

CHILDREN'S RAPID ACCESS EYE CLINIC OPERATIONAL POLICY

Aims

To provide a rapid access clinic, for the assessment of children with reduced vision or strabismus, and reduce waiting times for the paediatric ophthalmology clinic. This clinic will provide a service for new referrals to the orthoptic department or the paediatric ophthalmologist at the North Devon District Hospital from primary care services, other medical practitioners and health professionals.

The Consultant Ophthalmologist who will have overall responsibility for the ophthalmic care of children referred to this service will be Mr Caspar Gibbon.

Referrals

The Orthoptic Department will be responsible for administering referrals and offer an appointment with the orthoptist.

Assessment Standards

All children will have a full orthoptic assessment
Children found to have reduced acuity and/or strabismus or any other abnormalities will be referred to the hospital optometrist for a cycloplegic refraction and fundus & media examination.

Management & Treatment

Spectacle correction, if necessary will be prescribed by the hospital optometrist following consultation with the orthoptist

Occlusion treatment by patching, orthoptic exercises and treatment with prisms will be implemented and managed by the orthoptist.

The Orthoptist will be responsible for onward referral to the paediatric ophthalmology clinic when appropriate

The Orthoptist will be responsible for writing to the referrer to let them know the outcome of referral and details of treatment undertaken