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Issue 9 ◦ November 2013



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▶ STUDY DAY

# Devon LOC

DEVON LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

GATEKEEPERS OF EYE CARE

## Chair's Introduction

What is the buzz word for improving the eye health of Devon? Collaboration, Collaboration, Collaboration! We all need to work together to improve the eye health of our nation and provide more convenient eye care services across Devon. At the NOC 2013 the key themes were around Collaboration and Distributive Leadership. The NHS needs to move beyond the outdated model of heroic leadership to recognise the value of leadership that is shared, distributed and adaptive. At the NOC we heard from the Royal

College of GPs and the Royal College of Ophthalmologists regarding their priorities for eye care.

I had the privilege of presenting at this year's NOC Conference in Birmingham. We joined forces with the Optical Confederation's Public Affairs team to present on 'The LOC as a Political Influencer'. LOCSU said that 'Over 80 MP practice

visits have taken place over the past couple of years, with Devon managing to get every MP in their vast LOC area involved'.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended the Devon LOC Study Day on 22nd November – we had a record number of delegates this year. I would like to thank all the members of the Committee who organised the event and helped to ensure that the event ran smoothly on the day.

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 Mel Stride calls on constituents to look after their eyesight by having regular sight tests.

Local MP Mel Stride visited Clive Parker Opticians in Bovey Tracey on Thursday 14th November 2013 to find out why regular eye tests are so important in preventing blindness

Commenting on the visit Clive Parker said: "Whilst most children have excellent sight some may have undetected problems. The earlier any problems are detected, the better the outcome - if there are problems and they are not picked up at an early age, the child may have permanently reduced vision in one or both eyes".

Mel Stride MP said:

"Bovey is very lucky to have a local opticians with such a range of services available to local residents. Regular sight tests can pick up early signs of eye conditions before symptoms appear and I would encourage residents to take advantage of having an opticians on their doorstep."



To view the full press release please click [here](#)

# Best Practice for Cataract Referrals

Please note that this information is not essential but classified as best practice for cataract referrals in Devon.

## Criteria for surgical referrals:

- There should be sufficient cataract to account for the visual symptoms
- Is the Cataract affecting the patients quality of life?
- Have the risks of the surgery been explained to the patient?
- Is the patient available for the next 18 weeks
- Is there any other pathology especially any macula changes?
- report from a recent sight test

## The patient should be informed of the risks and benefits of surgery:

80-90% of patients report a benefit from surgery including improved clarity of vision and improved colour vision. Surgery in the second eye may allow significant additional gains in visual function in everyday activities and QoL

above and beyond what is achieved after surgery in the first eye [1]:

- functional improvement in visual symptoms
- ability to meet the DVLA driving standard

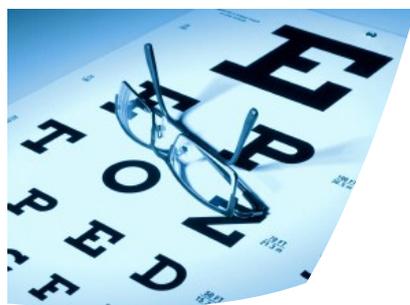
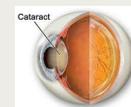
## The risks include:

Common: bruising of the eye or eyelids, cystoid macular oedema, refractive surprise, dropped nucleus or fragments, capsule tear, dislocation of the implant lens.

Rare: further loss of visual function (about 0.1% of surgical patients lose vision in operated eye), infective endophthalmitis (1 in 1000 operations), corneal decompensation, post-operative raised intraocular pressure, glaucoma, retinal detachment, postoperative infection, in one-eyed patients, possibility of total blindness, and suprachoroidal haemorrhage.

The patient should wish to undergo surgery - do not refer patients who:

- do not want surgery; or
- do not feel they need it



## AOP Awards—LOC of the Year



We are told that 'LOC of the Year' was one of the most closely contested award categories at the AOP Awards this year.

Devon LOC didn't win this year but I am sure we will try again next year. Congratulations to Stockport LOC who won the LOC of the Year 2013.

## NOC Presentations

NOC presentations are available on the LOCSU Website—click [here](#)



## Devon LOC Study Day

We had a successful Devon LOC CET Study Day last Friday (22nd November) which saw a record number of delegates in attendance.



We had 3 speakers followed by a session of Peer Discussion/ Review. The speakers covered topics such as:

- Glaucoma
- Management of Dry Eye
- Medical Retina, Surgical Retina and Femto Cataract Surgery
- Femtosecond Laser Platform

All presentations are available in PDF format on our website. Click [here](#) to view these.

## The LOC as a Political Influencer

The Optical Confederation's Public Affairs team and Devon LOC joined forces at the NOC this year to present on 'The LOC as a Political Influencer'.



Over 80 MP practice visits have taken place over the past couple of years, with Devon managing to get every MP in their vast LOC area involved. This session clearly demonstrated how worthwhile this work has been and that the more visits scheduled before the next general election in 2015 the better.

Why have we arranged for MPs to visit Optician Practices?

- To improve the eye care for Devon – for best possible services, in the community, close to where patients live.
- To get the same services across Devon for all patients and avoid the postcode lottery.
- To call on MPs to help reduce the eye care inequalities - showing what services constituents are missing out on
- To highlight national issues such as raising awareness of avoidable sight loss and regular sight testing
- An opportunity to utilise the MPs Political influence to push eye care up the agenda locally and nationally.
- To raise the awareness of specific schemes and what local optician practices can do.

Meeting with the MPs has also given us an opportunity to showcase innovative technology in the optical community.

## 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.