



## DEVON LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

GATEKEEPERS OF EYE CARE



### Chairman's Introduction

With the summer in full swing and the Devon's roads filling up with tourists, what is our focus for the next 4 months until the end of 2014?

**Commissioning:** we will continue to strive for greater community eye care services across Devon with enhanced services such as Glaucoma Monitoring, IOP refinement and Minor Eye Conditions.

A **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. Click [here](#) to submit a response

The **National Eye Health Week** in September is where we can all be a part of raising the awareness of the general public to look after their eyes and reduce sight loss. We have produced an Eye Health Patient Leaflet – copies of which will be sent to all GP Surgeries, Pharmacies, Optician Practices and Dental Surgeries across Devon

The **National Optical Conference** will take place in October with a focus on the NHS England 'A Call to Action' for Improving Eye Health and Reducing Sight Loss.

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

#### 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](#)

#### Carrots Night walk

Fight for Sight is calling on people from across the profession to sign up for this year's Carrots NightWalk, which will take place in three

cities across the UK next month.

Over the past three years over £300,000 has been raised for pioneering research to prevent sight loss and treat eye disease.

The Bristol event will take place on Friday 26th September starting at 7.30pm

For more information and registration click [here](#)

#### IMPORTANT EVENT

#### NHS England 'A Call to Action'

The event is open to all General Ophthalmic Service Contractors and those with an interest in eye health. The event will take place on Thursday 4th September 2014 at 7pm at the China Fleet Club, Saltash, Cornwall, PL12 6LJ (<http://china-fleet.co.uk>). Food/ Refreshments available from 6.30pm.

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

The event will give you the opportunity to listen to key national and local figures in the eye health world, the opportunity to engage in discussions with colleagues and give your opinions on the key areas for debate:

- 1) Financial Investment.
- 2) Pathways, prevention and integrated services.
- 3) Access
- 4) User Involvement
- 5) The potential for transferring more elements of eye care from hospital to community

To book a place on the event please email:

[england.primarycareoptometry@nhs.net](mailto:england.primarycareoptometry@nhs.net) or contact Stacey Burch on 0113 824 8801. For more information click [here](#)



## GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL (GOC) CONSULTATION

The GOC is to host a public consultation event as part of its

strategic review of standards for optometrists and dispensing opticians.

The event will take place on Friday 26 September at 14:00 at Friends House, Euston, London

The standards review will seek to ensure that the GOC's standards continue to reflect good practice now and in the future, whilst enabling optical professionals to develop their roles.

The event is free to attend but delegates must register in advance due to limited capacity.

For further information and to book on the event click [here](#)



## OPTICAL CONFEDERATION (OC) GOS CONTRACTOR ADVICE ON THE NHS COMPLAINTS SYSTEM IN ENGLAND

The OC have recently produced advice on NHS Complaints.

As a GOS contractor you are obliged to operate the NHS complaints system in accordance with regulations and with your contract with the NHS England Area Team regarding the provision of GOS. Main points:

- a patient can complain directly to the Area Team, if they wish
- you must record all the complaints that you receive about GOS services, domiciliary sight-testing and locally commissioned community service NHS services which you provide
- you must record the remedial actions and the lessons learned
- you must report annually to the Area Team the number and nature of all the complaints received and the actions taken

To view the advice click [here](#)



## All together now: Making integration happen

The Local Government Association and the NHS Confederation have recently produced a report about the case for change and the shared vision for integration.



In a nutshell, the case for change is that no change is not an option. The current system of health and social care is both unsustainable and sub-optimal. Integration will lead to care and support being available in different ways and in different settings.

Health and wellbeing boards, and the political, clinical, professional and community leaders of whom they are comprised, will need to have honest conversations with local patients, carers, citizens and providers on how greater integration will impact on the commissioning and provision of local services. To see the report in full click [here](#)



## 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](#)



## AID MISSION TO GAMBIA, AFRICA

One of the Devon Optometrists (Kieran Loft) will be going on an Aid Mission to Africa (remote village called Bissary in Gambia) in January.

Kieran will be testing eyes and dispensing spectacles. There is no access to eyecare in Bissary. The cost of glasses can be 2-3 months salary for most people.

Kieran would value the support therefore if anyone could provide any 'illiterate' wall mounted test charts or trial lenses (just +/- 20DS in diopter steps will be fine) it would be much appreciated.

Also if anyone would like to donate old spectacles they would be very happy to receive them and would be very useful on the aid mission.

Please contact Kieran directly on [kieranloft@nhs.net](mailto:kieranloft@nhs.net)

## 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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### Committee Members:

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



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