



▶ MP VISIT—HUGO SWIRE

Issue 8 o October 2013



▶ REFERRALS



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Devon LOC

DEVON LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

GATEKEEPERS OF EYE CARE

Chair's Introduction

The National Optical Conference for 2013 is fast approaching! The theme this year is 'The New NHS - six months in'. There are still major challenges ahead and a time of turbulent change. The NHS is facing the most significant financial challenge in its history. The range of speakers and topics will give an opportunity for review, analysis and debate on the impact of the new NHS on the Optical Sector along with how to influence decisions in the Commissioning Process. The LOC have strong links with the NHS in the West Country (NHS England and CCGs) and are fully involved in the Ophthalmology Commissioning Process.

The International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) has produced a resource entitled '[Towards Universal Eye Health – get your eyes tested](#)'. The report details 7 recommendations for health decision makers. One of the recommendations is to invest in eye care, increasing budget allocations to address need. Visual impairment is one of the major health challenges facing the NHS, affecting a substantial proportion of the population.

The Federation of (Ophthalmic and Dispensing) Opticians have

recently produced a [Health Map](#) highlighting areas of the UK at the greatest risk of sight loss. Statistics and resources such as this are useful when raising the awareness of the need for resources to be invested into eye care for now and the future.

May I also remind you that 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

Local MP Hugo Swire calls on constituents to look after their eyesight by having regular sight tests.

Local MP Hugo Swire visited Brian Toye Opticians in Exmouth on Friday 11th October 2013 to find out why regular eye tests are so important in preventing blindness.

Commenting on the visit Brian Toye said: "We could do a lot more to relieve the pressure on the health service if proper arrangements were in place to use our skills and equipment"

Hugo Swire MP said:

"Clearly it is in all our interests that more people are treated locally rather than having to travel to hospital so I shall be speaking to my Ministerial colleague the Health Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, to ask him to look at ways of encouraging more people to make use of the advances in equipment which many opticians now have."



Best Practice for Referrals



Optometry LPN Chair

The NHS are seeking an ethical, highly motivated and well respected professional, working across the Area Team footprint of Devon, Cornwall & Isles of Scilly, with the vision and commitment to establish the formal Local Professional Network.



As the chair, you will inspire and motivate others, leading the changes required to ensure consistently excellent clinical services and accessible, seamless clinical pathways. Click [here](#) for more information.

Ophthalmic Referral Form														
Priority:						Date of Referral:								
Patient Details:														
Title:			Forename:			Surname:			Date of Birth:					
Address:						Email Address:			Home Tel:					
Postcode:						Work/Mobile Tel:			NHS Number:					
Referring Ophthalmic Practitioner's Details:						Patient's GP Details:								
Name:						Name:								
Practice Address:						Practice Address:								
Tel:						Tel:								
Primary Reason for referral:														
Please Select:														
Right	Vision/VA	Sphere	Cyl	Axis	Prism	VA	PH	Add	Near VA	Previous VA	Date of Previous			
Left														
Visual Fields:						Instrument:								
IOP:						mmHg			mmHg			Time:		
Disc Appearance:						Type of Tonometer:								
Referral Comments:														
<input type="checkbox"/> Cycloplegic refraction <input type="checkbox"/> Dilated Fundus Examination <input type="checkbox"/> DART to initiate contact with patient:														
Does the patient have a disability? <input type="checkbox"/>														
If yes please specify:														
STATEMENT: The reason for this referral has been explained to the patient or guardian who agrees to it. The patient or guardian also consents to information being exchanged between the Hospital Eye Service, their General Medical Practitioner and Ophthalmic Medical Practitioner (Please tick if patient does not consent: <input type="checkbox"/>).														
The Patient's GP should supply relevant information from the patient's medical history to DART														

Example referral form—DART

The organisation for booking NHS appointments across Devon is Devon Referral Support Services (DRSS). This covers TRAC (Tamar Referral and Appointments Centre) and DART (Devon Access and Referral Team).

The advantages of using the referral forms are that it:

- Ensures the referral form is legible:
- Ensures the patient is placed in the correct clinic
- Ensures a timely referral.

Delays in referrals through the DRSS have been reported due to missing information and the form being illegible. Please fill out the form completely.

Please choose 1 clinic on the referral form. For patients with multiple co-morbidities—pick the clinic that is most important and in the free text comments explain other relevant history and symptoms.

DOCET releases free Peer Discussion Material

A range of free peer discussion and facilitation materials has been launched for optometrists by DOCET. Click [here](#) for more information.

The portfolio consists of 14 case studies covering a range of topics and competencies, with a mixture of video and document-based examples. Every case study is accompanied by full guidance on how to facilitate a discussion and select learning objectives.

Coinciding with the launch of the materials is the release of a new training film, 'Peer to Peer: Facilitation Skills', which follows an optometrist embarking on the facilitation of their first peer discussion. Accompanying the film is a set of top tips and suggested ground rules for good facilitation.

Chairman of DOCET, Sanjay Patel, said: "We're delighted to launch these new materials. Peer-to-peer activity is now an important part of the GOC's enhanced CET cycle and is proving to be a popular and beneficial way learning".

IOP Refinement in North Devon

The IOP refinement Scheme started in North Devon on 1st October 2013 following a successful launch event in September. Information on this has been included on page 2 of October's edition of Health People (NEW Devon CCGs Monthly Newsletter). Click [here](#) to view this Newsletter.



LOCSU Annual Report

LOCSU have recently released their Annual Report for 2012/13: State of Community Eye Care Services in England 2013. Their vision for local eye care is:

1. More people to get their eye problems addressed locally, without delay
2. The NHS to make the best use of eye health resources by commissioning services close to home, reducing pressure on hospital time

To view the Annual Report 2012/13 click [here](#)

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.



Future MP Visits for Devon LOC

Mel Stride—14th November 2013

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.