



▶ WHAT IS THE LOC DOING?

| o Issue2 | o April 2013



▶ DEVON ACCESS AND REFERRAL TEAM



▶ MP VISIT

Devon LOC

DEVON LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

REPRESENTING OPTOMETRISTS AND DISPENSING OPTICIANS IN DEVON

Chair's Introduction

In this country the majority of Adults and Children visit their dentist for regular check-ups. This same practice does not seem to extend to eye examinations. It is a stark statistic that there will be a 115% increase in the number of people living with sight loss by 2050. This equates to about 4 million people in the UK. Over 50% of this sight loss can be avoided.

£2 billion of NHS money is spent on eye care a year in England. Recognising the challenge and faced with an aging population, the Government is making preventable sight loss a top public health priority.

With 4 million people at risk of losing their sight, we need to take every step to improve eye healthcare. I think that a major transformation is needed in eye care provision and sight loss services in Devon. The Devon LOC is working with the NHS for better community eye care provision, regular sight testing and ensuring eye diseases are detected at an early stage.

Over the past few months the LOC has attended meetings with the CCGs in Devon, NHS England (NHS Commissioning Board) and the emerging Health and Well-Being Boards. We are at the forefront of all discussions regarding GOS Services, Enhanced services and strategies for eye care in Devon.

Finally, the LOC is there to represent you so please do let us have any thoughts and feedback on what we have been, or should be, doing.

Charles Bill

Chairman, Devon LOC

LOC Committee

Chair: Charles Bill

Vice Chair: Peter Noakes

Secretary: Fiona Hiscox

Treasurer: Mark Bushby

Committee Members:

Paul Bradford

Louise Frost

Max Halford

Eiohn Hayes

Ian Holten

Richard Hoyland

Nicki Pullen

Jacqueline Sandford

Daniel Tabb



[Devon Local Optical Committee Annual General Meeting](#)

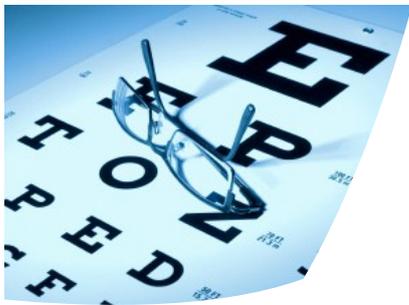
Wednesday 15th May 2013 at 6.30pm,
Exeter Court Hotel, Kennford, Exeter.
RSVP to Jonathan Drew

Devon-based Optometrist Paul Bradford has become the first Optometrist to be accredited by the College as a peer review facilitator

Paul Bradford, pictured with College chief executive Bryony Pawinska (right) and LOCSU learning and development consultant Gill Brabner (left), said: 'I have been running peer review sessions in Devon for almost a year. In some sessions I use real case studies or adapt cases to develop specific learning outcomes.

'Peer review and peer discussion are an excellent way to keep up to date or even just reflect more informally to get perspective on an unusual case.'





What is the Devon LOC doing?

Optometric Practice Questionnaires

The LOC has recently started conducting questionnaires with Optometric Practices. We would appreciate your help with this and this information will be very useful to the LOC.

The information will help us:

- Ensure all our contact details are correct and up to date
- Ask contractors how they would like to be kept informed
- Seek which additional services contractors would like to undertake
- Gain an understanding what equipment is in practice

Why have we appointed a Business Manager?

Jonathan Drew was appointed as the Business Manager for the Devon LOC in January 2013. Jonathan has a background in the NHS within Contracting and Commissioning. Jonathan's role is to provide Business Management and administrative support to the LOC and its members and to be the main point of contact for the LOC. Jonathan is working hard to ensure the LOC is represented at all relevant meetings and raising the profile of Optometry in Devon.

The LOC will ensure that Optometry is at the forefront of meeting the Ophthalmic needs of the population of Devon.

What meetings are the LOC attending?

The LOC are attending regular meetings with the CCGs in Devon (NEW Devon CCG and South Devon and Torbay CCG), NHS England Area Team (responsible for the GOS Contract), Health and Well-Being Boards, CCGs Boards (Public Board Meeting of the CCG Governing Body), Devon Access and Referral Team, Members of Parliament plus other relevant

meetings including Optical Representatives and the other Representative Committees.

The Local Professional Network (Local Eye Health Network—LEN) has not met together for a few months during the transition from Primary Care Trusts to NHS England. Once the Clinical Chair has been appointed the LEN will be restarted and will represent Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

Public Health and the JSNA

The LOC currently attend the Public Health and Well-Being Board Meetings for Devon, Plymouth and Torbay. We are working hard to ensure Eye Care is included in the Health Strategies for the County.

Enhanced Services (Community Services and CCGs)

The LOC are meeting with all the Commissioners in Devon to work together to meet the Eye Care needs of Devon. We will specifically be discussing cataracts, glaucoma, PEARS, Diabetic Macular Oedema and Age Related Macular Degeneration.

WOPEC TRAINING



We would like to remind you that the LOC now has codes to access all of the training provided by LOCSU/WOPEC. This is the self taught part of the training and is free of charge and available on the following areas:

- Cataract
- Glaucoma
- PEARS
- Low Vision

We would encourage you to make use of this training especially if you are hoping to be involved in enhanced services in the future. To get your code and instructions please email Jonathan Drew (jdrew@devonloc.co.uk) stating which codes you would like.

Devon Access and Referral Team (DART)



The Devon Access and Referral Team (DART) supports the quality and consistency of referrals in Devon, ensuring a smooth pathway for the patient into the correct service.

- DART EMAIL ADDRESS HAS CHANGED

Due to the changes in the NHS the DART email address has changed for electronic referrals. The email address is now:

d-ccg.dartophthalmology@nhs.net

- DART CLOSURE (Advanced warning)

Due to DART moving premises they will be closed and taking no referrals on Friday 7th June 2013. All services will resume on Monday 10th June 2013.

LOC Details

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Anne Marie Morris (MP) pictured with Charles Bill and Jonathan Drew

Devon LOC Meets local MP

Anne Marie Morris local MP calls on her constituents to look after their eyesight.

Commenting on her visit, Ms Morris said: "I was interested to hear more about the importance of regular check-ups at one of our local opticians today.

It's a stark statistic that there will be a 115% increase in the number of people living with sight loss by 2050. I'm pleased to support regular check-ups as a means of preventing this number from becoming any larger."