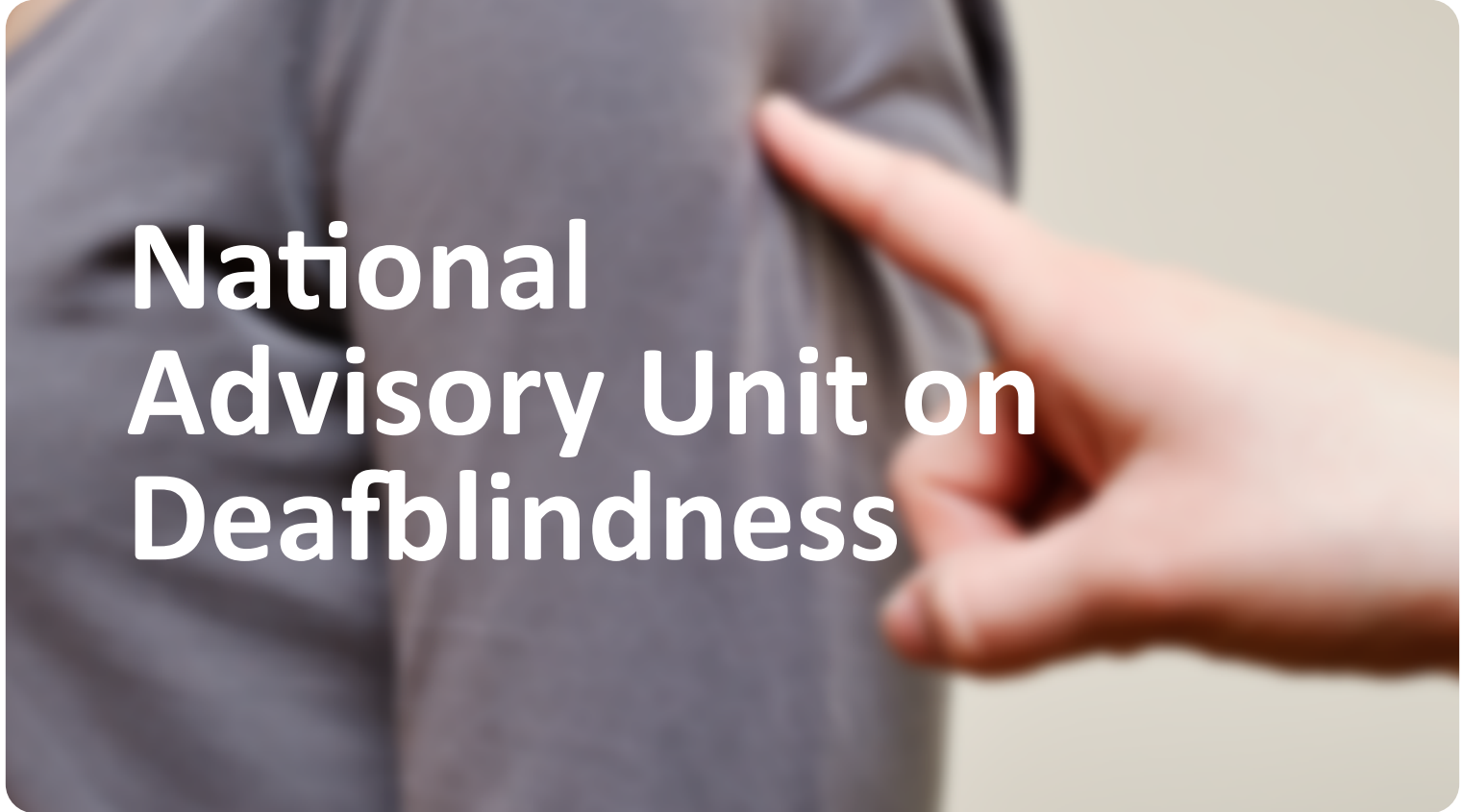




NATIONAL ADVISORY UNIT
on Deafblindness



National Advisory Unit on Deafblindness

About deafblindness

About 500 people with deafblindness are users of National Advisory Unit on Deafblindness.

“Deafblindness is a combined vision and hearing impairment of such severity that it is hard for the impaired senses to compensate for each other. Thus, deafblindness is a distinct disability. To varying degrees, deafblindness limits activities and restricts full participation in society. It affects social life, communication, access to information, orientation and the ability to move around freely and safely. To help compensate for the combined vision and hearing impairment, especially the tactile sense becomes important.”
(The Nordic definition of deafblindness 2016).

The limitations are significant, especially in relation to:

- communication and social interaction
- acquisition of information
- spatial orientation and moving around freely

There are two types of deafblindness:

- Congenital deafblindness: the combined loss of vision and hearing occurs before language development
- Acquired deafblindness: the combined loss of vision and hearing occurs after language development

National Advisory Unit on Deafblindness

The National Advisory Unit on Deafblindness is part of the Norwegian specialist health service.

It consists of four centres with regional tasks, two centres with nationwide tasks and a coordinating unit – all affiliated with Northern Norway Regional Health Authority.

The National Advisory Unit on Deafblindness collaborates with operators in municipalities and county municipalities, and forms part of a comprehensive and multidisciplinary service provision.



Target group

The target group for the National Advisory Unit on Deafblindness is people with deafblindness, their relatives, local service providers and relevant specialist environments throughout Norway. The target group also includes people with combined vision and hearing loss currently being assessed for deafblindness. In cases of severe combined vision and hearing loss/deafblindness due to age-related conditions, the National Advisory Unit assists the municipalities by offering information and training courses.

The National Advisory Unit's tasks include:

- contributing to equal access to services for people with deafblindness
- providing services that cannot be covered by the general service system
- contributing to users' ideal functioning and coping in everyday life
- providing services to the rest of the service system with the aim of improving services for people with deafblindness and their relatives

This may consist of:

- functional and medical assessments
- advice and counselling
- training courses and information
- research and development work
- facilitating contact between people with deafblindness





Regional centres

The regional centres have a particular responsibility for the follow-up of people with deafblindness in their region, in cooperation with the respective municipalities. The regional centres welcome direct enquiries from users, their relatives and relevant professionals. They also perform assessments, provide counselling and training, spread knowledge about deafblindness, give advice about relevant services and inform about the legal rights of people with deafblindness.

Advisory Centre for the Deafblind

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PO Box 88, NO-9038 Tromsø
Phone: +47 476 85 163
E-mail: RegionsenteretDB@unn.no
Website: www.unn.no
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Region: Nordland, Troms, Finnmark
and Svalbard

Statped – Department Combined Sensory Loss and Deafblindness, Bergen

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Statped postmottak, PO Box 113,
NO-3081 Holmestrand
Phone: +47 02196
E-mail: post@statped.no
Website: www.statped.no
-
Region: Møre og Romsdal, Vestland
and Rogaland

Regional Centre for the Deafblind, Signo Deafblind Centre

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Molandvejen 44, NO-3158 Andebu
Phone: +47 909 96 038 / +47 940 57 062
E-mail: ssk@signo.no
Website: www.signo.no
-
Region: Agder, Telemark, Vestfold,
Buskerud and Østfold

Statped – Department Combined Sensory Loss and Deafblindness, Oslo

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Statped postmottak, PO Box 113,
NO-3081 Holmestrand
Phone: +47 02196
E-mail: post@statped.no
Website: www.statped.no
-
Region: Trøndelag, Innlandet, Oslo
and Akershus



Centres with nationwide services

The Eikholt National Resource Centre for the Deafblind offers assessment of combined vision and hearing, rehabilitation and training. The focus is on opportunities through knowledge about one's own sensory loss. They provide training in various forms of communication and the use of various aids. The centres also offers courses and training for families and networks.

Eikholt National Resource Centre for the Deafblind

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Helen Kellers vei 3, NO-3031 Drammen

Phone: 32 88 90 50

E-mail: post@eikholt.no

Website: www.eikholt.no

Statped – National Professional Unit for Dual Visual and Hearing Impairment and Deafblindness, Department of Visual Impairment

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Statped postmottak, PO Box 113, NO-3081 Holmestrand

Phone: +47 02196

E-mail: post@statped.no

Website: www.statped.no

Coordinating Unit

The task of the Coordinating Unit is to coordinate the activities of the National Advisory Unit of Deafblindness. The unit contributes to enhanced cooperation with the user organisations, public relations efforts and increased research and development. The Coordinating Unit also contributes to network building and gives advice.

National Advisory Unit on Deafblindness, Coordinating Unit

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University Hospital of North Norway

PO Box 88, NO-9038 Tromsø

Phone: +47 77 75 58 30

E-mail: dovblindhet@unn.no

The National Advisory Unit on Deafblindness has a shared website:

www.dovblindhet.no

Reference group

The National Advisory Unit on Deafblindness has a reference group that serves as a forum for influencing and counselling at the system level. The group consists of representatives from the user organisations, regional health trusts, the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration (NAV) and the National Advisory Unit on Deafblindness. The Coordinating Unit performs the secretarial duties.

User organisations

The Norwegian Association of the Deafblind – including the section for parents and siblings

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PO Box 5922, Majorstua,

NO-0308 Oslo

Phone: +47 22 93 33 50

Phone: +47 22 93 33 55 (section for parents and siblings)

E-mail: fndb@fndb.no

Website: www.fndb.no

www.fndbf.no

The Norwegian Association for Combined Visual and Hearing Impairment/Deafblind

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Skippergata 33, NO-0154 Oslo

Phone: +47 22 41 34 24

E-mail: kontor@lshdb.no

Website: www.lshdb.no

For more information

www.dovblindhet.no

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