



INDUSTRY VISION GROUP – ACTION PLAN FOR OPHTHALMOLOGY

In November 2018 the Industry Vision Group (IVG) brought representatives from across the eye health sector to Parliament to discuss the future of ophthalmology services in England. The below recommendations for Government and the NHS represent the priority actions to deliver a world class service which meets the needs of patients now and in the future.

ACTION PLAN FOR OPHTHALMOLOGY

1

The development of the National Ophthalmology Database should be prioritised, as part of a broader national and local commitment to improve the collection and utilisation of data on outcomes to improve local policy making and resource allocation.

2

The development and implementation of an IT-platform at scale that supports enhanced research and development and better integration between community optometry, primary care and hospital-based ophthalmology services should be accelerated. Short, medium and long-term objectives for this programme, and timelines, should be published as soon as possible.

3

All Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships / Integrated Care Systems should be held accountable for developing and implementing integrated ophthalmology plans that are informed by the learnings from the Getting It Right First Time report, as well as other sources, such as the Royal College of Ophthalmologists Way Forward reports, NHS England’s High Impact Intervention programme and the Clinical Council for Eye Health Commissioning’s Systems and Assurance Framework for Eye-Health (SAFE)ⁱⁱ

4

NHS RightCare should take a stronger lead in providing guidance and support for commissioners in eye-care, working in close collaboration with the Clinical Council for Eye Health Commissioning and building on the Systems and Assurance Framework for Eye Health.ⁱⁱ Improved guidance should recommend the commissioning by the NHS of Eye Clinic Liaison Officers as an early priority.

5

The publication of a workforce development plan for ophthalmology should become a priority, with a commitment that this should be published before the end of the year. This plan should address both the future numbers required of trained eye care specialists (across the care pathway) but also how multi-disciplinary working can be improved so as to enhance efficiency and outcomes.

6

The link between sight loss and mental health, depression and frailty and fallsⁱⁱⁱ should be explicitly recognised in both national and local policy and reflected in both local plans and commissioning decisions.

SUPPORTERS

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Dr Paul Williams MP

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Lord Hunt of King’s Heath

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George Howarth MP

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R N I B



Industry Vision Group members: Allergan, Bayer Plc, Glaukos, Novartis and Santen

ⁱ Royal College of Ophthalmologists. The Way Forward Resources. Available: <https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/standards-publications-research/the-way-forward/> (Accessed 23.01.19)

ⁱⁱ Clinical Council for Eye Health Commissioning. System and Assurance Framework for Eye-health (SAFE) – Overview. 2018. Available: <https://www.college-optometrists.org/the-college/ccchc/safe-systems-assurance-framework-for-eye-health.html> (Accessed 23.01.19)

ⁱⁱⁱ Boyce, T. et al. Projecting number of falls related to visual impairment. 2013. British Journal of Healthcare Management. Vol 19 226-229.