

# URGENT ACTION IS NEEDED TO TACKLE THE CAPACITY CRISIS IN EYE CARE AND REDUCE AVOIDABLE SIGHT LOSS

There are nearly **644,000** people on ophthalmology waiting lists in England as of July 2022, including over **28,000** who have been waiting a year or more.<sup>1</sup>

**We need a National Plan for Eye Care in England that supports local decision-making with national accountability so that everyone can access the right care, where and when they need it.**



## Workforce expansion

Expand ophthalmology training places to grow the future workforce.

Deliver more care outside the hospital utilising the clinical capability within primary care optometry.

**"There are no shortcuts to delivering care for a growing population. We must invest now to train tomorrow's workforce."**

Carolyn Ruston | Association of Optometrists

## Research into future treatments

Invest in research to better understand sight loss and find the next generation of diagnostics and innovative treatments.

**"There is huge potential to advance our understanding of sight loss through research and translate this into innovative treatments which enable more people to keep their sight."**

Keith Valentine | Fight for Sight

**"As the NHS tackles current waiting lists, it is important patients are supported while waiting for treatment in the same way as when undergoing treatment. In essence, that they are "waiting well" by having access to information, advice and support."**

Phil Ambler | RNIB

## TACKLING THE CAPACITY CRISIS IN EYE CARE

## Using new technologies

Implement new models of care using tools such as digital home monitoring and remote triage.

**"Digital tools allow clinicians to deliver care which fits around patients' lives, and focus on those with the greatest needs."**

Bernie Chang | Royal College of Ophthalmologists

## Uptake of innovative treatments

Facilitate the uptake of innovative treatments that improve patient outcomes, prevent the deterioration of sight and reduce the burden of care.

**"One underestimated impact of sight loss is the amount of time spent getting to and from appointments. We need to make sure where treatments can reduce this burden, they are made available equitably across the country."**

Cathy Yelf | Macular Society

**"We have seen how effective partnership working has been in other areas of health we operate in, such as cancer, and how working in this way, with a collective voice, we can drive change together."**

Conn O'Neill | Roche

<sup>1</sup>NHS England, Consultant-led Referral to Treatment Waiting Times for Incomplete Pathways, 2022. Available from: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/09/Incomplete-Commissioner-Jul22-XLS-7020K-11455.xls> [Accessed 3 October 2022]

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