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# Devon LOC

DEVON LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

GATEKEEPERS OF EYE CARE

## Chair's Introduction

In a time of accelerated change, what are the priorities of the LOC? I believe, in light of the ever increasing age of the population, we need a sustainable eye care service close to where patients live. Optometric Practices are ideally placed to provide this service and are very much an underutilised resource. The LOC is working hard to change this and bring Optometry to the forefront of eye care provision in Devon.

There have been many changes over the past 6 months and these changes seem to be continuing! Leading organisations from across the eye health sector have come together for the first time to form the Clinical Council for Eye Health Commissioning responding to the government's NHS reforms for a clinically led, patient focused NHS. The aim of the Council is to offer united, evidence-based clinical advice and guidance to those commissioning and delivering eye health services.

The AOP has also seen some changes with the new Chief Executive, Henrietta Alderman being appointed. Ms Alderman joins the AOP from the British Veterinary Association (BVA), where she held the role of

Secretary General from 2007.

The AOP has created a number of resources for you to display in your practice or use when giving talks to members of the public. They have reproduced its popular 'Top 10 Tips for Healthy Eyes' poster which originally appeared in 2009. For more information click [here](#).

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. So VOTE! Please click [here](#) to vote for Devon LOC.



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

### 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 MPs Gary Streeter and Nick Harvey call on constituents to look after their eyesight by having regular sight tests.**

They heard that their constituents could be missing out on vital eye care.

Commenting on his visit Gary Streeter said: *"It was helpful to learn more about the importance of eye checks and the health advantages this can bring and it is vital that we all get our eyes tested regularly. I was impressed with the friendly professionalism of Newsomes"*

Nick Harvey added: *"Unfortunately we are all guilty of taking our eyes for granted and they are probably one of the things we take the least care of. Constant use of modern technology and life styles can take their toll so it is very advisable to have regular check-ups particularly when many problems are preventable"*.



# Local Updates

## NHS 111

As you are no doubt aware, NHS 111 is a national initiative that is being rolled out across the country. It is a new three-digit dial telephone service being introduced to make it easier for patients to access local health services, when they have an urgent need.



when it's less urgent than 999

NHS 111 is available 24-hours-a-day, 365 days a year. When patients call 111 they will be assessed, given healthcare advice and directed to a local service that can help them. The Devon Service is going to be managed by the South Western Ambulance Service and goes live in Devon on September 3rd 2013. NHS Direct will end its operations in September this year and all calls will go to 111 instead.

### Number for Safeguarding Alerts:

A reminder that the numbers for Safeguarding alerts are as follows:

- Devon County Council (Devon) Care Direct:

0845 1551 007

- Torbay Single Point of Contact no: 01803 219888
- Plymouth: 01752 668000

If a crime is suspected dial 999

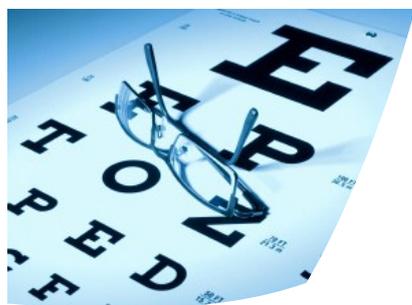
### NHS email addresses

Some Optical Practices across Devon have NHS email accounts. Passwords for these need to be reset on a 90 day basis. If passwords are not changed within timescales then the individuals need to access an N3 connection to do the reset—this is not always possible. Can I remind NHS email account users that they need to keep regularly checking their accounts and change passwords where prompted.

The LOC are working on email addresses for all Optician Practices across Devon and we are currently seeking national advice on this issue.

### GOS 4 Form

The GOS 4 form has recently been updated and is different from the version that we sent out by NHS England. Click [here](#) for the current version.



## 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

## Clinical Audit-quick fire session at the NOC

There is still time to enter your abstract for a new 'quick fire' clinical audit session to be held at this year's NOC.

The fast-paced breakout session will feature a number of five minute presentations of audits, with a very strict "pull the plug" cut off!

Any audit can be submitted with those from community (enhanced) services or personal practice being particularly welcome.

The workshop will provide an abundance of information to delegates in a short space of time, and those interested in further details will be able to talk to the presenters at the end.

The call now is for abstracts of the presentations to be submitted up to a maximum of 300 words.

Please send your abstract to [info@locsu.co.uk](mailto:info@locsu.co.uk) by the extended deadline of Tuesday 27 August 2013 (by 5pm)

The NOC will take place on 7th and 8th November 2013.



NOC organised by the AOP for LOCSU & the Optical Confederation

Click [here](#) for booking and information on the programme for the event including the Key Note Speakers.



**NATIONAL EYE HEALTH WEEK**  
MONDAY 16 - SUNDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2013  
YOUR VISION MATTERS

The National Eye Health Week is taking place in September 2013. To get

involved and for further information click [here](#). The LOC have produced a [press release](#).

The Devon LOC Study Day is taking place on Friday 22nd November 2013 with



registration at 8.45am. The Study Day will take place at the Buckfast Conference Centre in Buckfastleigh. For further information and booking click [here](#).



GLAUCOMA SIM

A Glaucoma Sim App has been developed for iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad. Developed in conjunction with Moorfields Eye Hospital and the International Glaucoma Association (IGA), the App is designed to allow people to experience a simulation of the loss of vision that can be a result of glaucoma progression. This App allows patients to view the effects that glaucoma could have on sight over time.

The App is available from the Apple Store. Search for 'Glaucoma SIM'.

## 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.



The key findings from the General Ophthalmic (GOS) data collection for 2012/13

have been published (July 2013).

Click [here](#) to view this information