

Vision screening – frequently asked questions.

Q1. How can we be sure that local authorities in each area do not carry out eye tests in schools? Can this be checked?

A. This varies from area to area, CCG to CCG, Local Authority to Local Authority, the test we are carrying out is different to the tests already completed in schools and will be an added tool to help young people get the support they may need with vision.

Q2. NHS does provide free eye tests and glasses for children under age 16. Is this Lions screening service really needed?

A. This is an additional layer of screening that will enhance the screening already carried out in some areas of the UK, this helps to identify the Children who need further medical assistance. The camera result will show those children who need to professional assessment and intervention – this test would also be free and the point of need.

Q3. Are these machines recognised and certified by the NHS to be used in the UK on young children?

A. We are currently working with Public Health England (The area of the NHS that looks after screening) to get their endorsement for the work we are going to undertake,

Q4. Would local schools and Councils actually allow an unknown, unqualified Lions member into their school to test very young children? Is there likely to be challenge with access during busy school day/curriculum time?

1. Only Lions capable of carrying out the screening
2. Lions to be DBS checked/certificated
3. Need to understand what is expected of the Lions

A. You do not need to be medically qualified to use the camera, we do not give a diagnosis to the child or school, we simply give them a letter stating we advice they see an optician.

All Lions going into an education establishment would have to be DBS Checked and most schools will also ask that the Lions are accompanied by a member of school staff at all times,

There will be a comprehensive training programme for all Lions who undertake this service project

Q5 Potential privacy issues related to the child's identity – will it be the Lions' responsibility or the school to complete the details? GDPR? Issues in respect of the information gleaned from the camera. Who will receive this information and how? Safeguarding considerations?

A. Each Child will be issues with a standard consent form before the sight visit to get consent from the parents – this form will be help by the school and Lions carrying out the camera test will be asked to mark the form to say they have seen it

After the eye scan a Red or Green Letter will be issues for each child/test and given to the school for them to distribute to parents

The only data Lions will collect is the number of young people they have scanned and the number of Red Letters and number of Green Letters issued.

Q6. Would the obtained prescription result you state the machine gives actually be accepted directly by the NHS?

A. This does not give you a prescription result – this device is a signpost children with potential sight difficulties to a qualified health professional – they will then complete their own comprehensive tests

Q7 What will happen if we miss important physical signs which may be picked up later eg. slight squint, unequal pupils, dilated pupils, lack of peripheral vision. Would we be deemed to have some responsibility?

A. We are not completing a comprehensive assessment on the eye we are screening for potential issues, the camera will make a clinical decision Red or Green and we will pass that information on to the parents of the child. The consent letter will clearly state that this is not in replace of an optometrists eye test.

Q8 Who in District will be responsible for the machines ?

A. Depends who owns the camera – if it is owned by the District then the DG will be appointing a lead for the project and they will have custody of them. If bought by Zones or Clubs then this would have to be negotiated at a local level

Q9. How much training is required and are there any costs.

A There will be a comprehensive training programme rolled out across the districts once the project has the go ahead to roll out across the UK from Council. The cost will be kept to a minimum and we will work with DG's to establish the best way to deliver training in their districts

Q10. Would schools insurance cover the risk for equipment left in school?

A. Camera should NEVER be left in the school it is Lions property

Q11. Who will receive the test results?

A. The Parent and Child receives a letter with either a green or red option, green – no concerns but still promotes having eyes professionally tested as per current NHS Guidelines, Red – suggested strongly to get Child into see optician

Q12. Who corroborates the results and how are they registered?

A. Lions only record the number of students screened, the number of Red Letters and the number of Green Letters issued at each session. Please see Q11 answer

Q13. Logistics and responsibility for taking the camera from one Lions Club to another – right place right time syndrome

A. That is something that the District Co-ordinator or Zone Co-ordinator will manage

Q14 Local management of the scheme – guidance needed

A – Will follow once trials have been completed

Q15. Ongoing commitment to remain involved with the schools. Is that possible in practical terms year in year out?

A – That is something that each club / zone must decide – We would suggest that this should be the start of a long term partnership between lions clubs and local schools

Q16 Should the examination be carried out by someone with the same knowledge and expertise as pertained to the previous school visit?

A Every one will have the same training and no one should be giving advice other than what we state on the results letters

Q17. Unequal commitment by schools – putting some children to disadvantage?

A. This is the nature of screening, we can only screen those schools who wish to engage with Lions and those whose parents consent

Q18. WOULD WE BE PROTECTED BY OUR MEDICAL MALPRACTICE INSURANCE ESPECIALLY IF CARRIED BY LIONS WITHOUT MEDICAL TRAINING/KNOWLEDGE – HAS THIS SCREENING BEEN DISCUSSED AND AGREED WITH OUR INSURERS?

A. There is no diagnosis – this is an initial screening process and our letters will ensure that we explain about the need for regular optician review is essential – we will be using NHS England's current advice