

Background of Presenters

John Legg, Director, RNIB Scotland

John has been the main lead in driving the Scottish Vision Strategy, Scotland's response to the World Health Assembly Resolution of 2003 which has urged the development and implementation of plans to tackle vision impairment in Scotland. The strategy, known as Vision 2020, has a Scottish implementation plan building on our existing impressive investment in eye care. The strategy points to a society where health and social care services are truly integrated and centred on the needs of the individuals.

Bette Francis

Bette works for Scottish Government as the policy manager for the Care and Support Team in the Adult Care and Support Division. Her responsibilities include implementation of The same as you? learning disability review, and community care services for people with sensory impairments. The Government Task Force report on health inequalities, Equally well, included specific recommendations on the tackling "of" health inequalities "for" people with learning disabilities experience.

Dr Maggie Woodhouse, Senior Lecturer, School of Optometry & Vision Sciences, Cardiff University

Maggie is a qualified optometrist who, for the last 20 years, has specialised in clinical work and in research, in optometric eye care for children and adults with disabilities. She runs a Special Assessment Clinic within the School. The fact that the clinic has a long waiting list and patients travel very long distances for an appointment, is evidence of how poor access to eye tests is for people with learning disabilities throughout most parts of the country. Maggie is anxious to address this in three ways:

- To improve the training of optometrists at student and post-graduate level

- To improve NHS provision (i.e. funding) for eye tests
- To educate carers and other professionals in the need for eyecare and the management of visual impairment

Maggie has published several papers on eye and visual defects among adults with learning disabilities, but her major contribution is a long-term study of vision and visual development in children with Down's Syndrome.

Linda Allan, Nurse Consultant

Linda is the Consultant Nurse for learning disabilities covering NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde. Linda is based at the Primary Care Liaison Team and has been actively involved in health improvement for adults with learning disabilities, including visual health for a number of years. Linda has also been actively involved in developing the GP contract developments of the Quality Outcome Framework and enhanced service for adults with Learning Disabilities both at a local and national level. She is the current clinical lead within NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde for the Learning Disabilities enhanced service and is also an Honorary Lecturer at the University of Glasgow.

Linda Mitchell

Linda is the National Practice and Development Manager with RNIB Visual Impairment and Learning Disability Services. She has 13 years experience in supporting adults with learning disabilities who also have sight difficulties, she also has experience of undertaking vision and environmental assessments, staff training in all areas linked to visual impairment and learning disability. Linda manages a team of 9 people made up of Project Assessment Workers, Rehabilitation Worker, Information Officer and Training Assessment Consultant. All working and supporting adults with learning disability and suspected or confirmed sight loss.



OVERLOOKED?

Visual impairment is 4 times more likely in people with learning disabilities. Most go undetected.

Bridge to Vision 2009 Conference

Scotland's Model of Equitable Eye Health for People with a Learning Disability

Wednesday 25 March 2009

Glasgow Marriott Hotel, 500 Argyle St, Glasgow G3 8RR Tel: 0141 226 5577

Introduction

Background

This conference is presented as a joint initiative between the Royal National Institute of Blind People Scotland and ENABLE Scotland to develop a model of inclusive eye health for people with a learning disability in Scotland. There will be a focus on strategy and policy development at both local and national levels and presents an opportunity to develop equitable eye care for people with a learning disability.

Aim

To identify a range of barriers to eye-health for people with a learning disability, consider how these impact on health/social care planning, and identify key actions for Scotland.

Benefits

- Develop a better understanding of the barriers faced by people with a visual impairment and learning disability.
- Participation in a forum to exchange ideas, best practices, and expertise on eye care development for people with a learning disability in Scotland.

Target Audience

- Senior Health, Social Care or Third Sector staff who can affect change in the development of inclusive provision for people with a learning disability and confirmed or suspected sight loss.

Cost

£45.00 per person and FREE to people with a learning disability.

Programme

0930 Registration and coffee

1000 Welcome

by **Chair Norman Dunning**, CEO, ENABLE Scotland

1015 Keynote Address

John Legg, Director, RNIB Scotland

Vision 2020: Scotland's Strategy for Eye Care

1030 Scotland's Policy Context

Bette Francis, Policy Manager Scottish Government

Better health, better care for people with learning disabilities in Scotland

1100 Coffee

1115 Accessible Eye Health in Practice

Dr Maggie Woodhouse, Cardiff University

Presentation about the ways in which eye tests can be adapted for people with limited understanding and communication, as well as the barriers to good eye care

1145 Impact Assessment - from the people who matter

Review of service provision from service user's parent or carer

1200 Bridge to Vision - The Journey

Dr Helen Lynn, Clinical Director,

Learning Disability Services, NHS Ayrshire & Arran

1215 Lunch

1310 "Blind Ambition"

Presentation by **Heartfelt**

1320 Scottish Fair

An opportunity to discuss key issues and contribute to agenda for action

- **Bette Frances**
- **John Legg**
- **Maggie Woodhouse**
- **Linda Allen**
- **Linda Mitchell**
- **Service User & Carer Group**

1435 Coffee

1450 Ranking the Priorities

1600 Close and Evaluation

