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Issue 13 ◦ April 2014



▶ Devon LOC AGM and Nominees



▶ NEW NHS ENGLAND CEO APPOINTED

Devon LOC



DEVON LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

GATEKEEPERS OF EYE CARE

Chair's Introduction

New CEO of NHS England: Simon Stevens



Over the past 12 months we have seen many new appointments in the world of Optics and in the NHS. On 1st April Sir David Nicolson stood down as Chief Executive of NHS England and was replaced by Simon Stevens. In his first speech as the new Chief Executive of NHS England, Simon Stevens said many things about the challenge ahead. To see the full speech click [here](#)

In a recent OT article, Simon Stevens said :

"The next five years are going to be extremely challenging for the NHS, but compassionate high quality care for all is as vital as ever. It will be a privilege to lead NHS England – at a time when the stakes have never been higher – because I believe in the NHS, and because I believe that a broad new partnership of patients, carers, staff and the public can together chart a successful future for our health service."

Welcoming the appointment, LOCSU MD Katrina Venerus told OT: "This is a significant appointment at the most crucial of times for the NHS. Strong leadership is vital if the NHS is to successfully meet the challenges that it faces in the years ahead. I look forward to seeing what impact Mr Stevens will have on the shape of front line services, and to our continued work with NHS England highlighting how community optics can help with the task ahead."

To keep you updated with all the relevant information both locally and nationally I am pleased to say that Devon LOC now has a new website. Click [here](#) to view this. The website includes all up to date information ranging from local referral guidelines/ proformas to national developments in the world of optics (see article below for more information).

Charles Bill

Chairman, Devon LOC

NEW DEVON LOC WEBSITE

We hope the Devon LOC website will become your first port of call to access local optical information.

The website includes all the information you would expect regarding the LOC and how it works PLUS:

- **News:** All the latest news affecting the LOC and the optical sector
- **Useful Links** to all relevant professional bodies (e.g. LOCSU, NHS, GOC, ABDO AOP etc.)
- **Useful information:** Lots of useful local information to refer to & download (referral proformas, Local GP details, NHS documents, best practice for referrals, NHS mail, commissioning policies etc.)
- **Advertisements:** Use this to advertise for staff, to sell/buy equipment, or advertise services.
- **Training:** All available training available locally/regionally is listed.

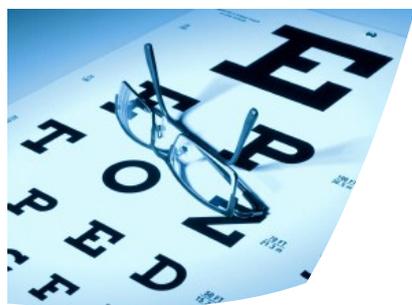
- **Blog :** up to date info affecting the optical sector.

Always grateful for feedback & suggestions and information you may want added e.g. training/ CET events. Please contact Jonathan Drew with any thoughts or suggestions.

To view the website click [here](#)

The screenshot shows the website header with the Devon LOC logo and the tagline 'THE GATEKEEPERS OF EYE CARE'. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for HOME, ABOUT THE LOC, NEWS, EVENTS, DOWNLOADS, and CONTACT US. There are also social media icons for Facebook and Twitter. The main content area features a large image of a building with a fountain in the foreground, accompanied by the text 'TO REPRESENT, SUPPORT AND COMMUNICATE' and a 'Read More' button. At the bottom, there is a blue box with text describing the LOC's role: 'Devon Local Optical Committee (LOC) is the organisation representing optometrists in Devon. It liaises with the NHS on matters relating to eyecare and represents Devon optometrists in negotiations with them. It also runs a number of study days throughout the year.'

Devon LOC Voting and AGM



Local Eye Health Networks reach 'critical mass'

News that clinical chairs for have now been appointed by almost all NHS England Area Teams has been welcomed by leaders from across the eye health sector.

Reaching the milestone will give the development of Local Eye Health Networks a real boost.

These appointments creates "critical mass" for the profession, giving it real influence in shaping health provision.

Click [here](#) for more information

Please note that the next Annual General Meeting of the Devon Local Optical Committee will take place on Wednesday 21st May 2014 at 7.00pm at The Exeter Court Hotel, Kennford, Exeter, EX6 7UX. Tea and Coffee will be available from 6.30pm and a light buffet will be served from 8.30pm.

To register attendance to the AGM please see letter and complete the form found on the LOC website: click [here](#).

Voting is now open for a place on the LOC for a term of 3 years.

10 nominations have been received. To view the nominees and election statements click [here](#).

Voting will take place at the Devon LOC AGM on 21st May 2014 at the Exeter Court Hotel, Kennford. If you are unable to make the AGM you can vote by proxy/post (click [here](#) to download). The Proxy/postal voting form must be returned to The Returning Officer (Jonathan Drew) by Wednesday 7th

May 2014. **All postal votes after this date will not be accepted.**

You must choose **4** of the nominees – **any proxy/postal form completed with more or less than 4 chosen nominees will not be accepted**

Please return forms to:

Jonathan Drew (Returning Officer)
Devon Local Optical Committee,
Haldon Hill,
Kennford, Exeter,
Devon,
EX6 7XX

Or email the completed forms to jdrew@devonloc.co.uk

If you would like to raise any issues or questions at the AGM please submit in writing (post or email) by Wednesday 7th May 2014.

welcome to
NHSmail



NEW PROCEDURE

All Optician Practices across Devon can now have access to NHS Mail for referring patients to secondary care.

To apply for access to an nhs.net mail account you need to first contact the NHS England Area team using the following details:

eng-land.primarycareoptometry@nhs.net
or

0113 824 8801 (Preferably by email)

Devon LOC have produced a helpful guide to NHS Mail (click [here](#))

Local & National Newsletters/ News

- NEW Devon CCG—[Health People Monthly Newsletter](#)
- Healthwatch Torbay—[News](#)
- Healthwatch Devon—[Publications](#)
- Healthwatch Plymouth—[Info](#)
- NHS England—[Bulletins](#)
- AOP Newsletter—[Blink](#)
- GOC Newsletter—[eBulletins](#)
- LOCSU Newsletter—[News](#)
- ABDO Newsletter—[News](#)
- Optical Confederation—[News](#)
- Vision 2020—[Newsletter](#)

USEFUL INFORMATION

GP Practice details

An updated list of Devon GP Practice details can be found on our website—click [here](#)

MP Visits and Ophthalmic Public Health

Over the past 2 years all 12 of the Devon Members of Parliament have visited a local Opticians Practice in their constituency.

Over the past three months Devon LOC has engaged with all three Health and Well-Being Boards across Devon. We have engaged with Chairs of Health and Well-being Boards, Directors of Public Health, Public Health Specialists and Policy Officers with the Council.

LOCSU have produced an article on the work of Devon LOC. Click [here](#) to read. Further information can also be found on our [website](#).

Booking open for NOC 2014

The NOC this year will take place on 23rd and 24th October 2014. For more details and to book a place at the conference click [here](#)

AOP Peer Review Roadshows

The AOP hosted a series of regional peer discussion groups last year and these have been extended into 2014 to visit locations not previously offered.

The AOP Peer Review Roadshow will be in Exeter on Tuesday 18th November. For more information click [here](#)

Dates for your diary

- [Vision UK Conference 2014](#)—Thursday 24th June
- [National Eye Health Week](#)—22nd to 28th September 2014

LOC Details

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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
and Jacqueline Sandford