

Information Governance Department

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Our Ref: 21755
Jignasa Mehta
[request-582560-](#)
e16ab1ab@whatdotheyknow.com

26 June 2019

Dear Jignasa

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request which was received within the Trust. In accordance with S.1 (1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), I can confirm that we do hold information relevant to your request.

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.

Questions

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

Please list them all.

The Trust covers the area of North Northamptonshire, encompassing the following local authorities:

- Corby Borough Council
- East Northants District Council
- Kettering Borough Council
- Northamptonshire County Council
- Wellingborough Borough Council

The lead CCG for commissioning services from the Trust is NHS Corby CCG

Associate commissioners are:

- NHS Nene CCG
- Cambridge and Peterborough CCG
- Leicestershire CCGs

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

The Trust has a secondary care orthoptic service for treatment of individuals requiring acute hospital care and will accept referrals mainly from the areas shown above, but through patient choice a patient from anywhere in England may choose to receive care from us.

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

No, the Trust does not provide a vision screening service. Its orthoptic service relates to patients requiring acute hospital care, either as an outpatient or an inpatient, who have been referred to us.

If NO - please list the LA/CCG that do not provide a vision screening service

We are unable to comment on whether these areas provide a screening service, only that it is not commissioned from the Trust.

If YES – For each commissioned screening service please indicate:

- Who commissions it - LA or CCG?
- 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/publications>...)
 - Compliant
 - Not compliant

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

- Settings (e.g. school).
- Screening personnel (e.g. orthoptist, school nurse or other health professional).
- The onward care pathway for children who fail the vision screening.
- The quality assurance processes (audit) and identified clinical lead for the vision screening service.

The Trust is not a provider of a vision screening service and therefore does not hold this information

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).

The Trust is not a provider of a vision screening service and therefore does not hold this information

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

The Trust is not a provider of a vision screening service and therefore does not hold this information

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?

The Trust is not a provider of a vision screening service and therefore does not hold this information

Yours sincerely

Sharleen Matheson

Interim Head of Information Governance, Assurance & DPO

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If you are not satisfied with the Trust's response you may ask for an independent internal review by writing to the:-

Information Governance Manager
Kettering General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Rothwell Road
Kettering
Northants
NN16 8UZ

If you remain dissatisfied after this internal review of the Trust's decision you may wish to make an approach to the Information Commissioner.

Information Commissioner

Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire,
SK95 5AF

<http://www.ico.gov.uk>

Please note that the Information Commissioner is a regulator, not an ombudsman. He will make an assessment as to whether or not the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 have been complied with. He can issue an enforcement notice to the Trust ordering it to comply with your request.