

A message from Jo Harrington, the new ECLO at Queen Alexandra Hospital

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As an ECLO, I am able to provide both emotional support and practical advice and information to anybody who is affected by sight loss.

I can discuss and demonstrate the specialist technology/ equipment available to help them, refer on to local support services, ( including befriending schemes, support groups and home shopping schemes), advise regarding both benefit entitlement and the advantages of having a CVI, and support patients to sign up to specialist “Living Well with Sight Loss,” courses.

I can also refer patients who are struggling emotionally to free counselling via the RNIB, and support them to sign up and use our free RNIB library service, (which can give them access to over 60,000 braille and audio books).

I can also help patients on a low income to apply for grants to support with the cost of specialist equipment.

We also have an employment team we can refer patients to, if they need specialist information regarding job retention and the reasonable adjustments they are entitled to from their employer.

As the service is open to anybody who is affected by sight loss, please also feel free to refer carer’s, family and friends to me; as I am more than happy to provide them with information regarding carer’s issues/ entitlements and refer them to specialist carer’s support groups.

If you’d like me to make telephone contact with a patient, please send the attached referral form to [Jo.harrington@porthosp.nhs.uk](mailto:Jo.harrington@porthosp.nhs.uk) .

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