

# Milton Keynes Sensory Services

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## Spring 2025 Newsletter



# Meet the team



**Pauline Jarvis**  
**Team Manager**



**Dona Rooke**  
**Administrator**



**Rachel Cross**  
**Sensory Service  
Officer**



**Elaine Wooding**  
**Sensory Service  
Officer**



**Amalia Wyatt**  
**Sensory Service  
Officer**



## MKSS News & Events

### **Welcome to Alexis!**

Alexis joined the team last Dec on a locum basis. She is a Senior Vision Rehabilitation Specialist and will be working primarily with people who have sight loss.



### **Hard of Hearing Group**

We have had two really successful group meeting so far this year and a further four groups are planned before we break for the summer. We have invited some outside speakers including a specialist equipment provider for people with hearing loss and a return of the very popular lipreading taster session. Contact us to book your place.

### **MK City Council - SignLive**

We have been speaking to MK Council about the difficulties Deaf people who use British Sign Language can encounter when trying to contact council departments. In response, the council have been promoting the use of SignLive internally to their staff giving details of how it works.

## Humanware Podcast

Humanware have launched a new podcast called 'Seeing things Differently'. Listeners will be able to access truly engaging conversations with captivating guests, including HumanWare's own team members and partners in the blindness and low-vision space.



Episodes are available on all major podcast platforms. New episodes will be released on the third Thursday of every month.

## Volunteers needed

We are still looking for more volunteers. If you have a couple of hours to spare and would like to support people who wear hearing aids, give us a call.



## Accessibility in Milton Keynes parks

We have been working with the Parks Trust to look at accessibility issues for people with sight and hearing loss. If you have any issues accessing their facilities, let us know so that we can pass on your concerns.



## Mental Health & Hearing Loss

Pauline attended an online event that focused on the mental health of people with hearing loss.

The very informative session referred to the 'Sick Of It' report published by the Deaf Health charity SignHealth in 2014 about the health of Deaf people in the UK. The report highlighted the need to improve the standard of communication, the availability of information and the ability of Deaf people to access services.

SignHealth have made a list of simple, affordable recommendations for health care professionals, which include the following;

- Ask Deaf patients how they would like to communicate with you and record it on their notes so that next time they make an appointment you make the best arrangements possible.
- Offer online booking for appointments and SMS or email contact.
- Make sure you set up a system for calling patients which doesn't rely on them hearing you calling their name.
- NEVER ask a family member to interpret.
- Routinely make health information accessible to Deaf people.
- Offer Deaf awareness training to all frontline staff.

The full report can be found using the link below.

<https://signhealth.org.uk/resources/report-sick-of-it/>

## **RNIB - Talk And Support**

The RNIB Talk and Support team run free, phone-based, social groups for adults with sight loss across the UK. They give people the opportunity to socialise, build friendships and get peer support with others who also experience sight loss. We match individuals together for conversations based on age and group preferences. For further information, visit [www.rnib.org.uk](http://www.rnib.org.uk) or email [talkandsupport@rnib.org.uk](mailto:talkandsupport@rnib.org.uk)

## **Guide Dogs**

There was an update from the charity Guide Dogs at a recent forum attended by Alexis.

The following information was shared;

- There is a long waiting list, some people are waiting over 4 years
- There are very stringent qualifying aspects.
- A person (and their dog) needs to travel outdoors 5 days per week plus 2 free run sessions.
- A person has to have a significant need for a mobility aid.

To find out whether a Guide Dog would be right for you and how to qualify, visit [www.guidedogs.org.uk](http://www.guidedogs.org.uk) or email [information@guidedogs.org.uk](mailto:information@guidedogs.org.uk) or call 0800 781 1444

## **MK Macular Group**

The group will be hosting Josh from Cobolt Systems Ltd at thier meeting in June. He will be bringing along a wide range daily living aids & products for the blind & partially sighted, such as talking clocks, multi-function radios, combination ovens, air fryers, watches, microwave cookware, a range of glasses, mouse magnifiers and many other gadgets.

The visit will take place on **Tuesday 10 June 2025** from 2pm - 4pm at Centrecom Meeting Place, 602 North Row (at rear of block of flats next to MK Library) Secklow Gate West, Central Milton Keynes MK9 3BJ

For further information, please contact Maggie Weston - Tel: **01908 319292** Email: **mkmacsoc@gmail.com**

## **RNIB/MKSS Tech Support Hub - NEW VENUE!**

From 25 April 2025, the hub will meet on 2<sup>nd</sup> and last Friday of each month between 11am and 1pm in the Discovery Room within the John Lewis Store in the Centre MK.

If you are struggling to use your smart phone or tablet our technology expert will be happy to help you. Please call Padma on 07456 202 707 or e-mail [pscheriyan@gmail.com](mailto:pscheriyan@gmail.com) to book an appointment.



## MK Theatre Access Performances



### **Romeo & Juliet**

**Captioned:** 08 April 2025 at 7:30pm

**Audio Described:** 10 April 2025 at 7:30pm with  
Touch Tour at 6pm

### **War Horse**

**BSL:** 24 April 2025 at 7.30pm

**Captioned:** 29 April 2025 at 7:30pm

**Audio Described:** 1 May 2025 at 7:30pm with  
Touch Tour at 5pm

### **Welsh National Opera - The Marriage of Figaro**

**Audio Described:** 15 May 2025 at 7.30pm with  
Touch Tour at 5.30pm

### **The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe**

**Audio Described:** Wednesday 23 July 2025 at  
7pm with Touch Tour at 5.30pm

**Captioned:** Friday 25 July 2025 at 7pm



## **Glaucoma Education & Support**

There will be a Glaucoma presentation delivered by Consultants, specialists and the glaucoma team at MK University Hospital. There will be an opportunity for questions to speakers. and free tea/coffee and refreshments.

The event will be held at **The Academic Centre Milton Keynes University Hospital, Standing Way MK6** on **25 April 2025: 6.00pm - 8.30pm** (registration 5.30pm)

## **MK Gallery Audio Described Tour**

Experience in-depth visual descriptions, alongside hand-held and touch elements, of key works from Andy Warhol: Portrait of America.

This event is led by tour guide Robin Clements, and is suitable for those who are blind or partially sighted.

Dates for the tour: 15 April & 17 June 2025.

For further details, please contact the gallery: **01908 676900** Email: **[info@mkgallery.org](mailto:info@mkgallery.org)**

## HOW TO CONTACT MKSS

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## ADDRESS

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## We are on Social Media!



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