



To: Parents/Carers of All Primary Aged Pupils

February 2016
Dear Parent/Carer

The local authority public health team is responsible for commissioning children's vision screening as part of the healthy child programme. This is currently provided by County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust (CDDFT) and is carried out by the school nursing service.

As part of the healthy child programme all children should be screened for visual impairment between four and five years of age by an orthoptist-led service.

Currently in County Durham vision screening is carried out for children aged 4/5 (in reception) and again at 10/11years (in years 6/7).

Based on the most up to date clinical evidence, the vision screening for children aged 10/11 (in years 6/7) will no longer be offered in County Durham with effect from the start of the current 2015/16 academic year. Vision screening for children in reception will continue as normal.

We would encourage all parents/carers to take their child for regular sight tests. Currently sight tests are funded by the NHS for all Children under the age of 16 years (and up to the age of 19 years if in full time education). We would recommend that your child accesses a sight test every 2 years, or sooner if you are in any way concerned about your child's vision. You can do this by contacting an optician of your choice and requesting an appointment.

Useful web sites:

[www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/AboutNHSservices/Opticians Children's Eyes](http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/AboutNHSservices/OpticiansChildrensEyes)
[www.nhs.uk/livewell/Childhealth6-15 NHS choices](http://www.nhs.uk/livewell/Childhealth6-15NHSchoices)

If there is an urgency relating to your concerns please contact your local GP or call 111.

The school nurse will continue to be available to discuss any concerns you have regarding your child's development, including visual development. **Tel: 01388 767666**

**Durham County Council's Public Health Team
County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust's School Nursing Team**

www.cddft.nhs.uk

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Children and Adults Services

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