

*Additional Needs Service*  
**Hearing and Visual Impairment Support Teams**

## **Protocol for Special Schools**

### **Rationale**

The Hearing and Visual Impairment Teams, as part of the Physical and Sensory Support Service, aim to provide outreach support for the pupils with additional hearing and visual needs in special schools in Herefordshire.

### **Statement**

Herefordshire Hearing and Visual Impairment Teams will aim to provide advice and strategies that will support language and communication skills, educational progress and wellbeing of all pupils with a sensory impairment.

### **Implementation**

The teams may provide the special school staff with advice and support by:

- Providing in service training with information around
  - understanding deafness and visual impairment
  - the impact on the pupil's ability to access teaching and learning
  - management of assistive equipment
  - how to enhance the listening and physical environment.
- Providing a school visit in the Autumn Term to discuss pupils need.
- The school is encouraged to contact the team between visits for additional advice and support.
- Significant changes in an individual's impairment or change of assistive equipment will be relayed to the school in a timely manner.
- A written report, to include the implications of the pupil's sensory impairment and strategies that may support the pupil's need, will be provided. This will not necessarily be updated annually unless there is a significant change e.g. at transition, changes in vision or hearing, equipment updates. Please use the most recent report for annual review purposes.
- We will not necessarily attend annual reviews unless there is a specific reason such as change of setting, change in level of need, or by request.

### **Review**

This protocol will be \*reviewed on a regular basis and suggestions for improvement to the service offered will be welcome.

*\*Provision can be changed according to policy review, discussion with school staff and any changes in a pupil's individual need.*