**PRACTICE VISIT BY A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT IN ENGLAND – KEY MESSAGES**

**Delivering more eye care treatment in the community**

* Even before COVID-19, more than 20 people a month in the UK were suffering unnecessary and irreversible sight loss because of delayed or cancelled hospital outpatient appointments. COVID-19 has made this crisis even worse.
* Optometrists in primary care ‘high street’ optical practices can already provide a wide range of NHS eye health treatment and monitoring services, more quickly and accessibly than hospitals can – but these services aren’t always commissioned locally, creating a postcode lottery
* In this constituency, we [*tailor these bullets as applicable*]
	+ [can already provide NHS services to do ABC]
	+ [could provide services to do XYZ, but can’t currently offer them because [*name of commissioner*] hasn’t commissioned them]
* As our MP, you can help your constituents by encouraging [*name of NHS commissioner*] to provide these services in optical practices across the local area

**Preventing eye disease and promoting good health**

* 50% of sight loss can be prevented if it’s detected in time. Regular sight tests are the most important tool in preventing avoidable sight loss – at least every 2 years, and more often for some people at higher risk
* Optical practices can also improve wider population health, because they often see people who don’t use other parts of the health service but need vision correction for work or driving. Expanding healthy living services in optical practices would be a simple way of reaching these people and addressing health inequalities
* As our MP, you can help your constituents by asking the Director of Public Health in your local authority to commission these services in optical practices across the local area