



Child vision screening resources consultation

Background

The [UK National Screening Committee](#) (UK NSC) recommends [school-entry screening for vision problems](#). Until now, however, no national resources have existed to support local authorities in commissioning and delivering high quality, consistent services.

Public Health England (PHE) therefore convened a vision screening group to produce and disseminate such materials.

Find out more about the work of the vision screening group on the [PHE Screening blog](#).

Screening

Child vision screening aims to identify children with reduced vision. Effective early treatment can then be offered, such as glasses or patching. Such treatment can help each child to reach their full social and educational potential.

Without screening, reduced vision can go unnoticed and untreated. This can have long term implications for affected children.

As with any screening programme, the aim is to ensure everyone in the target population is offered the screening test. This means all 4 to 5 year olds, including those children in mainstream, special or independent schools, as well as home schooled or other settings.

Children under recent care by hospital eye services or an optometrist may be excluded as these tests will have been included in their treatment. Those already wearing glasses but not under recent review should still be offered screening.

Commissioning of child screening is the responsibility of local authorities as part of the healthy child programme. Providers in the health, social and education sectors deliver these services so it can be a complex process to get right. These new resources should help local commissioners and providers maximise the quality and impact of their services.

The aim is that local authorities provide child vision screening according to the best evidence and therefore achieve the best possible outcomes for the children who are screened.

Resources

We have produced a number of draft resources on which we are seeking your views. These include:

- screening pathway
- information for teachers and children
- parent information pre-screening
- parent information post-screening
- diagnostic pathway*
- service specification
- standards
- screener competencies
- learning and assessment pathway

* The Royal College of Ophthalmologists developed the diagnostic pathway. It is included as part of the consultation with their permission.

Consultation

The materials are being consulted on for 6 weeks. The consultation opens on 14 March 2017 at 9.30am and closes on 25 April 2017 at 9.30am.

We welcome all comments on the draft materials. In particular, we would like to know if there are:

- mistakes
- anything we've missed
- other useful resources

Responding

Please respond with your comments to the vision screening group's secretariat at psassistant@rcophth.ac.uk

You can comment on any or all of the resources included in this consultation.

PHE will publish consultation submissions and our responses to them by the summer. Please let us know if you do not wish your response to be available publicly.