



DEVON LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

GATEKEEPERS OF EYE CARE



Chairman's Introduction

As you see from our regular communications and newsletters, Devon LOC is one of the most active LOCs across the country.

We are pleased to have enhanced schemes across Devon and very happy that the NHS has agreed to commission an IOP refinement scheme across the Exeter and East Devon area. The launch event was very well attended from local contractors and performers. The scheme is expected to start from Monday 9th November 2015.

The Local Optical Committee meets 6 times a year plus the AGM in May. We welcome guests to observe LOC meetings. According to the LOC Constitution it states: *'any local contractor or local performer may observe the meetings of the Committee'* and *'Observers shall normally be given meeting papers and invited to participate in the discussions; but they shall not be entitled to vote'*.

Up to 2 Devon contractors or performers shall be permitted to attend an LOC at any one time. Places are limited so you must apply in advance and we will allocate the places when available. If you would like to observe an LOC meeting please contact Jonathan Drew (jdrew@devonloc.co.uk) in the first instance who will deal with your request and email any relevant papers if required.

The Committee may, at its discretion, go into private session and ask observers to leave.

The LOC is here to represent you and we are working hard on your behalf. If you need any further information from the LOC please contact Jonathan Drew.

Charles Bill, Chairman

CONTINUOUS EDUCATION AND TRAINING (CET)

Local and national CET Events and conferences can be found on the Devon LOC website. Click here to see more information: <http://www.devonloc.co.uk/events>



IOP REFINEMENT SCHEME—EXETER AND EAST DEVON



The local NHS have agreed to start an IOP refinement scheme in the Exeter and East Devon area. We had a launch event on 20th October with over 60 people in attendance. The scheme is to start early November.



If you were unable to make the launch event on 20th October and would like to know more about the scheme please contact Jonathan in the first instance.

CLAIMING YOUR CET FUNDING

The payment, which is payable for CET undertaken in 2014, has risen to £535.

This year the deadline for optometrists and ophthalmic medical practitioners to make their claims is 31st December 2015.

For more information and claims forms see the AOP website [here](#)



PRIMARY CARE INQUIRY—HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE

The Optical Confederation and LOCSU have put together a response to the Primary Care Inquiry issued by the Health Select Committee—see [here](#). This will be debated in Parliament (date TBC)



IMPORTANT REMINDER FROM THE GOC



The General Optical Council (GOC) has issued a reminder to all registrants that they must complete all Continuing Education and Training (CET) requirements by the 31 December 2015 deadline in order to stay registered and continue to practice.

Registrants must meet their CET points target for the 2013-15 CET cycle. Optometrists and contact lens opticians must also attend at least one interactive peer review session.

Failure to meet these requirements by the 31 December 2015 deadline will result in removal from the GOC's registers, meaning registrants will be unable to practice until they have completed their outstanding CET requirements and have been restored to the registers.

Unlike in previous cycles, there will be no shortfall period – so registrants who do not meet the requirements by the deadline will be removed from the register straight away. Only registrants who can demonstrate exceptional circumstances for missing their target will avoid being removed from the register immediately and will instead have until 15 March 2016 to make up the shortfall.

Registrants might believe they have obtained all their CET points for this cycle, they must make sure they accept their points in MyGOC for them to be counted towards their overall total.

All registrants must check their MyGOC account to make sure there are no points yet to be accepted.

For those that haven't yet met their target there are 7 points available at the LOC Study Day on 20th November with 3 peer review points too!

DEVON LOC CET STUDY DAY

Places are still available for the Devon LOC CET Study Day on 20th November 2015. **Deadline for booking is Friday 13th November 2015**

The cost of the day is £60 including 4 lectures, a choice of peer review or a communication workshop and a range of optical representatives.

For more information and booking form please click [here](#)



Don't forget that Devon LOC are active on Twitter—follow us to see LOC activities and national optical updates: @devonloc1

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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Scan to view
Website (QR)



UPCOMING MPS VISITS

We have arranged for 3 MPs visits to local opticians over the next 2 months.



Sarah Wollaston, MP for Totnes on Friday 27th November 2015

Ben Bradshaw, MP for Exeter on Friday 4th December 2015



Oliver Colvile, MP for Plymouth Sutton and Devonport on Thursday 17th December 2015

It is the intention of the LOC to arrange MP visits for all 12 Devon MPs by the end of 2016.

If you have any questions, queries or issues you would like us to raise with the local MPs please contact Jonathan Drew.



LIVING OPTIONS, NORTH DEVON

Living Options Devon is a user led charity championing needs and rights, and providing vital support so people

with disabilities and Deaf People are empowered to live the life they choose

Its community based service See Hear on Wheels (SHoW) takes equipment demonstrations, loans and hearing aid care services right into the heart of local communities, visiting 28 different locations in North Devon, Torridge and Mid Devon.



To see more information see the Devon LOC website [here](#)



NHS MAIL FOR PATIENT REFERRALS

All practices across Devon are able to sign up to NHS Mail and use for all routine referrals through Devon Referral Support Services.

An example email address would be practicename@nhs.net

To see further information on this and the process to sign up for NHS Mail please click [here](#)

If you require any further information please contact Jonathan

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

Vice Chair: Max Halford (max@devonloc.co.uk)

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

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

Committee Members:

Nicola Burke, Mark Bushby, Josie Forte, Eiohn Hayes, Ian Holten, Greg Mann, Peter Noakes and Nicki Pullen

Business Manager: Jonathan Drew (jdrew@devonloc.co.uk)