

# NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

## Charity guides blind people from Ipswich into work

Nationwide, 75% of blind and partially sighted people are unemployed, however, visually impaired people from **Ipswich** are getting extra support from Norwich-based charity, **Action for Blind People**. Since the arrival of the charity's Employment Development Team six months ago, the team are supporting 25 people from Ipswich to find work, and have assisted three people to secure permanent jobs.

Action for Blind People is working with people in the Ipswich area, with varying degrees of sight loss, to get them into employment or training. The Team offers; career guidance, interview advice, training on computer packages for visually impaired people, signposting into certificated training, and support writing application forms and CVs. Across Norfolk and Suffolk, the team has supported 82 visually impaired people to find work, or keep their job, over the last six months.

Anita Moxley, Action for Blind People's Employment Coordinator, comments:

"Our team works with people to identify their skills and develop a career plan. But the support doesn't stop once we've found somebody a job. We continue to work with both the person and the company, to ensure both parties are happy. We also work with people who are already employed, but fear they may lose their job, because they are losing their sight."

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Blind and partially sighted people, or companies interested in working with the Employment Development Team, can contact them at Norfolk Industries, 95 Oak Street, Norwich, NR3 3BP, Tel: 01603 626625 or email: [eastanglia@afbp.org](mailto:eastanglia@afbp.org).

Action for Blind People is currently fundraising in Ipswich. Funds raised pay for vital services for visually impaired people, such as the Employment Development Team in Norfolk.

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For further media information please contact Zoë Patel, PR Officer, Tel: 020 7635 4898, email: [zoe.patel@actionforblindpeople.org.uk](mailto:zoe.patel@actionforblindpeople.org.uk)

## **Notes to editors:**

- Action for Blind People supports over 20,000 blind and partially sighted people in the UK every year. Action for Blind People's National Freephone Helpline is 0800 915 4666.
- Action works to inspire change and create opportunities to enable blind and partially sighted people to have equal voice and equal choice and to live a full and valuable life.
- Action provides visually impaired people with opportunities through employment, housing, leisure and information and support.