



DEVON LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

GATEKEEPERS OF EYE CARE



Chairman's Introduction

NHS England launched the 'A Call to Action' for Eye Health on 12 June 2014.

The Call to Action seeks the views on the role that primary care services can play in tackling the wider challenges facing the NHS, including how the increased demand for NHS eye health services can be met against a backdrop of significant financial constraint. The responses will be used by NHS England to develop a strategy for future primary care services to help tackle the estimated £30 billion shortfall in health spending and the crisis the NHS is facing due to the demands of an ageing population.

The Call to Action is a huge opportunity for Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians to present the case to the NHS for the further development of local community eye health services and an increased utilisation of the skills of opticians and optometrists in primary care.

Local data, patient endorsement and a call to end the postcode lottery of eye health services are among the recommended approaches that we are urged to adopt as part of the sector response to the NHS Call to Action.

I encourage you all take part in this opportunity to influence eye care services both locally and nationally. To help the Devon LOC with their response please take a few minutes to complete the online survey – click [here](#).

Charles Bill, Chairman

NATIONAL OPTICAL CONFERENCE 2014

NOC organised by the AOP for LOCSU & the Optical Confederation

The event, organised by the AOP on behalf of LOCSU and the Optical Confederation, provides an unrivalled

opportunity to find out first-hand the latest news about enhanced eye services and to share knowledge and network with colleagues from around the country. This year the conference will take place on 23rd and 24th October 2014 at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole Hotel.

To book a place on the conference click [here](#)

GOS SIGHT TEST FEE

The NHS sight test fee from 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015 is £21.10.

The fees payable for NHS domiciliary visits from 1st April 2014 is £37.19 for the 1st and 2nd patient seen at one visit and £9.31 for 3rd and subsequent patients.

CET PAYMENT

The payment, which is payable in 2014 for CET undertaken in 2013, has risen by 2.5% to £529. This year the period during which optometrists and ophthalmic medical practitioners can make their claims will be 14 July–14 November 2014. Click [here](#) for more information for claiming payment



NHS ENGLAND AREA TEAM NEWS COMPLAINTS REPORTING

As per your General Ophthalmic Service Contract you are required to report annually to the NHS England the number of complaints received. For more information see the Devon LOC [website](#). Please complete the form and return to NHS England by 8th August 2014 (including nil returns).

PATIENT ELIGIBILITY CHECK

SBS have recently commenced patient eligibility checks again. If they cannot provide eligibility it is worth mentioning to patients that these checks are undertaken. For more information click [here](#)



New PhD studentship opportunity for a registered Optometrist

The Plymouth University School of Health Professions is seeking to attract a PhD candidate of outstanding ability to join their exciting and rapidly expanding Eye and Vision Research Group.

Applications are invited from General Optical Council (GOC) registered graduates with at least a 2:1 Bachelor (Hons) degree in Optometry.

The studentship is supported full time for 3 years with an anticipated start date of 1st October 2014.

To apply or for more information please click [here](#). Closing date for applications is 17th August 2014.

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).



PRIMARY CARE INITIATIVE ATTRACTS NATIONAL COVERAGE

The new cross-sector paper, We Are Primary Care, launched on 17th July, has attracted significant national media coverage including The Independent (in print and online) and is backed up by a letter to The Times.

The report, led by Pharmacy Voice, has contributions from the NHS Alliance, the Optical Confederation and the National Community Hearing Association. Read the full press release on the [Optical Confederation website](#)—Follow this [link](#) to read the full report.

The paper urges the public and policy makers to look beyond general practice as the only alternative to hospital care. It argues that the political drive to address NHS pressures by taking care out of hospital and into the community can only be successful if people have a clear understanding that GPs are not always the most appropriate first contact.



DINING IN THE DARK @THE SALUTATION INN

The WESC Foundation and The Salutation Inn are once again joining forces to host a unique charity gourmet dining experience on 11, 12 and 13 November. All profits to WESC Foundation. 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](#)

OPHTHALMIC PUBLIC HEALTH FACTSHEETS

The LOC have recently produced a series of Ophthalmic Public Health Factsheets for the three local Public Health Teams across Devon, Plymouth and Torbay. The factsheets include information on:

- Sight tests - who pays?,
- Optician practices across the county,
- Uptake of NHS sight tests, estimated prevalence of ophthalmic conditions, public health outcomes framework, smoking, falls, diabetes,
- The RNIB sight loss data tool and
- Ophthalmic services in community practice

To view these factsheets see the [Devon LOC website](#)

CET AND PEER REVIEW

[AOP Peer Review Roadshows](#)

The Devon AOP peer discussion group will take place in Exeter on Tuesday 18th November 2014. The discussions are approved for three interactive Peer Review CET points—click [here](#) for more information.

[Directorate of Optometric Continuing Education and Training](#)

On the DOCET website you can access a range of free CET resources including current material plus a fantastic archive of past video, audio and document resources to explore.

DOCET is now providing interactive online CET, which you can find in the CET Zone. Click [here](#) to access this information.

Devon Local Optical Committee

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