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.

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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

Unable to comment

(d) How will you make these changes?

Unable to comment

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?

In order of importance the following are considered to be the key factors for a successful pathway :
1: Maximising basic screening
2: Inclusion of sensory impairment in generic assessment
3: Clear referral routes

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

Unable to comment

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

No

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?

Recommendations 4 and 5

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

Recommendations 2 and 3

Recommendation 2 : Introduction of basic screening should identify sensory loss earlier enabling earlier diagnosis and treatment

Recommendation 3 : Training and awareness raising for staff in health and social care settings will also support earlier identification of sensory loss , referral, assessment and treatment

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

<u>Potential additional action areas</u>

Investment in initiatives designed to support and increase the confidence of those with sensory impairment to be as active as they wish to be in their personal , family, work and community lives – particularly if they have become withdrawn or isolated as consequence of their condition.

Additional support for families / carers is also required to help them in turn support individuals and adjust e.g. as a family to the impact of sensory loss on a family member and the impact this has for the household as a whole.

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.

Unable to comment.

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

Not applicable

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?

Unable to comment

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?

The importance of accessible information and effective communication cannot be underestimated in terms of enabling those with sensory impairment to have equality of access to services of all kinds. Could the EHRC consider investigating the performance of public sector organisations on this with a view to developing a code of good practice ?

Individuals with sensory impairment are first and foremost people, should be recognised and treated as such and not labelled by their condition. The adoption of an equivalent awareness raising campaign to that conducted for mental health (See Me) should be considered to raise awareness of the numbers affected or likely to be affected by sensory loss and how “close to home “ this may be for increasing numbers of us in the not too distant future .