see §4.21 Insights into Communication & Congenitally Deafblind people & signing qualification – see §4.22
	Note Taking Manual or Electronic note taking to support deaf and disabled people – see §4.23
	Braille Proficiency Courses Many providers – see §4.24
	Tactile sign language Exploring Listening Talking Hands – see §4.25 In Practice – a practical approach to developing tactile sign language skills – see §4.26

4.1 Introductory/awareness-raising courses

Name of course	Introductory/awareness-raising courses
Description	Introduction to deafblindness/multi-sensory impairment
Duration	½ - 2 day
Provider(s)	Various local providers, including voluntary sector and sensory services
Level	Introductory
Accreditation	No
Main delivery mode	Direct contact

4.2 Online course in multi-sensory impairment

Name of course	Online course in multi-sensory impairment
Description	Providing an introduction to deafblindness/multi-sensory impairment. Explore the implications of MSI for: communication; access to information; mobility development
Duration	12-15 hours
Provider(s)	OnLine Training: https://www.oltinternational.net/multi-sensory-impairment
Level	Introductory
Accreditation	OLT Completion Certificate
Main delivery mode	Online

4.3 Regional Centre of Expertise

Name of course	Regional Centre of Expertise: A Practical Approach to Supporting Access to learning for Children and Young People with deafblindness/multi-sensory Impairment
Description	Aimed at staff involved in supporting children and young people with multi-sensory impairment across all settings
Duration	5 days over a term
Provider(s)	NatSIP: http://www.natsip.org.uk
Level	N/A
Accreditation	RCE completion certificate
Main delivery mode	Contact/blended learning

4.4 Regional Centre of Expertise (Mainstream)

Name of course	Regional Centre of Expertise: A Practical Approach to Supporting Access to learning for Children and Young People with deafblindness/multi-sensory Impairment in mainstream settings
Description	Aimed at staff involved in supporting children and young people with multi-sensory impairment, with a specific focus on mainstream settings
Duration	2 days
Provider(s)	NatSIP: http://www.natsip.org.uk
Level	N/A
Accreditation	RCE completion certificate
Main delivery mode	Contact

4.5 Deaf and blind awareness

Name of course	Deaf and blind awareness
Description	This qualification is designed to provide introductory knowledge and skill for enhancing communication with deaf and deafblind people
Duration	20 hours
Provider(s)	Signature providers: http://www.signature.org.uk/deaf-awareness
Level	NQF level 1
Accreditation	Signature level 1 certificate
Main delivery mode	Contact

4.6 Intervenor course

Name of course	Intervenor course
Description	The course provides participants with the theoretical knowledge and practical skills to carry out their role as an Intervenor aimed at Intervenor or those assigned to work in a 1:1 situation with a congenitally deafblind/multi-sensory impaired child or adult
Duration	5 days over 1 term
Provider(s)	Jenny Fletcher and Associates: http://www.jennyfletcher.co.uk
Level	NQF level 4
Accreditation	CHeSL 4 certificate
Main delivery mode	Contact

4.7 Certificate in deafblind studies

Name of course	Certificate in deafblind studies
Description	Aimed at workers at the forefront of practice, to equip them to meet statutory requirements and duties in relation to deafblindness
Duration	4-5 days over 1 year
Provider(s)	Deafblind Studies: http://www.deafblindstudies.org.uk
Level	NQF level 3
Accreditation	Level 3 certificate
Main delivery mode	Contact/blended learning

4.8 Advanced certificate in MSI

Name of course	Advanced certificate in MSI
Description	Enables teachers and others working in education-related fields to work more effectively with learners who are deafblind (multi-sensory impaired). It includes skills in assessment, monitoring and recording, a knowledge of teaching systems and support systems
Duration	1 year part time
Provider(s)	University of Birmingham: http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/distance/edu/multisensory-impairment.aspx
Level	NQF level 5
Accreditation	Ad Cert
Main delivery mode	Contact/blended learning

4.9 Deafblind diploma

Name of course	Deafblind diploma
Description	Aimed at workers at the forefront of practice, to equip them to meet statutory requirements and duties in relation to deafblindness
Duration	2 years part time
Provider(s)	Deafblind Studies: http://www.deafblindstudies.org.uk
Level	NQF level 5
Accreditation	Diploma
Main delivery mode	Contact/blended learning

4.10 B Phil Education of learners with multi-sensory impairment

Name of course	B Phil Education of learners with multi-sensory impairment (Can include MQ if student holds QTS)
Description	Enables teachers and others working in education-related fields to work more effectively with learners who are deafblind (multi-sensory impaired). It includes skills in assessment, monitoring and recording, a knowledge of teaching systems and support systems
Duration	2 years part time
Provider(s)	University of Birmingham: http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/distance/edu/multisensory-impairment.aspx
Level	NQF level 6
Accreditation	B Phil
Main delivery mode	Contact/blended learning

4.11 PG Dip Education of learners with multi-sensory impairment

Name of course	PG Dip Education of learners with multi-sensory impairment (Can include MQ if student holds QTS)
Description	Enables teachers and other working in education-related fields to work more effectively with learners who are deafblind (multi-sensory impaired). It includes skills in assessment, monitoring and recording, a knowledge of teaching systems and support systems
Duration	2 years part time (plus teaching placement if including MQ)
Provider(s)	University of Birmingham: http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/distance/edu/multisensory-impairment.aspx
Level	NQF level 7
Accreditation	PG Dip
Main delivery mode	Contact/blended learning (plus teaching placement for MQ)

4.12 M Ed Education of learners with multi-sensory impairment

Name of course	M Ed Education of learners with multi-sensory impairment (Can include MQ if student holds QTS)
Description	Enables teachers and others working in education-related fields to work more effectively with learners who are deafblind (multi-sensory impaired). It includes skills in assessment, monitoring and recording, a knowledge of teaching systems and support systems
Duration	3 years part time plus dissertation
Provider(s)	University of Birmingham: http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/distance/edu/multisensory-impairment.aspx
Level	NQF level 7
Accreditation	M Ed
Main delivery mode	Contact/blended learning plus dissertation

4.13 M Ed Communication and congenital deafness

Name of course	M Ed Communication and congenital deafblindness
Description	Enables practitioners to analyse communication in situations that are specific to the field of deafblindness. The programme is especially relevant for those who are already working as professionals and who would like to expand their basic knowledge and research skills.
Duration	1-2 years part time plus dissertation
Provider(s)	University of Groningen (Netherlands): http://www.rug.nl/masters/communication-and-deafblindness/?lang=en
Level	NQF level 7 Equivalent
Accreditation	M Ed
Main delivery mode	Contact/blended plus dissertation

4.14 Ph D studies

Name of course	Ph D studies
Description	Higher Education Institutions providing PhD study programs
Duration	Varies
Provider(s)	University of Birmingham: http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/distance/edu/multisensory-impairment.aspx University of Groningen (Netherlands): http://www.rug.nl/masters/communication-and-deafblindness/?lang=en Other HEIs
Level	NQF level 8
Accreditation	Ph D
Main delivery mode	Varies

4.15 Specialist CPD courses

Name of course	Specialist CPD courses
Description	Various providers of ad hoc events and opportunities
Duration	Varies
Provider(s)	Some national providers include: NatSIP: http://www.natsip.org.uk Scottish Sensory Centre (SSC): http://www.ssc.education.ed.ac.uk/ VITAL (VI and complex needs) regional meetings: vital@rnib.org.uk Positive Eye training events: https://www.positiveeye.co.uk/our-services/practical-courses/ Sense: http://www.sense.org.uk CHARGE Family Support Group: http://chargesyndrome.org.uk/ The Seashell Trust: http://www.seashelltrust.org.uk/events/training-development
Level	Varies
Accreditation	N/A
Main delivery mode	Varies

4.16 Introducing British Sign Language

Name of course	Introducing British Sign Language
Description	Introductory online BSL course for beginners
Duration	Access for 12 months – typically takes 8 weeks to complete, or 6 weeks direct training depending on provider
Provider(s)	British-Sign.co.uk: http://www.british-sign.co.uk/learn-online-british-sign-language-course/ Deaf Action: http://www.deafaction.org.uk/our_services/british-sign-language-bsl-courses/
Level	Introductory
Accreditation	No
Main delivery mode	Online

4.17 Level 1-4 certificate in British Sign Language

Name of course	Level 1-4 certificate in British Sign Language
Description	Qualifications in British Sign Language from levels 1-6
Duration	90-360 hours depending on level
Provider(s)	Signature providers (levels 1-4): http://www.signature.org.uk/british-sign-language BSL Courses (levels 1-4): https://www.bslcourses.co.uk/courses School of Sign Language (levels 1-2): http://www.schoolofsignlanguage.com/british-sign-language-courses/ Deaf Action (levels 1-4): http://www.deafaction.org.uk/our_services/british-sign-language-bsl-courses/ BSL Scotland (levels 1-3): http://www.bslscotland.com/index.html Deaf Perspective (levels 1-3): http://deafperspective.co.uk/courses/ Tayside Deaf Hub (levels 1-3): http://www.taysidedeafhub.org.uk/home/deaf-links/training/
Level	NQF Levels 1-4
Accreditation	Signature level 1-4 certificate
Main delivery mode	Blended learning

4.18 Level 6 NVQ certificate in British Sign Language

Name of course	Level 6 NVQ certificate in British Sign Language
Description	Courses useful for those who work professionally with Deaf people (for example teachers and lecturers in BSL, social workers, Teachers of the Deaf, trainee interpreters, voluntary workers, workers within Deaf organisations, schools, etc) or those who aspire to work in these contexts
Duration	360 hours
Provider(s)	Signature providers (level 6 NVQ): http://www.signature.org.uk/british-sign-language BSL Courses (level 6 NVQ): https://www.bslcourses.co.uk/courses Deaf Perspective (level 6 NVQ): http://deafperspective.co.uk/courses/
Level	NQF level 6
Accreditation	Signature level 6 certificate
Main delivery mode	Blended/online learning

4.19 Communicating with deafblind people

Name of course	Communicating with deafblind people
Description	Level 2 Certificate in Communicating with Deafblind People is suitable for those who wish to gain knowledge, perhaps in connection with their work, about how deafblindness affects communication for the four main groups of deafblind people and those who wish to improve their skills, for use in the workplace or elsewhere, when communicating in English with deafblind people
Duration	55 hours
Provider(s)	Signature providers: http://www.signature.org.uk/deafblind
Level	NQF level 2
Accreditation	Signature level 2 certificate
Main delivery mode	Contact/blended learning

4.20 Communication and guiding deafblind people

Name of course	Communication and guiding deafblind people
Description	Level 2 certificate in communication and guiding with deafblind people is suitable for those who wish to gain knowledge about how deafblindness affects communication for the four main groups of deafblind people and those who wish to improve their skills when communicating in English with deafblind people
Duration	55 hours
Provider(s)	Signature providers: http://www.signature.org.uk/deafblind
Level	NQF level 2
Accreditation	Signature level 2 certificate
Main delivery mode	Contact/blended learning

4.21 Working Effectively with Visual Frame Hands On

Name of course	Working Effectively with Visual Frame Hands On
Description	The aim of the qualification is to enable learners to use knowledge and skills already obtained in previous qualifications and to be able to work effectively with deafblind people who use VF/HO in a variety of everyday settings including: conversations, socialising, educational, personal, employment (Access to Work).
Duration	Varies
Provider(s)	Signature providers: http://www.signature.org.uk/deafblind
Level	Level 3
Accreditation	Signature level 3 certificate
Main delivery mode	Contact/blended learning

4.22 Insights into communications and congenitally deafblind people and signing qualification

Name of course	Insights into communications and congenitally deafblind people and signing qualification
Description	Level 3 award in Insights into communication with congenitally deafblind people is suitable for those who wish to gain knowledge about how deafblindness affects communication for congenitally deafblind people and those who wish to understand the ways in which they can communicate with congenitally deafblind people.
Duration	Agreed timescales
Provider(s)	Signature providers: http://www.signature.org.uk/deafblind
Level	NQF Level 3
Accreditation	Signature level 3 certificate
Main delivery mode	Contact/blended learning

4.23 Note taking to support deaf and disabled people

Name of courses	Manual and electronic note taking to support deaf and disabled people
Description	2 courses: Manual note taking to support deaf and disabled people Electronic note taking to support deaf and disabled people
Duration	3 days
Provider(s)	Note Able: http://www.note-ablenotetakers.co.uk/
Level	OCN level 3
Accreditation	OCN certificate
Main delivery mode	Direct teaching

4.24 Braille proficiency courses

Name of course	Braille proficiency course
Description	Structured courses teaching skills of reading and writing in contracted Braille
Duration	Varies
Provider(s)	RNIB: RNIB Certificate in Contracted Braille (UEB): http://www.rnib.org.uk/braille-and-moon-%E2%80%93-tactile-codes-learning-braille-braille-courses-adults/rnib-certificate-contracted Positive Eye: Braille Course: https://www.positiveeye.co.uk/our-services/braille-courses Scottish Sensory Centre: SSC Braille Competency Course, Unified English Braille Contracted (Grade 2): http://www.ssc.education.ed.ac.uk/courses/contracted.html UEB Online: UEB Online course: http://uebonline.org/
Level	N/A
Accreditation	Varies
Main delivery mode	Distance and online learning

4.25 Exploring, listening, talking hands

Name of course	Exploring, listening, talking hands
Description	An introduction to communication through touch using a hand-under-hand approach that respects the hands of children and adults who have severe sensory loss and complex communication support needs.
Duration	1 day
Provider(s)	NatSIP: http://www.natsip.org.uk
Level	N/A
Accreditation	No
Main delivery mode	Direct contact

4.26 In practice – a practical approach to developing tactile sign language skills

Name of course	In practice – a practical approach to developing tactile sign language skills
Description	This course equips practitioners with an understanding of the foundations of tactile communication. It enables practitioners to engage in interactions and exchanges at the right level for the deafblind person and develops confidence in engaging with tactile interaction and tactile signing.
Duration	3 days
Provider(s)	NatSIP: http://www.natsip.org.uk
Level	N/A
Accreditation	No
Main delivery mode	Direct contact

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