

RNIB – Royal National Institute for Blind People

At RNIB, we work with blind and partially sighted people, their friends and family, and partner organisations.

The RNIB has both regional and national services. National services include free talking book libraries, testing services for products such as TVs and shampoo bottles, transcription teams that provide bills and bank statements in accessible formats such as braille and CD, a national campaign team that works on campaigns such as encouraging national bus companies to introduce talking buses, benefit protection for the blind and partially sighted, and much more.

At the regional level, RNIB staff operate across the East of England. This includes Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Suffolk, and Norfolk counties. Services in these areas include:

- A Living with Sight Loss Course that covers aspects of sight loss including assistive technology, welfare and benefits, emotional support, travel, daily living aids, and more
- An employment coordinator who supports visually impaired people to stay in employment, and works with pre-employment providers such as Job Centre+ to raise awareness for those looking for work with a visual impairment
- A Technology for Life team that works with partner organisations to ensure those who are visually impaired have up to date equipment and the knowledge to use it; trained volunteers provide technology support over the phone and in person
- Campaigns that aim to make the local community more accessible by raising awareness and speaking to local councillors about issues such as pavement parking and street clutter

Our community engagement is run through RNIB's free to join service, RNIB Connect. Within Connect, you can be involved as involved with the organisation as you like. Historically, our volunteers have worked on projects such as setting up sports clubs and organising cafe meet ups. Restaurants and pubs have collaborated to increase their visual awareness and be more inclusive of those who are visually impaired as well.

If you would like to be involved, please get in touch with me (Warren Wilson)

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