



▶ COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Issue 11 ◦ February 2014



▶ MP VISIT—ADRIAN SANDERS



▶ NHS MAIL

# Devon LOC



DEVON LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

GATEKEEPERS OF EYE CARE

## Chair's Introduction

Last year the Devon Local Optical Committee was shortlisted for the LOC of the Year for the AOP Awards at the NOC 2013.

The AOP Awards are hosted annually to celebrate the achievements of eye care practitioners in the profession who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. The prestigious event returns this year with two new categories and the nominations have opened. The AOP has simplified the nomination process so there has never been a better time to nominate yourself or colleagues for a prestigious award. The revamped process requires people nominating to provide contact information for both themselves and those they are nominating. The shortlist for each category will then be put to a public vote, with the winners announced at a special ceremony and gala dinner at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole on 23rd October 2014.

Click [here](#) to make a nomination for the AOP Awards 2014.

There is an exciting opportunity within Devon Local Optical Committee this year. There are four committee vacancies to join

the Devon Local Optical Committee for the next 3 years.

If you wish to be nominated for a position on the Committee, you should complete the nomination paper on the Devon LOC Website – click [here](#). Contact Jonathan Drew if you would like further details on this.

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 and Jacqueline Sandford

NHS England Newsletter for General Ophthalmic Service Contractors February 2014

Click [here](#) to view this



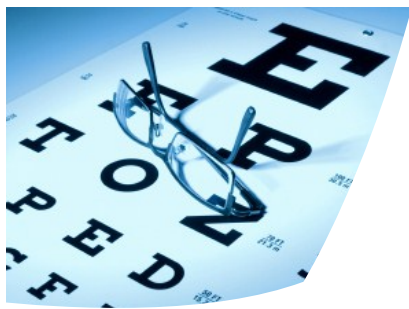
### Local MP Adrian Sanders calls on constituents to look after their eyesight by having regular sight tests.

Local MP Adrian Sanders visited Specsavers Opticians in Torquay on Friday 21st February 2014.

Local Optometrist, Josie Forte showed Adrian Sanders around her Opticians Practice in Torquay and explained the health benefits of regular eye tests;

*"We were delighted that Mr Sanders accepted our invitation to visit our store. We provided Mr Sanders with information on the latest developments in the industry, along with demonstrating how recent updates in eye examinations could do a lot more locally to relieve some of the pressure on the Health Service."*

Commenting on his visit Adrian Sanders MP said: *"It's great to see a locally owned business thriving on the high street and providing footfall for the whole town centre. This is a substantial business employing 30 people working on the front-line of primary health care. Josie's investment plans for the future are a big vote of confidence in Torquay town centre."*



### Plymouth University

Plymouth University is currently in the process of recruiting an optometrist (Clinic lead) and a dispensing optician (Deputy clinic lead).

These are full-time positions working 37 hours per week available on a permanent basis. Clearance from the Criminal Records Bureau will be required for these positions.

The closing date for applications is midnight on Sunday 9th March 2014.

For further information email [Luisa.simo@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:Luisa.simo@plymouth.ac.uk) or click [here](#) to view more details

# Devon LOC AGM and Elections



The Devon LOC Annual General Meeting for 2014 will take place on Wednesday 21st May 2014 at the Exeter Court

Hotel, Kennford, Exeter. The evening will start at 7pm followed by a buffet at 8.30pm.

The AGM will include a report from the Chair, audited accounts, appointment of the auditors for the forthcoming financial year, adoption of the statutory levy for the forthcoming financial year and the election of new committee members.

If you wish to be nominated for a position on the Committee, you should complete the nomination paper on the Devon LOC Website – click [here](#). All nominations with the election statement must be sent to the Returning Officer (Jonathan Drew) by Friday 18th April 2014 prior to the AGM

which will be held on Wednesday 21st May 2014.

The results of the nominations will be circulated by Friday 25th April 2014. We shall then include a postal voting/proxy paper for those of you unable to attend the meeting on 21st May 2014.

For further information on the elections for the Devon Local Optical Committee contact Jonathan Drew (Business Manager/Returning Officer) on:

1. 01392 834026
2. [jdrew@devonloc.co.uk](mailto:jdrew@devonloc.co.uk)



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

Access to an nhs.net mail account can now be facilitated by the Cornwall IT Team, please either call 01209 881717, or email [CITS.Servicedesk@cornwall.nhs.uk](mailto:CITS.Servicedesk@cornwall.nhs.uk)

You need to mention in your communication that you are part of the Devon PODs set up, so that you are not mistakenly redirected to one of the Devon Trusts.

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

### Devon Referral Support Services

#### REMINDER

For all Devon patients referred to DRSS (formally DART) please inform patients to call after 5 working days rather than within 5 working days.

### New LOCSU Optical Lead

LOCSU is pleased to announce the appointment of Chris Newall as an addition to the Optical Leads team following an advertised recruitment process. Chris, who is a Director of a Specsavers Joint Venture in Bridport, has more than 20 years experience in optics.

### NHS England—Message from Colette Wells

#### NHS - 111

With the introduction of the NHS 111 service, please can all answerphone messages include the following statement this will remove any details about NHS Direct and replace with NHS 111.

*"If you require urgent medical assistance, please hang up and call 0845 200 0227. Alternatively you may call 111, to be put through to the NHS 111 service."*

*"Calls to the NHS 111 service are free from both landlines and mobile phones with a contract. Pay as you go mobiles do have to have at least 1p credit to get through to 111."*

*"If you have a life-threatening medical emergency, please dial 999."*



#### SWEET Event

SUNDAY MARCH 16th

Exhibition opens at 9:30

10am - 5pm

Venue: Exeter Race Course, Kennford, Exeter EX6 7XS

The SWEET event has a large and broad base of exhibitors and a range of training sessions for all practice staff including 6 CET sessions.

Paul Surridge from sight Care will give a "State of the Nation" presentation and chair a "panel of experts".

To see further information on the event click [here](#) to view the information on our website or click on the following link: <http://www.sweetevents.org/>

## LOC Details

Jonathan Drew (Business Manager)  
Devon Local Optical Committee

Deer Park Business Centre  
Haldon Hill  
Kennford  
Exeter  
EX6 7XX

[www.devonloc.co.uk](http://www.devonloc.co.uk)

01392 834026 (10am—3pm)

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

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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.