



DEVON LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

GATEKEEPERS OF EYE CARE



Chairman's Introduction



This is my first correspondence as the new Chairman of Devon Local Optical Committee. I work full time for Boots Opticians in Devon as their Clinical Practice Manager. I am a qualified Dispensing Optician/CLO and also work in the Diabetic Retinal Screening Service in Plymouth.

I would firstly like to thank Charles Bill for his hard work as Chairman of Devon LOC over the last 4 years. He has worked tirelessly for the LOC and continues as Vice-Chairman of the LOC bringing a wealth of knowledge in eye care, clinical optometry practice and NHS commissioning.

My sincere thanks also go to Eiohn Hayes who has recently stepped down from the LOC. My thanks go to him for all his hard work for the LOC. I would also like to welcome Kath Dandy to the committee and I look forward to working with her and rest of the committee for the next 12 months.

The efforts of the committee are much appreciated - for their hard work and commitment to the LOC over the past 12 months. We have worked well together to raise the eye care agenda both locally and nationally.

I feel this is an exciting time for the LOC and I am proud to have been elected as Chairman.

Devon LOC is an active LOC and is working hard on your behalf. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me or Jonathan at the LOC Office. To see what the LOC is doing on a regular basis follow us on Twitter (@devonloc1).

I hope to update you with further LOC plans in June/ July.

Max Halford, Chairman

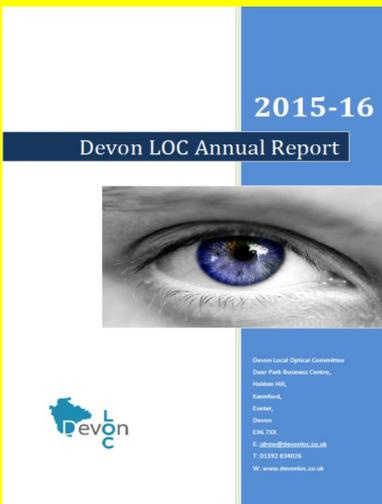
DEVON LOC ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

The Devon LOC Annual report for 2016/17 is now on the Devon LOC website following our AGM on 11th May 2016.

The annual report covers the main activities for the LOC in the year 2015/16 including

- Commissioning success and future commissioning of services
- MP visits
- Regional Events
- LOC input in national events
- CET
- Ophthalmic Public Health

To view the annual report click [here](#)



LOCAL CET EVENTS—JUNE AND JULY

2 CET events are coming up in June and July. All CET events in Devon are approved for both Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians.

1. Individualised Lenses and Eye Protection and Dispensing for Sport (2 CET points) - Monday 20th June 2016 (Exeter Court Hotel at 7pm)
2. Prescribing magnification at practice level—Tuesday 19th July 2016 (Barnstaple Hotel at 7.30pm)

For more information click [here](#)—to book on the events email events@devonloc.co.uk





NEIL PARISH MP VISITS BILL OPTICIANS IN HONITON

We met with Neil Parish on Friday 6th May 2016 at Bill Opticians in Honiton. Following his visit, Neil Parish MP said:

“It was a pleasure to meet Charles Bill at Bill Opticians on Friday to see the fantastic work they do in treating eye conditions and promoting good eye care. Around 7/10 people in the UK wear corrective eye wear or have had laser eye surgery, so many of us rely on quality and well-trained opticians.

“As with all health conditions, early diagnosis is the key to good eye health. I pay tribute to the work of practices like Bill Opticians in raising awareness of the symptoms of eye problems like macular degeneration, cataracts and glaucoma and providing testing, treatment and preventative measures for these problems.

“I encourage anyone who has any concerns about their eyesight to visit an opticians. We can't leave anything to chance when it comes to the health of our eyes”.

LEARNING DISABILITY PATHWAY AND ACCESS TO SIGHT TESTS IN THE COMMUNITY

(Torbay, South Devon and Teignbridge only)

It has become clear that the vast majority of people with learning disabilities could access their local high street optometrist for routine eye checks but sometimes a course of desensitisation maybe need to make this possible.

Primary Care Liaison Nursing Teams will work with a person to provide a personalised action plan to help them access eye care but also to highlight to the optometrist any reasonable adjustments that might be necessary.

Please see the Devon LOC website for more information—[here](#)

Foresight Project Report

A discussion of the potential impact of technology on the UK optical sector to 2030



FORESIGHT PROJECT

The Foresight Project Report was published in March 2016.

This project is a discussion of the potential impact of technology on the UK optical sector to 2030. This report is Commissioned by The Optical Confederation & The College of Optometrists.

To see the report in full click [here](#)

VISION CARE FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE

Vision Care for Homeless People” is a charity set-up to provide eyecare services to homeless and other vulnerable people in an accessible and friendly environment in which they feel safe, welcome and comfortable.

The charity would like to start a service in Exeter City Centre and is seeking expressions of interests of volunteer who would like to be involved in setting this up and providing clinical services to homeless people.

If you are interested in volunteering please contact Jonathan Drew at the LOC office—jdrew@devonloc.co.uk or 01392 834026.

For further background information on the charity for homeless people please click [here](#)

ACCESSIBLE INFORMATION STANDARD

NHS England has introduced a new Accessible Information Standard as a legal requirement for all providers of NHS and adult social care services in England. This includes GOS contractors.

The purpose of the Standard is to ensure that people who have communication needs because of a learning disability or sensory impairment receive information in a suitable format of their choice.

This will be a legal standard from 31st July 2016

For more information from the Optical Confederation click [here](#)

The key part of the requirement include:

1. Ask
2. Record
3. Alert/ Flag
4. Share
5. Act

There is some e-learning available on this from Health Education England—to see this resource click [here](#)

FREE ONLINE CET WITH WOPEC

WOPEC provide a wide range of post-graduate taught courses as well as short courses for optometrists and eye care professionals in the UK and Internationally.



Devon LOC have **FREE** activation codes for online courses with WOPEC. These include Cataract, Glaucoma, Low vision, PEARS and Learning Disabilities.

If you would like to undertake any of these short online courses and would like more information please contact Jonathan Drew.

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

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



Scan to view Website (QR)



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

Vice Chair: Charles Bill (charles@devonloc.co.uk)

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

Treasurer: Nicky Burke (treasurer@devonloc.co.uk)

Committee Members:

Mark Bushby, Kath Dandy, Josie Forte, Ian Holten, Greg Mann, Peter Noakes, Nicki Pullen and Daniel Tabb

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