

SEE ABILITY

Statement on eye care for people with learning disabilities



Easy read fact sheet



We think everyone with a learning disability needs good eye care.



People with learning disabilities are ten times more likely to have problems with their eyes.



It's important everyone has regular eye tests.

August 2023



This includes:

- People with Down's Syndrome.



- People with more severe learning disabilities.



Half of children in special schools have a problem with their eyes.



Regular eye tests help people to keep their eyes healthy.



No one is 'too disabled' for a eye test.



There are lots of changes that can be made to make eye tests easier.



But people with learning disabilities are still missing out on the eye care they need.



There are some people who just need glasses to see well but don't have them.



Some people have even lost their sight.

There are lots of reasons people miss out



People might not be able to say there is a problem.



It might not be obvious to family or supporters.



People think you might have to read or speak to have an eye test.



It can be hard to find out where to go.



People might not know you can ask for an eye test at home.



People might be worried about cost of eye tests or glasses.



Some people do not get enough support with their appointments.



They might need reasonable adjustments.



The NHS has often not given people with learning disabilities enough support with their sight.

There is work happening to make this better



People with learning disabilities are working together to change things.



There is better information on eye care, including easy read.



Some areas in the UK are working with local opticians to make eye tests easier.



The government has agreed to better eye care in special schools.

But there is still a lot of work that needs to be done.

Here is our plan for change on eye care



Make sight tests free for everyone with learning disabilities.



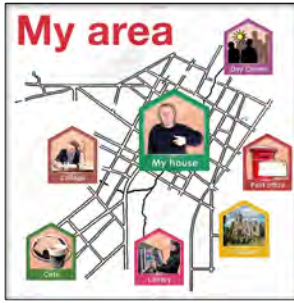
Improve the GP Annual Health Check.



Help General Practitioners (GPs) tell people about their eyesight.



Make sure sight testing in special schools in England is a good service with proper funding.



Make sure there is a local eye testing programme for people with learning disabilities, wherever they live.



Look at the law again so people get the glasses they need.



Make sure people with learning disabilities are supported with their eye care appointments.



Start to collect the numbers of people with learning disabilities getting eye care.



Raise awareness that people with learning disabilities are more likely to have a problem with their eyes.



Training should be led by people with learning disabilities, who are paid to do it.



Be clearer about where people can go for their eye care.



Just because someone has a learning disability it doesn't mean their sight is not important.



Their sight is as important as anyone else's.



Everyone has an equal right to sight!

This easy read was made by SeeAbility's eye care champions team. Lance Campbell, Joanne Kennedy, Rebecca Lunness, and Grace McGill.



www.seeability.org



facebook.com/RSB.seeability



[@seeability](https://twitter.com/seeability)



01372 755000



enquiries@seeability.org

SeeAbility is the operating name of the Royal School for the Blind founded in 1799. Registered charity number 255913.

Some Photosymbols used

www.photosymbols.com

Reviewed: December 2024



© European Easy-to-Read Logo:
Inclusion Europe.

More information at

www.inclusion-europe.eu/easy-to-read