



North West Visual Impairment Family Day Saturday 14 March 2020

Programme of Talks

10.30am	REGISTRATION/ COFFEE
11.00am	Welcome and Introduction
	Charlotte Mellor: Parents Perspective and Supporting Parents
	Michael Alford: Young Person's Perspective
	Gurvinder Kaur: Special Educational Needs & Education Health Care Plans

LUNCH and chance to visit the stands

Living Paintings
Jill Barlow: Finding your purpose – identifying your career skills
Paul Roberts: Supported Internships

10.30am – 3.00pm **Alex Man, RSBC:** Digital Drop In Sessions

Children's Activities

Morning	Touchdown Dance I Can Do It
Afternoon	Broad Minded Music Sports and Camp Craft

Speakers

Michael Alford

I was born and grew up in South Africa, where I attended mainstream education due to the poor quality of the education offered by specialist schools. I was diagnosed from birth with Optic Nerve Hypoplasia (underdevelopment of the optic nerves), meaning I have limited, but functional vision in my left eye, and no useful vision in my right eye. I moved to the UK aged 16 at the end of 2014, where I completed my education, first at Northampton College, then at New College Worcester. I subsequently gained employment with Bristol City Council as an admin apprentice. I have just completed the qualification and am in the process of seeking the next employment opportunity in which I can continue working towards further professional qualifications.

Gurvinder Kaur

Gurvinder Kaur is a Solicitor specialising in Special Educational Needs Law and is one of the few solicitors in this field with expertise in the differing jurisdictions of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. She has over 13 years experience in this niche area and exclusively represents children, young adults and their families in securing access to state funded provision including specialist placements, equipment and bespoke support packages. Her expertise has been recognised in the Legal 500 and Chambers & Partners Guides. She regularly challenges EHCPs in the SEN Tribunal forum. Her expertise has been recognised in the UK Courts more widely, where she now acts as expert witness on SEN Law, EHCPs and related public law issues. Gurvinder is a Trustee for the VI charity VICTA and is able to offer an insight into the particular issues faced by VI learners.

Alex Man

Alex Man, Assistive Technology Officer at RSBC will be doing a general Assistive Technology session to help any young person and their families. From using iPhones and tablets to computers and low vision aids he will be there to show you how to get the most out of them for school and more. So, if you have got a technology question or an accessibility issue, Alex might be able to help! If you have a device, you are welcome to bring it along.

Charlotte Mellor

Charlotte Mellor has worked with VICTA since 2013, firstly as the founder of www.throughscarlettseyes.com, where she shared her parenting experiences and journey raising her visually impaired daughter Scarlett. Charlotte now works within parents services for the charity managing the VICTA Parent Portal and the VICTA Parent Network. Both services are dedicated to assisting parents and families who are raising visually impaired children. Charlotte will be sharing her experiences as a parent and of working within the sector and examining how as parent's we can support and promote independence in children.