CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

1. The strategy outlines a care pathway (page 10).

(a) If you are a service user and/or carer, please tell us what difference you believe the implementation of the pathway will make to the services you experience.

When I was 12 I went to the opticians and they said I had RP. They sent me to the doctor, who said he couldn't do anything. He sent me back to the optician who sent me back to the Doctor who eventually sent me to the Vic. (Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy). I was scared and frightened I was going to go blind.

I hope this pathway will make that better. That I will get sent to the right place the first time.

(b) How can we best ensure that services and support meet your needs?

I don't know. They talk about cut backs all the time. Is there money for this? It always costs money.

(c) If you are a care provider, what changes will you need to make to implement the pathway?

(d) How will you make these changes?

2. The strategy identifies key factors that need to be in place to ensure the pathway is successful (Page 11 para 6.7).

(a) Which of the key factors are most important for a successful pathway?

(b) Which are the most challenging to put in place?

(c) Do you think that any key factors have been missed?

I thought I was going blind when I was 12. I didn't really affect me until later. Now I have problems with bright lights. I really need a guide to go out. I think there should be more help in finding out how you feel about things, how you manage, what you are worried about.

3. The strategy identifies areas for action that should be addressed going forward (Page 13-16)

(a) Which of the areas for action will be the most challenging to implement?

(b) Which of the areas for action will make the biggest difference and why?

(c) Are there any other areas for action that you would like to see included within the strategy?

4. Please comment on the current provision of sensory impairment services as either a service provider or service user. If you have any experience of sensory impairment services, please let us know what you think of them: this should include any experience of one-stop shops.

I get the things I need, magnifiers and so from here (fife Society for the Blind). But sometimes you have to wait weeks and weeks for an appointment. You have to come for glasses at certain times but then you can only get guides (deaf/blind communicators) for certain times and it doesn't always fit in.

5. What difference will the implementation of the strategy make to your life?

I don't know. There is so much going on at the moment with bedroom tax and them wanting to stop DLA, I can't think about this at all.

6. Does this strategy properly reflect the current climate and developments in policy and practice for children and young people particularly in relation to the Getting it Right for Every Child approach and the Doran Review?

7. Do you have anything you wish to add to the Sensory Impairment Strategy or any other general comments that have not been covered by the questions?

What happens when you can't use the phone? When I was really ill I couldn't use the phone I had to rely on a neighbour.

I used to have home carers but they wanted to throw things away. I think it made their jobs easier. But I have got lots of cassettes. I have got a cassette player. I have got lots of music and books on cassettes and you can't get them on discs, not everything comes on a disc.

A Deaf friend went to college for sums and things. He couldn't do fractions and percentages. The interpreter couldn't do it either, he was rubbish. So the tutor told him the answers and gave him a certificate. What was the point of going to college, why do that. He didn't want a certificate. He wanted to learn percentages.

Employment, I had two letters but couldn't go, couldn't get guides, couldn't use the phone. They haven't contacted me again.

The ABE classes were brilliant got me out. But they stopped, the funding ran out. I would like the reading and writing class back again.

All this [sensory strategy] is too much. I need the things that help me, like what I have said. I would like to know how this is going to help me.