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.

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

(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?

A clearly developed set of local sensory impairment care pathways that are agreed by key stakeholders and understood by all clinicians etc ...

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

A commitment from statutory agencies to seek to agree the maximum possible consistency of approach across Scotland, and ensure similar access to services across Scotland

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

For a successful pathway for people with learning disabilities it is necessary that they have access to regular yearly assessments by specialised staff that are trained in all aspects of learning disability, and this continues throughout their lifespan. The testing should be tailored to the needs of each individual and take into account their disabilities

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?

Local partnerships should consider options for the introduction of basic sensory screening, for example, for people of a certain age, and at an agreed time in their care pathways.
For people with a learning disability there is significant evidence that hearing loss is more prevalent during an individual's lifespan than the general population. People with a learning disability suffer from a higher incidence of ear wax and other physical problems.

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

A significant factor towards a successful pathway is the inclusion of training for all the relevant staff, which includes: knowledge, skills, understanding and attitudes required to address issues regarding sensory impairment in people with learning disabilities.
Staff should also be trained in the understanding of the implications of the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act – 2000, and to recognise the rights of carers with welfare guardianship to be consulted

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.

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

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?

There is a general lack of acknowledgement in this consultation of the number of people with a learning disability that have sensory impairments. This consultation largely concentrates on children and older people as exemplified by this question. There is no mention of *the Same as you*? or *The keys for Life.*
The recently published Scottish learning disability strategy -*The Keys for Life* recognises that people with a learning disability are 10 times more likely to have sight loss. The absence of any figures for a hearing loss is indicative of the lack of testing or recording in people with learning disabilities. In a large number of cases there is no audiological testing to establish hearing impairment. *The Guidelines for meeting audiological needs of adults with learning disabilities,* states that prevalence ranges from 12.3% to 47%, which is a huge range. The report also recognises that it is often unrecognised and under-reported especially by paid carers.

PAMIS is a charity that support people with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD), their families and carers. People with PMLD have a higher prevalence of both of the sensory impairments. Diagnostic overshadowing is also a significant problem especially when the person has no verbal communication and an unrecognised sensory impairment. This can have severe repercussions and can result in challenging behaviour by the individual which can cause additional challenges for both the individual and their carers.

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?