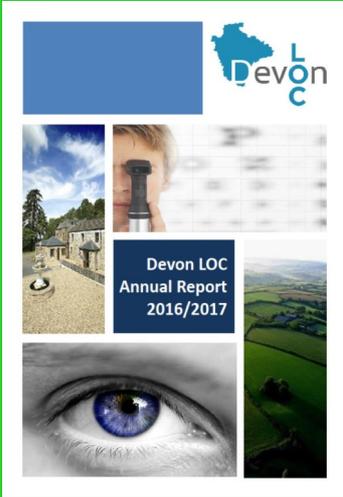




DEVON LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

GATEKEEPERS OF EYE CARE



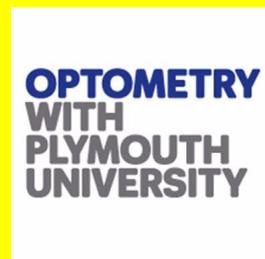
Devon LOC Annual Report 2016/2017

The Devon LOC Annual Report 2016/2017 is now on the Devon LOC website. Click [here](#) to view this. If you have any questions please contact Jonathan Drew at the LOC office.

Increasing awareness of optometry as a career choice within the South West

The optometry team at Plymouth University are keen for practices throughout Somerset, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall to support their initiative to promote optometry as a career choice for students considering university, and to increase awareness of the innovative degree programme at Plymouth.

“We are finalising a flyer that proposes optometry as a career choice and introduces our course at Plymouth.



This flyer will encourage prospective students to speak to their own optometrist or practice manager about the profession and what it's like to be an eye care clinician. We will circulate this to practices over the next few months and hope that it can be displayed in waiting and reception areas

As a team we are also stepping up our school engagement activities and are additionally keen to provide more detailed information to optometry practices on the entry routes available to those wishing to progress from optical assistant or dispensing optician roles onto the optometry degree programme at Plymouth University”.

Any practices that are interested in working on engagement activities with the optometry team and the university are welcome to contact Dr Stephanie Mroczkowsk (stephanie.mroczkowska@plymouth.ac.uk), Admissions Tutor and Lecturer in Optometry at Plymouth University

Chairman's Introduction

May is historically the time of “LOC Elections” and Devon is no different and we were pleased to hold our 2017 elections at our AGM on the 9th May. I am pleased to announce two new members of the committee. Michael Beavis is an Optometrist working in the Exmouth area and Jo Holmes is a Dispensing Optician based in the Tiverton area of Devon. I would like to personally welcome them to our committee and know from talking with them that they bring a great deal of experience and enthusiasm to the role.

I would like to thank Josie Forte and Nicola Burke who have been fantastic members of Devon LOC and have done a huge amount of work within the LOC. Josie has supported the education of Optometrists in the area. We are particularly grateful for the MECS education event that she organized in February 2017 which was such a success. Josie has joined the Board of the GOC and we wish her well in this new role. Nicola was always full of enthusiasm, supported the LOC in North Devon and produced a detailed and informative guide for any new committee members to Devon LOC.

At the AGM we received huge support for the proposed changes in our constitution which recognised Primary Eyecare Devon as the contracting vehicle for Devon LOC and also made important changes which allows local Dispensing Opticians to stand for election to the committee on their own merit rather than be the representatives of their employer. This is a significant change and reflects better the workforce that LOCs should be representing in the world of Community Enhanced Services. I am pleased to say both changes received near unanimous support from the attendees and have been officially voted through.

I have mentioned before that the LOC cannot by statute enter into contracts with the NHS or CCGs which is why every LOC in England have Primary Eyecare Companies to run their Enhanced Services schemes. Devon's company is now officially up and running with the diabetic retinal screening service and will add other services such as post cataract and MECS as they come on line.

We have appointed a Clinical Governance and Performance Lead to PED, Paul Bradford, who is co-opted onto the LOC. Paul brings a huge wealth of knowledge and experience and adds tremendous value to the work we do.

On Thursday 18th May the Royal Eye Infirmary ran the first of their bi-monthly “Plymouth Eye Specialist Forum” education events at Derriford Hospital post grad centre. This well attended and very interesting meeting, with Tomas Cudrnak and Vasant Raman covering macula and retinal vascular; Dave Adams presenting cases seen and Julie Lewis talking about the role of the Eye Clinic Liaison Officer was a great opportunity to meet up with our colleagues in Secondary care and I would encourage everyone, whether Plymouth based or not, to try and attend. The next event is planned for early July and it is hoped to cover cataract, anterior eye and post op cataract. We will circulate definite dates ASAP but pencil in 6th July.

I continue to hear of patients sent into primary care for “follow ups” from our colleagues in secondary care where the appointments cannot be covered by our GOS contracts. We will continue to try and educate our colleagues but I would welcome any examples you could send to me so I can approach the departments concerned direct in order to discuss what we are able to do to support them and how best this should be funded.

As always I am keen to hear about how we can support and develop the profession so please do email me: max@devonloc.co.uk

Updated guidance from WEEU (RD&E): SMALL GLASSES SUPPLEMENT VOUCHER ENTITLEMENT

These guidelines are taken from "Making Accurate Claims" published by the AOP in 2014—see the guidance [here](#)

Section 30 States:

You should claim a small glasses supplement, only if you have supplied as follows:

Glasses with a boxed centre of not more than 55mm, and
You have supplied a custom made frame or a stock frame requiring extensive adaptation to ensure a satisfactory fit.

Both the above criteria must be met to justify the claim.

Extensive adaptation can apply to the frame or the lenses. Please see the guidance.

Evidence of adaptation should be annotated on the patient's record. The orders for the frame, lenses and/or modification should be retained as evidence. As you must certify that the appliance supplied makes up small glasses, you should always check the dimensions of the frame is correct, before you make your claim. You should not assume that the manufacturer's dimensions are correct.

The supplement is payable in addition to the appropriate voucher, but you should claim the lower of the retail price of the spectacles or the sum of the voucher and the supplement.

For queries: Debbie McGrane Head Orthoptist on 01392 406031
Louise Frost Head Optometrist on 01392 406037
Laura Kelly Dispensing Optician on 01392 406037

IMPROVING LIVES PLYMOUTH

Plymouth Guild has re-branded as Improving Lives Plymouth. Its Hearing and Sight Centre is now known as Sensory Solutions and continues to offer all the services for which it has become known from its base at 156 Mannamead Road, Plymouth, PL3 5QL.



This charity offers a wide range of support for people with sight loss and this includes:

a well-stocked resource centre showcasing assistive technology with demonstrations and FREE short term loans of equipment available

a FREE Insight training course

introducing people with sight loss to the local and national support available to help them adjust to life with low vision

a Low Vision Advisor at the REI

a home visiting (Outreach) service offering practical support to enable independent living

braille tuition and 'Skills for Seeing' training; and

individual and group information technology sessions.

For more information please contact the team on 01752 201900 or email: sensorysolutions@improvinglivesplymouth.org.uk

GOC PUBLISHES GUIDANCE ON GAINING VALID CONSENT



The General Optical Council (GOC) has published guidance on obtaining valid consent to assist registrants in meeting its standards

of practice.

The guidance reflects patients' rights to determine what happens to their own bodies and to make informed choices when purchasing optical appliances and services. Obtaining valid consent should be seen as part of an on-going discussion and decision-making process between a healthcare professional and their patient

See further information [here](#)

AOP PEER SUPPORT LINE—0800 870 8401



The AOP have launched a new Peer Support Line—This vital new member resource will offer an empathetic non-judgemental listening service to practitioners at all stages of your career. For more information click [here](#)



VISION SCREENING FOR ATHLETES—NATIONAL GAMES

The National Games this year will take place in Sheffield from 7th—12th August 2017

The Special Olympics Lions Club International Opening Eyes (SOLCIOE) programme offers athletes access to vision screening.

There will be training in working with the athletes as well as the tests involved in the screening. For those athletes that need new glasses there will be a refraction and dispensing of free glasses.

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

CONTINUOUS EDUCATION AND TRAINING (CET)

See the Devon LOC website for an updated list of CET events both locally and nationally—click [here](#) to see the LOC website



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

Committee Members:

Michael Beavis, Mark Bushby, Kath Dandy, Jo Holmes, Ian Holten, Greg Mann, Peter Noakes and Nicki Pullen

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