Devon in Sight Making the best use of your sight Fact Sheet 1

Low Vision Assessment

Introduction

A Low Vision Assessment (LVA) determines how you can make use of your remaining vision. An Optometrist or Orthoptist carries out the assessment at a hospital eye clinic. The Optometrist will measure your useful vision and identify potential optical aids.

Ophthalmologist (Eye Doctor)

If the Ophthalmologist finds that your vision can't be improved by glasses and contact lenses, or medical or surgical treatment, you may be referred to a Low Vision Clinic.

You may also be referred by your optician directly into the Low Vision Clinic.

At the Low Vision Clinic

The Optometrist will measure your functional vision for both close and distance tasks. They will use eye charts and reading materials similar to the charts used in standard eye tests.

They will identify potential optical aids that may help with everyday tasks such as reading and writing. These aids are issued free of charge on a long term loan basis.

If you lose your optical aid that was loaned to you or it breaks, contact the hospital you were seen by for a repair or replacement.

They can advise you about managing at home and getting out and about.

They will also assess you to see if you are eligible to be registered as sight impaired or severely sight impaired.

How to Access a Low Vision Assessment?

If you are an existing Eye Unit patient, you can request a Low Vision Assessment through the Eye Unit.

Alternatively, you can ask your High Street Optician or General Practitioner (GP) to refer you into the Eye Unit for a Low Vision Assessment.

What should I do if I notice a change in my sight?

Visit your optician or GP if you're concerned about any aspect of your vision at any time.

Having an eye test won't just tell you if you need new glasses or a change of prescription it is also an important eye health check.

This check can often pick up the first signs of an eye condition before you notice any changes in your vision. This can lead to you getting vital treatment at the right time, which could save your sight.

If they find a problem, you'll be referred to hospital to see an ophthalmologist (eye doctor).

Go to A&E immediately or call 999 if:

- Experience a severe eye pain with nausea or vomiting
- Have a sudden serious change in your vision
- Lose all or part of your vision in one eye or both eyes
- Have an accident involving your eyes

Go to 111.nhs.uk, call 111 or call your GP surgery.

- For flashing lights or floaters in your vision.

What to do next?

Book an eye test with your Optician, if you are concerned about any aspect of your vision at any time.

If you need any further advice call our Helpline: 01392 876 666

Devon in Sight is a member of the **Helpline Partnership Community.**

Further Support Available from Devon in Sight

Devon in Sight offers a range of holistic services for anyone affected by sight loss, who either live in or work across Devon. We can provide support to people who are blind or partially sighted, their families, friends and carers.

Our Sight Loss Services focus on four key areas, **Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG)**, **Independent Living**, **Health and Wellbeing**, and **Influencing Change** (Making the world a better place for people with sight loss).

Information Disclaimer

Devon in Sight is committed to producing Information, Advice & Guidance Resources that are clear, accurate, evidence-based, up-to-date and easy to use. We have a robust information production process based on best practice to ensure that information we produce meets the needs of people who are blind or partially sighted and their family and friends.

Devon in Sight is not a medical organisation; therefore we can only provide general information that is not intended to be a substitute for a proper medical assessment. Our information is not intended to be used for individual cases. If you have a specific question about your eye condition, we recommend that you consult an eye care professional.

Devon in Sight will not accept liability for any loss or damage or inconvenience arising as a consequence of any use of or the inability to use any information resources that it provides. People who use our Information Resources and rely on any information do so at their own risk. Devon in Sight does not represent or warrant that its Information Resources are accurate, complete or up to date.

Our Information, Advice & Guidance Resources were correct at the time of writing. However, due to research and medical advances, the content may not be completely up to date.

Devon in Sight Contact Information

Devon in Sight
Your local sight loss charity

Helpline 01392 876 666
www.devoninsight.org.uk
enquiries@devoninsight.org.uk

Devon in Sight is a Registered Charity No 1140978

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