**Community Eye Care Pathway for Adults and Young People with a Learning Disability**

A person aged 14 years and above with a Learning Disability who is identified as having a more severe Learning Disability can access this service. It is likely that it will be their carer who will contact the practice and will ask for this particular service. A person who is assessed as having a milder Learning Disability would very likely be able to access a “standard” sight examination – however, this can be assessed by discussions between the patient, their carer and relevant health care professionals, in order to make sure that the most appropriate eye care service is provided.

The carer/patient will be offered an eye examination appointment within fourteen days and will be asked for additional information in order to be able to tailor the service need. Confidentiality must be respected and it is best to use the SeeAbility forms: “Telling the optometrist about me” and look at further information leaflets such as: “Having an eye test”, although additional verbal information from the optical practice can be very helpful at this stage. Please do ask at any time for a supply of any of the forms and relevant information. The SeeAbility website is also a very useful resource: <https://www.seeability.org/sharing-knowledge>

Once you have these forms ready (*as soon as possible*) together with any additional information, you will be able to plan for the eye examination itself. Pre-visits, as required, to help determine how best to communicate with the patient and familiarising them with the process can be worked out and how best to engage carers (e.g. a Functional Visual Assessment may be helpful). It is best to determine if the patient can visit the practice or if a domiciliary / home visit is required. Most optometrists provide a domiciliary service but if not, you will be referred to a colleague who does and you will be asked to choose from the list provided. Once again, please do ask for any information at any time from any of the participating practices and they will either let you have this or put you in touch with a source of the information you require.

After the examination you will receive the SeeAbility form “The results of my eye test”, and the GP will be informed of the outcomes. Signposting will be offered to any additional SeeAbility easy read factsheets and other local support services, depending upon whether spectacles have been prescribed, or the eye examination indicates other action is required or onward referral for some reason. The person with a Learning Disability will be asked to complete one or perhaps two forms, if possible: “Eye checks for people with learning disabilities” and “Glasses for people with learning disabilities” and there will also be one for carers: “Eye examinations for people with learning disabilities” which should be returned to the Practice where the sight examination was conducted. This will help us refine and improve this pilot Community Service, with the hope that it will evolve into the best service possible.

It is always important that proper support is given to the patient when choosing and dispensing spectacles and the dispensing optician or optometrist, plus their trained staff, will always be on hand to help.