

SEE ABILITY

Eye care for people with learning disabilities



Easy read fact sheet

What we think



Everyone with a learning disability needs good eye care.



People with learning disabilities are ten times more likely to have eye problems than other people.



This includes:

- People with Down's Syndrome.
- People with more severe learning disabilities.

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Half of children in special schools have a sight problem.



Regular sight tests help people to keep their eyes healthy.



No one is 'too disabled' for a sight test.



There are a lot of changes that can be made to make it easier.



But people with learning disabilities are still missing out on the eye care they need.



There are some people who just need glasses to see well but don't have them.



And even some people who have lost their sight.

There are lots of reasons people miss out.



People might not be able to say there's a problem and it might not be obvious to their families or supporters.



People think you might have to speak or read to have a sight test.



It can be hard to find out where to go, or that you can ask for a sight test at home if it's difficult to go out.



People might be worried about the cost of sight tests or glasses.



Some people don't get enough support with their appointments or reasonable adjustments.



The system for sight testing has ignored the needs of people with more severe learning disabilities.

There is good work that is happening to change this.



People with learning disabilities are working together to change things.



There is better information and advice on eye care including easy read.



Training for eye care professionals is being improved.



NHS England is rolling out sight tests with special schools.



Some areas have local sight testing schemes in place with opticians.



But more needs to happen.

Here is our plan for change for policymakers.



Make sight tests free for everyone with learning disabilities.



Improve the GP annual health check to help GPs tell people about their eyesight.



Make sure NHS England continues with their plan to have sight testing in all special schools.



Make sure there is a specialist sight testing service for people with learning disabilities, wherever they live.



Look again at the law so people get the glasses they need.



Make sure people with learning disabilities are supported with all their eye care appointments.



Start to collect the numbers of people with learning disabilities getting eye care.



Raise awareness in health and care that people with learning disabilities are more likely to have a sight problem.



Eye care training for people with learning disabilities must be led by people with learning disabilities, who are paid for the work.



Hold better information on where people can go for their eye care and what their experiences are.



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



Everyone has an equal right to sight!

**Co-produced by SeeAbility's Eye Care
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