

England Vision Strategy Priorities

In England, over 1.5 million people are living with sight loss, yet public health messages rarely discuss eye health. Health and social care systems are under immense pressure and often do not join up properly to provide the best care and support for people with sight loss.

Those who are blind or partially sighted frequently find themselves presented with barriers to work, education, travel and leisure. More needs to be done to combat these issues.

To address the problems faced on a daily basis by individuals with sight loss, and to promote the importance of maintaining good eye health, the leading organisations in England are working together to deliver a plan for change called the England Vision Strategy.

The England Vision Strategy is part of Vision UK's country led approach and encompasses the Seeing It My Way outcomes nationally and locally for adults and children. The England Vision Strategy has identified six priorities until 2018 as the key building blocks for change. These priorities were chosen following extensive feedback from a variety of stakeholders.

The priorities are:

- 1** Detecting eye conditions early, especially in seldom heard groups;
- 2** Promoting a consistent strategy for eyecare commissioning;
- 3** Improving the Certification process – making sure people who are eligible actually get certified and registered and that relevant data flows through the whole eye health and sight loss pathway;
- 4** Early intervention to ensure practical and emotional support post diagnosis (for example, an ECLO available in every eye department);
- 5** Habilitation and rehabilitation available on a free and timely basis for as long as needed to learn or relearn key life skills including mobility;
- 6** Development of peer support and self-help groups in every community for adults, children and families to provide voluntary sector support for independent living and to lobby for inclusive local public services.

These six key priorities are addressed across England by task and finish groups actively promoting partnership working across the Adult UK Sight Loss Pathway and the Pathway for Children and Young People (0 to 25 years) with Visual Impairment and their families.

Regional groups have been established across England, with line of sight to every local authority and clinical commissioning group area. An inclusive national consultative group meets twice a year, enabling input from a wide range of stakeholders into the delivery of the England Vision Strategy.

To find out more or to get involved go to:

www.visionuk.org.uk or email **evs@visionuk.org.uk**

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