John Smith

12 Abbey Road

MR42 KL3

Director of Children’s Services

Forest Authority

MR 26 RL3

Dear Mr Dougal

My child, Alfie Smith, date of birth 32.12.2026, has care and support needs related to their combined vision and hearing impairment. My child is deafblind. As their parent I am asking for an assessment of their care and support needs as a deafblind child in relation to the Children and Families Act 2014, more specifically the Deafblind Guidance assessment as specified in the Policy Guidance (2014) for care and support for deafblind children and adults.

My child has

Cerebral vision impairment (CVI) and a sensorineural hearing loss

They also have epilepsy and balance difficulties.

Specifically, my child has

A vision difficulty measured at 6/36 meaning they see only very close to them. They are registered as sight impaired.

A 50dB sensorineural hearing loss for which they wear hearing aids.

Medication for epilepsy and a supported walking aid.

Because of these combined sensory impairments my child has the following difficulties with communication, access to information and mobility and orientation.

Communication: my child cannot speak and uses a mixture of signs and gestures.

This has the following impact: my child can’t join an after-school club because they can’t communicate with the others, my child can’t independently buy things in a café

Access to information**:** my child cannot see pictures in books or see the TV properly.

This has the following impact: my child can’t join the dance class because they can’t see and hear the instructor without help. They can’t join in the sensory story at the library without support.

Orientation and mobility**;** my child can walk but can’t walk anywhere outside on their own, because they can’t see where they are going, and they can’t ask for help if they need it.

This has the following impact: my child cannot be independent at all and cannot join in on the playground because they can’t get to it without help.

As such, my child has a combined hearing and vision impairment which meets the criteria required for an assessment of their social care and support needs. I understand that this assessment needs to be carried out by a suitably qualified assessor. The National Sensory Impairment Partnership - NatSIP provide a list of some assessors who may be able to help if you do not currently have access to a suitably qualified assessor. (<https://www.natsip.org.uk/find-advisor>).

This assessment will also contribute to an Education Health and Care plan or needs assessment so should be included in that.

Alfie can’t make their own comments about this assessment because their communication is not yet sufficient. But I can see they get frustrated and upset when they are not able to join in.

Yours faithfully

John Smith