**Referrals to the Community Pre-school Orthoptic Vision Screening Clinic**

National & Local context

*Royal College of Ophthalmologists 2015* - Detection of eye problems in the very young and pre-school child requires expert clinical examination. If a parent or carer has concern about their child’s vision or visual behaviour it is recommended that they consult their GP or Health Visitor as outlined in the Department of Health ‘Healthy Child programme 0 -5 years’. The GP and Health Visitor provide the link to local care pathways that ensure access to specialist eye care professionals.

*Health child programme 2009*

* To be led by a health visitor and delivered by a range of practitioners across the health service and the wider children’s workforce.
* Health practitioners supporting early years
* Staff in their role to promote the health of children.
* Identifying when children and their families need access to additional services, and using the Common Assessment Framework to assess their needs holistically.
* Two to two-and-a-half-year health review- respond to any concerns expressed by the parents regarding vision

Professor Mackie PHE screening 2016 –‘ Six in 100 children have at least one eye problem in the first 3 years of life and one in every 100 children with amblyopia will go blind in their lifetime). Someone with amblyopia is 2 to 3 times more likely to become blind during their lifetime than someone without amblyopia’.

The pre school vision screening service is provided by The University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire for Coventry and North Warwickshire and is led by the Orthoptic Community Lead Jayna Mistry. It is a service that relies on a multi agency approach – to deliver vision assessments to the right child – any parental or community health care specialist concern -at the right time – clinics are held every 2 months but can be increased dependant upon need ( expedition of urgent cases- following the visual assessment ensures appropriate urgent eye care delivery ) and at the right place – within a community setting.

**Guidelines for booking children to the community orthoptic clinic:**

The community based service is provided to support the HCP 2009 recommendation. Referrals are made by health visitors and Gp’s/community paediatricians when the parent/carer expresses concerns or the community team identify a concern regarding a child’s vision. It follows that the appointment is requested & made at the time of or following the community visit to ensure parental compliance and understanding as to the need to return for the visual assessment check. Please see below the contact details for referral to the community eye service.

* Children under the age of 5 are eligible for screening at the clinics below (children >5 can be advised to visit their own optician or referred to the eye clinic directly)
* Any definite squint, amblyopia or pathology should be referred directly to the eye clinic
* Lid lumps and watery eyes should be directed to the GP rather than to Community Orthoptic clinics
* When booking an appointment email the Orthoptic clinic below please state the child’s name, date of birth, address and the NHS number. A referral letter is required and the referrer will be asked the reason for referral.
* Any query about urgency of referral from the GP/HV should be directed to the community Orthoptic services manager to make an informed decision
* Child Health will be sent correspondence from the screening outcome

Patient name, date of birth, address, NHS number and reason for referral are required to book the patient into the clinic

How to refer the child

Patient name, date of birth, address, NHS number and reason for referral are required to book the patient into the clinic

Check the nearest clinic to patient address

Health visitor or GP to email

uhc-tr.orthopticdept@nhs.net

for the patient to be booked into

Patient name, date of birth, address, NHS number and reason for referral are required to book the patient into the clinic

Patient is assessed in the community clinic

Child Heatlh informed of the outcome of the screening

**Urgent referrals**

White pupil

Ptosis (droopy eyelid) covering the pupil

Unequal or misshapen pupil

Nystagmus (wobbly eyes)

Any baby definitely not smiling at mums face at 6 weeks

Any baby not fixing and following a light at 6 weeks

**Routine referrals**

Squint (unless it is recent onset)

Reduced vision < 0.2 (6/9.5) in both eyes, and any difference in VA between the two eyes

Defects of ocular movements (unless it is recent onset)

Any abnormal head posture related to squint / eyes

Discharged. No further treatment required.

Contact information for Community Clinic Appointment Booking:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CLINIC** | **POINT OF CONTACT** | **NUMBER** |
| Atherstone | Julie ProctorJulie.Proctor@nhs.net | 02476313391-press 0 |
| Bedworth | Julie ProctorJulie.Proctor@nhs.net | 02476313391-press 0 |
| Riversley | Julie WillisJulie.Willis@swft.nhs.uk | 02476378601 |

UHCW NHS Trust

Jayna Mistry

Community Lead Orthoptist

Clinic 9, Eye Clinic

Clifford Bridge Road

Coventry

CV2 2DX

Tel: 02476 966520

Email: uhc-tr.orthopticdept@nhs.net

Hospital of St Cross ( for those patients living in Rugby)

Emily Lind

Rugby Orthoptic Lead

Orthoptic Department, Out patients

Rainsbrook Wing

Barby Road

Rugby

CV22 5PX

Updated July 2019 HS/JMM