

# **CST Habilitation / Mobility Factsheet**

## **What is habilitation?**

The job of a qualified habilitation worker (QHW) is to help to develop children and young people's (CYP's) mobility, navigation and independent living skills. The habilitation specialist will assess the CYP's current independence skills and identify what are the next steps to increase their independence.

The Children's Sensory Team (CST) employ QHW to increase the independence of children and young with vision impairment up to the age of 18. At 18 years old if the young person is in agreement and still requires habilitation training they will be transferred to the Harrow Adults Sensory Team.

## **Why is habilitation training needed?**

CYP with full sight tend to develop their independence skills as they grow up through seeing what other people do. CYP with vision impairment cannot observe others in the same way and they may need specialist teaching to help them to acquire the independence skills they need.

## **How are habilitation needs identified?**

Habilitation training can support people with a range of vision impairment ranging from blindness to mild vision impairment if it impacts on daily life and independence.

A range of people may notice the CYP is having more difficulty than their sighted peers and need support from a QHW. These can be the CYP themselves, family members, a qualified teacher for children with vision impairment (QTVI), school teachers, teaching assistants, SENCO's etc.

QHW work on the model of "assess, plan, do and review" when working on a CYP's independence programme. They liaise with parents, a qualified teacher of children with vision impairment (QTVI), CST's manager, the school Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo), teaching assistants and other professionals.