

• **henshaws**

beyond expectations

December 2021



• **glossary of
professionals
who can support
your child**

Educational Psychologist	An educational psychologist will work with children who have difficulties around learning, behaviour and emotion usually in an educational setting. They will assess your child and develop strategies to meet their educational needs.
Mobility Officer	Some Local Authorities will have a mobility officer (sometimes called a habilitation officer) who will provide advice and support on how to encourage your child to move around more independently and develop everyday living skills.
Occupational Therapist	Occupational therapists work with children to develop and improve their everyday activities e.g. dressing and washing. They can offer advice on adaptations and equipment for the home to promote your child's independence.
Ophthalmologist	A medically trained doctor who specialises in eye conditions and their treatment with appropriate medicine and surgery. They are usually based in a hospital.
Optometrist	An optometrist will measure your child's sight and if necessary, prescribe glasses. They can also identify eye conditions.
Orthoptist	An orthoptist will often work alongside an ophthalmologist at the hospital but they can also work in community healthcare and schools. Orthoptists specialise in diagnosing and managing eye conditions.
Paediatrician	A doctor who specialises in child health. They are usually based in a hospital.
Physiotherapist	A physiotherapist uses special equipment and exercises to help children develop physically.

<p>QTVI</p>	<p>A qualified teacher of visually impaired children. Your Local Authority should have at least one QTVI to work with you and your child and will be a key contact.</p>
<p>SENDco</p>	<p>A special educational and disability coordinator. A SENDCo is a member of staff (usually a teacher) in a school who coordinates the special educational needs provision throughout the school. SENDCo's are responsible for allocating educational psychology support, behaviour provision and the assessment of special educational needs and disabilities. Often the SENDCo will coordinate the assessment needed for an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP).</p>
<p>Social Worker</p>	<p>Your local social services department may have a specialist social worker for people with a visual impairment, including children and their families. Social services staff can provide practical help and advice about counselling, transport, home help, and other services. They may be able to help you with equipment at home and suggest lighting or décor to help children to locate door frames, walls and furniture more easily and to move more independently.</p>
<p>Speech and Language Therapist</p>	<p>Speech and language therapists work with children who have speech, language and communication difficulties. They can also advise on strategies to support eating.</p>