

## NCC-038335-19 Vision screening of 4 to 5 year olds at school entry

Dear Requester,

Further to your request for information under the freedom of information act, please see below.

Dear FOI officer

The British and Irish Orthoptic Society on behalf of the Clinical Council for Eye Health Commissioning are writing to make an open request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

There is a national recommendation, by the UK National Screening committee, to offer orthoptic-led vision screening to children at aged 4-5 years, mainly to ensure that amblyopia (reduced vision), is detected and treated at an age where treatment has the potential to improve vision.

Public Health England introduced service specifications for a Vision Screening Service in 2017. We are concerned that a Vision Screening service is currently not being offered to all children aged 4-5 years in England leading to inequality of eye health care provision.

We are aware that the responsibility for commissioning 0 - 5 year children's public health services has transferred from the NHS to Local Authorities; and that in addition there are to be significant cuts to Local Authority Public Health funding which may affect these services

We would be grateful if you could answer the following questions (for the financial year 2019/2020) to determine the arrangements made by your local authority to commission vision screening for your eligible resident population and it's quality assurance.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Secretary to the Clinical Council for Eye Health Commissioning

### Questions

1. Do you currently commission vision screening in school of children aged 4-5 years old? **No**

If YES, would you please:

2. List the key features of your commissioned screening service:

- a. Settings (e.g. school).
- b. Screening personnel (e.g. orthoptist, school nurse or other health professional).
- c. The onward care pathway for children who fail the vision screening.
- d. The quality assurance (QA) processes (audit) and identified clinical lead for the vision screening service

3. Tell us how you monitor if every child in your Local Authority has been tested (including those in private schools or those who are home-schooled).

4. Tell us whether the programme will be commissioned again in the next financial year

5. If NO- you do not currently commission a vision screening service in your area, would you please tell us :

- a. why you do not commission vision screening? **It is not part of the 0-19 Healthy Families programme currently commissioned**
- b. whether a service is planned for the next financial year (2020/21)? **No**
- c. whether an existing service in your area has been recently decommissioned? **Not recently**  
**Vision screening in Nottinghamshire ended in 2016**

We trust this now resolves your enquiry, however should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me directly on the details below.

Nottinghamshire County Council regularly publishes previous FOIR,s and answers on its website, under Disclosure logs. (see link)

<http://site.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/thecouncil/democracy/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/>

You can use the search facility using keywords.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to the Team Manager, Complaints and Information Team, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP or email [complaints@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:complaints@nottsc.gov.uk) .

Kind Regard

Complaints, Information & Mediation Officer  
Chief Executive's Department  
Nottinghamshire County Council  
County Hall