



Association of British
Dispensing Opticians



ASSOCIATION OF
OPTOMETRISTS



THE COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS



Federation of Ophthalmic
and Dispensing Opticians

Department of Health Consultation on the National Framework for Assessing Children and Young People's Continuing Care

Together ABDO, AOP, the College and FODO represent over 10,500 optometrists over 5,300 dispensing opticians and optical businesses in the UK who provide high quality and accessible eye care services to the whole population.

We have confined our response to those questions which are most appropriate to our sector.

c) Is there anything missing from the National Framework?

Yes. Under the section on communication (page 61 of the consultation document) there is reference to a child's hearing but not reference to checking their vision. The document does suggest that for children with a hearing impairment visual symbols are used. We would like to add that a child's vision must also be checked in addition to their hearing, particularly if they have other needs such as hearing problems where sight is clearly crucial for communication. Vision is an essential part of a child's development and can impact on a range of other problems.

It is particularly important for children who may have difficulty communicating, have access to high quality eye care services. For all children, and especially for those with other health problems, they may not be able to communicate that they have a problem with their eyesight and as a result may have behavioural problems. Childhood eye conditions such as lazy eye and squint can be treated if they caught early. Improving a child's eyesight can improve their overall quality of life and help them to communicate.

All children under the age of 16 and children under 19 in full time education are entitled to a free NHS Sight Test. Children who are confined to their own home and are unable to visit an optical practice unaided due to a physical or mental disability, are entitled to a NHS domiciliary sight test. This applies to children living at home and those in residential care.

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