

Eye Care Liaison (ECLO) Service (update Feb 2026)

Eye Care Liaison Officers (ECLOs) are key in helping eye clinic patients and their families understand the impact of their diagnosis and providing them with emotional and practical support for their next steps.

What is an ECLO and what do they do?

ECLOs work closely with medical and nursing staff in the eye clinic, and the sensory team in social services. They provide those recently diagnosed with an eye condition with the practical and emotional support which they need to understand their diagnosis, deal with their sight loss and maintain their independence.

ECLOs act as an important bridge between health and social services and are central to the support and wellbeing of patients in eye clinics. They also help prevent avoidable sight loss, by talking through treatment and helping people to understand their medication if necessary. They have the time to dedicate to patients following consultation, so that they can discuss the impact the condition may have on their life.

ECLOs are endorsed by the UK Ophthalmology Alliance (UKOA), the Royal College of Ophthalmologists (RCOphth), NICE and the Department of Health and Social Care. A qualified ECLO will attend the Eye Clinic Support Studies Course (delivered by RNIB and City University, London), which is a recognised qualification by the UKOA, and adhere to the RNIB Quality Framework for ECLO Services.

What support do ECLOs offer patients?

ECLOs are there to provide you with up-to-date information and put patients in touch with useful services by making referrals on their behalf.

They can advise on:

- eye conditions
- welfare benefits patients may be entitled to
- remaining in employment or re-training
- mental health and emotional wellbeing
- children's services and where to get help with difficulties at school
- voluntary organisations and local support groups.

ECLOs are also able to explain the process of becoming registered as blind or partially sighted and the benefits of being registered.

The Royal College of Ophthalmologists considers ECLOs to be a core patient service within ophthalmology, and where in place, have a dramatic impact on patients' quality of life.

RNIB ECLO service

[Eye Care Liaison Officers \(ECLOs\) | RNIB](#)

Who are the ECLOs in Northern Ireland (Feb 2026)?

Catriona Doherty

Email: catriona.doherty@rnib.org.uk

Mob: 07711188314

Area: Western Trust

Days: Monday to Friday

Clinics: Altnagelvin, Causeway Coleraine

Conor McPhilemy

Email: Conor.McPhilemy@rnib.org.uk

Mob: 07769282810

Area: Western Trust

Days: Monday to Friday

Clinics: Altnagelvin, OHPCC Omagh, SWAH Enniskillen

Diane Hudson

Email: diane.hudson@rnib.org.uk or
diane.hudson@southerntrust.hscni.net

Mob: 07535689404

Area: Southern Trust

Days: Monday to Thursday

Clinics: Banbridge Polyclinic

Eimear Barbour-Mulholland

Email: Eimear.barbour-mulholland@rnib.org.uk or
Eimear.BarbourMulholland@belfasttrust.hscni.net

Mob: 07535689406

Area: Belfast Trust

Clinic: Royal Victoria Hospital – Paediatric Eye Clinic

Days: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday am and Thursday am

Emma-Jane O’Kane

Email: emma-jane.okane@rnib.org.uk or
Emmajane.OKane@belfasttrust.hscni.net

Mob: 07902400778

Area: Belfast Trust

Clinic: Royal Victoria Hospital - Adult Ophthalmology

Days: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday (Thursday remote working)

Martin Branney

Email: Martin.Branney@rnib.org.uk or
martin.branney@belfasttrust.hscni.net

Mob: 07749436766

Area: Belfast Trust

Days: Monday to Thursday

Clinic: Glaucoma Clinic, Shankill Health and Wellbeing Treatment Centre

Sam Ruscica

Email: Sam.Ruscica@rnib.org.uk or
Sam.Ruscica@belfasttrust.hscni.net

Mob: 07749 386869

Area: Belfast Trust

Clinic: Macular Clinic, Mater Hospital

Days: Thursday, Friday

Teresa McElroy

Email: Teresa.McElroy@belfasttrust.hscni.net or
Teresa.McElroy@rnib.org.uk

Phone: 028 95047525 or 07903 553492

Area: Belfast Trust

Days/Clinics Monday to Wednesday, Macular clinic. Friday remote working.

Marc O’Neill (Locum ECLO)

Email: marc.oneill@rnib.org.uk or Marc.oneill@belfasttrust.hscni.net

Mob: 07874886153

Clinic: Remote coverage throughout Northern Ireland

Days: Monday to Friday

Angela O’Kane (ECLO Service Manager NI)

Email: Angela.OKane@rnib.org.uk

Mob: 07831 241654

ECLO referral

ecloreferrals@belfasttrust.hscni.net

ECLONI.Mailbox@rnib.org.uk

Where does ECLO cover?

All areas of Northern Ireland are covered, with ECLOs offering remote and/or face to face support in Ophthalmology clinics including:

Belfast Area: Macular Clinic (Mater), Shankill Glaucoma Clinic, Royal Victoria Hospital (Adult and Paediatric Ophthalmology)

Southern Area: Banbridge Polyclinic and/or South Tyrone Hospital

South Eastern Area: Remote support

Northern Area: Causeway Hospital, remote support for other sites

Western Area: Altnagelvin, Omagh, SWAH (Enniskillen)

Making a referral to ECLO service

As an optometrist in primary care you can make a referral to the ECLO service using this form [https://bso.hscni.net/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/ECLO Referral Form Optom-to-RNIB Updated Feb2026.pdf](https://bso.hscni.net/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/ECLO_Referral_Form_Optom-to-RNIB_Updated_Feb2026.pdf)

These referral forms can be emailed or posted to:

- ecloreferrals@belfasttrust.hscni.net
- ECLONI.Mailbox@rnib.org.uk
- RNIB, Victoria House 15-17 Gloucester Street, Belfast BT1 4LS.

Referral guidelines are available here:

[Guidelines on who should be referred to an ECLO](#)

Useful Resources

RNIB	https://www.rnib.org.uk/
Macular Society	https://www.macularsociety.org/
Albinism Fellowship	https://www.albinism.org.uk/
Glaucoma UK	https://glaucoma.uk/
Angel Eyes	https://www.angeleyesni.org/
Royal Society for Blind Children	https://www.rsbc.org.uk/
Guide Dogs	https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/
Retina UK	https://retinuk.org.uk/

Information and guidance for eye clinic staff

Information on Certificate of Visual Impairment, quality standards and guidance

[Information and guidance for eye clinic staff - RNIB - See differently](#)

Courses for Health and Social Care professionals and staff

Our short courses can be booked through the following link (this is the same link as before): [Courses for health and social care professionals | Eventbrite](#)

Our CPD-certified course can be booked through this link: [CPD training courses by RNIB Health and Social Care Training Team | Eventbrite](#)

Resource guides from RNIB

Information to help people understand eye conditions and live well with sight loss.

[Resource guides from RNIB - RNIB - See differently](#)

Order booklets and resources from RNIB publications

<https://shop.rnib.org.uk/collections/rnib-publications>