

NEWS RELEASE

17th August 2005

For immediate release

Out of Sight...Out of Work

Action for Blind People will be running a series of workshops in New Malden for blind and partially sighted people looking for work, to help develop their skills and maximise their potential as employees. The workshops will run every Monday at the New Malden Library, Kingston. The first one will take place on 5th September from 10am to 2pm.

The workshops will cover:

- Marketing Yourself
- Confidence building
- Developing presentation skills and telephone skills
- Support with writing CVs, application forms and covering letters
- Developing good interview skills

Jason Lowery, Employment Development Officer at Action for Blind People said: 'Employment amongst blind and partially sighted people of working age in the UK is shockingly low, with 75% unemployed. Action for Blind People are dedicated to providing a service to give more visually impaired people the chance to work. I would like to say a big thank you to New Malden Library in giving us the opportunity to offer support to visually impaired people, in the borough of Kingston and surrounding areas, towards job seeking.'

Action for Blind People have seven Employment Development Teams across the UK that provide a range of assessment, development and work experience

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opportunities to prepare visually impaired people for entry into employment. Assistance is also offered to companies in the form of visual awareness training and guidance in the work place.

Ends

For further information on the workshops please contact Jason Lowery on 020 7635 4987 or jason_l@afbp.org

For further information please contact Debbie Flatley, Press Office on 020 7635 4921 or debbie_f@afbp.org

Notes for Editors

- 1) Action for Blind People supports over 20,000 blind and partially sighted people in the UK every year.
- 2) 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.
- 3) Action provides visually impaired people with opportunities through employment, housing, leisure and information and support.