



DEVON LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

GATEKEEPERS OF EYE CARE



Chairman's Introduction

With the next General Election looming on 7th May 2015, where do we see the role of optics in the political arena?

The leading organisations in the UK concerned with eye health and sight loss have launched the UK Vision Strategy General Election Manifesto ([here](#)). The Manifesto calls on politicians standing in the 2015 Election to prioritise eye care services, improve support for people who have lost their sight, and to promote a society that includes blind and partially sighted people.

The Kings Fund have also produced a helpful guide on where the parties stand on health ([here](#)) and what the parties are promising on health and social care ([here](#)).

We have continued to engage and raise the awareness of issues in optics with the present MPs by Twitter and we have met with some of the parliamentary candidates across Devon as shown in previous newsletters.

Once May 7th has passed we will be writing to all the Devon MPs to either welcome them to the role of MP for their constituency or writing to congratulate them on their re-election. The letter is intended to raise the awareness of eye health and put eye health on their agenda locally and nationally. All MPs will be invited to visit an Opticians Practice in their constituency – we are the only LOC in the country who has arranged visits to local practices for all the current MPs.

If you want to follow the General Election 2015 on Twitter follow #GE2015 or #generalelection

As an LOC we will continue to lobby our case for optics and ensure community eye care is in the minds of the MPs and on the agenda of the NHS.


Charles Bill,
Chairman



CHANGE TO PLYMOUTH REFERRAL PROCESS

The process for referrals from Plymouth Optician Practices is changing on 5th May 2015. Plymouth referrals will be in line with the rest of Devon—referrals will go direct to Devon Referral Support Services (DRSS) and not via the GP. On average the referral via the GP takes 12 working days to process. On average referrals via DRSS takes 3 working days to process.

We had an information evening for Plymouth practices on Thursday 23rd April 2015 at the Plymouth University Optometry School. The information was presented to over 25 people by Scott Bailey (Optometry Lead) from DRSS.

If you need further information contact Jonathan Drew

UPDATED REFERRALS FORMS AND REFERRAL PROCEDURE FOR DEVON

New updated referral forms are now available for use in Devon.

The referral forms are available in Word version or electronic version (PDF) - these referral forms can be downloaded from our website [here](#)

The referral guidelines for Devon have also been updated (referrals to Plymouth, Exeter, North Devon and Torbay). See the guidelines on our website [here](#)

To refer to DRSS you can either fax or email: 01626883772/d-cgg.drss-ophthalmology@nhs.net

VOTING OPEN FOR A PLACE ON DEVON LOC

Nominations have been received for a place on the Devon Local Optical Committee and voting is open. There are 8 places available— to vote for the nominees see the information on the Devon LOC website: [here](#)

You can complete a postal/ proxy vote for the elections—the form is on our website and the deadline for completion of this form is Friday 8th May 2015

Voting will also take place on the night of the Devon LOC AGM (Tuesday 12th May). To find out more information about the AGM and to register attendance click [here](#)

CONTINUOUS EDUCATION AND TRAINING AND EVENTS

A full list of local and national CET Training and Events is found on our website—click [here](#) for more information

College of Optometrists Regional Events 2014/15

The second of two College regional events will take place in Plymouth on 1st July 2015.

The event is completely free to members and the event provides a minimum of three interactive CET Points: www.college-optometrists.org/regionalevents.

CALLING ALL OPTOMETRISTS/ OPTICIANS IN THE TORBAY AND SOUTH DEVON AREA

The local NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (South Devon and Torbay Clinical Commissioning Group) have put together a survey on cataracts.

The link to the survey is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/optometristcataractsurvey>

We would really appreciate it if you could take the time to complete this survey - this is a short survey and will only take a few minutes to complete.

Conference—Vision UK 2015: 'Working together to deliver the UK Vision Strategy'



The UK vision strategy seeks a major transformation in the UK's eye health, eye care and sight loss services.

The strategy is implemented through a strong alliance of health and social care bodies, voluntary organisations, eye health professionals and individuals.

Vision UK is the only conference for the whole of the eye care and sight loss sector.

The seventh annual Vision UK Conference will be held on Thursday 18th June 2015 at Central Hall, Westminster in London.

Book your tickets by going to the [Vision UK registration website](#)

Devon LOC Annual General Meeting 2015

The 2015 Devon Local Optical Committee Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday 12th May 2015 at the Exeter Court Hotel— The meeting will start at 7pm followed by a light buffet. For more information and booking form click [here](#)



GOC CONSULTATION: STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

This consultation seeks to gain feedback from our stakeholders including patients and the public on: our proposed framework for setting standards for optometrists, dispensing opticians and optical students; draft standards of practice for optometrists and dispensing opticians; and draft standards for optical students.

The closing date for the consultation is 7th June 2015

For further information see the GOC website [here](#)

FORMULARY GUIDANCE FOR DRY EYES

The NEW Devon Clinical Commissioning Group have recently produced some formulary treatment guidance on dry eyes.

The Medicines Optimisation Team would like to remind Optometrists of options included on our local formularies for treatment of dry eye. All preparations are available to purchase however where prescribed it is anticipated that the majority of prescribing would be from formulary choice products.

Click [here](#) to view this guidance from our website



NOC organised by the AOP for LOCSU and the Optical Confederation

National Optical Conference 2015:
5th and 6th November 2015 Hilton Birmingham Metropole, B40 1PP.
To book on the event click [here](#)



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

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

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Scan to view
Website (QR)



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)