**Employment**

**People with a sight impairment are perfectly able to secure a job. It is vital that they are aware of the help which is available to them to find out about work opportunities, training required and provision available to enable them to apply for a job as well as schemes and organisations which can support them whilst they are working.**

**Your school should be able to direct you to careers advice such as via Inspira (0345 658 8647) who organise careers events in school. Be sure to be able to tell them about how your sight impairment impacts your life and any strategies and equipment that can help. Describing your needs is an important skill within the workplace.**

**If you are a job seeker you can obtain support from the Disability Employment Officer (DEO) at your local Jobcentreplus. They can enable you to explore jobs which appeal to you, what you have to offer and skills to convince a potential employer to take you on. For instance, the DEO can help with preparing a Curriculum Vitae, interview techniques as well as provide some finance towards interview costs.**

**They will also inform you of the Access to Work Scheme. This is a government scheme which financially workers with disabilities by funding transport & necessary equipment which you may requires for your work role. Funding is available to travel for work or for example magnification or software required. The RNIB have a guide about the scheme here:** [**Access\_to\_Work\_July\_2023.docx**](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fmedia.rnib.org.uk%2Fdocuments%2FAccess_to_Work_July_2023.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)

**Those with sight impairments between 11-29 who are either at school, university or searching for employment could benefit from a mentor who have been through the experience via LOOK.** [**Peer Mentoring Projects for VI Young People – Look UK (look-uk.org)**](https://www.look-uk.org/mentoring/)

**Thomas Pocklington Trust’s Works For Me programme also provides one to one support to apply for work with professional coaching to explore potential work areas, mock interviews and short work preparation courses available free of charge.** [**Works For Me employment programme - Thomas Pocklington Trust (pocklington-trust.org.uk)**](https://www.pocklington-trust.org.uk/employment/works-for-me-employment-programme/)

**Blind in Business provide support for 13-19 year olds with careers and technology advice. They also promote post 16 options with workshops about achieving your aspirations, talking about your sight issues, obtaining work experience as well as job seeking. Contact 02075881885.** [**Blind in Business About Us - Blind in Business**](https://blindinbusiness.org.uk/about-us)

**The Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) also have employment Advisors who offer support in seeking work. Contact them on 0303 123 9999**

**Be aware that when you apply for a job you will be in competition with other people. The potential employer will take on the person who they feel is the best fit for the job. It is vital that you are able to convince them that you are the best person for the job by putting forward your interests, abilities, values and determine what challenges or barriers you may face within the post as well as practical strategies to enable you to do the job. This can be especially challenging for sight impaired job seekers due to employer’s misunderstandings about the abilities of people with sight loss. It is worth putting time into ensuring you are confident in talking about your eye condition and your related needs.**

**Ways of getting experience:**

**Related work experience is also important to offer a potential employer. This can be gained through volunteering, work experience or apprenticeships. This does not have to meet all the requirements of your dream job. All experience of working demonstrates that you are keen to learn about work and the workplace, communication, teamwork as well as other transferable skills.**

**An American organisation called Project Aspiro** [**http://projectaspiro.com/**](http://projectaspiro.com/) **has large amounts of information related to job seeking and is worth looking at.**