



Department of Developmental Paediatrics

Developmental Vision Team

Information for parents and carers

Introduction

This fact sheet aims to give you some information about the Developmental Vision Team and what they do.

Why has my child been referred to the Developmental Vision Team?

For advice and help for an eyesight problem that may affect your child's development or learning.

Who can refer a child to the Developmental Vision Team?

Anyone who suspects a child has a vision problem that interferes with his/her development or learning. This is usually an ophthalmologist (eye specialist), teacher, health visitor or therapist.

Who is in the Developmental Vision Team?

The team consists of:

- A paediatrician (a doctor specially trained in the medical care of children).
- A Consultant Ophthalmologist (a doctor specialising in the eye and vision).
- An Optometrist (an optician who is based in the hospital).
- An Orthoptist (a member of the eye care team who is based in the hospital).
- Specialist Teachers of Visual Impairment linked to the local service authorities.
- A representative from a major voluntary sector visual impairment organisation who offer support to families with visually impaired children.

Does anyone else work with the Developmental Vision Team?

The team works closely with any other medical specialists or therapists your child may be seeing, either in Alder Hey or in the community. The Teachers for the Visually Impaired on the team work in the City's schools and nurseries to ensure that your child's education needs are being met.

The team also work closely with the eye clinic and local services and TAC (Team Around the Child).

What does the Developmental Vision Team do?

The team works with you and your child and other professionals involved in your child's care, to provide a programme of activities to assist your child's development and learning.

The team will ensure that your child is seen by the relevant people who need to support them.

Will I need to take my child to see the Team?

The team will initially discuss your child's needs and then the specialist teachers will visit you either at your home or in school/nursery to share the information. If your child has complex needs the team may be able to offer a hospital appointment where a number of the professionals involved can see you and your child at the same time.

What will happen next?

One or more of the team (usually the specialist teacher for visually impaired) will contact you to arrange an initial visit, either to your home, your child's nursery or school where your child is placed or at hospital. Following this they will discuss with you the support they feel is necessary for your child to have equality of access to all learning and other activities in school, and when your child will be seen again by the team.

How do I contact the team for further information?

You can telephone any of the numbers below:

Paediatric/ Ophthalmology Departments via switchboard, Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust	0151 228 4811
Liverpool Sensory Service	0151 225 6280
Knowsley Sensory Service	0151 443 2057
Sefton SEN and Inclusion Support Service	0151 934 2347
St. Helens Sensory Service:	01744 673 135
Action for Blind People:	0151 702 5700

This fact sheet only gives general information. You must always discuss the individual treatment of your child with the appropriate member of staff. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about your child's treatment.

This information can be made available in other languages and formats if requested.

Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust
Eaton Road
Liverpool
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0151 228 4811
www.alderhey.nhs.uk