

## **Joint Commissioning Case Study**

### **Specialist Vision Assessment – Sensory Support Service in Bristol**

Specialist Vision Assessment (SVA) is a coordinated approach to including and addressing the needs of the family following diagnosis of vision impairment in a baby or young child. Parents concerns and questions are central to the process and the team approach will focus on the whole child.

It aims to provide a coordinated multi agency assessment for children with vision impairment. A group of professionals from different agencies with experience of working with children with a visual disability have developed a family centred approach to multi agency assessment that combines medical and educational expertise within a single assessment process.

The core team consists of a Paediatrician, Head Orthoptist (Bristol Eye Hospital) and QTVI from Sensory Support Service. The assessments focus on the whole child and aim to determine: strategies to promote use of residual vision effectively, the impact of vision impairment on overall development, next steps to promote development, information about child's optimum environment to promote development and suggest toys and equipment to promote development.

Information is gathered prior to the assessment from a range of sources including the family, previous observations in other settings and reports from professionals involved with the child. Information gathered during the assessment includes parent's questions and current concerns, current and background medical, developmental and educational history. The assessment is also informed by an orthoptic examination, developmental assessment and a play-based observation of the child.

Verbal feedback with brief written information is provided to the family at the end of the assessment and a full written report sent within two weeks.