

Benefits of registration – vision impaired

Below is a summary of the main benefits of registration for Severely Sight Impaired (SSI – Blind) and Sight Impaired (SI – Partially Sighted).

1. Free NHS Sight Test – if you are registered SSI or SI. To find out more visit <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/opticians/free-nhs-eye-tests-and-optical-vouchers/>

2. Blue Badge Scheme - Blue Badges allow parking concessions and are available automatically to people registered SSI. People registered SI with additional disabilities may also qualify. To obtain an application form contact the Blue Badge Scheme direct on 03456 789014. Alternatively you may apply online by visiting <https://shropshire.gov.uk/parking/blue-badge-parking-scheme/#>

3. Travel Concessions – you may be entitled if you are registered SSI or SI. To find out more, contact 0345 6789 088 or visit <http://shropshire.gov.uk/concessionary-travel-scheme/>

4. Disabled Person's Rail Card - entitles you to 1/3 off most rail fares throughout the UK. If you are travelling with an adult companion, they are also eligible for the same discount. The card is available to people registered SSI or SI. To apply contact 03456 050 525 or visit www.disabledpersons-railcard.co.uk

5. Welfare Benefits – If you are registered SSI or SI, you may be entitled to certain financial benefits. To find out more, contact 0345 6789 002 or visit <https://shropshire.gov.uk/benefits/>

6. Blind Person's Allowance – an extra amount of tax-free allowance for people registered SSI. To find out more visit <https://www.gov.uk/blind-persons-allowance>

7. VAT Exemption – If you are registered SSI or SI, you may be eligible to purchase products and services without paying VAT on them, if they are related to your sight loss. To get an eligibility declaration form or for more guidance, call HMRC on 0300 200 3700 or visit

<https://www.gov.uk/financial-help-disabled/vat-relief>

8. Free postage on items marked ‘Articles for the Blind’ – a scheme for Royal Mail customers who are registered SSI. To find out more visit

<https://www.royalmail.com/sending/articles-blind>

9. BT 195 Service - Exemption from Directory Enquiry Charges. To apply phone 0800 587 0195.

10. British Wireless for the Blind Fund – offer free permanent loan of specialist radios to people registered SSI or SI, who are also in receipt of means tested benefits. To find out more, contact 01622 754 757 or visit www.blind.org.uk

11. Reading Services

Libraries provide access to a wide range of large print books, audio books and e-books for people with visual impairment. To find out more visit

<https://shropshire.gov.uk/libraries/>

The RNIB also offer a free Talking Books Service. To find out more phone 0303 123 9999 or e-mail

helpline@rnib.org.uk

**Talking Newspapers are also available. Please visit the websites below to find out more: <http://www.wstn.org.uk/>
<https://eastshropshiretn.co.uk/> <https://oswestrytn.org.uk/>**

12. Reduced Television Licence – If you are registered SSI you may be eligible to apply for a 50% concession. To find out more, contact 0300 790 6071 or visit

<https://www.tvlicensing.co.uk/reducedfee>

13. Theatre Severn (Shrewsbury) - If you are registered as SSI or SI you may be entitled to receive 50% discount off full price tickets. Access performances are available on selected productions. To find out more, contact 01743 281 281 or visit <http://www.theatresevern.co.uk/your-visit/bookinginfo/>

14. CEA Card (Cinemas) – If you are registered SSI or SI, you may be entitled to a CEA card, which enables a disabled cinema guest to receive a complimentary ticket for someone to accompany them. To find out more, contact 01244 526 016 or visit <https://www.ceacard.co.uk/>

15. Statistics - Registering helps with planning, financial predictions, and development of both national and Local Authority services.

This document is produced by Shropshire Council's Sensory Support Services.

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