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**Vision Rehabilitation Worker – Assessment of Professional Risk**

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| **Domain 1 Specialist Visual Impairment Assessment** | | | | | | |
| HEADLINE RISK | DESCRIPTION | INHERENT  RISK FACTOR | IDENTIFY EXISTING CONTROLS &  EFFECTIVENESS OF MITIGATION | IS RISK DECREASING,  INCREASING OR STATIC? | RESIDUAL RISK FACTOR | RISK OWNER |
| Inadequate specialist vision rehabilitation assessment | Unidentified or poorly quantified level of need will have significant effect on overall assessment outcomes and may not identify or accurately grade potential risk factors. Such risks might include, for example: failure to identify co-morbidities such as dementia, hearing loss or learning disability and their impact on function and risk; failure to identify the risk of depression and low mood resulting from sightloss; failure to identify key disability-benefits to service user; failure to identify risk of abuse or neglect exacerbated, or masked by sight loss | 12  Likelihood 4  Impact 3 | Existing controls:  Underpinning knowledge required to qualify, based on National Occupational Standards;  adherence to Code of Ethics and Professional Practice; timely professional supervision from appropriate professional; regular update of knowledge through mandatory CPD;  reflective accounts through practice; observation/peer review.  Effectiveness of mitigation:  Reduced risk of: poor decision making; poor identification of need; inappropriate training outcomes; harm to service user. Increased ability to: understand complex case situations where co-morbitities or safeguarding factors are present; work with service users to identify outcomes; transfer learning to a wider range of case situations; manage caseload and document risks and safeguards accurately. | Decreasing | 6  L 2  I 3 | Employer/  VRW |
| Non- or inappropriate rehabilitation/intervention plan in place. | Poor assessment outcomes may result in inappropriate, inadequate or dangerous rehabilitation intervention. The intervention may be poorly planned, executed, evaluated and documented in a manner that increases risk of harm to service user and professional. | 16  Likelihood 4  Impact 4 | Existing controls:  Underpinning knowledge required to qualify, based on National Occupational Standards;  adherence to Code of Ethics and Professional Practice; timely professional supervision from appropriate professional; regular update of knowledge through mandatory CPD;  reflective accounts through practice; observation/peer review  Effectiveness of mitigation:  Increased ability to: evaluate complex case situations through discussion with supervisors, peers and service users; plan and execute safe rehabilitation intervention; transfer learning to a wider range of case situations; support services users to critically reflect on their own capacity to develop further independence skills. | Decreasing | 8  L 2  I 3 | Employer/  VRW |

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| **Domain 2 Low Vision Therapy** | | | | | | |
| HEADLINE RISK | DESCRIPTION | INHERENT RISK FACTOR | IDENTIFY EXISTING CONTROLS &  EFFECTIVENESS OF MITIGATION | IS RISK DECREASING,  INCREASING OR STATIC? | RESIDUAL RISK FACTOR | RISK OWNER |
| Providing inaccurate information about eye Conditions and eye health | Providing inaccurate or misleading information to service users regarding diagnosis, eye health issues and care pathways, and in a manner that may cause distress and/or cause them to seek inappropriate treatment or advice; failing to identify symptoms that may cause further loss of vision; failing to refer service users to primary care services (such as Optometry or Ophthalmology) when needed | 12  Likelihood 3  Impact 4 | Existing controls:  Underpinning knowledge of low vision required to qualify, based on National Occupational Standards;  adherence to Code of Ethics and Professional Practice; timely professional supervision from appropriate professional; regular update of knowledge through mandatory CPD;  reflective accounts through practice observation/peer review; multi-disciplinary forums with eye health professionals to increase knowledge and expertise.  Effectiveness of mitigation:  Reduced risk of: giving inappropriate/misleading advice; poor collaborative working  Increased ability to: understand developments in care pathways, diagnosis and treatment; make appropriate onwards referrals for medical or emotional support; build partnerships with statutory and voluntary sector eye health and sightloss professionals and organisations. | Decreasing | 8  L 2  I 4 | Employer/VRW |
| Poor functional low vision assessment including inappropriate understanding of role of environmental factors | Failure to accurately assess the way in which various facets of vision loss (such as acuity, contrast sensitivity, field loss, nystagmus, neglect) affect function in a way that increases risk of harm, affects independence in activities of daily living or outdoor mobility or misses the opportunity to reduce emotional distress.  Failure to accurately assess the way in which environmental factors (such as light, glare, light adaptation) affect function in a way that that increases risk of harm or affects independence in activities of daily living or outdoor mobility or misses the opportunity to reduce emotional distress.  Failure to make appropriate referrals to eye health providers (such as Optometry, Orthoptics, Ophthalmology) resulting in further loss of sight. | 16  Likelihood 4  Impact 4 | Existing controls:  Underpinning knowledge of low vision required to qualify, based on National Occupational Standards;  adherence to Code of Ethics and Professional Practice; timely professional supervision from appropriate professional; regular update of knowledge through mandatory CPD;  reflective accounts through practice observation/peer review.  Effectiveness of mitigation:  Reduced risk of: poor low vision assessments; poor outcomes for service users.  Increased ability to: maximise service user’s independence through better understanding of low vision strategies and the role of lighting, contrast and magnification; understand the benefit of stronger links with optical professionals; understand the role of other professionals in environmental and lighting design. | Decreasing | 8  L 2  I 4 | Employer/VRW |
| Failure to maximise best use of service user’s residual vision through poor teaching of low vision therapy | Through negligent or poor teaching, risk of: failure to teach strategies that make best use of residual vision (such as eccentric viewing, steady eye strategy, scanning, tracing, tracking) and/or failure to adequately identify and teach optical or electronic low vision strategies that optimise residual vision. As a result of these omissions there increased risk of: missed or cancelled NHS appointments and removal from waiting list; missed DWP assessments leading to benefit sanctions; unpaid or overdue bills; misreading of food and medication labelling.  Risk of failure to make appropriate referrals to optical low vision dispensers resulting in missed opportunities to develop independence. | 12  Likelihood 3  Impact 4 | Existing controls:  Underpinning knowledge of low vision required to qualify, based on National Occupational Standards; adherence to Code of Ethics and Professional Practice; timely professional supervision from appropriate professional; regular update of knowledge through mandatory CPD; reflective accounts through practice observation/peer review  Effectiveness of mitigation:  Reduced risk of: poor outcomes for service users;  Increased: understanding of the role of lighting, contrast and magnification; confidence in teaching low vision strategies and aids; knowledge of the range of optical and electrical magnifiers; knowledge of the range of national and local low vision providers | Decreasing | 8  L 2  I 4 | Employer/VRW |

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| **Domain 3: Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Vision Rehabilitation Workers assess for, and teach, a wide range of strategies to equip blind and partially sighted people to move around the build environment. The build environment contains a number of variable environmental factors.** | | | | | | |
| HEADLINE RISK | DESCRIPTION | INHERENT RISK FACTOR | IDENTIFY EXISTING CONTROLS &  EFFECTIVENESS OF MITIGATION | IS RISK DECREASING,  INCREASING OR STATIC? | RESIDUAL RISK FACTOR | RISK OWNER |
| Death or serious injury caused by inadequate assessment for physical, sensory, cognitive and emotional fitness to undertake Orientation and Mobility training | Through poor/negligent assessment risk failure to identify risk factors and teach strategies for factors such as: effect of sensory function (varying levels of vision/combined with varying levels of hearing); effect of physical conditions (such as heart disease; COPD, stroke, Parkinson’s Disease); effect of cognitive impairment (such as dementia, brain injury, learning disability, autism); effect of mental health difficulties; effect of substance abuse; failure to document risks and advice given; failure to receive appropriate professional supervision | 15  Likelihood 3  Impact 5 | Existing controls:  Underpinning knowledge of O&M through qualification to carry out mobility programs/route planning to avoid disorientation; adherence to Code of Ethics and Professional Practice and National Occupational Standards; regular CPD and timely professional supervision; regular update of knowledge appropriate to O&M; reflective accounts through practice observation/peer review.  Effectiveness of mitigation:  Reduced risk of: accident or injury to service user or self.  Increased confidence in: identifying risk factors that will affect cognitive, sensory and physical abilities when mobilising; identifying learning styles of service uers; seeking technical supervision and peer support; identifying safe outcomes for service users; documenting actions and incidents and documenting advice given. | Decreasing | 10  L 2  I 5 | Employer/ VRW |
| Death or serious injury caused by inadequate assessment for, (and teaching the use of) mobility aids | Through poor/negligent teaching of techniques specific to cane use: risk of walking into traffic, off rail platform, into river/canal; not detecting obstacle steps or other hazards with increased risk of falls or trips. Risk of accident, injury or death by failure to teach correct use of orientation, mobility and low vision aids in a safe and appropriate manner; failure to document risks and advice given; failure to receive appropriate professional supervision | 20  Likelihood 4  Impact 5 | Existing controls:  Underpinning knowledge of O&M through qualification to teach mobility skills (including all types of cane), orientation and mental mapping skills; adherence to Code of Ethics and Professional Practice and National Occupational Standards; regular CPD and timely professional supervision; regular update of knowledge appropriate to O&M; reflective accounts through practice observation/peer review.  Effectiveness of mitigation:  Reduced risk of: accident or injury to service user or self.  Increased confidence in: identifying factors that affect service user’s ability to use a mobility aid safely and independently; identify the benefits and drawbacks of a range of O&M aids (including technological solutions); seeking technical supervision and peer support; documenting actions and incidents and documenting advice given. | Decreasing | 10  L 2  I 5 | Employer/VRW |
| Death or serious injury, through poor teaching, when crossing a road | Through poor/negligent assessment, risk of: teaching unsafe place for service user to cross road; failure to assess service user’s ability to make road crossing decisions, factoring in co-morbidities such as level of vision, level of hearing, cognitive impairment or physical fitness; failure to assess the effect of variable factors such as effect of weather or lighting conditions; failure to explain the benefits and risks to service user of chosen crossing point; failure to document risks and advice given; failure to receive appropriate professional supervision; | 20  Likelihood 4  Impact 5 | Existing controls:  Underpinning knowledge of O&M through qualification to teach road crossing skills; adherence to Code of Ethics and Professional Practice and National Occupational Standards; regular CPD and timely professional supervision; regular update of knowledge appropriate to O&M; reflective accounts through practice observation/peer review.  Effectiveness of mitigation:  Reduced risk of: accident or injury to service user or self.  Increased confidence in: identifying factors that affect service user’s ability to use a mobility aid safely and independently; identify the benefits and drawbacks of a range of O&M aids (including technological solutions); seeking technical supervision and peer support; documenting actions and incidents and documenting advice given. | Decreasing | 15  L 3  I 5 | Employer/VRW |
| Death or serious injury, through poor teaching, due to heavy contact with obstacle or fall down hole or steps when navigating the build environment | Through poor/negligent teaching of Orientation and Mobility skills, risk of: collision with street furniture, parked cars; trips and falls over objects in the build environment; tripping up steps; falling down steps or escalators; falling down unfenced holes; risk of collision with pedestrians (particularly in crowded spaces with potential for conflict); failure to document risks and advice given; failure to receive appropriate professional supervision | 20  Likelihood 4  Impact 5 | Existing controls:  Underpinning knowledge of O&M through qualification to carry out mobility training, use of mobility aids and orientation skills; adherence to Code of Ethics and Professional Practice and National Occupational Standards; regular CPD and timely professional supervision; regular update of knowledge appropriate to O&M; reflective accounts through practice observation/peer review.  Effectiveness of mitigation:  Reduced risk of: accident or injury to service user or self.  Increased confidence in: identifying factors that affect service user’s ability to navigate the build environment, (including ascending and descending steps and escalators), use a mobility aid safely and independently; seeking technical supervision and peer support; documenting actions and incidents and documenting advice given. | Decreasing | 10  L 2  I 5 | Employer/VRW |
| Death or serious injury to service user through poor identification of risk and poor teaching in use of public transport | Through poor/negligent teaching, risk of: fall from bus on to road or from train into gap between train and pavement; stepping into road or off platform while waiting for bus or train; disorientation and confusion due to missing stop or descending in wrong place; disorientation/confusion by not being able to see to read travel advice/warnings; attack or theft due to perceived vulnerability in some public transport situations; failure to document risks and advice given; failure to receive appropriate professional supervision | 20  Likelihood 4  Impact 5 | Existing controls:  Underpinning knowledge of O&M through qualification to carry out mobility training, use of mobility aids and orientation skills; adherence to Code of Ethics and Professional Practice and National Occupational Standards; regular CPD and timely professional supervision; regular update of knowledge appropriate to O&M; reflective accounts through practice observation/peer review.  Effectiveness of mitigation:  Reduced risk of: accident or injury to service user, particularly from falls; reduced risk of disorientation for service user  Increased confidence in: identifying factors that affect service user’s ability to use public transport safely and independently; seeking technical supervision and peer support; documenting actions and incidents and documenting advice given. | Decreasing | 10  L 2  I 5 | Employer/VRW |
| Injury, theft or harm through poor identification and mitigation of risk relating to personal security when mobilizing outdoors | Risk of: failure to advise of, and teach strategies for, personal security, which, due to perceived vulnerability, may result in theft, abuse or harm. This includes teaching of money management strategies (such as using a cash machine or paying with cash or debit card); failure to document risks and advice given; failure to receive appropriate professional supervision | 16  Likelihood 4  Impact 4 | Existing controls:  Underpinning knowledge through qualification to identify personal safety risks when out and about; adherence to Code of Ethics and Professional Practice and National Occupational Standards; regular CPD and timely professional supervision; regular update of knowledge appropriate to O&M; reflective accounts through practice observation/peer review.  Effectiveness of mitigation:  Reduced risk of: accident or injury to service user, particularly from falls; reduced risk of disorientation for service user  Increased confidence in: identifying factors that may affect service user’s vulnerability, including use/non-use of canes; teaching strategies and equipment to minimise perceived vulnerability; seeking technical supervision and peer support; documenting actions and incidents and documenting advice given. | Decreasing | 8  L 2  I 4 | Employer/VRW |

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| **Domain 4: Activities of Daily living (ADL). Vision Rehabilitation Workers assess and teach strategies to address ADL outcomes. Blindness and low vision create a number of hazards, both from task itself and the failure to identify and address problems arising from an accident with the task.** | | | | | | |
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| Skin burns/Scalds when making hot drinks or cooking with water or hot fat | Through negligent or poor assessment and teaching, risk of: skin burns/scalding when pouring hot water to make drinks; knocking over pans of boiling water or hot fat from hob or worktops, trips/slips when transferring hot drinks or cooking fluids, slips from wet floors; failure to document risks and advice given; failure to receive appropriate professional supervision | 15  Likelihood 3  Impact 5 | Existing controls:  Underpinning knowledge of ADL assessment and teaching strategies required to qualify, based on National Occupational Standards; adherence to Code of Ethics and Professional Practice; timely professional supervision from appropriate professional; regular update of knowledge through mandatory CPD; reflective accounts through practice observation/peer review.  Effectiveness of mitigation:  Reduced risk of: accident or injury to service user  Increased confidence in: assessing impact of cognitive, environmental, lighting and low vision factors in achieving desired outcomes; teaching safe strategies and equipment to achieve outcomes; seeking technical supervision and peer support; documenting actions and incidents and documenting advice given. | Decreasing | 10  L 2  I 5 | Employer/VRW |
| Cuts when using knives, peelers and scissors | Through negligent or poor assessment and teaching, risk of: serious injury through cuts when chopping or peeling vegetables, opening tins, piercing or cutting packaging; failure to document risks and advice given; failure to receive appropriate professional supervision | 16  Likelihood 4  Impact 4 | Existing controls:  Underpinning knowledge of ADL assessment and teaching strategies required to qualify, based on National Occupational Standards; adherence to Code of Ethics and Professional Practice; timely professional supervision from appropriate professional; regular update of knowledge through mandatory CPD; reflective accounts through practice observation/peer review.  Effectiveness of mitigation:  Reduced risk of: accident or injury to service user  Increased confidence in: assessing impact of cognitive, environmental, lighting and low vision factors in achieving desired outcomes; teaching safe strategies and equipment to achieve outcomes; seeking technical supervision and peer support; documenting actions and incidents and documenting advice given. | Decreasing | 12  L 3  I 4 | Employer/VRW |
| Burns when using hobs, ovens, microwaves, or when ironing; food poisoning through eating uncooked food | Through negligent or poor assessment and teaching risk of: burns from touching gas or electric hob, oven shelves/door, hot pans; burns from fire resulting in cooking accident; food poisoning from poorly cooked food; burns from ironing; failure to document risks and advice given; failure to receive appropriate professional supervision | 16  Likelihood 4  Impact 4 | Existing controls:  Underpinning knowledge of ADL assessment and teaching strategies required to qualify, based on National Occupational Standards; adherence to Code of Ethics and Professional Practice; timely professional supervision from appropriate professional; regular update of knowledge through mandatory CPD; reflective accounts through practice observation/peer review.  Effectiveness of mitigation:  Reduced risk of: accident or injury to service user  Increased confidence in: assessing impact of cognitive, environmental, lighting and low vision factors in achieving desired outcomes; teaching safe strategies and equipment to achieve outcomes; referring for appropriate fire safety checks; seeking technical supervision and peer support; documenting actions and incidents and documenting advice given. | Decreasing | 12  L 3  I 4 | Employer/VRW |
| Serious illness/death through consumption of out-of-date food or accidental consumption of hazardous substance. Risk applies to self and those cared for. | Through negligent or poor assessment and teaching, risk of: inability to identify visual signs of food/drink decay or read consume-by and cooking instructions; identify hazardous or inappropriate items that have been wrongly stored and mistaken for food or drink; failure to document risks and advice given; failure to receive appropriate professional supervision | 20  Likelihood 4  Impact 5 | Existing controls:  Underpinning knowledge of ADL assessment and teaching strategies required to qualify, based on National Occupational Standards; adherence to Code of Ethics and Professional Practice; timely professional supervision from appropriate professional; regular update of knowledge through mandatory CPD; reflective accounts through practice observation/peer review.  Effectiveness of mitigation:  Reduced risk of: inadvertent poisoning  Increased confidence in: assessing impact of cognitive, environmental, lighting and low vision factors in achieving safe outcomes; teaching appropriate low vision, tactile or IT reading and labelling solutions; seeking technical supervision and peer support; documenting actions and incidents and documenting advice given. | decreasing | 10  L 2  I 5 | Employer/VRW |
| Sickness, worsening of health condition or death from poor management of medication including overdose. Risk applies to self and those cared for | Through negligent or poor assessment or teaching, risk of: taking wrong medication; wrong dosage of medication; administering wrong medication or dosage to others; accidental consumption of medication by children/pets if medication dropped; poor liaison with primary health providers to seek guidance; failure to document risks and advice given; failure to receive appropriate professional supervision | 20  Likelihood 4  Impact 5 | Existing controls:  Underpinning knowledge of ADL assessment and teaching strategies required to qualify, based on National Occupational Standards; adherence to Code of Ethics and Professional Practice; timely professional supervision from appropriate professional; regular update of knowledge through mandatory CPD; reflective accounts through practice observation/peer review.  Effectiveness of mitigation:  Reduced risk of: inadvertent mismanagement of medication.  Increased confidence in: assessing impact of cognitive, environmental, lighting and low vision factors in achieving safe outcomes; teaching appropriate low vision, tactile or IT reading and dispensing solutions; confidence in liaising with primary health providers to safe outcome; seeking technical supervision and peer support; documenting actions and incidents and documenting advice given. | decreasing | 15  L 3  I 5 | Employer/VRW |
| **Domain 5: Communication. Blind and partially sighted people, and especially people with additional disabilities such as hearing loss, processing disorders or memory problems, may face communication difficulties that are often overlooked. Difficulties may exist with both receptive and expressive communication.** | | | | | | |
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| Inability to receive or give essential information, particularly in emergency situations. | Failure to identify service user’s inability to phone/text/internet for assistance in an emergency (such as in case of house fire, break-in, sudden illness/accident to self or person cared-for, when lost or disorientated when out and about); failure to advise on or teach alternatives where they are available and practical; failure to teach or make onward referral for alternative communication techniques (such as computer, smartphone, emergency call alarm); to maintain or enable employment after sightloss; failure to identify and mitigate risk of social isolation caused by inability to communicate potentially leading to poor mental and physical health; failure to identify and teach alternative solutions to manage personal finances leading to financial abuse (from, for example, family members or carers); failure to document risks and advice given; failure to receive appropriate professional supervision | 20  Likelihood 4  Impact 5 | Existing controls:  Underpinning knowledge of assessing and teaching communication strategies required to qualify, based on National Occupational Standards; adherence to Code of Ethics and Professional Practice; timely professional supervision from appropriate professional; regular update of knowledge through mandatory CPD (IT innovations develop at a swifter pace than other areas of practice); reflective accounts through practice observation/peer review.  Effectiveness of mitigation:  Reduced risk of: accident, injury, isolation and poor mental and physical health of service user; failing to keep up with technological innovation.  Increased confidence in: recognising and teaching new IT solutions; identifying hazards caused by poor communication; teaching compensatory strategies; referring to appropriate agencies | decreasing | 15  L 3  I 5 | Employer/VRW |

