Six steps to library services for blind and partially sighted people

There are almost two million blind and partially sighted people in the UK who need library and information services just like everyone else. Public libraries have an obligation to provide accessible services to people with sight loss as members of the local community.

Many libraries are doing an excellent job but standards of provision vary from place to place. Share the Vision, the Society of Chief Librarians and the Scottish Library & Information Council call on all public libraries to take the following six steps.

1. Use Your Reading Choices with blind and partially sighted customers to assess their reading needs and facilitate access to public libraries and other relevant services (http://tinyurl.com/rnib2)
2. Use Reading Sight (www.readingsight.org.uk), the free website for library staff supporting blind and partially sighted people
3. Provide local collections of large print and audio books
4. Have a strategy in place for provision of access technology throughout your library service
5. Designate a champion for the reading needs of blind and partially sighted people
6. Participate in Make a Noise in Libraries Fortnight (www.rnib.org.uk/manil) run annually by the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB)

These actions will not cost a lot of money but will make a significant improvement to your library service for blind and partially sighted people.

Sign up to our six steps challenge today. Visit **www.goscl.com** or **www.slainte.org.uk** for full details of how to achieve the six steps and to pledge your support.

SHARE THE VISION

SCL The Society of Chief Librarians

Scottish Library & Information Council