

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

CONFIDENTIAL

Title of Report: Restriction of free lenses to basic lenses only
Paper No: 161/10
Date: 24 June 2010
Report of: Director of Education Health and Social Services

1.0 Purpose

To seek approval for the provision of free lenses for spectacles to be for basic lenses only.

2.0 Recommendations

- (a) People entitled to free lenses receive the basic lenses free.
- (b) Any additional expense for lenses is borne by the wearer.

3.0 Summary of Financial Implications

	2009/10	2010/11	Full Year
	£	£	£
<u>Operating Budget</u>	-10,000	-10,000	-10,000

4.0 Background

- 4.1 At present there are some patients who are exempt from paying for their eye tests and who are therefore entitled to a free pair of spectacles with frames up to the value of £40. These people are:
- Children under 16 and those between 16 and 18 years old still in full time education
 - People aged 64 years and over
 - Welfare recipients
 - Patients with defined medical conditions affecting their eyesight.
- 4.2 The present charges specify the frames with an upper limit of cost of £40. If the frames cost more than £40 the patient pays the difference.

- 4.3 The charges already specify that the lenses will all be provided at cost to everyone but there is no upper limit to the cost.
- 4.4 Lenses need to be fitted to the requirements of the wearer so it is likely that the cost of the lenses will vary significantly.

5.0 Proposal details

- 5.1 Due to the lenses being the variable part of the cost in order to meet the eyesight needs of the patients it is proposed that rather than an upper limit on cost only basic lenses are provided.
- 5.2 All other costs around the lenses which can be part of patient choice are borne by the wearer. These costs can be (but are for illustrative purposes only and is not restrictive) for photosensitivity, antiscratch, extra thin. This would not however have an affect on the basic needs of the wearer.

6.0 Financial Implications

It is anticipated that there will be a savings in the 2010-11 financial year of £10,000 and this has already been included in the approved budget.

7.0 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications to the recommendation

8.0 Human Resources Implications

There are no Human Resource implications to the recommendations.