



16.07.2013

LOC Levies and Payments to Contractors for Enhanced Services (or Community Services)

LOCSU are aware that a number of LOCs have experienced delayed or incomplete levy payments since 1st April. Local Dental Committees and Local Medical Committees have had similar problems.

In early June we handed over a list of 25 LOCs to NHS England that had reported they were still awaiting either some or all of the levy payments they were due. In all cases, it would appear that the levy had been taken from contractors but it hadn't been paid to the LOC.

Senior colleagues at NHS England have investigated these problems and the matter has been escalated to senior management within NHS Shared Business Services (SBS), who are responsible for making all payments. A number of LOCs have now received the levy payments in question as a result of this intervention, but we are aware that several are still outstanding.

NHS England is in discussion with NHS SBS to establish ways which ensure payment processes are speeded up and improved.

LOCSU have also heard reports that some contractors have not been paid on time/at all for enhanced services claims they have submitted after the 1st April handover. In some cases, the problem appears to be that NHS SBS are again not making payments on time. However, in a few cases, CCGs have been slow to implement robust systems to process enhanced services claims submitted by contractors in the first place.

This is obviously completely unsatisfactory and we are in regular contact with NHS England to get these issue resolved.

Action: All LOCs who are still awaiting overdue levy payments following the July payment

cycle or whose local contractors are experiencing delays in enhanced services payments are asked to email jacquehudson@locsu.co.uk with the details so that we can continue to pursue this with NHS England.

DVLA Tender

All contractors who have previously expressed an interest in becoming a sub-contractor in the LOCSU-led bid for the *Provision of Vision Testing Services for the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency ("DVLA")* will receive an email on 16th July requesting some additional information that is required for LOCSU to submit a bid. The information requested reflects what is known about the bid at this stage, the information we require may change at a later date.

LOCSU, with the support of Optometry Scotland and Optometry Wales, would be bidding as a Prime Contractor on the basis that the ophthalmic services would be provided by a network of sub-contractors across England, Scotland and Wales.

The timescales the DVLA have allowed for the tender process are very short therefore we require that the form at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8PGCXLH> is completed by Monday 22nd July to allow us time to collate the information.

Please note this is not part of the formal sub-contractor selection process. Should the bid be successful, there will be a process to recruit sub-contractors, as agreed with the DVLA.

Action: Contractors who are still interested in becoming a sub-contractor for this service should complete the form <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8PGCXLH> by Monday 22nd July.

This news flash is produced by the Local Optical Committee Support Unit (LOCSU). If you have any queries please contact info@locsu.co.uk