



▶ MP ROUNDTABLE

Issue 9 o December 2013



▶ GLAUCOMA REFERRALS



▶ LOCSU OPTICAL LEAD

Devon LOC

DEVON LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

GATEKEEPERS OF EYE CARE

Chair's Introduction

With 8 more sleeps until Christmas and 2013 drawing to an end, what can I say in reflection on the last 12 months as Chair of the Devon Local Optical Committee? It has been a busy and challenging year; however, it has been a privilege and a pleasure to represent you, our members.

In January of this year the LOC appointed a Business Manager for the first time. Jonathan is continuing to ensure that further enhanced services are commissioned in the community to meet the increasing demands on healthcare.

The new health and care system became fully operational in April with the most radical changes the NHS has ever seen since it was first established in 1948 when Health Secretary Aneurin Bevan opened Park Hospital in Manchester.

In June 2013 we saw a change in the Contract Assurance process for Optometric Practices with the initiation in the Quality in Optometry. I would like to thank everyone for the time you have spent on the process and if you have any further problems please feel free to contact the Devon LOC Office.



In July 2013 we were shortlisted for the LOC of the Year Awards. It was an honour and a privilege to be nominated and shortlisted for the award. We were thrilled and encouraged to be recognised by our peers which has spurred us on to continue the work we have been doing to raise the profile of optometry in Devon.

We have also been meeting regularly with MPs across Devon over the past 12 months with Anne-Marie Morris MP in February, Neal Parish MP and Gary Streeter MP in July, Nick Harvey MP in August, Hugo Swire MP in October and Mel Stride MP in November. We have a further two MP visits planned in January and February next year.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I look forward to working closely with you all in 2014.

Charles Bill
Chairman, Devon LOC

Devon Local Optical Committee and Devon Local Pharmaceutical Committee join forces for a Devon MP Roundtable Event in London

Local MPs Oliver Colville, Alison Seabeck and Ben Bradshaw joined the Devon Local Optical Committee and Devon Local Pharmaceutical Committee for a Roundtable

Discussion on Tuesday 3rd December 2013 to discuss the management and treatment of minor health conditions in Community Optician Practices and Community Pharmacy.



Visual Impairment is one of the major health challenges facing the NHS, affecting a substantial proportion of the population. 2 million people in the UK are living with sight loss yet over 50% is avoidable. Fewer than 50% of the population visit their optician to have regular sight tests.

Commenting on the Roundtable, Charles Bill, Chair of Devon Local Optical Committee said: "Community Optometry is at the forefront of delivering high quality, patient centred and cost effective healthcare in community settings. Regular sight tests are key to improving quality of life and reducing sight loss. It was great to see our local MPs get behind us and support opticians in



Devon to provide high quality Eye Care across the county"

Best Practice for Glaucoma Referrals

Please note that this information is not essential but classified as best practice for glaucoma referrals in Devon.

Best practice for glaucoma and OHT referrals that have been refined by the IOP refinement scheme:

- Visual Fields: You must attach and send with the referral
- IOP: Document type of equipment used and the time of the day the reading was taken

- Disc assessment: Cup to disc, Pallor, Depth, Lamina cribrosa appearance, vessel structure and placement
- Document any family ocular history

Other information if available:

- Van Herricks: Scale 0-4
- Pachimetry
- Any other eye pathology

Minor Eye Conditions

The LOC are working closely with the CCGs for a service to see patients in a community setting with an acute eye condition.

In a personal message from the Secretary of State for Health, The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP said: "Our ageing society has meant 1.2 million more people in A&E every year compared to 3 years ago, with nearly 2000 more people every day seen within 4 hours.

But the big question for all of us as we continue

to see more and more people - especially frail older people - in A&E departments is how to deliver better ways to look after people outside hospital. So as well as the short term financial support we have offered the system for this winter, we are looking at the root causes of A&E pressure. Countless A&E departments say the 2 things that would make the biggest difference are better integration with the social care system so it is easier to discharge people, and better primary care alternatives."



GOC invites views on future priorities

The General Optical Council (GOC) has launched a consultation seeking views on its draft strategic plan for the next three years.

The consultation closes on 10 January and the GOC's Council will take a final decision at its public meeting on 12 February 2014. The new strategic plan will come into force on 1 April 2014.



For further information click [here](#)



South West Exhibition Education & Training

S.W.E.E.T. is set up to bring you events and training in our area. By Opticians for Opticians.

The first event will be Sunday 16th March 2014 at the Exeter Racecourse.

Firstly there will be an all-day Exhibition featuring a large number of major players in the optical supply market as well as local niche providers. Running alongside will be CET events covering a variety of topics. Training sessions will be available for front of house staff.

To register your interest please contact:

sweetevent2014@gmail.com

LOCSU Optical Lead vacancy in South of England



A vacancy has arisen in the South of England for a highly skilled person to join our team of Optical Leads to support Local Optical Committees in developing community eye care services.

Click [here](#) for further information

NEWMEDICA Ophthalmology Services

Newmedica are working with Care UK to deliver the ophthalmology service at the Peninsula Treatment centre in Plymouth.

From January 2014 Mr Nick Evans will be leading the Ophthalmology Service.


Newmedica are looking to supplement the Ophthalmologist service with an Optometrist post—operative follow-up service.

The pathway for follow-up appointments is to see patients 4-6 weeks post-operatively. The content of the examination is IOP, Slit-Lamp and Auto-Refraction. The outcomes would be list for second eye, escalate to consultant or discharge.

The post is for one day a week.

For further information on the post please contact:

1. Darshak Shah (Managing Director, Newmedica) on darshak@newmedica.co.uk or 07958 412111
2. Carl Hall (Director of Operations, Newmedica) on Carl.Hall@newmedica.co.uk or 07976 370038



Advance Notice—Devon LOC AGM 2014.


The Devon LOC Annual General Meeting for 2014 will take place on Wednesday 21st May 2013 starting at 6.30pm at the Exeter Court Hotel, Kennford, Exeter.


LOC Details

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WOPEC is self taught training on the following areas: Cataract, Glaucoma, PEARS, Low Vision, Learning Disabilities. To get your unique code for course access and instructions please email Jonathan Drew stating which codes you would like.