

## 2009 Knowledge Transfer Scheme

**Chief Investigator:** Dr Kathryn Saunders, University of Ulster

**Co-investigators:** Prof Johnathan Jackson (BHSCT), Dr Nan Hill (BHSCT), Dr Eibhlin McLoone (BHSCT), Mrs Myrtle Shannon (Jordanstown School)

**Title of research project:** A Clearer Vision: Improving stakeholders' understanding of the nature of vision and visual function in the presence of complex neurological problems

**Abstract:** This Knowledge Transfer (KT) study aimed to maximise the relevance and impact of the knowledge gained through a study on "visual impairment, refractive error and accommodative dysfunction in cerebral palsy" (RRG4.4 Project 2). The work centred on four main objectives to achieve this aim;

- Further enhancement of web resources (initially developed in RRG4.4 Project 2) providing open-access, downloadable, information for professionals and parents regarding vision and visual function. Additional information focused on practical strategies to improve 'real world' function of children with impaired vision and/or developmental disability.
- Assistance for professionals in writing meaningful, non-jargon reports on visual assessment outcomes suitable for distribution to all stakeholders including non-vision specialists and parents. This support is web-based and has been disseminated to relevant stakeholders through local information days and through the researchers' work with relevant professional bodies.
- Exploring how visual information is currently represented in educational statements and other documents supporting the child in their educational life.
- Developing a business case for a funded, specialist, multi-disciplinary visual assessment clinic to serve children with complex needs from the whole of Northern Ireland.