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Issue 5 o July 2013



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# Devon LOC

DEVON LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

GATEKEEPERS OF EYE CARE

## Chair's Introduction

The NHS is now celebrating its 65th anniversary since its launch on 5th July 1948. Over the past couple of years the NHS has gone through major changes, with the recent Health and Social Care Act 2012. In a recent speech from The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, he said "the world today is very different to 1948. Not just in Britain but everywhere, healthcare systems face two enormous and related challenges: financial stability and the ageing population. He also added that "by 2016, 3 million people will soon have not one, not two, but three long-term conditions. I believe that Optometry has a major part to play in the healthcare of today and the future. A major transformation is required with better community provision, awareness of regular sight testing and ensuring eye disease is detected and treated at an early stage.

In light of the recent changes in the NHS, The Kings Fund has produced an Alternative Guide to the New NHS in England. This is a simple guide which will help you understand the new structure. Click [here](#) for more information.

the awareness of Optometry with the MPs in Devon. We have arranged visits to local Optician Practices for the majority of the Devon MPs. MP Neil Parish recently visited Specsavers in Honiton where he found out why regular sight tests are so important in preventing sight loss.

May I also remind you that voting is still open for LOC of the Year 2013 – voting closes on 6th September. It is an honour and a privilege to be nominated and shortlisted for the 'LOC of the Year' awards. Please click [here](#) to vote for Devon LOC.



Remember, the LOC is there to represent you so please do let us have any thoughts or suggestions of how we can best represent our members. Remember, we are the 'Gatekeepers of Eye Care' and the LOC are working hard on your behalf.

Charles Bill  
Chairman – Devon LOC

### LOC Committee

- Chair: Charles Bill
- Vice Chair: Peter Noakes
- Secretary: Fiona Hiscox
- Treasurer: Daniel Tabb

#### Committee Members:

- Paul Bradford
- Mark Bushby
- Louise Frost
- Max Halford
- Eiohn Hayes
- Ian Holten
- Richard Hoyland
- Nicki Pullen
- Jacqueline Sandford

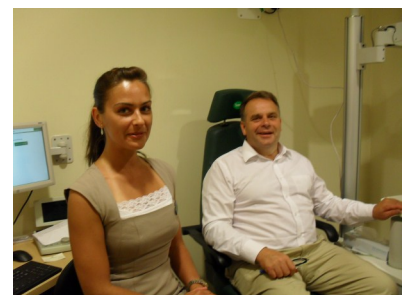
Over the past 12 months the LOC have been working hard to raise

### Local MP, Neil Parish (Honiton and Tiverton) calls on constituents to look after their eyesight by having regular sight tests

Local MP Neil Parish heard that his constituents could be missing out on vital eye care. Neil Parish visited Specsavers in Honiton on Friday 19th July 2013 where he heard that 2 million people in the UK are living with sight loss yet over 50% is preventable. However early detection through regular eye tests is a simple and practical way to maintain good eye health and look after your eyes.

Commenting on his visit Neil Parish MP said:

*"Early intervention is vital if we are to stop preventable sight-loss from blighting the lives of thousands unnecessarily. I was delighted to have met Optometrist Nicola Burke and the team here in Honiton, who are helping people have healthier eyes for longer."*



# Quality in Optometry Level 1

## Quality in Optometry

The NHS Commissioning Board (NHS CB or NHS England) has recently produced a document for assurance of General Ophthalmic Services Contracts. To view this document click [here](#).

All contractors are required under clauses 58 and 59 of their contracts to produce to the NHS CB any information that is reasonably required for the purposes of, or in connection with their contracts. This process forms an important part of that requirement.

Contract performance review reduces inappropriate variations in practice and supports improvement in the quality of contracted services provided. The process aims to be supportive in approach.

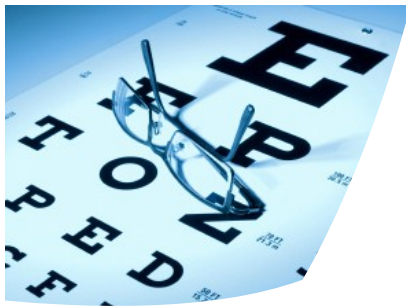
Once every three years each practice will need to send its area team its Quality in Optometry Level 1 checklist including a checklist of evidence and practice declaration to demonstrate its compliance status. The evidence itself will not be required to be submitted but to be retained in the practice.

Quality in Optometry is a national quality assurance tool website ([www.qualityinoptometry.co.uk](http://www.qualityinoptometry.co.uk)) used by ophthalmic practices to assess their compliance with their contract and to improve the quality of the services they provide.

The NHS England Area Team are asking Practices to complete the Level 1 Quality in Optometry Checklist, their checklist of evidence, signed practice declaration and any action plans and return to Stacey Burch on [Stacey.burch@nhs.net](mailto:Stacey.burch@nhs.net) by 30th August 2013.

If you have any queries with regard to any of the points above or with your General Ophthalmic Contracts, please contact Colette Wells via e-mail on [colettwells@nhs.net](mailto:colettwells@nhs.net) or on 01752 434943 or Ian Turnbull on [ian.turnbull@nhs.net](mailto:ian.turnbull@nhs.net) or 01752 434935.

If you are unable to access the Quality in Optometry website and require a hard copy of the self assessment documents, please contact Stacey Burch on (01752) 434940.



## Claiming your CET Funding

The increase in the CET grant has been agreed for 2012, and the payment, which is payable in 2013 for CET undertaken in 2012, has risen to £516. This year the period during which optometrists and ophthalmic medical practitioners may make their claims will be 1st July–31st October 2013.

Click [here](#) for further information

The claim forms are to be sent to: SBS, FHS Ophthalmics Payments Team, PO Box 652, Wakefield, WF1 9HU

## Devon LOC Study Day



**When: Friday 22nd November 2013**

**Time: 8.45am registration**

**Where: Buckfast Abbey.**

Click [here](#) for further details

## NOC 2013

NOC organised by the AOP for LOCSU & the Optical Confederation

Click [here](#) for more information

## Mission Statement and Organisational Aims of Devon Local Optical Committee

### Mission Statement

To represent, support and communicate with local contractors and performers to ensure, as gatekeepers of eye care, the effective delivery of Ophthalmic Services across the whole of Devon.

### Organisational Aims of the Local Optical Committee


- To work with Optometry Practices and across the health system to improve eye health outcomes and reduce inequalities in the provision of care.
- To work with partners to deliver eye care services which meet local need
- To work with partners to develop community orientated eye care services
- To work with Registered Eye Care Providers to recruit, retain and develop the current and future workforce
- To advise the NHS on matters affecting Optometrists providing General Ophthalmic Services
- To enable Registered Eye Care Providers in the area to formulate collective views and develop ideas for improvement and better ways of working
- To advise Commissioners on the scope and efficiency of eye care service locally
- To provide a range of educational events for local Registered Eye Care Providers, ensuring opportunities for peer support and developing relationships with secondary care ophthalmologists.


## LOC Details

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Devon Local Optical Committee

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 [jdrew@devonloc.co.uk](mailto:jdrew@devonloc.co.uk)

 Follow [DevonLOC](#) on twitter

 Like [Devon LOC](#) on Facebook

## Additions to the Devon LOC Website

### Referral Guidelines

Click [here](#) to view the guidelines on Ophthalmology referrals in Devon

### Low Priority Procedures

Click [here](#) to view the Low priority procedure document



WOPEC is self taught training and is free of charge and available 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.