

ORTHOPTISTS

Role in

PUBLIC HEALTH



Health Protection

Orthoptists lead childhood vision screening programmes for 4–5-year-olds in England, enabling early treatment to prevent permanent lifelong reduced vision.

We promote immunisation and screening programmes.

We practise infection prevention and control.

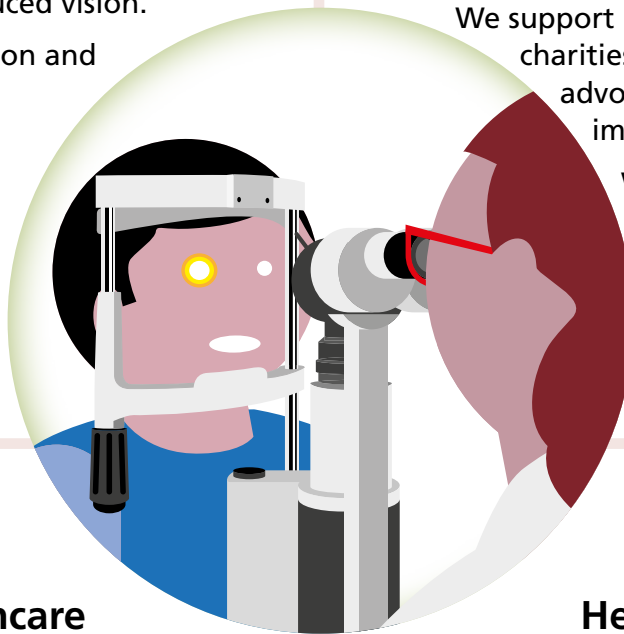
Wider Determinants



Orthoptists support people to access education, social activities, play and work by treating problems with vision.

We support low vision services and charities to raise awareness and advocate for populations with impaired vision.

We address health inequalities in children by providing access to local orthoptic care.



Population Healthcare

Orthoptists pick up early signs and symptoms of cancer or illness, enabling early detection so that people receive treatment before any significant symptoms or secondary conditions develop.

We provide early interventions in stroke care, addressing problems with double vision and eye movement disorders.

We promote lower carbon models of care in childhood vision screening programmes in schools.



Health Improvement

Orthoptists use Making Every Contact Count (MECC) e.g., smoking cessation, alcohol, and mental wellbeing.

We take a holistic approach, making use of social prescribing for non-clinical needs e.g., wellbeing support, social inclusion, welfare support.

We diagnose and treat vision problems in falls patients, improving quality of life and supporting them to regain their independence.



Examples of client groups

Hospitals, community eye services, rehabilitation centres, schools.

