

# Eye Care Transformation Case for change



- Nationally, the NHS is experiencing significant pressure and high levels of demand for elective care, with around 1.7 million patients referred for elective consultant-led treatment every month. To meet this growing demand, the redesign of elective care services is a must-do for every local health and care system.
- The NHS Long Term Plan ambition to avoid unnecessary face to face outpatient attendances has become an urgent priority as we respond to Covid19 and restore services.
- The plan clarifies the direction for health and care over the next ten years, including the importance of transforming outpatient services.
- It sets out the need to remove up to a third of hospital outpatient attendances a year by 2023/24, avoiding additional expenditure and ensuring all patients can access digital outpatient care.
- Our Eye Health Needs Assessment (EHNA 2019) highlights significant growth in cataract, glaucoma and age-related macular degeneration (AMD) due to an ageing population, with a projected rise in AMD and cataract of over 55% between 2016 and 2030.

- We need to find solutions capable of meeting current and future demand for eye care services.
- This programme of transformation will bring together national recommendations from the NHSEI Ophthalmology Elective Care Handbook, NHSEI Eye-care Restoration roadmap and Eye-care Planning Implementation Guidance. These include:
  - ✓ better use of technology
  - ✓ identifying patients who are at risk of developing eye conditions
  - ✓ better use of data to track where people are in the pathway
  - ✓ optimising the role of optometrists as first contact practitioners
  - ✓ more joined up services.

This programme is also aligned with our system pledges:

- improving safety & quality
- integrating services at place and neighbourhood level
- tackling health inequalities and access to health
- climate change – reducing the need for travel to hospital for appointments
- enhanced engagement and accountability through full public and clinical involvement and engagement
- system sustainability
- workforce and system leadership.