



NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

Lancashire charity looks to the future for blind people

The Lancashire Team of national charity, Action for Blind People, celebrated the organisation's 150th birthday last Friday (15 June). The national visual impairment charity has been working to create opportunities for blind and partially sighted people since the Victorian era, and 20 local beneficiaries of the charity were at the Lancashire celebrations.

Rebecca Thomas (aged 21), a local visually impaired client of Action for Blind People Lancashire, was recently assisted by the team in her search for a job.

Rebecca commented:

“Before I went to Action my confidence was poor and I was very withdrawn. But George, my Action Employment Coordinator, pushed all the time and never let me give up. He slowly built up my confidence and supported me throughout my job search.

“When I was offered a job with the Department for Work and Pensions, I rang George and I could hardly speak because I was crying so much. Action for Blind People does great work and I'm delighted to be a part of the anniversary celebrations.”



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Simon Dooley, Manager for Action for Blind People Lancashire, added:

“Back in 1857 teaching blind people to read books and weave baskets were the main activities of Action for Blind People. Fast forward to 2007, and opportunities for visually impaired people have changed dramatically, along with the nature and scale of our charity’s work.

“Today, Action’s experts work with visually impaired clients on problems such as; finding or keeping a job, applying for benefits, housing issues, aids and adaptations, holiday breaks or playing sport. Occasionally a client may come to Action with an issue which is outside of the charity’s areas of expertise. Action has developed a network of partner organisations and works to ensure every client’s difficulties are resolved”.

Action for Blind People Lancashire celebrated the anniversary with archery, a treasure hunt and a 150th birthday cake at the team’s offices in Preston.

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For further media information please contact Zoë Patel, press office on 020 7635 4898/ 07739 819954 or email: zoe.patel@actionforblindpeople.org.uk

Notes to editors:



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- Action for Blind People Lancashire is based at Howick House, Howick Park Avenue, Penwortham, Preston, PR1 0LS, Tel: 01772 320550
- 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 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.