

Developing Pathways to Eye Care for People with Autism
Friday 11th September 2015 9.30-16.00
Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline

RNIB, Scottish Autism and Napier University received funding from the Scottish Government in 2013 to evaluate a training programme to improve sight loss awareness for autism support practitioners. This workshop will share the findings from that project and explore ways to develop comprehensive eye care pathways for people on the autism spectrum.

The workshop aims to bring together professionals from specialist autism services, vision support services, and optometry with researchers, policy makers and people on the autism spectrum and their families. Participants will share knowledge and consider best practice for supporting people with autism through eye care.

This dialogue stems from a mutual recognition that autism support services currently need to foster awareness of sight loss issues and presentations, while optometry and vision professionals require information and direction in providing autism friendly procedures and practices. More effective pathways to eye care will require the participation and engagement of both professional groups.

In collaborating with NES to facilitate this workshop, the project partners hope to begin developing a multi-disciplinary pathway to eye care for people on the autism spectrum. It is envisaged that input from participants at the workshop will feed into the development of practice guidelines for supporting people with autism through optometry.

As well as reporting on the Autism and Sight Loss project, the day will include presentations by Dr Julie-Anne Little of the University of Ulster who has developed and evaluated protocols for supporting people with Autism through optometry. A summary of current research on Autism and vision issues will be presented by Dr David Simmons of Glasgow University. There will be a number of facilitated discussions in which we hope that participants will be able to share experiences, identify areas for service development and further research, and contribute to further partnership working.

If you would like to attend please download our attendance form on our website www.scottishautism.org to register your interest and return it to events@scottishautism.org by Tuesday 11 August. We will confirm your place by Monday 17 August.

We hope to see you there.

Organising Committee

Anne McMillan, RNIB
Janice Bain, RNIB
Maggie Butchart, RNIB
Lesley Rousselet, NES

Dr Joe Long, Scottish Autism
Dr David Simmons, University of Glasgow
Prof Michael Brown, Edinburgh Napier University
Prof Thanos Karatzias, Edinburgh Napier University