



▶ COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Issue 12 ◦ March 2014



▶ MP VISIT—GEOFFREY COX



▶ NHS MAIL

# Devon LOC



DEVON LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

GATEKEEPERS OF EYE CARE

## Chair's Introduction

### Act now to improve eyecare services

Medical Management Services (UK) Ltd (MMS) has launched an Action Plan report for commissioners and providers to act now to meet the demand for eye care services. To view this report click [here](#). While eye care services have a low profile, they involve a high volume of work:

- Demand in out-patients has risen by 25% over 7 years
- 9% of all out-patients appointments are for eye care
- 7% - 8% of all operations in the NHS are for eye care

The Policy Director of the NHS Alliance Michael Sobanja commented on the report saying: *"We are facing a tsunami of demand for eye care services (due to the ageing population, NICE guidance, obesity and rise of diabetes, etc) – Existing services are likely to be swamped in the next three years if we don't take action now to improve eye health services and absorb demand."*

Commissioners are recommended to place Eye care planning and commissioning as a priority and appoint champions for each CCG to lead on eye care. We are pleased to say that champions have been appointed across the four areas of Devon and they regularly share information, including quantitative data, on successful eye care commissioning pathways.

I would like to remind you that nominations are now open for a position on the committee. Click [here](#) for further information and nomination forms. All nominations with the election statement must be received by the Returning Officer (Jonathan Drew) by Friday 18th April 2014 prior to the AGM which will be held on Wednesday 21st May 2014.

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



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

Local MP Geoffrey Cox visited Bill Opticians in Tavistock on Friday 7th March 2014 to find out why regular eye tests are so important in preventing blindness.

Local Optician, Charles Bill showed Geoffrey Cox around his Opticians Practice in Tavistock and explained the health benefits of regular eye tests;

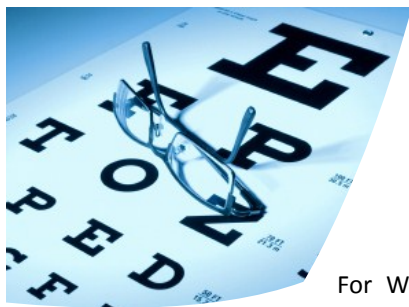
*"Prevention is better than cure! Its amazing to think that so much sight loss still occurs in the UK which is preventable. There is an opticians in most towns and these valuable, highly qualified people are an under utilised resource in eye health. "*

*resource in eye health. "*

Commenting on his visit Geoffrey Cox MP said: *"I was delighted to visit this local business in Tavistock, and enjoyed a useful and instructive discussion with the Devon Local Optical Committee. My visit helped to clarify just how important it is for everyone to have regular eye tests, especially as they can also reveal a range of potential medical problems such as diabetes."*

NHS England Newsletter for General Ophthalmic Service Contractors February 2014

Click [here](#) to view this



## Devon LOC Elections

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 (Jonathan Drew) by Friday 18th April 2014.

The results of the nominations will be circulated by 25th April 2014.

# Devon LOC AGM

The Devon LOC Annual General Meeting for 2014 will take place on **Wednesday 21st May 2014** at the **Exeter Court Hotel, Kennford, Exeter** at 7pm.

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

## Best practice - Wet AMD referrals

For Wet AMD referrals to be as effective as possible then they need to be seen by the Local AMD centre within 2 weeks. There needs to be a rapid access to a retinal specialist and treatment irrespective of geographical location. **This means that all Devon referrals should be marked as urgent and where appropriate the WET AMD forms should be filled out:**

- Plymouth (REI): Referral form and additional wAMD form
- Exeter (RD&E): Referral Form only (send to DRSS)
- North Devon (NDDH): Referral form and additional wAMD form
- South Devon (SDHCFT): Referral form only (send to DRSS)

Click [here](#) for WET AMD additional forms.

For patients attending the REI then please fax the referral and WET AMD form to 01752 398783. For patients attending NDDH send the additional form to DRSS along with the DRSS referral form.

**We advise that your referral should include:** all relevant patient data and GP details (as with all referrals to the Hospital Eye Service), the latest prescription with distance and Near VA's and IOP results.

**In the comments section please include:** Affected eye, any large changes in prescription, any co morbidities, any changes to the retina: including haemorrhages, exudate, Amsler results, and any other information that you feel is appropriate.

### welcome to NHSmail



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)

### 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](#)

### Colette Wells (NHS England) - New Contact Details

[colettewells@nhs.net](mailto:colettewells@nhs.net)

Peninsula House, Kingsmill Road, Saltash, PL12 6LE

Telephone: 0113 824 8767

### Correct Performer Details—NHS Shared Business Services (SBS)

Please ensure all your details are correct with SBS. To update any information please contact:

Zareen Islam, Medical Contracts Officer

Telephone: 0300 421 1215

Email: [SBS-I.SWOPL-FHS@nhs.net](mailto:SBS-I.SWOPL-FHS@nhs.net)

### Fax number for AMD referrals for the REI in Plymouth

Please note that the fax number for all AMD referrals has changed in the Plymouth area. The new number is: **01752 398783**

If you have any queries in regard to this communication, please do not hesitate to contact myself on 01626 883786 / [scott.bailey@nhs.net](mailto:scott.bailey@nhs.net) or the DRSS Helpdesk on 01626 883888 / [cab.helpdesk@nhs.net](mailto:cab.helpdesk@nhs.net)

### Dates for your diary

- [Vision UK Conference 2014](#)—Thursday 24th June
- [National Eye Health Week](#)—22nd to 28th September 2014
- [National Optical Conference](#)—23rd and 24th October 2014

## LOC Details

Jonathan Drew (Business Manager)  
Devon Local Optical Committee

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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.