

Northumberland Sensory Support Service

Multi-Sensory Impairment (MSI)

A Guide for Parents



Inclusive Education Services

 Northumberland
County Council

Our people. The heart of Northumberland 

Our vision: One council that works for everyone **Our values:** Residents first, Excellence and quality, Respect, Keeping our communities safe and well

What is Multi-Sensory Impairment (MSI)?

A child or young person with multi-sensory impairment (MSI) is one who has a vision and hearing impairment of any level which has an impact on their ongoing communication, access to information, mobility and orientation. MSI is used interchangeably with deafblindness.

The Sensory Support Service is specialist education support service for children and young people (aged 0—25) with vision/hearing and multi-sensory impairment. We work closely with parents/carers and professionals.

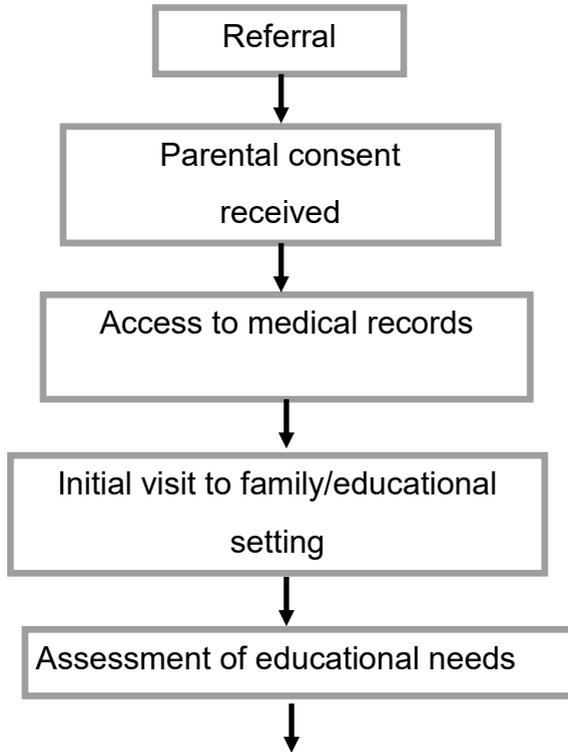
How to access the service

If your child has been diagnosed with MSI/deafblindness, or a condition causing MSI/ deafblindness, please refer to the Local Offer.

Assessment

If your child has been diagnosed with MSI/deafblindness, or a condition causing MSI/deafblindness, they are entitled to a specialist assessment of need under the Deafblind Guidance (2014) through Social Care. The purpose of this assessment is to identify the needs of your child, establish the impact of their MSI and make recommendations. The main areas of assessment include: communication, social interaction, emotional wellbeing, assistive technology and mobility and habilitation.

MSI Referral Pathway



Strategies & support discussed which may include:

- referral to social care (with consent)
- working with other specialists & services e.g. early years, Habilitation, health
- access to social activities
- provision of specialist equipment, training for teachers & support staff
- continued support for child/ young person, family, school with advice on strategies

Sensory Support Service supports through:

- home visits to families of babies and young children with MSI
- support to pre-school groups where MSI children play and learn
- training and support for professionals
- observations of pupils and written advice and recommendations to meet identified need
- advice on resources, adaptations, and technology
- advice on strategies, curriculum adaptation and communication techniques to develop learning skills
- liaison with other teams and with medical professionals regarding support
- support at meetings
- signposting to other services

Contact information:

Northumberland Inclusive Education Services

Low Incident Needs Team

Sensory Support Service

Riverside Centre

Armstrong Way

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