

Categories description

Services/what we do

Community support service: Helping people to remain living independently at home and actively in their local community and providing essential ongoing regular social contact.

Key figures: More than 750 people benefit from the Community support service 180 volunteers giving more than 21 000 hours of their time to make sure the service is there for the people who need it the most.

Support at Bournemouth hospital:

“ Working in the eye unit I am often the first person that people speak to after being registered as blind or partially sighted and it is my role to tell them about all the help and support that is available. It is rewarding when that person comes back 6 months or a year later and they say they are coping well and enjoying life.”

Tiffany Deacon-Eye clinic Support Officer Bournemouth Hospital Eye Unit.

Mobile equipment service:

800 clients visits in 2013.

Working age: /

Social clubs:

The DBA currently supports more than 20 social clubs and activity clubs which meet regularly in locations across Dorset.

More than 450 of our members will attend one or more of the clubs each month.

Clubs provide an invaluable opportunity for blind people to get out of the house and socialise with others.

Complete list of current clubs:

Blandford social club: 3rd Monday

Time: 2.00 p.m to 4.00 pm

Venue: The Williams Opportunity Hall , Whitecliffe Gardens ,Blandford

Bournemouth Social Club:

Day: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays

Time: 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Venue: Church of the Annunciation Hall , Charminster Road, Bournemouth

Bridport Social Club

Day: 1st and 3rd Thursday each month except January, April , and December.

Time: 2.30 pm – 4.30 pm

Venue: Bridport United Church, East Street , Bridport

Christchurch social club :

Day: 4th Thursday (not August)

Time: 2.00 pm-4:30 pm

Venue: Priority Hall , Princess Avenue ,Christchurch. In April only: St.Marks Church Hall Highcliffe.

Dorchester Social Club

Day: 4th Thursdays

Time: 2.30 pm-4.30pm

Venue: Acland Court , Community Room , Dorchester

Ferndown Social Club

Day: Alternate Tuesdays (not August)

Time: 2.30 pm-4.30 pm

Poole Lighthouse Club:

Day: Alternate Tuesdays

Time: 11.00 am- 1.00 pm

Venue: First floor, Lighthouse , Poole

Poole Social Club:

Day: 1st Wednesdays

Time: 2.00 pm-4.00pm

Venue: Longfleet Baptist Church , 138 Wimborne Rd , Poole

Shaftesbury Social Club

Day: 3rd Wednesday

Time: 7.00 pm-9.30 pm

Venue: Trinity centre, Shaftesbury

Sherborne Social Club:

Day: 1st Thursday (not January)

Time: 2.00 pm- 4.00 pm

Venue: Richmond Green Community Room , Richmond Green , Sherborne

Swanage Social Club:

Day: 4th Tuesdays (not August)

Time: 2.30 pm-4.30 pm

Venue: The Parish Room , St Mary's Church ,Swanage

Wareham Social Club:
Day: 2nd Thursday
Time: 2.30 pm-4.30 pm
Venue: Carey Hall , Wareham BH20 4EL

Weymouth Social Club:
Day: 2nd Wednesdays
Time: 2.00 pm -4.00 pm
Venue: Weymouth Community fire station , Radipole Lane Weymouth

Activities and sport:

Tea parties

Accoustic Shooting Club

Travels

Cricket

...

Testimonial:

“ I do so appreciate the DBA clubs and events and activities. Otherwise my life would be very lonely.”

“ I feel elated after the social club from seeing everyone and it stops me feeling sorry for myself.”

Mission/who we are

More precise description of DBA:

We deliver practical help and support across the whole of Dorset. We work in partnership with people who have lost their sight, to empower them , gradually restore or improve confidence , and through that enable independent living.

Our services make a difference!

74% of the people felt they had increased confidence.

62% described having improved feelings of self-worth and self-esteem

70% felt they had improved resilience to cope with the impact of their sight loss.

83% described having increased access to services and advice appropriate to their needs.

71% felt more positive about their life

67% felt less anxious about their sight loss

73% felt they had more things to look forward to

58% felt more independent

80% felt less isolated

86% felt they participated in more activities.

Testimonials:

“I would not have been able to cope over the past few months without the help of my community support worker. I don’t know how I would have managed.”

“DBA improve all of our lives in so many ways. It is our lifeline.”

“Dorset Blind Association takes the worry out of daily living and I do not feel that I’m on my own anymore.”

“ I really have appreciated your responsiveness over time. You have helped me in different ways over the years as my needs have changed.”

“The community support worker is wonderfully supportive and has found me a volunteer helper , who is a life line for me since my husband died . Dorset Blind Association are marvellous...nothing is too much trouble”

“Volunteers do a wonderful caring job”

“The visits are important. My volunteer was away for 9 weeks and I really missed her. The help you give takes the pressure off my daughter, so that helps us to have a better relationship.”

“ I feel elated after the social club from seeing everyone and it stops me feeling sorry for myself. My volunteer Debbie cheers me up with her visits”

Public understanding of visual impairment:

When a person has a sight impairment that cannot be corrected by glasses or contact lenses.

Serious sight loss greatly affects each individual and their family.

Key figures:

-1 564 000 people living with serious sight loss in England, 3% of the entire population.

-300 000 of them are registered as "Blind".

-Almost the equivalent of Bournemouth+Poole population combined.

-In Dorset: More than 30 000 person, or 1 in every people living in the county.

Staff

Employees Testimonials:

Joanne Randall-Office &Services manager

"I enjoy the variety of work-you never know who is going to talk through the door or ring up, being part of a team of people who are willing to do that bit of extra without being asked and the satisfaction you get when you help someone and you know they are happier when they leave the resource centre than when they came in. I enjoy the feeling at the end of the day that what you have done that day is worthwhile and perhaps you have made a difference to someone somewhere."

Dave Palmer-Sight equipment and resources co-ordinator

"Every day is a series of challenges, I thrive on "thinking outside the box", and being able to satisfy nearly all enquiries, no matter how quirky or mundane they may be. When a phone call or a visit ends with the gratitude of a person, then I know I have done a good job and afford myself an inner smile. I also sense from the lively "hubub" at the clubs I run, that people are enjoying themselves and I'm doing something right."

Jaya Da Costa- Community and Business Fundraiser

"My role in Dorset Blind Association is to increase voluntary income from many sources, particularly from the community and the local businesses. It is heart-warming to know that what I do on a day-to-day basis helps fund the fantastic work of our dedicated staff, enabling them to change lives for the better. Explaining the good work of the DBA to our supporters is a real pleasure."

Judy Bannon- Community Support Worker Bournemouth:

“ I enjoy the variety that working for Dorset Blind Association offers and the largely autonomous nature of the role in making decisions and prioritising workload. Meeting people from different backgrounds and age groups keeps the work interesting and offers opportunities for the constant revision and expansion of our remit. However the most important aspect of our work is the rewarding , and sometimes challenging, nature of trying to help visually impaired people to improve their lives. There is huge satisfaction in witnessing an individual’s attitude and outlook becoming more positive as the result of the work we do. “

Volunteers

400 volunteers in one or more of our services helping more than 1000 people.

3500 hours per month are donated by our volunteers every months.

Volunteer testimonial:

“Volunteering for the Dorset Blind Association has made me appreciate my own good health. I have a lot of admiration and respect for the visually impaired and the way that they cope.

I feel the Dorset Blind Association are very innovative and give people who are visually impaired of all ages the opportunity to experience what they would otherwise miss. The Dorset Blind Association gets the visually impaired people out and meeting people and doing and learning new things. I personally have seen the positive change in people when this happens. “

Volunteer

“ I don’t have to do it; I just want to do it-I like doing it and as a caring person it gives me the opportunity to help others in a way I know makes a positive difference to their lives.”

Gill Brown , Volunteer.

Applying for Volunteering:

90% of the surveyed volunteers felt they were making a positive contribution towards DBA achieving its aims.

89% felt they were making a positive contribution to their local community.

91% felt they were helping to improve the well-being of visually impaired people in Dorset.

48% described having improved their range of skills.

79% felt they were using their abilities to do meaningful work

92% felt their volunteering gave them a sense of accomplishment

Volunteering even makes a positive difference to volunteers!