


# Information for patients and carers

## Adult Low Vision Support Clinic

This booklet will help you understand what happens at an adult low vision support clinic appointment

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page consisting of three overlapping, wavy bands of blue. The top band is a light blue, the middle is a medium blue, and the bottom is a dark blue.

## What is the Low Vision Support Clinic?

The low vision support clinic is intended for individuals who have a visual impairment (vision which cannot be improved with glasses or contact lenses). You will be seen by an orthoptist who has specialist training and knowledge regarding all aspects of low vision aids and support available, they will work with you to maximise your remaining vision.

A low vision assessment involves working with each individual's existing vision and assessing their visual ability to perform daily living tasks such as:

- Reading
- Cooking
- Going shopping
- Organising medicines
- Hobbies
- Problems with glare

## What happens at a Low Vision Assessment?

We will assess your vision for near and distance and show you different types of magnifiers which may help. The different types of magnifiers can be:

- Illuminated or non-illuminated
- Handheld or stand magnifiers
- Hands free magnifiers
- Telescopes

## We can also advise about:

- Being certified as sight impaired
- Glare
- Lighting
- Technology such as tablets, phones, computers, and audio books.
- Non-optical aids

## The ECLO (Eye Clinic Liaison Officer)

After you have seen the low vision specialist you will be offered to meet with our hospital ECLO (Eye Clinic Liaison Officer).

The ECLO offers advice and information such as:

- Counselling
- Charles Bonnet Syndrome (visual hallucinations following vision loss)
- Symbol cane/ white cane training
- Access to employment and education
- Benefits checks
- Various services and local support groups for the visually impaired
- Offer a ***Living with Sight Loss*** (LWSL) ***course***

## Access to the Low Vision Service

It is not necessary to be registered as visually impaired to access this service.

Referral can be any of the following:

- GP
- Optician

- Ophthalmologist (eye doctor)
- ECLO (eye clinic liaison officer)
- Self-refer by contacting us directly

**All the Low Vision Aids are given as a long-term. Any Low Vision Aids not being used should be returned to the Low Vision Clinic as soon as possible.**

## **Low vision support clinic locations**

- Royal Preston Hospital
- Lancashire Eye Centre – Chorley Hospital

## **Things to remember on the day of your appointment:**

- Please be aware that a low vision appointment can last for up to 1 hour
- Please bring any current glasses that you wear to your appointment
- If you normally wear, contact lenses please ensure you're wearing these on the day of your appointment
- Please bring any existing magnifiers you may have to your appointment
- If there are any particular tasks that you would like help with, please bring an example of this with you on the day of the appointment

## Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please contact:

Low Vision Support Service  
Lancashire Eye Centre,  
Preston Road,  
Chorley,  
PR7 1PP

If you have any queries regarding your appointments contact:  
**01257 245056**

If you need to speak to an Orthoptist about your treatment and care, please contact us and leave a message on the answerphone on, we will return your call as soon as possible:  
**01772 522417** (Monday to Friday between 8.30am to 4.40pm).

**Email: [orthopticslva@lthtr.nhs.uk](mailto:orthopticslva@lthtr.nhs.uk)**

## Sources of further information

[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk)

[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

[www.accessable.co.uk](http://www.accessable.co.uk)

[www.patient.co.uk](http://www.patient.co.uk)

### **Royal National Institute for the Blind**

Helpline: 0303 123 9999

Website: [www.rnib.org.uk](http://www.rnib.org.uk)

### **Galloway's Society for the Blind**

Howick House, Howick Park, Penwortham, Preston, PR1 0LS

Telephone: 01772 744148

### **Blind Veterans UK**

Blind Veterans UK, 126 Fairlie Road, Slough, SL1 4PY

Telephone: 0300 111 22 33

Web Site: [www.blindveterans.org.uk](http://www.blindveterans.org.uk)

### **Lancashire County Council**

Sensory Support Team

Telephone: 0300 123 6720

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[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets)

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals is a smoke-free site. Smoking is not permitted anywhere on any of our premises, either inside or outside the buildings. Our staff will ask you about your smoking status when you come to hospital and will offer you support and advice about stopping smoking this will include Nicotine Replacement Therapy to help manage your symptoms of withdrawal and the opportunity to speak to a nurse or advisor from the specialist Tobacco and Alcohol Care Team.

If you want to stop smoking, you can also contact the Quit Squad Freephone 0800 328 6297.

**Please ask a member of staff if you would like help in understanding this information.  
This information can be made available in large print, audio, Braille and in other languages.**

**Department:** Orthoptic services – Low Vision Clinic

**Division:** Surgical Division (Head and Neck)

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