



# Lions Clubs International

## MD105 British Isles

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Dear Fellow Lions,

Many of you will have heard about the exciting project the Multiple District is undertaking looking at Child Sight Screening, we wanted to take this opportunity to give you a brief update as to our progress.

A GST project team has been working to establish the project and to pull together the information needed by all clubs, zones and districts to run an effective long term project.

To give you a little back ground information from across the United Kingdom,

Soon after a child starts school, all parents receive a letter about their school entry health check. These screening checks are offered to all four- or five-year-olds, usually in the first few weeks of the autumn term of their Reception year.

The purpose of the school entry health check is to identify health concerns that need to be addressed before, or soon after, the child starts school, as they may affect their learning, The child's sight will be checked, usually by using the standard visual acuity eye test, where they're asked to read lines of letters of diminishing size from a chart some distance away. If the child doesn't yet know their letters, the health professional will use a different technique.

This is a physical eye test and does not look at the mechanics of the child's eye, the camera we are using looks inside the eye.

The latest freedom of information shows that only 55% of local authorities complete some kind of physical eye assessment and currently 1 child in 13 has an eye condition that is undetected.

We are working in partnership with the Royal College of Ophthalmology and Public Health England to have our process independently validated and recognised.

We have four pilot schools from across the MD who have agreed to take part in an initial screening exercise and allow us the opportunity to test our process, once this has been done and the final process agreed by Council we as an organisation can look at how we will fund this project as a Zone District and MD Level and from them we will ensure that the camera is launched in each of the Districts.

There will be a presentation by the Project Co-Ordinator at MD Convention next week, we need to ensure as an organisation that we are all following the same process and giving the same information out to schools and the young people we are screening.

As part of the initial project development, we are fortunate to have the opportunity to learn from our colleagues in the United States and their vision screening projects and to gain from their years of experience and implementation.

This initial training is being offered to the four-pilot area's plus the Sight Camera Leads from each of the new Districts. Please put the 23rd and 24th of May into your diary.

We are sure many others may wish to be involved at this early stage and it may be possible that there may be an opportunity to attend this event, we will know more after MD Convention – Please forward an expression of interest to your current DG via email.

Please can we ask that Lions who are starting to move this project forward at a local level wait for the time being until we have all of our processes and procedure in place. This is key to the long term success of the project and to ensure that we are complying with Health Care best practice.

In the mean time please find attached a current FAQ paper, if you have any further questions to add to this please send them through to Lion Stuart Young RN – MD GST Sight Camera Co-Ordinator on the following [swayoung@gmail.com](mailto:swayoung@gmail.com)  
Yours in Lionism

Lion Peter Burnett  
Council Chairman 2018-19  
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## #LionsGetInvolved

