

## INFORMATION SHEET

### Disability Support and Advice Information Sheet for Writers

This information sheet provides a brief guide on technology, support agencies and benefits for writers with disabilities resident in the UK.

**The Society of Authors of GB.** Members can join their peer group Authors-Disabilities-Illness Network. -

<https://www.societyofauthors.org/Groups/Authors-Disabilities-Illnesses-Network>

#### 1. Software & Technology

Many operation systems such as Microsoft and Appel have accessibility features which can help make reading, imputing, and hearing your work easier. You can find out more here: [.Windows Accessibility Info.](#) and

<https://support.apple.com>

Here are some specific features in **MS WORD** features I have found useful:

- Text-to-Speech for reading your work aloud or dictation. (In Icon Commands)
- Colour background (in Design drop-box),
- Screen increase/decrease option, (can also do this within your browser)

#### Editing tools/Apps

- GSP – Free – Grammarly, Hemmingway (this has a free and paid versions)
- Not-free – Pro Write Aid – you can get a lifetime licence or pay annual fee.)
- Dragon Speak – will type as you dictate and perform functions such as opening/closing documents for you.

Both Apple and Google have various apps that can be helpful tools for writers.

All these programmes and apps can be found by using a search engine.

## 2. Schemes & Benefits

Access to Work – UK govt scheme. Provides grants for equipment, travel, and support worker to help you carry out work you are contracted to you.

<https://www.gov.uk/access-to-work>

Personal Independence Payment – <https://www.gov.uk/pip/eligibility>

This can be a difficult form to complete so getting professional advice from a relevant disability agency is recommended.

Blind Person Tax – HMRC - <https://www.gov.uk/blind-persons-allowance>

For all the above I recommend you seek advice from an advice or support agency first. The applications can be complex. Most agencies like RNIB have specialists who can help you through the whole process.

## 3. General advocacy and resource groups

- Livability – [www.livability.org.uk](http://www.livability.org.uk)
- Equality and Human Rights Commission – [www.equalityhumanrights.com](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com)
- Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR) – [www.radar.org.uk](http://www.radar.org.uk)
- Scope - National organisation for people with mobility as well as sensory or neurological conditions. <https://www.scope.org.uk/>
- Disabled Living Foundation – [www.dlf.org.uk](http://www.dlf.org.uk)

### Sight loss

- Torch Trust for the blind – [www.torchtrust.org](http://www.torchtrust.org)
- Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) Provides service and information as well assisting with applying for benefits. – <https://www.rnib.org.uk/>

### Dyslexia

- The British Dyslexia Association – Support for those with dyslexia and useful information to help make all aspects of an organisation

more accessible. Including a useful downloadable resource guide to producing dyslexia friendly publications  
– <https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk>

## **Hearing Loss & Deafness**

The Royal National Institute for the Deaf – Like the RINB they provide support and advice to those living with hearing loss and deafness.

<https://rnid.org.uk/>

## **Learning disabilities**

- Mencap – the voice of learning disability  
– <http://www.mencap.org.uk>
- Count Everyone In – support, training, and encouragement for churches to include adults with learning disabilities  
– [www.counteveryonein.org.uk](http://www.counteveryonein.org.uk)
- The Additional Needs Alliance – helping churches to include, support, create places of belonging for, and spiritually grow children, young people and young adults with additional needs or disabilities. Support, training and information for families and churches to make inclusion a reality. <https://additionalneedsalliance.org.uk>

## **Neuro divergent**

- The National Autistic Society – includes guidance for places of worship – [www.autism.org.uk](http://www.autism.org.uk)

## **Dementia**

- Memory Bridge – resources to encourage and equip the creation of meaningful relationships with people with dementia. [www.memorybridge.org](http://www.memorybridge.org)
- The Alzheimer's Society – united against dementia. [www.alzheimers.org.uk](http://www.alzheimers.org.uk)

## **Mental health**

- The Mental Health Foundation – [www.mentalhealth.org.uk](http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk)
- Rethink Mental Illness – advice, support and information for those affected by mental illness. [www.rethink.org](http://www.rethink.org)