

NEWS RELEASE

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Conference for Visually Impaired to Hit Target

The University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) has joined forces with the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, Action for Blind People and Galloway's Society for the Blind in organising a special conference to help the visually impaired to enter the world of work and higher education.

'On Line to a Life' takes place at the Harris Conference Centre on Wednesday, 4th February from midday. The event will include a series of presentations and demonstrations aimed at providing information on the variety of support available to blind and partially sighted young people as they journey through education and into employment.

Attendees at the conference will witness guide dog demonstrations and have access to the latest software and technical aids for the visually impaired. Amongst the more unusual events (weather permitting) will be a demonstration of visually impaired archery. Organiser, Pete Ottewell, Outdoor and Recreation Coordinator for Galloways, has helped to coordinate the archery classes for three years. "Visual impairment among the archery group is varied, some have tunnel vision and bag a fair number of golds, occasionally on the other target! For those that are totally blind we are able to use a tripod – it's something a little different and has proved extremely popular."

Jack Ritson, Employment Awareness Coordinator, Action for Blind People, said: "The aim of the conference is to show that, with a little help, the visually impaired can participate in a huge variety of activities, both social and work related, to build confidence and gain an independent lifestyle."

Note to Editor

A photo opportunity of the guide dog demonstrations and visually impaired archery will take place at the Harris Conference Centre between 12 noon and 1pm.

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