

Report to:	Health and Wellbeing Board
Relevant Officer:	Stephen Boydell, Principal Epidemiologist- Public Health, Blackpool Council
Relevant Cabinet Member	Councillor Graham Cain, Deputy Leader (Children)
Date of Meeting	19 June 2019

EYE HEALTH IN LANCASHIRE AND SOUTH CUMBRIA NEEDS ASSESSMENT

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To present the findings of the Eye Health in Lancashire and South Cumbria needs assessment, completed in May 2019.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To receive the Eye Health in Lancashire and South Cumbria needs assessment, attached at Appendix 3a.

2.2 To endorse a commitment that the action plans will be developed by partner organisations on the Health and Wellbeing Board, based on the recommendations from the Eye Health in Lancashire and South Cumbria needs assessment

2.3 To solicit commitment from the partner organisations that they will consider and demonstrate how the needs assessment findings are reflected in their plans and strategic decisions

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To advance policies, procedures and services to improve eye health and support people with sight loss.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 None.

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priority is: “Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”.

6.0 Background information

6.1 Local authorities and clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) have equal and joint duties to prepare the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), through the Health and Wellbeing Board. The responsibility falls on the Health and Wellbeing Board as a whole. Every year a number of thematic needs assessments are conducted for Blackpool that are added to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. This year an Eye Health in Lancashire and South Cumbria needs assessment was undertaken, with partners across the region. It is planned that this needs assessment will replace the existing Blackpool based Eye Health needs assessment that was published in January 2016.

6.2 The Eye Health in Lancashire and South Cumbria needs assessment report has been attached at Appendix 3a and, once approved, will be uploaded to the Blackpool Joint Strategic Needs Assessment website (www.blackpooljsna.org.uk). The report has been consulted on by stakeholders across sectors in Lancashire and the project delivery team now seek commitment from the Health and Wellbeing Board to lead the process of ensuring the recommendations from the needs are taken forward by partners into action.

6.3 The project was initiated due to the huge and largely preventable burden of disability eye health presents, the inequalities experienced by those with impaired sight and the lack of intelligence about eye health issues in Lancashire and South Cumbria. The project group, made up of partners from across health, local government and the voluntary sector worked together to analyse the issues. Stakeholders from a wider multiagency network of professionals and service users helped identify the priorities and develop recommendations for action based on best practice.

6.4 Key findings:

Over 60,000 people (3.6%) in Lancashire and South Cumbria were living with sight loss in 2018 with a projected increase of 24% over the next 12 years. The projected increase is mainly due to the ageing population but also to increases in risk factors such as diabetes and glaucoma. Only a small number of those eligible are registered as sight impaired, meaning they are missing out on potential help and support. This could be due to a lack of awareness about the advantages of registration or the over-

complication of the registration process. There were over 22,000 missed eye clinic appointments in 2017/18 costing in excess of £2.5million. It is thought that improvements in communications and access could greatly reduce this figure and help prevent deterioration and loss of vision. Access to Eye Clinic Liaison Officers (ECLOs) is not universal across Lancashire and South Cumbria. Eye Clinic Liaison Officers are often the first person a patient has contact with after getting a diagnosis and they provide vital practical and emotional support.

The agreed priority issues are:

1. Prevention and protection
2. Information and advice
3. Services
4. Data
5. Inequalities
6. Quality of life

A large amount of work is already going on around these priority areas, but there is still much that can be done, including some quick wins. The eye health needs assessment report provides recommendations for action under these priority headings, based on best practice and agreed by the project's stakeholder reference group. The data and analysis for this project, including Blackpool level information, will be presented on Lancashire Insight (www.lancashire.gov.uk/lancashire-insight/) and will sit alongside the needs assessment report.

6.5 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 Appendix 3a: Eye Health in Lancashire and South Cumbria needs assessment

8.0 Legal considerations:

8.1 None.

9.0 Human resources considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Equalities considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Financial considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Risk management considerations:

12.1 None.

13.0 Ethical considerations:

13.1 None.

14.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

14.1 None.

15.0 Background papers:

15.1 None.