Aneurin Bevan Health Board

Eye Care Strategy

1 Introduction:

This paper provides:

- An update for the Board on the implementation of the Strategy for Optometry Services. This was agreed by the Board in May 2010.
- An outline of the enhanced services developed to implement this strategy. This has involved close collaboration between Scheduled Care and the Locality Divisions.
- The position relating to the development of a broader Eye Care Strategy for the Health Board.

The Board is asked to:

- Consider the contents of this paper;
- Agree the Eye Care Strategy development is progressed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Assessment and link to Financial Recovery Plan</th>
<th>The costs associated with the implementation of the Strategy for Optometry Services have been met through existing budgets in Locality Divisions and Scheduled Care.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Risk Assessment</td>
<td>Failure to maximise the contribution of Community Optometrists will lead to an overreliance on secondary care services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Quality Framework</td>
<td>These developments will support the implementation of:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Tier 1 targets relating to Setting the Direction; Access; Unscheduled Care and Efficiency and Productivity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Tier 2 target relating to Prevention and Health Promotion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standards for Health Services Wales</td>
<td>Developing Community Optometry Services will contribute to the Health Board meeting the following standards: 1: Governance and Accountability Framework; 3: Health Promotion, Protection and Improvement; 5: Citizen Engagement and Feedback; 6: Participating in Improvement Activities; 7:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2 Background

A Strategy for Optometry Services was approved by Aneurin Bevan Health Board in May 2010, setting a direction for the improvement of eye health and optometry services in Gwent.

The strategic aims were to:

- Ensure safety, quality and governance;
- Reduce inequalities in services and uptake;
- Ensure patients receive services promptly, from an appropriate provider in a location as close to home as possible;
- Promote eye health.

Each of these aims had actions identified in the strategy document with details for implementation in a Delivery Model.

Consultation was undertaken to ensure that the strategy had received contributions from all stakeholders. Their comments were incorporated in the document.

The Board envisaged that the Strategy for Optometry Services would be overseen and implemented through the Eye Care Pathway Group and ultimately superseded by a broader Strategy for Eye Care.

3 Issues

Delivery on the four strategic aims is progressing as outlined below:

**Ensure safety, quality and governance:**
There have been two meetings for all Aneurin Bevan Health Board optometrists and ophthalmologists to discuss quality of referrals.
Referral guidelines have been agreed between Aneurin Bevan Health Board and the Regional Optometric Committee and circulated to all Community Optometry practices.

**Reduce inequalities in services and uptake:**
Local development of the national Focus on Ophthalmology programme has resulted in more appropriate use of Community Optometry and ophthalmology services.

Eye Care sessions have been delivered to General Practitioners through protected learning time events covering better use of optometry and ophthalmology services.

**Ensure patients receive services promptly, from an appropriate provider in a location as close to home as possible:**
The development of local enhanced services has improved access in terms of waiting times and geographical availability. These being:

**Cataract Referral:**
This involves post operative assessment by a Community Optometrist and reduces pressure on secondary care Ophthalmic Services. This is funded by Scheduled Care.

**Mobile Eye Testing:**
This enables patients in a hospital setting to have an optometry assessment. This is funded by the Locality Divisions.

**Intra Ocular Pressure Readings:**
Patients with high intra ocular pressures, previously were all referred for a specialist assessment by an Ophthalmic Surgeon. This scheme has enabled patients to either remain under the care of Community Optometrists or to be referred back to Community Optometrists for follow up assessments.

A protocol has been agreed between the Ophthalmic Service and Community Optometrists to facilitate management in primary care. This is a new service and early analysis demonstrates 80% of these patients have remained in Primary Care. This is being funded by Scheduled Care.

**Promote Eye Health:**
There has been work with health promotion in relation to vision and Falls Awareness.
Aneurin Bevan Health Board is also involved with the All Wales Eye Health Improvement Project which should provide local benefits in the medium term.

4 **Next Steps:**

The Eye Care Pathway Group proposes to develop an Eye Care Strategy, which will incorporate the following:

- A review of national and local strategic drivers.
- A detailed Delivery Model, which will include consultation with all stakeholders.
- An Equality Impact Assessment.

5 **Recommendations:**

The Board is asked to:

- Note the contents of this paper.
- Agree the Eye Care Strategy is progressed by the Eye Care Pathway Group.

Sponsored by: Joanne Absalom  
Director of Primary, Community and Mental Health Services

Prepared by: Mike George  
Optometry Adviser

Date: November 2011