

# SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE

(formerly Shropshire Voluntary Association for the Blind)



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Registered Charity No. 215137

25<sup>th</sup> July 2018

FREEPOST  
NHS FF Consultation

Dear Sir

## Response to Consultation on Future Fit from Sight Loss Shropshire

Sight Loss Shropshire (SLS) is the local society serving blind and partially sighted people of all ages in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin.

(The charity was founded in 1922. It is a member of a national network of similar local societies for the blind and is a member of 'Visionary' that represents the great majority of local charities for the visually impaired at national level. SLS works in close collaboration with national charities such as RNIB, Guide Dogs for the Blind, and the Macular Society, as well as with local statutory health and social care agencies working with sight loss. The charity supports over a dozen voluntary visually impaired social groups that are located in every part of Shropshire County and Telford & Wrekin who provide mutual support for their members. Under the SLS constitution half of the Committee of SLS is either Registered Sight Impaired or Registered Severely Sight Impaired.)

Based on the long history of the charity and its well-developed connections with both individuals and partners, the SLS Committee believes it is well placed to understand the views of,

and the issues faced by local people who have sight loss living in every part of Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin.

The SLS Committee met on 11<sup>th</sup> July and had a full debate on the Future Fit consultation, and the potential implications for patients attending for treatment at hospital eye clinics. The views of the SLS Committee are as follows:

Following a full debate - including reference to the very considerable sums that had recently been spent, and additional sums which it was understood were shortly due to be spent, on relocating and much needed improvements to the Eye Clinic accommodation at RSH - it was agreed that a response from SLS should state that, regardless of the eventual outcome of the Future Fit debate as a whole, from the perspective of Eye Clinic patients it was extremely important that:

- there should be no detriment to the recent improvements in Eye Clinic services that had been achieved, and which had taken a long time to bring about; and also that
- progress in improving services for those with sight loss should continue and should not suffer as a consequence of changes to or re-location of other hospital services.

Yours faithfully

R.E. Durham  
Secretary  
Sight Loss Shropshire