



# NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

## **Seeing the future for blind people across Wiltshire**

On Tuesday this week, Action for Blind People based in Salisbury launched its newly expanded service. The visual impairment charity has for the past five years been very successful in getting blind and partially sighted people across Wiltshire into work and training. To follow this success, Action has expanded its team to enable them to offer advice and support to over 7,000 blind and partially sighted people who live across the area, no matter what their needs may be.

In England there are 300,000 people living in unsuitable housing who require accessible or adapted accommodation\* and in recognising this one of the new services Action can now offer, with their new Housing Coordinator, is the right housing support for visually impaired people across the region.

Jeff Page, Housing Coordinator at Action for Blind People, said: "We believe that everyone deserves somewhere where they feel comfortable and safe. My role is to help blind and partially sighted people get the correct support so they can continue to live independently in their current home or move to a new home if their present home doesn't meet their needs."

Not only can the team now offer a housing service, but they can ensure that visually impaired people receive help with all aspects of their lives, from finding a job, applying for benefits, holiday breaks, or advice on assistive technology. For

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Patron HRH Princess Alexandra, the Hon. Lady Ogilvy, GCVO

Registered Charity no: 205913



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anything else outside the areas of the team's expertise, Action has developed a network of partners who are experts in their field and we will work with them to make sure blind and partially sighted people get all the support they require.

Robert Key MP for Salisbury said: "I am delighted to be associated with Action for Blind People and in particular with the launch of their latest service. This will offer support to blind and partially sighted people throughout Wiltshire, Dorset and Hampshire. I have been involved with Action for many years and I have therefore seen at first hand the support they offer to visually impaired people and the difference which this makes to their lives."

Bernadette Fitzmaurice, Service Manager at Action for Blind People said: "With this new service and working in partnership with other organisations we can offer a complete service that will enable us to reach out to even more blind and partially sighted people within the area. We have a great team in place who all have the drive and commitment to make a real difference to the lives of those in need."

For support and advice please contact Action for Blind People Wessex on 01722 345 440 or email [wessex@actionforblindpeople.org.uk](mailto:wessex@actionforblindpeople.org.uk) or alternatively visit our website at [www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk](http://www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk)



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For further media information please contact Debbie Flatley, press office on 020 7635 4921/ 07739 819954 or email: [debbie.flatley@actionforblindpeople.org.uk](mailto:debbie.flatley@actionforblindpeople.org.uk)

### Notes to editors:

\*Disability Rights Commission's disability agenda - Department for Communities and Local Government (2006) 'Housing in England 2004/5'

- Action for Blind People is an expert national organisation, ensuring blind and partially sighted people get practical support in all aspects of their lives. Contact Action for Blind People's National Freephone Helpline on 0800 915 4666 or visit [www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk](http://www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk)
- Action for Blind People is breaking down barriers that prevent visually impaired people from achieving the same opportunities as sighted people.
- 2007 marks Action's 150 years of transforming the lives of blind and partially sighted people.
- If abbreviating "Action for Blind People", please use "Action" rather than AFBP or ABP.