

## ***Request under Freedom of Information Act 2000***

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 12 June 2019.

I am pleased to confirm the following.

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

MK CCG for acute services, CNWL (LA) for community paediatric services

### **2. Does your organisation provide the Orthoptic Services for the resident populations of these LAs and CCGs?**

Yes, we provide the Orthoptic services for MK district and surrounding villages

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

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?

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

a) Yes, an Orthoptic-led vision screening service is currently provided by CNWL SNs across MK state mainstream and special schools. No LA provision is agreed yet for vision screening of children who are home schooled or in private schooling.

b) The vision screening service is compliant with PHE service specifications for children in mainstream and special schools.

### **4. List the key features of each 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 processes (audit) and identified clinical lead for the vision screening service.

All children in MK mainstream and special schools have their vision tested by the SN team using a Sonksen logMAR test. The service is Orthoptic-led (Alison Heywood, Head Orthoptist, MKUH is the vision screening service lead). The SN team vision training programme is taught and refreshed every two years by Orthoptists. SN competency assessments are completed every two years and the entire service is audited annually with submission to BIOS national audit. The service complies with national guidelines. Children failing to achieve vision of 0.200 (right and left) are referred into the hospital CCC service (combined Orthoptic/Optomety clinic) for full assessment. The commissioner for children's services has declined to agree a variation to the screening protocol for children with special needs. Any children (in mainstream or special schools) who are unable to comply with Sonksen logMAR testing are referred into the hospital CCC system for assessment.

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).

The LA (CNWL) holds a list of all children in MK mainstream and special schools – SNs monitor that all are screened within the appropriate year. Despite asking on several occasions, CNWL says they do not hold lists of home schooled or privately educated children and have declined to make provision for their vision screening.

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

The Orthoptic-led SN vision screening programme is continuing as normal in 2019/20 and we have been given no indication of intended change.

- 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?**

We have not been informed of any intention by CNWL to extend the vision screening service to include home schooled or privately educated children.

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If you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at the address above.

Yours sincerely,

Freedom Of Information Co-Ordinator  
For and on behalf of Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

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