Below are the key points NHS Lothian think of as essential from a health perspective in keeping with a GIRFEC agenda to raise attainment for pupils with a sensory impairment:

1. Early diagnosis of hearing loss through newborn hearing screening and a service that is responsive to new referrals
2. A hearing service (Audiology, Paediatrics, SLT and ENT) that is appropriately resourced (staff, facilities and equipment) to enable timely appointments, using current technology for both assessing and rehabilitating identified hearing loss.
3. Multi-disciplined working across all agencies (health, education and social work) for both clinical and strategic management
4. Clear pathways for referral and information sharing between all involved agencies
5. Individual care management plans for each child that meets their needs – we would recognise this as being essential within the education setting too.
6. Provide a service that can respond timeously to new and ongoing concerns from the child, their family or other agencies. Visiting Teacher services are under resourced, leading to children not being seen before they return to the Paediatric Ophthalmologist Clinic and a number of children have had to be re-referred, leading long waiting times.
7. We would recognise that most of the key points above are transferrable to support services within Education.
8. We have included a number of links below which are national documents/standards/strategies from England and Scotland that are very clear about what needs a child with a sensory impairment requires and would support these fully.

- See Hear Sensory Impairment Strategy
- Advice to local authority commissioners on meeting the needs of children and young people with sensory impairments in implementing SEND reform
- Better Assessment, Better plans, Better outcomes
- Special Education needs reform – England
- Education - Additional Support for Learning (Scotland) Act 2009

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Approved by: Sally T Egan, Child Health Commissioner/Associate Director
NHS Lothian
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