



DEVON LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

GATEKEEPERS OF EYE CARE



Chairman's Introduction

When I look back at 2014 it has been a busy year:

So, what have we achieved over the past 12 months? Production of a successful eye health leaflet across Devon, 3 CET events for members across the county, support from MPs for community eye care services, a national award for our work on ophthalmic public health, the first LOC in the country to record a live chat on eye health and further negotiation for enhanced community schemes with the local CCGs.

We now seem to be in a time where CCG's budgets will bring new challenges. A new cataract referral criteria appears to be put into place for Devon but the details are not clear at this stage. We will continue to work tirelessly to meet these challenges and keep you all informed.

Thank you to you all for your continued commitment to Optometry and support of Devon LOC this year. A note of thanks also to the committee for all their hard work over the past 12 months.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to working with you all in 2015 to continue to raise the profile of Optometry and Eye Health across Devon.



Charles Bill,
Chairman

How can you do your bit to move Optometry Services forward for Devon?

Kevin Foster (Parliamentary Candidate for Torbay) visited Hayes Opticians in Torquay on Thursday 20th November 2014. Eiohn and Lynda



Hayes (pictured) with Jonathan Drew (Devon LOC (left) showed Kevin around Hayes Opticians in Wellswood and explained the importance of regular sight tests and what services are available and can be available in community optician practice.

What can you do?

We would encourage you to act now to prevent avoidable sight loss and increase community services provision by writing your local Clinical Commissioning Group to encourage adoption of patient pathways such as Glaucoma Monitoring in the community and Minor Eye Conditions.

A template letter and contact details for the Clinical Commissioning Groups can be found [here](#)

Optics Information Pack

The LOC have produced a helpful information pack including:

- Mission statement of Devon LOC
- Aims of the LOC
- A who's who guide both nationally and locally
- Map of Devon Services
- Structure of the NHS and other organisations
- Primary Eyecare Devon Ltd

Click [here](#) to view this document.



Optical sector granted new use of the NHS logo

The Optical Confederation and the Optometric Fees Negotiating Committee (OFNC) are pleased to announce that optometrists, opticians and optical businesses may now use the NHS logo to signpost the NHS services they offer in England.

The Optical Confederation has worked with the Department of Health and NHS England to develop guidance for practitioners about the correct use of the logo. This will be available on the NHS identity website shortly.



Clinical Tutors at Plymouth University

Applications are invited for Clinical Tutors in Optometry from Optometrists with an interest in clinical and educational aspects of our profession.

Closing date for applications is: 12 midnight, Friday 9th January 2015. Click [here](#) for more information.

Expression of Interest for Optometric Advisors—NHS England

NHS England (Devon, Cornwall & Isles of Scilly) are seeking expressions of interest from individuals who would like to expand their variety of work and join their team of Optometric Advisors.



This role will serve to support Optometric Contractors, Performers and NHS England in maintaining appropriate standards of patient care. Ideally candidates need some flexibility of time within their schedules to enable their support. Remuneration is on a sessional basis and includes relevant expenses. Please express an interest by sending a one page overview describing why you are suited to this role.

Contact Janet Newport (NHS England) with expression of Interest: FAO : Janet Newport, Peninsula House, Kingsmill Road, Tamar View Industrial Estate, Saltash, PL12 6LE. Or email: janet.newport@nhs.net (Please title email or letter: Optometric Advisor Application)

Deadline for expressions of interest: 10th January 2015

2015 Optical Events

For local and national optical events taking place in 2015 please see the Devon LOC website—click [here](#) for more information

UK Vision Strategy Commissioning for Efficiency and Effectiveness Project

For further information please see the UK Vision Strategy [website](#).

The CEE project has produced guidance and a set of support tools that bring together the learning from the project. This project and guidance will help inform future work to support effective planning and provision of local eye care services in England.

CONTINUOUS EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Topcon Educational Symposia

A free CET event organised by Topcon will take place in Plymouth on 28th January 2015. The agenda will include a two part keynote lecture, peer discussions and hands on workshops (all with CET Points). To book on the event email: TUevents@topcon.co.uk or telephone 01635 551120. More information on our [website](#)

College of Optometrists Regional Events 2014/15

The College of Optometrists are running two regional events in 2015: Bristol (27th January 2015) and Plymouth (1st July 2015).

The events are completely free to members and each event provides a minimum of three interactive CET Points. To find out more and book your place visit: www.college-optometrists.org/regionalevents.

Devon LOC Study Day 2015

The next Study Day is booked for Friday 20th November 2015 at Buckfast Abbey. Further details to follow in the new year.

Urgent Care Referrals/ Enquiries—Royal Eye Infirmary, Plymouth

The REI have now set up an Ophthalmic Nurse Practitioner email address to enhance the Ophthalmic Triage Process:

plh-tr.REIOphthalmicTriage@nhs.net This will operate Monday to Friday 08:00 - 16:30 hrs. (Your email will be responded to within 24 hours)

For EMERGENCY referrals please continue to ring 01752 439330 (press button 4). For more information click [here](#)



The on the day demand for appointments in general practice and other service providers is huge.

Pharmacists are highly skilled professionals who can easily support patients with self-limiting and minor illness, to free up general practice appointments.

What are the Pharmacy First services?

- 1) The Winter Ailments Service (available in all areas in Devon): Purpose: To allow access to over the counter medicines for those with winter ailments.
 - 2) Minor illness Using PGDs (available in all areas in Devon): Purpose: Provide access for self-care advice and treatment of specific ailments.
 - 3) Emergency supply service (Not available in the Northern & Eastern Localities of NEW Devon CCG) Provision of emergency supply of repeat prescription medicines at NHS expense.
- For more information click [here](#)

A video of the review of the NOC is now available to watch for those who were unable to attend. Click [here](#) to view



Devon Local Optical Committee: Representing, supporting and communicating with local contractors and performers to ensure, as gatekeepers of eyecare, effective delivery of Ophthalmic Services across the whole of Devon.

Devon Local Optical Committee

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T: 01392 834026 @: www.devonloc.co.uk



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

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

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

Treasurer: Daniel Tabb (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)