**{YOUR FULL ADDRESS}
{YOUR POSTCODE}**

**{DATE}**

Dear **{MP NAME}**,

My names is **{YOUR NAME}** and I am a constituent of **{YOUR CONSTITUENCY}**.

I am writing to you today because a number of reports have found that many people with learning disabilities are missing out on eye care, including access to NHS sight tests and glasses.

Not many people are aware that you have a much higher risk of a sight problem if you have a learning disability, which makes it even more important that there are services in place for people, especially if someone has high support needs and might not be able to say they have a problem.

This is something that’s particularly important to me as **{YOU MAY WISH TO PUT DOWN KEY REASONS AND ANY PERSONAL EXPERIENCES}**.

NHS England is responsible for sight testing nationally, and the Department of Health and Social Care has oversight of this.

NHS England had recognised only a few local areas and projects were filling the gap to make sight testing more accessible for people with learning disabilities. As a first plan it was going to introduce a new programme of sight tests in all special schools.

Special schools are a good place for children to be seen, otherwise it has been shown that they either miss out on eye care or they end up having to travel to hospital clinics instead. Sight testing, and dispensing glasses as well as providing schools and parents with helpful information and advice on supporting children’s vision, has been shown to work really well, as half of children in special schools have a sight problem.

Now there is a worry that NHS England may be going back on its word, even though it had gone as far as establishing a new NHS Special Schools Eye Care Service in over 80 special schools in the country.

Would you be able to write to the responsible Minister at the Department of Health and Social Care, to highlight these concerns?

Please could you ask them if they could request what steps NHS England will take to ensure its national sight testing system meets the needs of people with learning disabilities and that it continues its promised rollout of the NHS Special Schools Eye Care Service to all special schools?

It makes sense to provide low cost sight tests in the community rather than end up sending people to hospital for tests or leaving sight problems untreated. I hope you agree that everyone deserves an equal right to sight.

Please do keep me informed of any progress made.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

**{YOUR NAME}**