

Ref no: 067120619
From: Commercial
Date: 12/06/19
Subject: Vision screening of 4 to 5 year olds at school entry

REQUEST & RESPONSE

The purpose of this FOI request is to establish the provision of 'orthoptic-led' and/or 'non-orthoptic-led' vision screening across England.

Definition of 'Orthoptic-led':

A service that is led by a designated Orthoptist who is responsible for all aspects of delivery of vision screening to all eligible children. This includes leadership of the personnel delivering the screening, the care pathway and audit and quality assurance mechanisms. The testing of children may be either Orthoptist delivered or delivered by a vision screener trained by an orthoptist.

We would be grateful if you could please answer the following questions and their subsections (where applicable) for the financial year 2019/20 to allow us to establish current provision and support orthoptists in the future to deliver an 'orthoptic led' service.

Many thanks for providing this information, it will be extremely useful to support the objective of delivering equitable orthoptic led vision screening for ALL 4-5 year old children by mapping out current provision. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact [jigs@liverpool.ac.uk]. We look forward to hearing from you.

Questions

1. How many LA and CCGs are served by your organisation for all acute, community and specialist services?

Please list them all.

St.Helens CCG
Knowlsey CCG
Halton CCG
St.Helens Council and Knowsley Council

2. Does your organisation provide the Orthoptic Services for the resident populations of these LAs and CCGs? Y/N

Yes

3. Is a vision screening service currently available in the area (by LA or CCG) served by your organisation for providing Orthoptic Services?

Yes

If NO - please list the LA/CCG that do not provide a vision screening service If YES – For each commissioned screening service please indicate:

a. Who commissions it - LA or CCG?

Local Authority

b. Its compliance with the PHE service specifications i.e. Orthoptic-led and delivered with Quality Assurance and clinical audit processes (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publicatio...>)

i. Compliant

ii. Not compliant

Compliant

4. List the key features of each commissioned screening service :

a. Settings (e.g. school).

School

b. Screening personnel (e.g. orthoptist, school nurse or other health professional).

In St.Helens and Halton, this is carried out by school nursing assistants (with orthoptic oversight).

In Knowsley this is Orthoptic delivered

b. The onward care pathway for children who fail the vision screening.

All referrals into secondary care (joint orthoptic/refraction clinics in community)

d. The quality assurance processes (audit) and identified clinical lead for the vision screening service.

All three strands of the service are audited by the orthoptic department. Where screening is Orthoptic-led, the orthoptist will carry out quality control as per bios training package in school.

5. Tell us how you monitor if every eligible child in the Local Authority or CCG commissioning the service has been tested (including those in private schools, or those who are home schooled).

Lists are uploaded onto the electronic child health systems at the start of the year. These are cross matched with the lists provided by school. At the end of the year, a report is run which identifies any children in the cohort which do not have a screening result logged. We invite these children to clinic,

6. Tell us whether a vision screening programme has been commissioned for the current financial year

Yes

7. If a vision screening service is not currently available, in a Local Authority or CCG served by your Organisation could you please tell us for each of these LA or CCGs – a. why it has not been commissioned?

b. whether a service is planned for the next financial year (2020/21)?

c. whether an existing service has been recently decommissioned?

N/A