



sense
for deafblind people

Raising Awareness of hearing and sight loss in later life

Nicola Venus-Balgobin



THE FACTS



- 250,000 people aged over 70 with dual sensory loss in the UK.
- By 2030, nearly half a million people in the UK will have sufficient sight and hearing loss to be considered 'deafblind'. Of these, 418,000 will be over the age of 70
- More than 50 per cent of people over 60 will be affected by some type of hearing loss (Age UK)
- Of the two million people with sight loss in the UK, over 80 per cent are over 60 and 45 per cent are over 80 (RNIB)



CONTEXT

*Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer, Surveillance Volume 2012.
Chapter 4 'Sensory Impairment' Adrian Davis*

- In the 55-84 age category, those with a hearing or vision loss are more than twice as likely to have Alzheimer's or another form of dementia
- 69% of those reporting a dual sensory loss have two or more additional long term conditions
- In terms of anxiety and depression, those who are deafblind experience higher levels than those with a single sensory impairment
- "Appropriate support can have a substantial impact on quality of life for those with sensory impairment"



CONTEXT CONTINUED



Older People with dual sensory loss may find it difficult to:

- Get out and about in the community
- Keep up to date with news and current affairs
- Maintain relationships and friendships
- Get around unfamiliar environments
- Take part in group activities.

Despite the many challenges, with the right support at the right time, older people can continue to live independently and enjoy life.



RAISING AWARENESS OF DEAFBLIND OLDER PEOPLE IN ENGLAND



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Department Health funded project; Innovation, Excellence and Strategic Development Fund:

- Inform health and social care commissioners, providers and regulators of the needs of older people with dual sensory loss.
- Increase awareness of the importance of early identification and support in health and social care.
- Better equip families and care professionals to spot the signs of deteriorating hearing.
- Support older people with sight and hearing problems to be able to make the right choices about their care based on information provided by Sense.



PROJECT ACTIVITIES

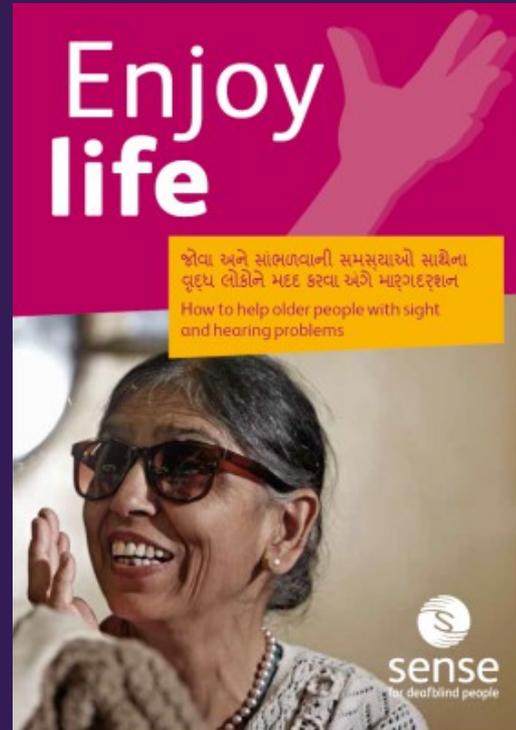
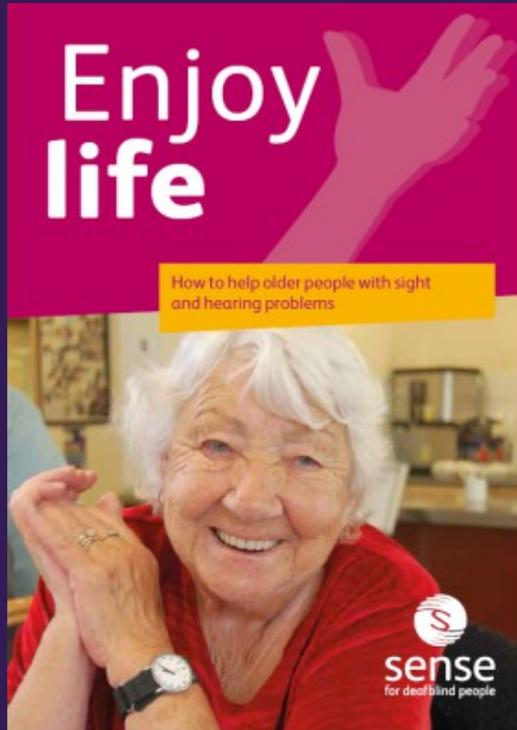


- Awareness Raising
 - » Importance of early identification
 - » Adaptions and top tips
 - » Support, information and services
- Rolling out of training and screening tool.
 - » Social care
 - » Healthcare
 - » Support services
 - » Volunteers
- Community Outreach
 - » Enjoy Life





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TRAINING



SSIMS TRAINING PACKAGE:

- Build the skills and confidence of staff so that they can identify the signs or symptoms of dual sensory loss.
- Help staff to learn good practice supporting older people with sight and hearing difficulties so that they can provide sensitive, appropriate care.
- Provide the chance for staff to talk through situations they have experienced.
- Understanding the legal responsibilities relating to older people with hearing and sight loss.
- When to make a referral for a specialist assessment and/or additional support.



BESPOKE TRAINING PACKAGES



- Half day training for volunteers including experts by experience.
- Short modules for newly qualified community nursing staff.
- Sensory Champion Schemes.
- Joint training with other organisations.



PROJECT SUCCESSES SO FAR.



- 40+ organisations directly reached through meetings and organisations.
- Training delivered to 160 individuals, reaching 88 organisations
- 8000+ reached through wider marketing
- Potential reach of approximately 1760 older people.
- Inclusion and recognition of dual sensory loss in several standards and guidance related to older people.
- Good and lasting relationships built with national and local organisation and services.
- More than just awareness raising, once people are identified a solution is then needed.



TO GET INVOLVED CONTACT:

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