

## RLSB response to 'Big leap' towards curing blindness in stem cell study story

Monday 22 July, 2013

Britain has always had proud record as a world leader in research into preservation of sight.

The news today is another major step long that path. The effects once proven, will be significant for adults who have lost their sight.

It is important that government and the medical research community continue to support these activities.

But we also urge them to now look more closely at early years childhood sight loss, which is an area that appears to have been forgotten. It needs urgent injection of funds in order to prevent not just sight loss in young children but to eliminate the devastating affects it has on their future life chances. Right now in the UK 95% of those who have lost their sight in youth will never work for more than six months in their lives. It's unacceptable, and that's why these children need the support of those organisations that can change this dreadful statistic around.

ENDS

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