Vision UK 2010

“Sharing the challenge, making it happen”

A VISION 2020 UK Conference
ICC Birmingham
15 June 2010
## Disclaimer

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Welcome

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Vision UK 2010 Conference, especially during National Eye Health Week when everyone is being encouraged to take care of their sight and learn about eye health.

This conference is about “Sharing the challenge, making it happen!” By sharing good practice and working together day-to-day we will ultimately improve eye health and sight loss services for the service user.

Innovation is important but it has to be affordable. Today, we’ll be looking at the case for strategic investment in eye care services, and hearing how people tackle avoidable sight loss in the Netherlands.

Since the launch of the UK Vision Strategy in 2008, a huge amount has been achieved, not least the publication of all four country plans. With the launch of the Welsh plan earlier this month, there is a great deal to share about how the plans are being put into action.

Work is under way at a local level across the UK. According to UK Vision Strategy mapping, approximately 48 regions are currently establishing partnership working. From these, 23 local vision strategy plans are in development or already up and running.

I am confident that you will find this conference stimulating and informative. I am sure it will inspire us to go forward together, bringing about positive change and having a real impact on eye health and the lives of blind and partially sighted people.

Nick Astbury
Chair VISION 2020 UK
## About the ICC Birmingham

### Registration
The registration area is located outside Hall 4 on the 5th floor of the ICC and will be open from 08.30 to 17.00. The plenary session will begin at 10.00.

### Exhibition
The exhibition area is located within Hall 4 on the 5th floor of the conference centre and will be open from 09.00 to 16.40.
About the ICC Birmingham

**Level 3**
- Business centre
- Public telephones
- First aid
- Hall 6a (seminar session room)
- Hall 6b (seminar session room)
- Cloakroom

**Level 4**
- Hall 7a (seminar session room)
- Hall 7b (seminar session room)

**Level 5**
- Hall 4 (main auditorium, catering and exhibition)
- Hall 8a (seminar session room)
- Hall 8b (seminar session room)
- Executive Room 1 (seminar session room)
- Executive Room 2 (seminar session room)
- Executive Room 7 (seminar session room)
- Executive Room 8 (seminar session room)

**Toilets**
Toilets can be found throughout the conference centre. There are 15 disabled toilets, three on the 2nd floor, five on the 3rd floor, four on the 4th floor and three on the 5th floor.

**Refreshments and lunch**
Refreshments and a standing fork buffet lunch will be served in the exhibition area in Hall 4.

These will be available at the following times:
- Arrival coffee: 09.00-10.00
- Morning coffee break: 10.45-11.15
- Lunch: 12.15-13.30
- Afternoon coffee break: 15.40-16.05
General information

Banks
There is a cashpoint next to the business centre. However, there will be a charge for withdrawing money. There is also a branch of Barclays close to the conference centre which is open from 09.30 to 17.00, Monday to Friday.

Business centre
The business centre is located on the ground floor of the conference centre near the centre shop. This is open from 08.45 to 17.00 each day and can be used by delegates. The business centre offers photocopying, faxing, internet use, printing from disks and telephone conference calls. Payment for these services can be made by cash. Credit cards are accepted for charges above £5.

Children and animals
Children under the age of 16 and animals (other than registered assistance dogs) are not permitted in the session rooms or exhibition areas at any time.

Cloakroom
The cloakroom is located on the third floor of the conference centre and will be open throughout the conference.

First aid
If you need assistance during the conference, please contact the staff located in the registration area. They will take you to the first aid room located on the ground floor.

Registered assistance dogs
Registered assistance dogs may be exercised on the grass just opposite the ICC but handlers are asked to ensure that the area is left clean after use. Water bowls are provided around the venue.

Guides
There are qualified guides on site to assist delegates around the venue and also to provide guidance along the route to the nearest train stations and bus stops at the end of the day. All guides will be wearing mauve sashes for easy identification.
About the ICC Birmingham

**Induction loops**
Induction loops are fitted in all conference halls but not in the public areas.

**Lost property**
Please report any lost property to the staff in the registration area.

**Messages**
The telephone number for people wishing to leave messages for delegates during conference opening hours is 07930 174 139. Messages can be collected from the registration area.

**Name badges**
Please wear your badge at all times as an aid to identification. Badge holders have been colour coded as follows:
- Full delegates: clear
- Exhibitors: grey
- Speakers: orange
- Staff: blue
- Press: black
- Assistants to disabled delegates: clear, as per the delegate accompanied

If you lose your name badge, please contact the registration desk for a replacement.

**Parking**
Disabled delegates arriving in a vehicle with a disabled badge displayed can park near the front of the building. Taxis and other vehicles will have access to the front of the building to enable disabled passengers to disembark with ease.

Parking for the venue is located within the National Indoor Arena, which is just a short walk away from the ICC. If you are using a satellite navigation system please enter the postcode B1 2AA to pinpoint us. Please be aware that the Sat Nav system will not direct you into the NIA car parks. Please follow the clearly signposted directions once in the vicinity of the venue. There are four car parks located at the NIA.
- North – King Edward’s Road (open 24 hours)
- South Upper – Sheepcote Street (open 06.45 – 19.00, Monday – Friday, extended for events)
- South Lower – St Vincent Street (open for events only)
Community Hall – Junction of King Edward’s Road and Sheepcote Street
(open 07.00 – 00.00)

Pay and Display tickets may be purchased from the machines situated on each level. An appropriate ticket must be clearly displayed in the windscreen of the vehicle.

Parking Charges:
• Up to 2 hours £2
• 2-4 hours £4
• 4-8 hours £6
• 8-24 hours £8

All charges are inclusive of VAT and apply 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Blue Badge holders are exempt from all charges, provided the Blue Badge is clearly displayed.

Photography and mobile phones
No photographs will be permitted in any sessions. Mobile phones must be switched off or diverted during all sessions.

Proceedings
The conference proceedings will be published on the UK Vision Strategy website in June 2010: www.vision2020uk.org.uk/ukvisionstrategy

Smoking policy
Please note that there is a no smoking policy throughout the conference centre.

Public telephones
Coin, phone card and credit card operated telephones are located on the ground floor of the conference centre.
Plenary session speaker biographies

In order of appearance

**Nick Astbury**
Chair – VISION 2020 UK

Trained at Moorfields Eye Hospital, Nick is a paediatric ophthalmologist who works at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital and the International Centre for Eye Health.

President of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists from 2003-2006, Nick is Chairman of VISION 2020 UK, Vice-Chair of the IMPACT Foundation, Medical Advisor to the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital and Consultant Advisor to the Norfolk and Norwich Association of the Blind. He leads the Sudan-Norwich VISION 2020 link and is actively involved with the development of the UK Vision Strategy.

**Lesley-Anne Alexander**
Chief Executive – RNIB

Lesley-Anne has always worked in the public and voluntary sector. Before being appointed as CEO at RNIB in January 2004, she was Director of Operations for the Peabody Trust, one of the UK’s largest housing associations and regeneration agencies. Prior to this she held various posts in local government such as Director of Housing with the London Borough of Enfield.

Since joining RNIB, Lesley-Anne has been instrumental in helping to rationalise and modernise the sight loss sector. Key milestones include the association with Action for Blind People and the development of the UK Vision Strategy.

Lesley-Anne takes a strong interest in community projects; she is a board member of the British Judo Association, Waltham Forrest Community Housing Association and Skills Third Sector. She currently chairs both the UK Vision Strategy Group and ACEVO (the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations).
Dr Andrew Walker
Senior Lecturer in Health Economics – Glasgow University

Dr Andrew Walker has been involved in health economics in Scotland since 1993, initially at the Health Economics Research Unit in Aberdeen and then as an economist at Greater Glasgow Health Board.

Since 2000, he has been based at Glasgow University where his main interest is the evaluation of new medicines, working with the Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC). He is also involved in national health policy work on NHS budgets and spending. This includes commenting on the 2005 Kerr Report, advising the Health Committee at the Scottish Parliament and appearing regularly in the media as a commentator on these issues.

Andrew also chaired a group overseeing the planning of accident and emergency services in Ayrshire and Lanarkshire in 2007.

Rt Hon David Blunkett

David Blunkett’s parliamentary career began in 1987 when he was elected as the MP for Sheffield Brightside. He has since served as Secretary of State for Education and Employment, the Home Office, and Work and Pensions, becoming a widely respected figure in British politics. Since 2006, in addition to completing his diaries, “The Blunkett Tapes”, David has undertaken several major pieces of work including a review of the future role of the community and voluntary sector.

David was a member of the specially convened Speaker’s Conference which put forward recommendations for rectifying the under-representation of women, ethnic minorities and disabled people in the House of Commons. He is also involved with many local, national and international charities, and is a regular contributor to the British media.
Sarah Rochira
Chair – Wales Advisory Group, Director RNIB Cymru

Sarah joined RNIB Cymru in May 2008 following 20 years working for a wide range of NHS organisations in Wales. Whilst with the NHS, Sarah’s roles included working in primary care and mental health commissioning, and as a service provider in various hospitals.

Sarah is passionate about improving the quality of existing services and the development of new ones. This is in part due to her experience working as the lead officer for equality and diversity, and in organisational development, training and education programmes.

Phil Stevens
Director – Wales Council for the Blind

Phil Stevens began working in the public sector in Westminster in 1997.

Whilst there, he helped develop public policy responses to substance misuse on behalf of the Health Education Authority.

Following this, Phil worked freelance to develop health support mechanisms for East London Asylum Seekers. In 2001, he moved to Wales to develop joint commissioning across health and social care for Herefordshire. He then spent four years at Monmouthshire Local Health Board, where he led on physical and sensory loss commissioning within the NHS and Local Authority, before accepting the role of CEO at Wales Council for the Blind in 2008.
Prof Jan EE Keunen

Chair – VISION 2020 Netherlands

Jan Keunen has been a Professor of Ophthalmology since 1995. He is currently Head of the Institute of Ophthalmology at the Radboud University Medical Centre, Nijmegen, the Netherlands. A specialist in medical retina and ocular oncology, Jan has published over 100 papers in peer-reviewed journals.

He is co-founder and chairman of VISION 2020 Netherlands. Recently, a special VISION 2020 Netherlands screening test was designed to help facilitate a prevention campaign at national level for at-risk groups. The ultimate goal is for prevention of avoidable sight loss to become a national health priority.

Richard Leaman CB OBE

Chief Executive – Guide Dogs

Richard Leaman became Guide Dogs’ new Chief Executive on 31 March 2010. He will lead the delivery of Guide Dogs’ new strategy which aims to empower more blind and partially sighted people to get around and enjoy independent lives. Richard believes this can only be achieved through closer collaboration within the sector and with local government.

Until recently, Richard was a Rear Admiral in the Royal Navy, where he undertook a variety of demanding operational command and leadership roles. In 1992, he was awarded an OBE for leading a disaster relief operation and in 2009 was appointed a Companion of the Order of the Bath for his work in NATO.
Anita Lightstone
Programme Director – UK Vision Strategy

Anita’s role is to provide leadership and support for the implementation of the UK Vision Strategy. Before taking on the role of director for the Strategy, her work with RNIB included the development of multi-agency low vision services and heading up the RNIB research team.

An optometrist by profession, prior to joining RNIB she was senior lecturer at the Institute of Optometry London, where she provided clinical leadership.

Anita is a respected speaker on eye health and sight loss issues and is a passionate advocate of user engagement, cross-sector partnership working and achievement of the aims of the UK Vision Strategy. She is also a member of the Department of Health’s Eye Care Strategy Group and a trustee of the Wiseman Trust.
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<td>09.00</td>
<td>Registration and coffee</td>
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<td>10.00</td>
<td>Welcome and opening remarks</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Nick Astbury</strong></td>
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<td>Chair – VISION 2020 UK</td>
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<td>10.10</td>
<td>Review of key achievements 2009</td>
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<td><strong>Lesley-Anne Alexander</strong></td>
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<td>10.25</td>
<td>A case for strategic investment in eye care services</td>
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<td><strong>Dr Andrew Walker</strong></td>
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<td>Health Economist – Glasgow University</td>
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<td>Budget Advisor – Scottish Parliament</td>
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<td>Economic Reviewer – Scottish Medicine Consortium</td>
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<td>10.45</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<td>Posters/exhibition stands</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.15</td>
<td>Key address</td>
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<td><strong>Rt Hon David Blunkett MP</strong></td>
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<td>11.30</td>
<td>Implementing the UK Vision Strategy in Wales</td>
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<td><strong>Sarah Rochira</strong></td>
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<td>Chair – Wales Vision Strategy Implementation Group</td>
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<td>Director – RNIB Cymru</td>
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<td><strong>Phil Stevens</strong></td>
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<td>Director – Wales Council for the Blind</td>
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11.50  The European perspective  
Prof Jan Keunen  
Chair – VISION 2020 Netherlands

12.15  Lunch  
Posters/exhibition stands

13.30  Seminar session A

14.30  Break

14.40  Seminar session B

15.40  Coffee break  
Posters/exhibition stands

16.05  Navigating the UK Vision Strategy  
Richard Leaman, CB OBE  
Chief Executive – Guide Dogs

16.30  2010/11 – Going forward to achieve change  
Anita Lightstone  
Programme Director – UK Vision Strategy

16.40  Close and Poster award presentation  
Nick Astbury
Seminar sessions

A series of interactive discussions, running over two one-hour sessions, allows each delegate the opportunity to explore areas of interest.

Each session will be run by a chair and a speaker who are leaders on the topic.

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<th>Workstream 1</th>
<th>Delivering the UK Vision Strategy</th>
<th>Chair: Jenny Pearce – Chief Executive, Vista</th>
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<tr>
<td>13.30 Session A:</td>
<td><strong>Solutions, not problems</strong></td>
<td>14.40 Session B:</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Keith Marshall</strong> – Eye Health Programme Manager, Tower Hamlets</td>
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<td><strong>Kathy Flegg</strong> – Primary Care Commissioning Manager, North East</td>
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Supported by Novartis
Workstream 2
Research – looking to a UK agenda?
Chair: Richard Wormald – FRCOphth Consultant, Moorfields Eye Hospital and Honorary Senior Lecturer at the LSHTM and Institute of Ophthalmology

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<tr>
<th>13.30 Session A:</th>
<th>14.40 Session B:</th>
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<tr>
<td>What do we mean by vision research? Why does it matter?</td>
<td>How to ask a research question. Can we develop a meaningful agenda for research?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michele Acton – CEO, Fight for Sight</td>
<td>Prof Philip J Luthert – Director, Institute of Ophthalmology</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Sparrow – Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Bristol Eye Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Angela McCullagh – R&amp;D Director, Thomas Pocklington Trust</td>
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Workstream 3
Improving the eye health of the people of the UK
Chair: David Scott-Ralphs – Chair, England Implementation Group UKVS; Chief Executive, SeeAbility

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<th>13.30 Session A:</th>
<th>14.40 Session B:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Improving the eye health of the people of the UK. Who, what, where and when?</td>
<td>Successful eye health initiatives from across the UK – building for an evidence base</td>
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<td>Geoff Roberson – Professional Advisor, Association of Optometrists</td>
<td>Katrina Venerus – Optometrist and Optometric Advisor, LOCSU</td>
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Supported by LOCSU
### Workstream 4
**Eliminating avoidable sight loss**
Chair: **David Lye** – Head of Dentistry and Eye Care Services, Department of Health

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<tr>
<th>13.30 Session A: Innovative approaches to quality services. What are the benefits of joint working and commissioning?</th>
<th>14.40 Session B: Support at the time of diagnosis: reality or myth? What do we mean by this? Looking at different service models</th>
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<td><strong>Carl Ashworth</strong> – Deputy Director, Commissioning Business Service</td>
<td><strong>Charlie Mack</strong> – Director RNIB, Northern Ireland</td>
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### Workstream 5
**Inclusion, independence and participation**
Chair: **Prof Tim Wess** – Head of School of Optometry and Vision Sciences, University of Wales

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<tr>
<td><strong>Tom Pey</strong> – Director of External Affairs, Guide Dogs</td>
<td><strong>Martyn Davidson</strong> – Head of Operations, Royal Mail</td>
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Supported by Guide Dogs
### Workstream 6

**Equality for all**

Chair: **Alan Suttie** – Chief Executive of Fife Society for the Blind and EBU equality and diversity member

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>13.30 Session A:</th>
<th>14.40 Session B:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ensuring all voices are listened to – a different approach</strong></td>
<td><strong>Are we doing enough to support people with learning disabilities?</strong></td>
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</table>

**Dr Ray Earwicker** – Senior Policy Manager, Health Inequalities Unit, Department of Health

**Keith McKee** – Chief Executive, The Wilberforce Trust

Supported by The Wilberforce Trust

![The Wilberforce Trust](image)

### Workstream 7

**Evidence based, cost effective delivery and the eye care professional**

Chair: **Andy Cassels-Brown** – Consultant Ophthalmologist in Community Eye Health, Leeds Teaching Hospital

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>13.30 Session A:</th>
<th>14.40 Session B:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Looking at the roles of the ophthalmologist and the other “O”s in delivering excellent eye care</strong></td>
<td><strong>Services closer to home? Community services? Cost and evidence base? Where does the ophthalmologist fit in?</strong></td>
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**Dr Roshini Sanders** – Consultant Ophthalmologist, Queen Margaret Hospital

**Dr Andrew Partner** – GP, Royal College of General Practitioners

Supported by The Royal College of Ophthalmologists

![The Royal College of Ophthalmologists](image)
### Workstream 8
**Children**
Chair: **Yvonne Needham** – Chair, Royal College of Nursing Ophthalmic Nursing Forum

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session A: Mini adults or a different species? Meeting the needs of children with sight loss</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session B: Best practice for children-friendly services</th>
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### Workstream 9
**Don’t forget the person!**
Chair: **Mike Brace CBE** – Chief Executive, VISION 2020 UK

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<tr>
<td>13.30</td>
<td>Beryl Palmer – Operational Manager, Sensory Services, Kent</td>
<td>14.40</td>
<td>Christopher Friend – World Blind Union, Strategic Objective Leader (Accessibility)</td>
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<td>Simon Galczynski – Acting Head, Integrated Services, London Borough of Newham</td>
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Poster categories

The poster exhibition is open for you to view throughout the day in the Hall 4 foyer. Posters cover a wide range of topics linked to the three outcomes of the UK Vision Strategy.

Category A
Translating national strategy into local action
Report on the development of your local vision strategy/action plan, outlining key stages and specific enablers and barriers in the process.

Key stages may include: engaging with local partners; understanding local needs; service mapping and gap analysis; linking with wider strategies and initiatives; and identifying local priorities.

Category B, C, D
Development and delivery towards UK Vision Strategy outcomes

Category B
Outcome 1: Improving the eye health of the people of the UK
- Prevention programmes
- Linking with wider public health strategies
- Professional education
- Identifying and addressing potential sight loss among children and young people
- Targeting at-risk groups

Category C
Outcome 2: Eliminating avoidable sight loss and delivering excellent support for people with sight loss
- Understanding and addressing health inequalities
- Improving early intervention
- Timely access to treatment
- Emotional and practical support
- Improving independence and quality of life

Category D
Outcome 3: Inclusion, participation and independence for people with sight loss
- Education
- Employment
- Transition
- Financial capability
- Health, wellbeing and leisure
- Travel and mobility
Outcome 1

1. Targeting a high-risk African-Caribbean population with novel health promotion and case detection methods
Kay Hollingworth (1, 2), Andy Cassels-Brown (1, 2), Stephen Clarke (1), Bernadette Murphy (3), and Jon Fear (3)

The purpose of this project was to raise awareness of ocular health, particularly glaucoma, in a population at risk, and to increase GOS 1 sight testing, as there is no local optometric practice.

2. Preventing sight loss in minority ethnic communities in Wales
Nirmala Pisavadia – Sight Support

This outreach project aims to inform minority ethnic communities about preventable sight loss and the Wales Eye Care Initiative (WECl) scheme.

3. Wear Bright 4 Sight
Karen Eyres – Vista

Vista is encouraging the wider communities of Leicestershire and Rutland to participate in a “Bright 4 Sight” day. The campaign encourages children, young people and families to wear bright clothing on World Sight Day, 14 October, to raise awareness of the importance of regular eye tests.

4. Eye Health Champions
Andy Williams – RNIB Cymru

Find out about the new, revolutionary volunteering role within RNIB Cymru – Eye Health Champion! The role, primarily aimed at young people, aspires to promote eye health and ensure more children and young people go for eye tests.
5. Development of a comprehensive vision screening service to children and young adults with special needs
Yvonne Needham – Royal College of Nurses Ophthalmic Nurse Forum, the British and Irish Orthoptic Society and Learning Disability Groups

This project aims to standardise vision training and raise awareness of the high incidence of vision defects in this group. It identifies the need for collaborative multi-agency working in special schools to deliver a comprehensive vision screening service.

6. A national survey of instrumentation used for Primary Open Angle Glaucoma (POAG) case-finding by community optometrists
Joy Myint (1), David F Edgar (1), Aachal Kotecha (1,2), Ian E Murdoch (3), John G Lawrenson (1).
1. Henry Wellcome Laboratories for Visual Science, City University, London; 2. NIHR Biomedical Research Unit, Moorfields Eye Hospital and Institute of Ophthalmology, London; 3. Glaucoma Unit, Moorfields Eye Hospital

A survey of a community of optometrists, this study investigates several aspects of glaucoma case-finding. This abstract focuses on the instrumentation used in current practice in relation to the detection and referral of POAG.

7. The prevalence of Diabetic Macular Oedema and attributable sight loss
Darwin Minassian (1), David Owens (2), Angela Reidy (1,3), Pritti Mehta (4)
1. EpiVision; 2. Cardiff University; 3. London Metropolitan University; 4. UK Vision Strategy

This research supplements the related report at last year’s Vision 2009 conference. It aims to provide robust estimates of eye disease and sight loss of interest to health care advocates, providers, and modellers of diabetic eye disease work.
Outcome 2

8. Providing data to support local commissioning
Phil Cooke – Information Centre for Health and Social Care

An overview of data available to local decision-makers to support the commissioning of eye care services. Focusing on our MyIC product, view a series of screenshots, maps etc in the context of the patient “pathway”. The poster will show what data is available from ourselves or our partners.

9. The impact on ophthalmic referrals following NICE glaucoma guidance
Kay Hollingworth (1, 2), Andy Cassels-Brown (1, 2), Tim Hunter (2), Ian Simmons (2), Jon Fear (1), Mitch Menage (2), Peter Galloway (2).
1. NHS Leeds; 2. Leeds Teaching Hospitals, NHS Trust

We suspected that ocular hypertensive (OHT) referrals to our Hospital Eye Service (HES) and Community Eye Centres (CECs) in Leeds had increased since the publication of NICE guidance for glaucoma and subsequent Association of Optometrist’s (AOP) response. The purpose of this work is to ascertain how many referrals were received by HES, CECs and two GPSI (GPs with special interest) practices during one month and what proportion relates to glaucoma.

10. Focus on ophthalmology: working together to deliver improved eye services in Wales
Andrew Jones (1), Dick Roberts (1, 2), Shona Sullivan (1, 3), Ceri Jackson (4)
1. Focus On Ophthalmology, Delivery and Support Unit; 2. Welsh Assembly Government; 3. Cwm Taf Local Health Board; 4. RNIB Cymru

A report on nationally-agreed, clinically-led, and evidence-based clinical pathways for three of the most challenging conditions in ophthalmology.

Catey Bunce, Richard Seeberan, Antra Zekite – Moorfields Eye Hospital, NHS Foundation Trust

Doubts have been expressed regarding the validity of the data gathered by the NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care, leading them to question its value. This analysis was conducted to compare certification figures with registration figures by London boroughs.
12. Emotional support and counselling pilot project  
Rebecca Sheehy – RNIB

This project reports on the pilot and evaluation of the provision of emotional support and counselling at two Low Vision Centres: London and Gateshead.

13. Evaluating the impact of Eye Care Liaison Officers  
Hanna Gillespie-Gallery, Ahalya Subramanian and Miriam Conway – City University London

Eye Care Liaison Officers (ECLOs) provide information and support in eye clinics to visually impaired people (VIPs) and their families. This multi-dimensional study of ECLOs sought to determine their impact on VIPs and eye care professionals.

14. Bristol Eye Hospital Information Pathway Project  
Rebecca Sheehy – RNIB

This work aims to enhance the patient support service offered to all people with sight loss who visit the Bristol Eye Hospital.

15. See for Yourself: An Information Pack for People with Sight Loss – results of a patient dissatisfaction survey  
Emma Williams – Manchester Royal Eye Hospital (MREH)

In an attempt to provide a more comprehensive and standardised approach, MREH has worked in partnership with RNIB to create an in-depth information pack.

16. The Low Vision Toolkit  
Nathan Davies – RNIB Cymru

Funded by the Welsh Assembly Government as part of the Children’s Low Vision Project in Wales, the toolkit is a structured, modular training programme.
17. Eccentric viewing training for people with central vision loss – a long term strategy
A Reeves (1), J Mitchell (2), C Yelf (1). 1. Macular Disease Society (MDS); 2. Royal Holloway, University of London

This poster reports the findings of a three-year eccentric viewing (EV) “train the trainer” pilot programme. The MDS trained 159 visually impaired volunteers in EV and in how to teach others the techniques of EV and steady eye.

18. A partnership of patients and specialists working together to raise the profile of birdshot chorioretinopathy (birdshot)
Rea Mattocks – Birdshot Chorioretinopathy Uveitis Society
Annie Folkard, Narciss Okhravi – Moorfields Eye Hospital

A unique partnership between a patient group and health professionals seeks to increase awareness of birdshot. Birdshot is a rare (orphan) chronic, autoimmune, bilateral, often undiagnosed form of posterior uveitis. In the absence of prompt diagnosis and treatment, it results in loss of visual function and blindness.

19. The Royal College of Ophthalmologists: eye doctors setting standards to help patients
Kathy Evans – Royal College of Ophthalmologists
Andy Cassels-Brown – Consultant Ophthalmologist, Leeds Teaching Hospital and Public Health Directorate at NHS Leeds Primary Care Trust

Find out about the role of an ophthalmologist, the purpose of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists and the RCOphth Ophthalmic Public Health Committee (OPHC).

20. Dementia and Sight Loss Interest Group
Rebecca Sheehy – RNIB

This poster describes the issues faced by people with sight loss and dementia, as identified during a seminar between professional and service user groups.
Outcome 3

21. Greater Merseyside Sensory Service
Philippa Simkiss – RNIB

Concerns regarding the availability of specialist support, access to training, and employment opportunities for young blind and partially sighted people led RNIB to develop a network of college partnerships, working with the Learning and Skills Council to support these learners in mainstream further education. As a result, Greater Merseyside LSC granted funding to RNIB to design and implement a service to meet the needs of learners with sensory disability in the region.

22. Light for Sight – Good Practice Framework
Anthony Slater, Angela McCullagh – Thomas Pocklington Trust

Pocklington research has highlighted the importance of good lighting at home for people with sight loss. This poster reports on the development and implementation of the Light for Sight – Good Practice Framework.

23. Lisburn in Focus – A model of excellence
Claire Patience – RNIB Northern Ireland

Lisburn in Focus is an innovative five-year project with funding of £750k from the Big Lottery Fund Safe and Well Programme. The project will create a model of excellence for people with sight loss. It brings together RNIB Northern Ireland, Guide Dogs, Lisburn City Council and Lisburn City Centre Management, to improve safety, wellbeing and social inclusion.

24. A presentation of current practice supporting the transition into further education and higher education of learners with visual impairment
Denice Kelly – Blackpool and the Fylde College

This presentation displays the current transition processes for all young people considering Blackpool and the Fylde College. It includes reference to specialist networking and liaison for young people with visual impairment.
25. Go! Shop
Philippa Simkiss, Annette Dinnall – RNIB

Go! Shop is part of a project called “Have Your Say”. It seeks to promote interactive consultation by ensuring the everyday experiences of blind and partially sighted people are well understood and that they are in direct dialogue with service providers.

26. Improving independence and quality of life
Roger Wilson-Hinds – Screenreader.net

Find out about Screenreader.net: a not-for-profit community interest company which aspires to improve web access for blind and partially sighted people.

27. Stormont Lobby – 20 October 2009
Barry Macaulay – RNIB Northern Ireland

This poster reports on the largest ever lobby of the Stormont Assembly in Parliament Buildings by blind and partially sighted people.

28. Promoting health for people with sight loss
Skye Hughes – Leeds Metropolitan University

Commissioned by the Thomas Pocklington Trust, this study seeks to identify the difficulties of maintaining and promoting health for people with sight loss, and to discern whether existing health promotion activities and policies sufficiently address people’s perceived needs.

29. ‘I-Contact’ Course – increasing independence, choice and control
Kerry Webster – Focus Birmingham

‘I-Contact’ courses offer information for those who have been newly diagnosed with a visual impairment or those whose sight has deteriorated significantly. The course helps people understand what support and services are available, increasing confidence to take up these opportunities and increase independence.
30. Health in Focus, Gym Buddies  
Tom Harrison – Focus Birmingham  
The aim of the project is to match “Gym Buddy” volunteers with people who are visually impaired and interested in a particular sport or leisure activity.

31. Visually Impaired People in Transition (VIPs)  
Natalie Johnson – VIPs in Transition, Royal London Society for the Blind (RLSB)  
RLSB’s VIPs in Transition Project is a three-year “Children in Need” funded project. It is community focused, working across the East London boroughs of Hackney, Newham and Tower Hamlets.

32. The Pathfinder Project – www.visionbasics.info  
The Pathfinder Project is a partnership initiative providing practical support to enable people who have experienced sight loss to travel independently. So far the work focuses on students aged 14 to 19 years and their journeys to and from their place of study.
Exhibition floor plan
Exhibitor details

Listed in order of stands

Guide Dogs

Stand 1
Guide Dogs delivers the guide dog service and other mobility services that increase the independence and mobility of blind and partially sighted people. Guide Dogs campaigns passionately for equal access to transport, buildings, goods and services.

LOCSU

Stand 2
The Local Optical Committee Support Unit (LOCSU) provides practical support to Local and Regional Optical Committees (LOCs/ROCs) in England and Wales, informing them how to develop eye care services in the community. LOCSU is developing world-class clinical pathways which are being implemented by many Primary Care Trusts (PCTs). LOCSU is also a key interface between the national optical representative bodies and the LOCs/ROCs.

Optelec

Stand 3
Optelec provide a wide range of innovative magnification, speech and braille solutions. Discover the ClearReader – an audio text-reader which scans printed letters and magazines and reads them aloud almost instantly. Also, try the ClearView+ HD Colour, offering powerful magnification for those wishing to read a favourite magazine as if it were in large print.
The Royal National College for the Blind (RNC)

Stand 4
RNC is the UK’s leading college for further education and training for people (16+) who are blind or partially sighted. The College provides advice and guidance on training and educational opportunities to help prepare visually impaired people for the workplace, university, further education and independent living. The RNC is also developing blind football and is home to the England Blind Football Squad.

The Wilberforce Trust

Stand 6
The Wilberforce Trust (a successor to the Yorkshire School for the Blind) is based in York and provides a variety of services to people with visual impairments and learning disabilities. Until 1999, the Trust’s primary service was residential care. Since then, it has developed a range of other services, including rehabilitation, low vision services and assisting to improve access to eye care services for people with disabilities.

Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB)

Stand 7
RNIB is the leading UK charity for blind and partially sighted people, focused on three key activities: supporting blind and partially sighted people to remain independent, preventing avoidable sight loss and creating a fairer, more inclusive world for people with sight problems.
Action for Blind People

Stand 8
Action for Blind People is an expert national organisation, ensuring blind and partially sighted people get practical support in all aspects of their lives. In April 2009, Action became part of the RNIB Group in an innovative partnership. This partnership combines regional service delivery across England, in line with the UK Vision Strategy.

UK Vision Strategy

Stand 9
Launched in 2008, the UK Vision Strategy seeks to make a real and lasting difference to eye health and sight loss services across the UK. The Strategy is a VISION 2020 UK initiative developed in response to the World Health Assembly’s VISION 2020 resolution, and is led by RNIB. Over 650 individuals and organisations have played a direct role in developing the Strategy.

VISION 2020 UK

Stand 10
VISION 2020 UK is an umbrella organisation which facilitates greater collaboration and co-operation between organisations within the UK. The key objectives of VISION 2020 UK are to prevent avoidable blindness, to improve the quality of services to vision impaired people and to ensure that the voices of the vision impaired are heard when planning services.
Commissioning Business Service

Stand 11 and 12
Established by the Greater Manchester Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) in 2007, the Commissioning Business Service (CBS) recognises the need to strengthen business competencies that underpin the commissioning of health services for the NHS. Support is offered to PCTs in developing new models of service; procuring and management of healthcare markets; effectively managing care contracts and provider relationships; and accelerating the drive for improved health outcomes.

Be AMD aware

Stand 13
Imagine not being able to do everyday things like driving, reading or enjoying your favourite hobbies because your eyesight has been affected by an eye condition called Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD). AMD is the UK’s leading cause of blindness in people over 55.
If you want to find out more about AMD, visit our stand to pick up information about the condition.
For further information, visit our website: www.beamdaware.co.uk

National Eye Health Week

Stand 14
Eye care charities, companies and professionals from across the UK have united to promote the importance of eye health. Running from 14 – 20 June, the week is being supported by scores of local and national organisations and a range of activities is planned. These include a vision awareness event in Elgin, Scotland and a reception for parliamentarians at the House of Commons in London.
Supporters

Gold supporter:

We want a society in which blind and partially sighted people enjoy the same freedom of movement as everyone else.

Silver supporters:

Guide Dogs

Novartis

Pfizer

The Wilberforce Trust
Supported Housing, Rehabilitation and Training Services

LOC SUPPORT UNIT
Support for Primary Eye Care Development
For further information, please contact:

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