

A guide to completing the evidence base for a local vision strategy

Thomas Pocklington Trust



Housing and support for
people with sight loss

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1. Introduction

This guide is one of the resources developed by Thomas Pocklington Trust to support local vision strategies. It accompanies the template for an evidence base for a local vision strategy and suggests where to find the evidence that underpins a local vision strategy.

Pocklington has developed resources that aim to make it easier for local sight loss organisations to collect and present information that will support discussion, priorities and action plans. Member organisations in local vision strategy groups are likely to have much of the information needed, but knowing where to start and then bringing all the information together can be daunting.

The template for an evidence base offers an outline and a structure that can be developed and adapted to suit local area. And this guide provides signposts to information sources that are easy to use. Our experience is that in about five days of focussed work a solid evidence base can be achieved and that this can be effectively provided by an intern or student placement working alongside a member of staff or volunteer.

The template for the evidence base is a mix of concise and comprehensive and some sections may not be appropriate in some areas, or there may be others where more information is needed: sections can be deleted or extended to suit local circumstances.

In this guide we suggest documents, individuals and organisations that can provide the local information you need. Naturally, the more up-to-date the information you use the more relevant the evidence base will be. As a general rule of thumb, if the information you find is more than two years old, we recommend searching for an alternate source. Sometimes the information you find won't be as up-to-date as you hope, and you must use what is available. If you can't find local information, use national information to provide an indication of what is likely in your area, and highlight the need for local partners to gather local information.

2. The essential sources of information

Every local vision strategy aims to show how avoidable sight loss can be prevented and the lives of people who have sight loss can be improved.

These aims are supported by two main areas of information:

- about the risks of sight loss in the area
- about what life is like in the area for people who have sight loss now or whose future sight loss cannot be avoided.

The first set of information is often contained in local health, housing and social care strategies and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) documents. Most public sector strategies are available online on LA or NHS websites. The second is gathered by consulting people with sight loss, reviewing local and national research and by assessing how local circumstances are likely to affect people with sight loss.

RNIB have produced a 'Sight Loss Data Tool': a downloadable Excel workbook that contains information about every English borough. Information about Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland is currently being collated and should be available by 2015. The information is drawn from a variety of referenced sources, and includes figures on recorded prevalence of sight loss, estimates of different eye conditions, and predictions of how general demographics and numbers of people with sight loss may change in the future. The tool also has information about Rehab Officers and ECLOs operating in an area. The tool is free to use, and can be downloaded from RNIB's website.

<http://www.rnib.org.uk/aboutus/Research/statistics/Pages/sight-loss-data-tool.aspx>

The sources listed below are likely to provide other useful information.

- The 2011 Census. The detailed breakdown of the census is currently being released in stages, click on the link below. Table P04 2011 contains a breakdown of population by age for each local authority in England.

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/re-reference-tables.html?edition=tcm%3A77-257414>

- For help in forecasting demographic trends in your local area, these two websites are very useful:
- POPPI (Projecting Older People Population Information) which looks at demographic trends for people aged 65+
www.poppi.org.uk
- PANSI (Projecting Adult Needs and Services Information) which looks at the demographic trends for adults aged 18-64
www.pansi.org.uk

- Resources to inform clinical commissioning of eye health services:

<http://www.commissioningforeyecare.org.uk/>

- Information that makes links between generic public health issues (such as smoking or lack of exercise and sight loss):

<http://www.rcophth.ac.uk/page.asp?section=430§ionTitle=Ophthalmic+Public+Health+%28OPH%29>

- The London 'Data Store' provides a range of information for each London Borough

<http://data.london.gov.uk/>

- Disabled-Go is a website that outlines the accessibility of a range of services in a local area.

<http://disabledgo.com/>

- Local Authority websites provide demographic information and local strategies such as: Health and Wellbeing, Older People, Falls Prevention, Transport, Housing.
- Public Health Observatories produce information on the region's health and wellbeing and online research reports

<http://www.apho.org.uk/default.aspx?RID=49802>

- To find out about the UK Vision Strategy and its resources for local use:

<http://www.vision2020uk.org.uk/>

- For information on expenditure on eye health The Department of Health "2010-11 Programme Budgeting PCT Benchmarking Tool" enables commissioners to identify how spend is allocated over 23 disease categories, including "Problems of Vision". Individual CCGs may have more up-to-date information available in other formats.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_132501.zip

- For information on UK wide socio-economic trends in sight loss:

<http://www.rnib.org.uk/aboutus/Research/reports/otherresearch/Pages/fsluk1.aspx>

<http://www.rnib.org.uk/aboutus/Research/reports/otherresearch/Pages/fsluk2.aspx>

The Thomas Pocklington Trust is a charity that provides housing and support for people with sight loss. They also carry out research into issues around sight loss.

<http://www.pocklington-trust.org.uk/research>

RNIB conduct research into many areas around sight loss and eye health.

<http://www.rnib.org.uk/aboutus/research/Pages/research.aspx>

The College of Optometrists also conducts research into sight loss and eye health that may be of interest.

<http://www.college-optometrists.org/en/home.cfm>

3. Completing the evidence base

Each of the headings below corresponds to a heading in the template for the evidence base.

3.1 Introduction

In this section summarise the aims of the local vision strategy, how the strategy has been developed, and how people with sight loss have informed the strategy.

It should set out the links to other local policies and strategies. These will vary in different areas but are likely to include: an older people's strategy, stroke and dementia pathways, an extra care or supported housing strategy, public health strategies.

3.2 Prevalence, trends and costs associated with visual impairment

The demographic information in this section provides a background to the social and economic make-up of the borough; it should also give an indication of where eye-care services may struggle to meet demand in the coming years.

The RNIB sight loss data tool provides the following information by local authority area:

- Total number of people registered blind, partially sighted
- Number of people newly certified as blind or partially sighted in 2010/11
- Estimated number of people living with sight loss
- Predicted number of people living with sight loss in 2020
- Average score on indices of deprivation for boroughs
- Estimated number of adults with diabetes
- Estimated number of people over 70 in 2020
- Estimated number of people living with AMD, cataract, glaucoma, ocular hypertension, diabetic retinopathy,
- Number of hospital locations offering eye clinics and numbers offering eye clinic liaison services.

<http://www.rnib.org.uk/aboutus/Research/statistics/Pages/sight-loss-data-tool.aspx>

The number of people issued with a Certificate of Visual Impairment in your area is available from the NHS Information Centre. There, a table related to your local authority will provide information at that level. Click on the link below or visit NHS Information Centre and type CVI registration in the search engine.

<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/article/2021/Website-Search?productid=1840&q=cvi+registrateion+&sort=Relevance&size=10&page=1&area=both#top>

Your local authority social services department (or their contracted agent) can provide information about the number of people who are registered as blind or partially sighted in the area.

It is important to check the figures you collect with members of the vision strategy group: you may find different information in use and need to consider variation and especially information about the number of people who are issued with a CVI but do not then join the LA register and people who are not eligible for a CVI but are living with serious sight loss, such as while waiting for treatment.

Variation and gaps in the information will indicate a need for action to ensure that comprehensive cross sector data on sight loss is collected and disseminated (Action Plan 3).

For demographic information about your local area consult your local authority's JSNA, your local authority website or the 2011 census. As a count of the population, the census is likely to be the most accurate and thorough demographic breakdown, however, the information will become outdated. Demographic information regarding ethnicity can be altered as applicable to the local area; some areas may have certain sub-groups of ethnicity that are more prevalent than others, and they should be listed in order with the greatest listed first.

For estimated figures reflecting the true picture of sight loss locally, use the figure provided in RNIB's Sight Loss Data Tool, which reflects their findings that approximately 5.5-6 times more people are living with sight loss than are registered. Regarding the increase of 22% by 2020, this refers to 22% of the estimated figures, i.e. if the recorded figures according to RNIB are 700 and

the estimated figure according to RNIB is 4000, the increase will be 22% of the 4000 figure, not the 700 figure.

Information for figure 1: the prevalence of eye conditions
Consult the RNIB sight loss tool (above) and your local Public Health team.

The local JSNA may include a breakdown of current eye disease prevalence and forecast trends.

Other sources of information include:

www.eyehhealthmodel.org.uk or The National Eye Health Epidemiological Model (NEHEM) estimates the number of people with each eye condition on the basis of the demographic information in its existing database (this is not always entirely accurate). It also allows the input of forecasted demographic data (from the JSNA), from which future eye-disease demographics can be calculated.

NEHEM does not provide information for Diabetic Retinopathy. This information can be sourced from the NHS Atlas of Variation of Healthcare, which gives information by PCT, and may also evidence the need to ensure that local information is available. Click on the link below or type the NHS Atlas of Variation into your computer search engine.

<http://www.sepho.org.uk/extras/maps/NHSAAtlas2011/atlas.html>

Past Primary Care Trust and current Clinical Commissioning Group reports may be helpful such as: 'Report on the PCT's performance on care for people with diabetes', which may offer a projection of the number of people likely to develop diabetes until 2026. 80% of diabetics will develop retinopathy within ten years; therefore contemporary trends should give an indication of how instances of retinopathy may increase in the coming years.¹

¹ Evidenced Based Eye Care, ed. P J Ketes and T, Lippincot, Williams and Wilkins, 2007.

For additional data on diabetes and sight loss see:

http://www.diabetes.org.uk/Documents/Reports/Dont_turn_a_blind_eye_0606.pdf

RNIB's sight loss data tool offers additional estimates by LA area on the number of people living with AMD, cataract, glaucoma, ocular hypertension and diabetic retinopathy.

<http://www.rnib.org.uk/aboutus/Research/statistics/Pages/sight-loss-data-tool.aspx>

'Future sight loss UK' also provides national information on the expected future trends of all four major eye diseases in the UK.

<http://www.vision2020uk.org.uk/ukvisionstrategy/page.asp?section=74>

3. Common causes of vision impairment

This section sets out some of the main causes of vision impairment.

You may not have ready information on visual impairment as a result of accidents, cancer, neurological conditions or strokes.

4. Poverty, deprivation and sight loss

The RNIB sight loss data tool provides information by LA area on average scores of indices of deprivation (IMD) for use in this section.

<http://www.rnib.org.uk/aboutus/Research/statistics/Pages/sight-loss-data-tool.aspx>

For information on levels of deprivation in your local area, consult your local authority JSNA and the Office of National Statistics (ONS) England wide information on levels of deprivation in local areas. Below is a link to information on all English Local Authorities. Use the score for "Rank of Average Rank" as the comparative measure; however, if an area is particularly outstanding on another measure (i.e. in top/bottom quintile) it is worth mentioning this as well. The higher the score, the lower the level of deprivation in the area, and vice versa.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6884/1871689.xls

5. Demography, health and lifestyle: risks related to sight loss

This section identifies local lifestyle risks associated with sight loss. It is a section where strong links can be made to other health and care issues such as obesity and smoking.

Local areas may well have profiles or trends that do not fit a national pattern. For instance, it could be that you have a high number of strokes in your area but (unusually) they tend to occur in people of working age. This could not only increase the number of people with sight loss in the community, but also affect local services because services would need to cater for a population.

5.1 Ageing

If the area has an Older People's Strategy it should be referred to here and will provide information for the evidence base.

A breakdown of the current population by age, as well as prediction of future demographic shifts, can be found in your local JSNA.

The 2011 Census has data of the number of people of pension-age living in each LA area.

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/re-reference-tables.html?edition=tcm%3A77-257414>

RNIB's sight loss data tool estimates changes in the population aged over-70 in each LA area in 2020.

<http://www.rnib.org.uk/aboutus/Research/statistics/Pages/sight-loss-data-tool.aspx>

The increase in the number of older people with sight loss can be calculated from forecasts about visual impairment in the borough using RNIB's 'safe statistics'.

5.2 Smoking

The number of people who smoke in your local area is usually given in the local JSNA. Some LA areas provide public health profiles via APHO which give information on health in the area and usually provide statistics on smoking. For example London health profiles can be found here:

http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/view.aspx?QN=HP_REGION_H

There may also be a health profile (conducted most years by Local Authorities) on your local authority or local NHS websites that provide this information.

The London Health Observatory provides data on smoking prevalence amongst adults in all English Local Authorities.

<http://www.lho.org.uk/viewResource.aspx?id=16678>

If the area has a smoking cessation policy it should be referenced here.

5.3 Obesity

Information will be found in the JSNA. APHO health profiles give information about a range of health issues including obesity by LA areas.

http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/view.aspx?QN=HP_REGION_H

The NCMP (national child measurement programme) gives information on obesity and instances of overweight children in Reception and Year 6.

NCMP data is available through the HSCIC (Health & Social Care Information Centre).

<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/searchcatalogue?q=title%3A%22national+child+measurement+programme%22&area=&size=10&sort=Relevance>

If the area has a healthy living, weight management or similar strategy/policy it should be referred to here.

5.4 Alcohol

Information will be found in the JSNA.

LAPE (Local Alcohol Profiles for England) provide information on binge drinking at a LA level.

<http://www.lape.org.uk>

Alcohol-related alcohol admissions to hospital provide an indication of the scope of alcohol use in local areas. NEPHO Community Mental Health Profiles provide information on admissions by LA area.

<http://www.nepho.org.uk/cmhp/>

5.5 High blood pressure

Information will be found in the JSNA.

5.6 Strokes

Information will be found in the JSNA.

Local Stroke Association groups and services may be able to provide further information on the local situation.

Most boroughs have a Stroke Pathway Profile which gives details of high blood pressure and stroke prevalence. Links to individual LA area profiles can be found at this link:

<http://www.londonhp.nhs.uk/publications/stroke/stroke-profiles/stroke-profiles-2012/>

5.7 Diabetes

Information will be found in the JSNA and / or local NHS reports. Further information on instances of diabetic retinopathy is available at this website:

<http://www.sepho.org.uk/extras/maps/NHSatlas2011/atlas.html>

RNIB's sight loss data tool provides estimations on the number of people by LA area who are living with diabetes.

<http://www.rnib.org.uk/aboutus/Research/statistics/Pages/sight-loss-data-tool.aspx>

Public Health teams, clinicians and local authorities can provide information about local arrangements for raising health and lifestyle issues with children with diabetes under the age of 12 and

their parents, as well as introducing the screening arrangements to young people once they reach their 12th birthday and are eligible for Diabetic Retinopathy screening. Information about Adult Screening Programmes and take-up rates may be included in the JSNA – if not it will be available from Public Health.

5.8 Learning disabilities

Information will be found in the JSNA or NHS reports. It is important to be clear about whether figures for people with learning disabilities in the area refer to **recorded** numbers (e.g. those who are registered by a GP as having learning difficulties) or **predicted** numbers (i.e. an estimate based on population demographics and national prevalence). These numbers can vary widely, and it is best to be clear.

SeeAbility, the charity focused on people with learning disabilities who have sight loss, provide targeted information that can inform the evidence base.

http://www.seeability.org/eyecare_hub/default.aspx

5.9 Dementia

Some JSNA's contain information on the number of people diagnosed with dementia in the local area. LA or NHS websites may offer this information within a local 'Community Mental Health Profile.'

A conservative estimate is that 2% of people over the age of 75 have both dementia and sight loss. But it is likely that the % is higher.

5.10 Deaf-Blindness or dual sensory loss

LAs have a duty to people who are deafblind but not all JSNA's provide information on local prevalence and where they do the charity Sense UK has argued that the figures are underestimates.

Sense UK has developed a model for estimating the number of deafblind people in each authority. This database also includes growth forecasts for the deaf-blind population until 2030. For more information click on the link below, or go to the Sense UK website

and look for 'what is deaf blindness/urgency/Regional data' in the local search engine.

<http://www.sense.org.uk/publications/regional-data-future-deafblind-population-london>

The NHS Information Centre records numbers of people in each Local Authority who are registered as having a visual impairment and a hearing impairment; however, as there is no process for registering a hearing impairment, and (as detailed above) many people with a visual impairment are not registered, this data is likely to be an under-representation.

<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/blindpartiallysighted11>

6. Health and wellbeing problems caused by visual impairment

6.1 Depression

If the area has a document, strategy or policy that refers to depression it should be included here.

6.2 Social isolation

Local links with the national 'campaign to end loneliness' and activity by Age UK may be usefully included here.

<http://www.campaigntoendloneliness.org.uk/>

6.3 Falls

RNIB have produced information on the cost of falls due to visual impairment.

http://www.rnib.org.uk/aboutus/Research/reports/2011/Falls_boyce.doc

Information on the number of people whose fall led to a hospital admission can be found through Hospital Episode Statistics online, or in your Local Authority JSNA.

If you are not able to source any figures for your area, you can use the average of £50 million per borough per year.

If the area has a Falls Strategy, or an Older People's Strategy that has a section on falls, this should be outlined and attention to sight loss highlighted.

7. Local services: the journey from sight, to vision impairment and towards independence

We used the Adult UK Sight Loss Pathway to develop a broader local pathway to include prevention of sight loss and independent living. Presenting information in the stages along the pathway provides a clear structure that emphasises the connections between different services and organisations. It also make gaps in provision easier to find and will highlight any duplication or overlap in services and opportunities for collaboration.

Adult UK Sight Loss Pathway:

<http://www.vision2020uk.org.uk/ukvisionstrategy/page.asp?section=237§ionTitle=Adult+UK+sight+loss+pathway>

When collecting and presenting information at the different stages of the pathway it may be useful to consider issues of 'joined' up information and services and how NHS, social care ,housing and other services link up. For example:

- How are people referred within clinical or within care services? Such as from a GP to an ophthalmologist, from an OT to a vision rehabilitation team?
- How are people referred from services in one sector to services in another? Such as from an ophthalmologist to a vision rehabilitation team, or from a housing improvement agency to an OT?
- At what points can people access different services? What are the eligibility criteria? And are the time limited or can someone leave the system and re-enter at a later point?

- What are the barriers to information, diagnosis, treatment or support? For example, are there any cultural or language barriers? Or does transport or geography prevent people attending treatment or rehabilitation services?
- What happens in other areas that could help in your area?

Throughout this section it will be important to present information about what is happening locally, evaluation or review of services from the perspective of people with sight loss and the comments of people living locally that have been collected in consultation. A commentary on issues and experiences will make the pathway come alive locally and indicate clearly the action points and priorities that may follow.

7.1 Stage 1 – Promoting eye-health and preventing avoidable sight loss

Contents of this section might include information about local eye-health education campaigns, their aims and audiences as well as any evaluation of their effects. Research suggests that eye health campaigns that target particular population groups are successful: the evidence base can identify if any exist or that gaps exist.

Public health campaigns that are focused on other aspects of health may address sight loss and eye health, such as smoking, obesity or alcohol. Reference to these, and whether or not eye health and sight loss is included will be useful.

This section should also include information about relevant information sharing or awareness raising activities across different professional groups, or note their absence and highlight the value of joined up working.

7.2 Stage 2 - Spotting the Problem

This section is about the professionals and services that that will be the first point of call if an individual, their partner, friends, family or carer has a concern about their sight.

The Local Optical Committee can provide information about both high street and hospital optometrists. Local Optical Committee Support Unit, providing information about services in England:
<http://www.locsu.co.uk/>

'My local optician' lists local opticians in London boroughs who provide home visits:
<http://www.mylocaloptician.co.uk/find/category/england-home-visit-opticians/london-home-visiting-opticians>

The local clinical commissioning group can also provide information about optometrists offering domiciliary eye tests in the area. The LOC will also be able to provide information on home eye examinations: it is important to be aware that though opticians' practices may be registered to offer home visits, this does not mean that they offer them in practice. It is therefore worth making sure that details are up-to-date.

Information about optometrists that offer specialist eye examinations for people with learning disabilities is available on the Seeability website:
http://www.seeability.org/eyecare_hub/

There may be a local 'bridge to vision' training scheme (run by the RNIB) in the area? Bridge to Vision is a training scheme for Optometrists who provide advice in caring for the eye-health of people with learning disabilities.

You may wish to include an appendix that lists the High Street Optometrists in your local area. You may also wish to include a map to show the spread of practices, particularly if the locations have an impact on how regularly people visit their optician.

Local GP Services

Insert information about GP's with a special interest in Optometry or Ophthalmology operating in the local area.

Insert information about steps that GP practices have taken locally to ensure services are accessible to people with sight loss.

For information on the services offered by GPs in the local area contact surgeries directly or make enquiries through GP members of the planning group.

7.3 Stages 3 and 4 - Diagnosis and treatment of eye conditions and sight loss

Community based

If there is a Primary Eyecare Acute Referral Service (PEARS) in your local area, describe this and indicate which optometrists are part of the scheme, the type of procedures they undertake and where they practice.

Hospital based

Information about the number of hospitals with an Ophthalmology department serving your area should be available from your local Clinical Commissioning Group website.

For more detailed information, data on waiting times to see an Ophthalmologist, and comparisons with other hospitals in the region, consult:

<http://www.nhs.uk/servicedirectories/Pages/ServiceSearch.aspx?ServiceType=Hospital>

And enter the geographical area that you are looking at and 'Ophthalmology', from this you can select the specific hospital that you want to look at. Once you have information on the hospitals in your area, check the 'detailed comparison' tab and the 'Ophthalmology Related Data' section.

The hospital should also be able to tell you the number of Ophthalmic Nurses and Medical Photographers working in each Ophthalmology department at each hospital.

It is likely that in different areas different issues may affect access to and use of these services and a local commentary will be important to highlight difficulties and good practice.

Orthoptists

Find information about local children's eye clinics and screening arrangements from NHS websites, Public Health, or LOC.

Orthoptists work in other services too and you may find it helpful to ask the Eye Clinic where they are based.

Low Vision Services

Add information about local low vision service provision, who operates the service, how often it runs and take up by patients.

Information on community services and schemes or plans to introduce them may be available from the Local Optical Committee (LOC). LOCs are often run as groups of two or three neighbouring LA areas. A list of regional optical committees and their groupings can be found here:

<http://www.loc-net.org.uk/>

The LOC website also provides a map of 'enhanced service pathways' in the UK.

<http://www.locsu.co.uk/enhanced-services-pathways/enhanced-services-map#london>

Information about Community Low Vision Services may also be available from local voluntary sector groups.

7.4 Stages 5-7 – Assessment and rehabilitation of sight loss, Emotional and Practical Support

Insert information about numbers of CVI and registration - as in earlier sections of the evidence base - and expand any commentary about the importance of both CVI and registration as gateways to support.

Information about cross sector referrals and arrangements for CVI, registration and local sight loss services will be available from the vision rehabilitation or sensory impairment team in the LA and eye clinics in the NHS. Key issues to describe are likely to be the importance of good referral systems and joined up information and protocols.

Eye Care Liaison Officers (ECLOs)

RNIB provides a list of hospitals in the UK offering eye clinic support.

<http://www.rnib.org.uk/PROFESSIONALS/HEALTH/SERVICES/CLINIC/Pages/eclo.aspx>

The RNIB Sight Loss Data Tool also provides information about ECLOs.

<http://www.rnib.org.uk/aboutus/Research/statistics/Pages/sight-loss-data-tool.aspx>

There are variations between ECLO roles and responsibilities and it will be important to describe the local circumstances, by collecting information from the ECLO or eye clinic in which they are based.

Information about the local 'Improving Access to Psychological Therapies' (IAPT) provision is available through the Clinical Commissioning Group, Public Health team or local mental health service. It may be known by a different name in each area across England, but each area will have its own website.

If possible collect and present information about other psychological, emotional and practical support offered by public, private and voluntary organisations but rather than presenting a shopping list of provision, the likelihood of sight loss sensitive services should be identified or a comment made about the lack of this information.

Sensory Loss Teams

Information for this section may be available on your local authority's website. If not you will need to contact the sensory loss team directly to find the information you need to present and discuss about the nature of the service, referrals to it and waiting times. It is likely that consultation locally will provide information or comment on pressure points or other issues of concern.

The sorts of service that you might expect Sensory Services or Rehabilitation Officers to provide are:

- Independent living skills, for instance, guidance on how to continue cooking and using the kitchen if you can no longer rely on your sight.
- The provision and demonstration of low vision aids, such as magnifiers to help with reading and writing.

- Provision and guidance on how to use mobility aids, such as canes.
- Mobility training sessions can provide guidance on how to use public transport and navigate built environments after sight loss.
- Lighting is very important to help people make the most of their remaining sight, and many local sensory loss teams will be able to give advice and provide aids to improve lighting in the home.

Children’s sensory loss and habilitation services

This information is also likely to be on the local authority website within a children and family’s directorate.

It is likely that there will be a pathway in place for the care and support of children with special needs, although not necessarily a specific pathway for children with visual impairment. This pathway will most likely begin at infancy and continue until 18, with some authorities extending this until 25 to allow for a smoother transition to adult social services.

Describing the pathway and the services for children will be important in the strategy.

8 Local services: Living with sight loss and the journey to independent living in [area] – Stage 8

This section addresses the everyday services that people with visual impairment need to live active and independent lives.

We have offered a structure and headings for this section, but this should be adapted to reflect local circumstances and issues arising in consultation.

The information needed will be available from:

- local information directories
- the LA (transport, highways, leisure services, children and families, housing)

- the Disabled Go website (<http://www.disabledgo.com/en/search>)
- local transport providers
- the local council for voluntary service or rural community council
- voluntary organisations and service users are also a good resource for providing a viewpoint of services available in the local area

Voluntary organisations

An indication of the range of local organisations can be gathered from local information directories. Information about the opportunities and constraints in their support for people with sight loss is more likely to be derived from local consultation.

Contact information for many of the organisations can be listed in the Directory section, rather than in the Evidence Base itself.