Who needs an Intervenor?

“The term deafblind is used to describe a heterogeneous group of people who may suffer on various degrees of visual and hearing impairment, perhaps combined with learning difficulties and physical disabilities which can cause severe communication, developmental and educational problems.” (DES 1989)

Because approximately 90% of what we learn about the world comes through sight and hearing deafblind people need the right kind of individual support to reach their full potential. Access to specialist 1:1 human support is the key to a deafblind or multi-sensory impaired person learning to understand and interact with the world.

Without this intervention deafblind people can be cut off from their environment, starved of information and denied opportunities for learning and independence.

For children in school Intervenors provide the “access” key to the curriculum and opportunity to join in with class activities. For both children and adults they support independence and self-determination.

What is the role of an Intervenor?

An Intervenor’s role is:
- To provide individual support for the deafblind child or adult to enable effective communication and reception of clear information;
- To enable the child or adult to take full advantage of learning and social experiences and to gain greater access to the environment;
- To encourage potential for learning, increase confidence and reduce the prospect of social inclusion.

Training to be an Intervenor?

An Intervenor will need to have the theoretical knowledge and practical skills to carry out their role with deafblind people. All Intervenors will require initial training in the following areas:

- The role of the Intervenor
- Working with families and other professionals
- Causes and implications of deafblindness
- Visual and hearing impairment and its assessment
- Communication
- Use of touch
- Mobility and orientation
- Interactive environments
Accredited training course
There is a training course, accredited by University College, Northampton, and recognised by the Training Development Agency (TDA). Developed in partnership with Sense, it is offered in locations around the country and provides a practical foundation for working with deafblind and multi-sensory-impaired people.

Who can be an Intervenor?
Intervenors come from all walks of life. They may have experience in the caring professions, in the classroom as a learning support assistant or in supported living services.

The job requires patience, resourcefulness, respect for others and a good sense of humour.

What Intervenors have in common is the interest and ability to focus on enabling another individual to achieve their potential.

How you can find out more
The National Organisation of Intervenors (NOI) is a membership organisation run by a steering group. Membership is free to anyone working as an Intervenor with a child or an adult or employed in a 1:1 role. The key activity of NOI is our annual network training day. The day focuses on the professional development needs of Intervenors and provides an opportunity to network with others and share ideas and experiences.

If you would like more information on how to train as an Intervenor or become a member of the NOI please contact the address below:

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