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PRIVATE

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Dear Veronica

Re: Freedom of Information request 128.19 Vision screening of 4 to 5 year olds at school entry

This letter confirms receipt of your request for information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, requesting information relating to the above subject.

I am pleased to attach our response to your email received on 12/06/2019

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If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months from the date of the original response letter. Please address it to the Information Governance Department, as detailed above or email it to:
foi@walsallhealthcare.nhs.uk.

Following an internal review, if you remain dissatisfied, you have the right to apply to the Information Commissioner to seek a resolution to the matter. Further details can be found on their website: www.ico.gov.uk.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Davies', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jenna Davies
Director of Governance

128.19

Vision screening of 4 to 5 year olds at school entry

The purpose of this FOI request is to establish the provision of 'orthoptic-led' and/or 'non-orthoptic-led' vision screening across England.

Definition of 'Orthoptic-led':

A service that is led by a designated Orthoptist who is responsible for all aspects of delivery of vision screening to all eligible children. This includes leadership of the personnel delivering the screening, the care pathway and audit and quality assurance mechanisms. The testing of children may be either Orthoptist delivered or delivered by a vision screener trained by an orthoptist.

We would be grateful if you could please answer the following questions and their subsections (where applicable) for the financial year 2019/20 to allow us to establish current provision and support orthoptists in the future to deliver an 'orthoptic led' service. Many thanks for providing this information, it will be extremely useful to support the objective of delivering equitable orthoptic led vision screening for ALL 4-5 year old children by mapping out current provision. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact [jigs@liverpool.ac.uk]. We look forward to hearing from you.

Questions

1. How many LA and CCGs are served by your organisation for all acute, community and specialist services?
Please list them all.

Answer: Walsall CCG, Walsall Local Authority

2. Does your organisation provide the Orthoptic Services for the resident populations of these LAs and CCGs? Y/N

Answer: Yes

3. Is a vision screening service currently available in the area (by LA or CCG) served by your organisation for providing Orthoptic Services?

Answer: Yes

If YES – For each commissioned screening service please indicate:

a. Who commissions it - LA or CCG? **Answer: Neither - not commissioned**

b. Its compliance with the PHE service specifications i.e. Orthoptic-led and delivered with Quality Assurance and clinical audit processes (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publicatio...>)

Answer: Unable to open the link

i. Compliant **Answer: Yes**
ii. Not compliant

4. List the key features of each commissioned screening service :

a. Settings (e.g. school). **Answer: School**

b. Screening personnel (e.g. orthoptist, school nurse or other health professional).

Answer: Orthoptist

c. The onward care pathway for children who fail the vision screening.

Answer: Referred to HES IF VA Unequal or less than 0.3 EE or local optometrist if VA is equal and less than 0.150 LOGMAR

d. The quality assurance processes (audit) and identified clinical lead for the vision screening service.

Answer: Referral to local Optometrists includes a return slip indicating results of refraction which can then be compared to visual acuity to confirm suitability of referral.

Pathways and procedures are regularly reviewed and audited.

Lead for this service – Deputy Head Orthoptist

5. Tell us how you monitor if every eligible child in the Local Authority or CCG commissioning the service has been tested (including those in private schools, or those who are home schooled).

Answer: A complete list of reception children is collected from the school (including private schools and independent schools). A list of home0schooled children is received from the child health team (These children will be sent an appointment to attend at a health centre along with the absentees).

6. Tell us whether a vision screening programme has been commissioned for the current financial year

Answer: We are not commissioned and will continue to provide our Orthoptic screening service this year.

7. If a vision screening service is not currently available, in a Local Authority or CCG served by your Organisation could you please tell us for each of these LA or CCGs – a. why it has not been commissioned?

b. whether a service is planned for the next financial year (2020/21)?

c. whether an existing service has been recently decommissioned?

Answer: N/A