

## **Introduction**

**Deafblindness is a unique and isolating disability, which is more than a simple combination of visual and hearing impairments. Deafblind people face enormous challenges that are often exacerbated by a lack of awareness, among the public in general, of the cause and functional effects of their condition.**

**The European Union funded CAUSE project focused on two specific causes of deafblindness, Usher syndrome and CHARGE. The key aim of the project was to promote a wider awareness of these conditions through the exchange of information, experience and best practice between the CHARGE Network and the European Usher syndrome Network.**

**The CAUSE project ran from November 2001- April 2003 (Please refer to Appendix 1 “Revised Project Timetable”). The project was managed by the Voluntary Services Team, at Sense, in association with Sense International. This project was the first collaboration between the European Usher Syndrome Network and the CHARGE network. It was supported and monitored by seven European Project Partner organisations.**

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