

Delivering an equal right to sight



Everyone with a learning disability needs good eye care



Easy Read Report

This report says everyone with a learning disability needs good eye care.



People with learning disabilities are more likely to have eye problems than other people. This includes:



- People with Down's Syndrome



- People with more complex needs



- Older people with learning disabilities



- People with learning disabilities who have diabetes



Regular sight tests help people to keep their eyes healthy.



People can get their eyes checked at:

- An opticians



- A hospital



- Their home



But not everyone with a learning disability is getting the care they need to look after their eyes.



Lots of people are living with poor eyesight and they don't need to be. Some people have even gone blind.



This is happening because:

People aren't always told how important a sight test is.



Some people think you have to be able to speak or read to have a sight test.



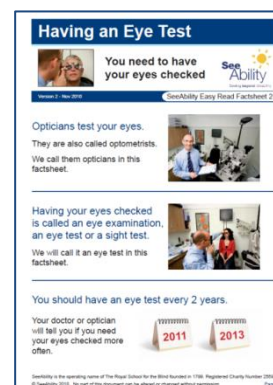
Some people with learning disabilities do not have enough support to go to an eye test or wear glasses.



Some people are worried about the cost of sight tests and glasses.



Not everyone is given easy read information about eye care.



Some eye care staff are not used to seeing people with learning disabilities.



Some people have had bad experiences with eye care services.



In some areas there is a lot of good work going on

People with learning disabilities are working together to change attitudes.



Carers and supporters are learning how to notice changes in someone's eyesight and how to support someone to wear their glasses.



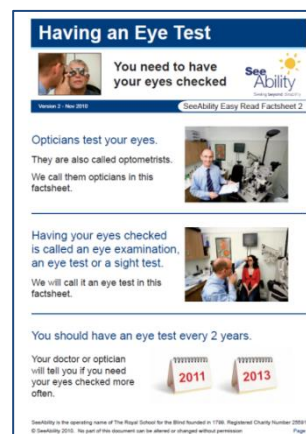
Eye care staff are making sure they know which patients have a learning disability and giving them time and support.



GPs are asking about a person's eyesight in their Annual Health Check.



People are using SeeAbility's easy read eye care factsheets.



People in charge of eye care services are making it easier for people with learning disabilities to know where to go.



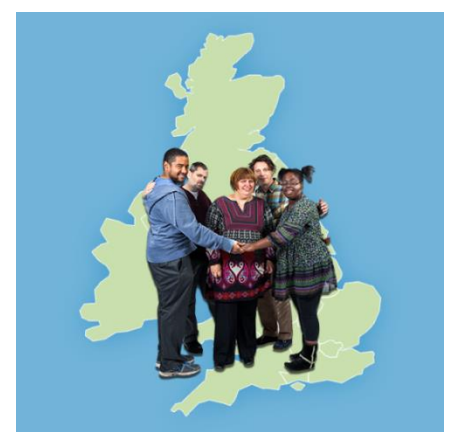
But we want a national plan to make things better for everyone. This should:



Make sight tests free for everyone with learning disabilities.



Help people with learning disabilities get a sight test that meets their needs, wherever they live.



Help children get their sight tested in special schools.



Make sure that opticians who fit glasses have the right training.



Help people get the glasses they need, including spare pairs.



Start to collect the numbers of people with learning disabilities who are having sight tests.



Make sure everyone knows that people with learning disabilities are more likely to have problems with their eyesight.



Just because someone has learning disability doesn't mean their sight isn't as important as anyone else's.



www.seeability.org