

# Eye Care and Vision Strategy Highlights and Objectives

**SEE ABILITY**

The new Eye Care and Vision strategy will centre on the following three work streams underpinned by targeted research and sharing best practice in all areas with creative and accessible communications:

1. Making the special schools programme a success.
2. Educating and reaching more people and new audiences.
3. Influencing policy for an equal right to sight.

## 1. Ensuring the special schools programme is a success

1. We will increase our sight testing in schools.
2. We will have advisory involvement as part of an agreed funded role in all new special schools services.
3. We will support the work force development that the national programme needs.
4. We will source and secure partnerships and funding for a new base for our expanding clinical service provision and for clinical activity to operate from.
5. We will ensure all special schools in England are aware of SeeAbility and the work we do through the planned distribution of the NHSE commissioned families guide.
6. We will seek funding for and have an instrumental role in establishing the data collection system for the new special schools programme.
7. Our specialist clinicians will have a platform to publicise this work.

## 2. Educating and reaching more people and new audiences

1. Through our funded Every Day in Focus Programme 10,000 people will be reached directly with our eye care/learning disability messages.
2. Through commissioned work, 500 eye care professionals will receive virtual and face to face General Optical Council accredited continuing education training /continuing professional development about the needs of patients with learning disabilities.
3. Dependent on the renewal or desire for expansion of our current funders we will aim to grow the Every Day in Focus programme.
4. Recognising the need for digital solutions and the future proofing of our work with Marketing and Communications, we will scope out the need, purpose and cost of an information advice line.
5. The structure for a SeeAbility run national network of learning disability engagement leads will be scoped.
6. We will explore an external research partner to evidence the effectiveness and impact of the peer to peer methodology in eye care.
7. We will scope, design, cost and check we have capacity to deliver an eye surgery support and advocacy service.
8. We will continue to lead on including specialist information about sight testing and functional visual assessment for new audiences within the positive behaviour support community and portage services for pre-school children.
9. We will establish an internal working group with operations to learn from and condense our internal Eye Care and Vision Charter to create, pilot and evaluate, in our Every Day in Focus areas with other providers, a succinct and accessible set of 'Eye Promises'.
10. With NHSE funding, we will co-produce children and young person friendly information and resources to prepare to access eye care and to improve the effectiveness of clinical assessments.

11. Working in collaboration with the Optometry Schools Council, all schools of optometry and dispensing optics in England will be provided with a kit and educational offering so that all undergraduates are consistently taught by people with lived experience.
12. We will work with NHSE and key stakeholders and obtain funding to create an eye care public health communications plan for the learning disability and eye care sector.
13. Eye care champions will connect with the organisations awarded the contracts, such as Pathways in the North West, to deliver The Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training in Learning Disability and Autism for health and social care staff.
14. Eye care champions will ensure good practice and pathways in eye care is included in a least two of the areas identified as 'Annual Health Check Exemplar sites'.
15. We will continue to publicise and grow our face to face and virtual eye care and learning disability training offering for all our audiences through our direct work, social media activity and networks.

### **Internal:**

16. The current Specialist Services Team introduction to visual impairment training will be bolstered to include an extra half an hour of content and activities specifically about access to eye care and preventing avoidable visual impairment.
17. The internal Eye Care and Vision Charter will be refreshed by the Eye Care and Vision team alongside operations/quality and compliance colleagues within the renewal cycle to align with the Health and Wellbeing Policy and other new systems in place.
18. The New Business referral and assessment process will be reviewed to include detailed understanding of the eye care and vision needs of all new people we support.

### 3. Influencing policy for an equal right to sight

The Equal Right to Sight campaign will focus on influencing policy to address the following three priority areas:

- Ensuring successful uptake of eye care interventions.
- Highlighting and evidencing the link between behaviour and poor vision through research and fact finding.
- Bringing together experts to improve the consistency in management of cerebral visual impairment (CVI).

#### Specifically:

1. We will establish, recruit to and have oversight of a virtual learning disability and autism eye care special interest group.
2. Our eye care champions, learning disability engagement leads nationally and a growing bank of case studies will be at the heart of influencing what needs to change.
3. We will continue to work with NHSE to develop and if needed lobby for a new national framework for specialist community primary eye care services for people with learning disabilities to access and be referred to from their GP annual health check, the special schools service and hospital eye care services in the long term.
4. In the short term we will also continue to work with LOCSU.
5. Eye care experiences, functional vision assessments (including for CVI) and eye/vision status information will be collated and evaluated for people we are increasingly supporting, leaving ATUs to inform our work in this area, with the Head of Business Development and Policy and Research Manager.
6. We will endeavour to ensure new education and training standards for the whole optical sector.
7. We will work with the eye care sector to bring experts in the area of CVI together through round table discussions and events.

8. In collaboration with the optical bodies, we will evidence the need for specialist dispensing and glasses adherence support and interventions for children and adults.
9. The Bradford Visual Function box will be available for purchase and distribution to new special schools services and beyond.