



## DEVON LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

GATEKEEPERS OF EYE CARE



### Chairman's Introduction

The emphasis and awareness of Eye Health is steadily increasing and building momentum both nationally and locally.

**Locally** all the Public Health Teams across Devon are currently working on Health Needs Assessments and Eye Health has been raised as a priority. The CCGs also have Ophthalmology stated in their Commissioning Priorities for the next 3-5 years. NEW Devon CCG currently has a Public Consultation running until the 8th July 2014 asking for views on Community Services across Devon which are integrated, personal and sustainable. Devon LOC are submitting a response to this consultation - to see the consultation and submit a view click [here](#)

**Nationally**, the NHS England 'A Call to Action' for Improving Eye Health was launched at the UK Vision Strategy on 12th June 2014 by Dr Mike Bewick (Deputy Medical Director, NHS England). Dr Mike Bewick said "Early access to preventative eye care and accurate early diagnosis is vitally important to patients"

The LOC is your link to all matters relating to Eye Health both locally and nationally. Please feedback any suggestions, issues or concerns to enable us to improve eye care provision across Devon for this and future generations.

Charles Bill

Chairman, Devon LOC

#### 'A CALL TO ACTION' EYE HEALTH



The NHS England 'A Call To Action' seeks the views of eye health stakeholders on the role that primary care services can play in tackling the wider challenges facing the NHS.

NHS England has set out the sustainability challenges facing our NHS in "The NHS Belongs to the People – A Call to Action". In the context of eye health services:

- **The population is growing and people are living longer** – there is an association between age and a deterioration in eye health.
- **Health inequalities** - people from more socially deprived areas have a higher risk of poor health and premature mortality.
- **Constrained financial outlook** - there is an increased demand on NHS resources against a forecast financial gap of £30bn; the increased incidence of eye disease and sight loss will increase demands

FURTHER INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE JULY 2014 DEVON LOC NEWSLETTER



#### WOPEC (Wales Optometry Postgraduate Education Centre)

WOPEC (Wales Optometry Postgraduate Education Centre) is the first Postgraduate Education Centre

for Optometry in the World, dedicated to excellence in eye care education through quality and independence. They provide a wide range of postgraduate taught courses as well as short courses for optometrists and eye care professionals in the UK and Internationally.

WOPEC is accommodated within the School of Optometry and Vision Sciences at Cardiff University and benefits from the involvement of Cardiff's internationally renowned academic staff.

WOPEC is self taught training on the following areas: Cataract, Glaucoma, PEARS, Low Vision, Learning Disabilities.

WOPEC have set up a YouTube channel with lecture excerpts from some of our postgraduate modules. Take a look! WOPEC will be adding more videos over the upcoming weeks. Click here: [WOPEC YouTube channel](#)

**To get your unique code for course access and instructions please email Jonathan Drew (jdrew@devonloc.co.uk) stating which codes you would like.**

For further information see the Devon LOC Website—click [here](#)

# AOP Awards—Voting Open (Closes on 31st August)



The shortlisted nominees for this year's AOP Awards have been revealed and voting has opened

Following much deliberation by the judges, the shortlisted candidates for this year's AOP Awards have been selected.

A wide variety of nominations were received across all of this year's 12 categories.

As the shortlist is now confirmed, voting for the winners opens, giving the profession the opportunity to decide the winners.

Now in its fourth year, the Awards aim to celebrate the achievements of optical professionals and groups, who have gone above and beyond the call of duty over the last 12 months and

deserve to be recognised among their peers.

**Plymouth University** have one member of the team and one student who have been shortlisted in the AOP Awards this year:

**Linda Cutler** - Optical Assistant of the Year 2014 (Click [here](#) to vote)

**Claire Gorman** - Student of the Year 2014 (Click [here](#) to vote)

**Gill Brabner** from LOCSU has also been shortlisted for Lecturer of the Year 2014 (Click [here](#) to vote)

The winners will be revealed at a special black tie gala dinner and ceremony on Thursday, October 23 at the Hilton Metropole, Birmingham, during the National Optical Conference (NOC).



## Cycle the World with Optoms Cycling for Sight! 2014

The aim is to aim is to collectively reach 25000 miles (the circumference of the earth) and £25,000 in donations over 10 days from the 15th – 25th August 2014. You can get involved by joining on a Tour of Yorkshire or opting to create your own challenge.

CET credited Optics Tour of Yorkshire – the Yorkshire route mirrors the opening stages of the Tour de France with the ride divided into 3 stages: you can select to ride the 200km, 100km or 50km route. On Sunday, August 24th there will be the chance to collect CET points. A total of 5 CET points are available on -route. **For more information click [here](#)**



**NATIONAL EYE HEALTH WEEK**  
MONDAY 22 - SUNDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2014  
**YOUR VISION MATTERS**

The fifth National Eye Health Week (NEHW) will take place on 22 – 28 September 2014.

For further information see the Devon LOC [website](#)

## USEFUL INFORMATION

### Waiting times for Cataract Surgery

The Referral to Treatment operational standards for Cataract Surgery are that 95% of patients should start consultant led treatment (Surgery) within 18 weeks of referral.

Other referrals times are:

**Emergency** (within 24 hours), **urgent** (between 2 days and 2 weeks) and **routine** (over 2 weeks). For referral guidelines for Devon see the Devon LOC website—Click [here](#)

Hospital	Current average time: Referral to Surgery
RD&E	8 weeks
Torbay Hosp.	8 weeks
North Devon	6 weeks
REI, Plymouth	12 weeks
Musgrove Park	14 weeks
Cornwall	14 weeks

## CONTINUOUS EDUCATION AND TRAINING (CET)

### Local Events

- College of Optometrists CET Peer Discussion and Lecture: Wednesday 2nd July 2014, 6pm, Woodbury Park Hotel and Golf Club, Exeter. Click [here](#) for further information
- AOP Peer Review Roadshows: Tuesday 18th November 2014, 6pm, Gipsy Hill Hotel, Exeter, EX1 3RN. For booking click [here](#)

### Training

The College of Optometrists is committed to supporting members by helping them to develop the skills they need to deliver peer discussion sessions themselves.



To become a College accredited facilitator members must attend a training day, facilitate at least three groups over a 12 month period and submit a reflective learning log and feedback from the groups. Click [here](#) for more information.

### Conferences and Training

A list of events can be found on the [Devon LOC website](#) and the [Optometry Today website](#)

## Devon Local Optical Committee

Deer Park Business Centre, Haldon Hill, Kennford, Exeter, EX6 7XX

T: 01392 834026 @: [www.devonloc.co.uk](http://www.devonloc.co.uk)

Chair: Charles Bill ([chair@devonloc.co.uk](mailto:chair@devonloc.co.uk))

Vice Chair: Peter Noakes ([vicechair@devonloc.co.uk](mailto:vicechair@devonloc.co.uk))

Secretary: Fiona Hiscox ([secretary@devonloc.co.uk](mailto:secretary@devonloc.co.uk))

Treasurer: Daniel Tabb ([treasurer@devonloc.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@devonloc.co.uk))

## Committee Members:

Paul Bradford, Nicola Burke, Mark Bushby, Josie Forte, Max Halford, Eiohn Hayes, Ian Holten, and Nicki Pullen

**Business Manager: Jonathan Drew** ([jdrew@devonloc.co.uk](mailto:jdrew@devonloc.co.uk))



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