



LOCSU Annual Report 2009

The LOCSU Annual Report 2009 is now available to download on our website: <http://www.loc-net.org.uk/locsu/119633284432651.html>

You are encouraged to take the time to view this as it shows how much the LOCSU team together with LOCs have achieved in the past year.

National Optometric Conference

The NOC 2009 took place on 26th & 27th November in Harrogate.

LOCSU opened the conference with a keynote speech "Celebrating Success, The Professions United" from Georgina Gordon (Head of Unit). Georgina emphasised that the LOC Support Unit was maximising the potential of LOCs, and that it was crucial to build collaborative partnerships in relation to the NHS. Significant progress had been and continues to be made. Georgina's speech is available to view on the Optometry Today TV (OTTV) website:

<http://www.optometrytoday.tv>

Other LOCSU-led sessions included the launch of a new accreditation and training package to accompany the Glaucoma Referral Refinement and Ocular Hypertension pathways. The launch was very successful and well received. Over 120 training CDs to accompany the course were given out at the conference alone. The Welsh Assembly has already announced that it will be offering the LOCSU training and accreditation model, which was developed with the Wales Optometry Post Graduate Education Centre (WOPEC) to all optometrists starting in May 2010. Accreditation will be complete in September 2010. The course consists of four distance learning videos and lectures with MCQs (8 CET credits).

Another session included an update on progress with the LOCSU clinical pathways it was announced that 66 LOCs are now in discussion on enhanced services with their Primary Health Organisations. This is a testament to how successful these pathways have become in a short space of time.

Sessions were also run by LOCSU on IT and a session was run specifically for LOC Chairs and Treasurers to talk about the finances of LOCSU and its income stream, which is in very good health. Although this session was booked for 5pm the previous session overran by 20 minutes and still the break out room was packed by well over 50 people. The atmosphere in the room was positive with a lot of team discussion.

A Panel session entitled "Developments in Monitoring and Care of Glaucoma Patients" took place with David Wright, IGA; Cindy Tromans, Manchester Royal Eye Hospital; Chris Steele, Sunderland Eye Infirmary; and Geoff Roberson, AOP

The presentations from this session can be downloaded from the LOCSU website:

<http://www.loc-net.org.uk/locsu/119633282932638.html>

The LOCSU Annual Report session was well attended and the Annual Report accepted unanimously by the conference (available to view or download on the LOCSU website, on the "LOC Support Strategy" page).

There was an extremely positive atmosphere throughout the two days and it was clear to all who attended that LOCSU had come of age.

College of Optometrists Optometry Tomorrow 2010 Annual Conference & AGM 18-19 April 2010 York Racecourse

Optometry Tomorrow 2010 will be taking place on 18-19th April, giving you access to high quality learning and development opportunities, enabling you to build your clinical skills and enhance your understanding of the latest research and current thinking. Attend the conference to:

- Hear more about the key issues affecting the profession including commissioning and a glaucoma debate.
- Refresh your clinical skills by attending hands-on workshops covering gonioscopy, pachimetry and contact tonometry, and OCT.
- Hear about how research developments can impact on your practice.
- Visit the trade exhibition and find out the latest industry developments.

Network with colleagues at the Welcome Reception and Gala Dinner. With over 40 sessions to choose from, Optometry Tomorrow 2010 provides you with CET and continuing professional development opportunities. The programme features Dr Lou Catania, keynote speaker, recently named one of the 10 most influential optometrists of the 20th century, as well as expert speakers on a variety of topics. The conference offers fantastic **value for money** as the two day delegate rate remains at 2009 prices and includes your **gala dinner ticket**. Why not come to York with your partner and take advantage of our programme for partners – *new for 2010*.

Early bird and student rates available. For further details and to book your place visit www.optometrytomorrow.com or contact conference@college-optometrists.org or call 020 7766 4343.



Future Training Days!

Further LOC Training Days

After the success of our first 3 LOC training days, we would like to hear from you if you would like us to run a further day. We have had extremely positive feedback and will continue to run these days whilst demand continues. This event was originally planned as a day for new LOC members but we have had a varied attendance with even Chairs attending who have found the day interesting and informative. Subjects include:

Running an Effective LOC
 LOCSU Developments
 The Role of the Optometric Advisor
 Negotiation Activities
 Communicating and Negotiating with PCTs
 The Role of the Professional Bodies
 World Class Commissioning.

Chairs & Treasurers Day

26th April 2010

We are organising a training day for supporting LOCs aimed at primarily Chairs and Treasurers. Subjects that will be covered include:

A Business Plan
 Managing an LOC Budget
 Demonstration of Quality in Optometry
 Workshops on drawing up Business Plans
 Annual Accounts

Both training days will be held here in London, 61 Southwark St. There will be no charge for this day and lunch and refreshments will be provided. Timings will be 10.30 start and aim to finish 16.00

If you are interested please contact Janice Phillips janicephillips@locsu.co.uk telephone number: 0207 202 8156 for a booking form.

Preparing for a GOS Contract Compliant Visit

Preparing for a GOS contract compliance visit can be quite a chore. To help you with the task, the Quality in Optometry website has been updated. Level 1 of the QiO toolkit (England), which already dealt with statutory or contractual requirements, has been overhauled so that it exactly mirrors the Framework for GOS Contract Compliance produced by NHS Primary Care Commissioning. That framework is basically a checklist which your PCT should now be using for contract compliance visits and the QiO checklist, which reflects the Framework, is intended as an aid for practices to help them in preparing for a full, compliance visit.

You can access and complete this checklist online via the Quality in Optometry website <http://www.qualityinoptometry.co.uk/> or if you would prefer not to use the online tool, you can download and print a blank checklist from the website, to complete offline.

As well as the familiar help and advice, there are links to a number of sample policies and to spreadsheets to help with the auditing of patient records. This will undoubtedly take the pressure off busy practitioners, so just access the website and find out how easy it is.

Further plans for Quality in Optometry include a review of Levels 2, 3 and 4 to ensure that they continue to be current and relevant, as well as a possible extension of audit into the voluntary clinical governance levels.

For a full account of the update to the QiO website click here <http://www.loc-net.org.uk/locsu/12450722792027.html>

We need your views on eye care for people with learning disabilities

The All Party Parliamentary Groups on Eye Health and Learning Disability hosted an event in London recently to hear views on the eye health needs of people with learning disabilities.

Views and comments are also invited from all those working within the eye care sector and these can be submitted via the SeeAbility website up to **31 January 2010**.

http://www.seeability.org/about_us/research_projects_campaigning/654.asp

The Eye Health Alliance has been working with SeeAbility, Mencap, RNIB and the two All Party Groups to highlight the issues around the eye health needs and support for people with learning disabilities and to identify solutions to address the barriers to accessing eye care services.

In particular we would like to know;

- What difficulties do people with learning disabilities face when accessing NHS eye care services in the community?
- What are the barriers to accessing NHS eye care services for people with learning disabilities?
- How important is it for people with learning disabilities to have good vision and eye health?
- How can eye care services be improved for this patient group?
- What research is available on sight problems amongst people with learning disabilities?

Please submit your comments online at http://www.seeability.org/about_us/research_projects_campaigning/654.asp by **31 January 2010**.

The comments received from the website and the event will be compiled into a research report.

If you have any questions please contact Heather Marshall, Head of Public Affairs.

Email: heathermarshall@aop.org.uk
 Tel: 020 7202 8157

Time to talk to the politicians

LOCSU has launched a final campaign to lobby Members of Parliament and Candidates about the value of optometric primary care in the community in advance of the General Election which is likely to be held in early May.

A video explaining what needs to be done, and how to set about achieving it, is already on Optometry Today television (optometrytoday.tv) and is being sent as a DVD to all Local Optical Committees.

The film was produced by OTtv for LOCSU, and the DVD incorporates the joint lobbying document and manifesto which has been agreed as part of the UK Vision Strategy. It also features Heather Marshall, Head of Public Affairs for the optical bodies as well as extracts from a presentation to the National Optometric Conference by Eleanor de Kantor of Luther Pendragon who are the lobbyists for the optical bodies and LOCSU.



Introducing the film, AOP Chief Executive Bob Hughes poses the question: “If you haven’t met your MP, and the candidates of the other parties, you haven’t got long. So what are you waiting for? After all, in less than 16 weeks your MP might be the Health Minister.”

The aim is for the profession to have lobbied every MP, and the candidates of the other political parties in every constituency before the election commences.

Further information from Heather Marshall at heathermarshall@aop.org.uk

Tel: 020 7202 8157

Many LOCs have already organised practice visits for their local MP and also the parliamentary candidates in their area. The following upcoming visits have been arranged and others are in the process of being finalised. This is a great opportunity to showcase the work of optometrists and dispensing opticians and gain some positive local media coverage of eye care services in your area.

- **Graeme Lowcock at O’Brien, Wrench and Lowcock is hosting Laurence Robertson MP on Friday February 5th 2010 at 10.30am in Tewkesbury.**
- **Ann Keen MP will be visiting Fantaseyes in Brentford at 11am on Friday 22nd January.**
- **Oliver Letwin MP will be visiting the I.J. Brown Partnership in Dorchester on Friday 26th February at 12 noon.**

As additional back up to the ‘training’ DVD outlined above, a pack has been produced by Luther Pendragon to help LOCs arrange a visit – this can be downloaded from the LOCSU website - http://www.loc-net.org.uk/uploaded_files/119633106432175/loc_chairs_guide_to_open_sessions_in_practice.pdf

GOC Stakeholder Consultation Events on Revalidation

Next month, the GOC is holding a series of stakeholder consultation events around the UK about revalidation. Opticians, patients and the public are all equally welcome and full details are available on the GOC website:

http://www.optical.org/en/news_publications/Events/index.cfm

Revalidation for optometrists and dispensing opticians will be introduced in January 2013. The GOC intends the scheme to be fair, effective and proportionate and is inviting those who will be affected by the scheme to help shape its development.

The events will be independently facilitated and will take place from 10:00 – 15:45 on the following dates:

- 8 February, [Wales Millennium Centre](#), Bute Place, Cardiff, CF10 5AL
- 10 February, [Britannia Hotel](#), Portland Street, Manchester, M1 3LA
- 18 February, [Caledonian Hilton Hotel](#), Princes Street, Edinburgh, EH1 2AB
- 19 February, [Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland](#), 73 University St, Belfast, BT7 1HL
- 16 February, London - **the London event is now fully booked.**

The morning session will look at and discuss the different levels of risk in optics and the afternoon session at whether employers' appraisals can be used in revalidation. Delegates are welcome to attend either or both parts of the day. The events are free to attend but space is limited, so delegates must register their interest in advance with the GOC. A buffet lunch will be provided. [Click here to book your place online](#) or contact Simon Grier on 020 7307 3478 or sgrier@optical.org

Comments from the Optical Bodies on the GOC's Revalidation Proposals

Last September, ABDO, AOP, the College of Optometrists and FODO responded to the GOC's proposals for revalidation. Click on the following link to view the response in full: <http://www.loc-net.org.uk/locsu/12440422646632.html>

The key points of the response were:

- The system of revalidation should be simple and easy for practitioners to use, as well as easy and cost-effective for the regulator to administer
- Licences to practise should be granted if the Register contains the names of those who practise and those who do not
- Those who have had a significant break of less than six years should be able to provide evidence from the time they were working during the six year cycle. Those with a longer break should return to supported practice and may require a shorter revalidation cycle
- Practitioners should provide evidence from their scope of practice. The level of evidence required should not be different for practitioners working in different contexts
- The system should be in line with that used by other professions and optical practitioners should not be required to submit a higher level of evidence than professions where competency failure is more significant in terms of patient safety
- Formal assessment should not be the primary source of evidence. This goes against the philosophy behind revalidation and would be too expensive and resource intensive to be effective. Evidence should be from actual practice
- The only competencies for which all practitioners should be required to provide evidence are generic competencies such as communication and professional conduct. To require evidence of a skill that a practitioner does not use day to day would give a false impression of capability to patients and could be dangerous.
- The representative optical bodies would not be able to support a system of revalidation without adequate funding for practitioners from the Department of Health. As with compulsory CET, and particularly in a time of recession, the profession will expect some central contribution to the considerable costs of undertaking a revalidation process. Any system of remedial action should be cost-effective and costs should not be excessive
- Any pilot should be undertaken using a cross-section of the professions
- We wish to re-state a fundamental principle; a revalidation exercise is not requalification. By definition, the vast majority of the workforce is safe and competent and revalidation should reflect this. So, the average, competent, optical practitioner should be able to undertake revalidation, and pass, without doing any special revision. If they cannot, then the hurdle is too high.

SECURE SECTION ON PRIMARY HEALTH NET WEBSITE FOR LOCSU INFORMATION, BRIEFINGS AND DISCUSSION

LOCSU has partnered with Primary Health Net (PHN) to bring you information on a secure website and access to secure forum only available to LOCSU supporters. The website contains confidential items such as secure briefings and clinical pathways allowing you to easily access these useful documents at any time and refer back to past briefings. A secure discussion forum is also available to use enabling confidential discussions to take place between LOCs and with LOCSU. All other current LOCSU information is also replicated on the site. In order to access the site, you will need to complete a registration form which is attached with this newsletter or can be downloaded from www.primaryhealthnet.com. You can email this to mail@primaryhealthnet.com, fax to 0871 661 6532 or send to Primary Health Net Ltd, Jasmine House, 55 Jasmine Grove, London, SE20 8JY. PHN staff will then register you for the secure use of the site. When you next access your email account, you will need to click on the confirmation email to confirm your email address and complete the registration. This email will confirm your username and password. You can change your password by editing your settings in the forum area. There is further information on doing this in the PHN FAQs forum. If you are already registered with PHN you will still need the additional LOCSU account in order to access the LOCSU pages and forum and will therefore still need to complete the form. For any queries please contact Primary Health Net on mail@primaryhealthnet.com



**SUPPORT FOR PRIMARY
EYE CARE DEVELOPMENT**

**Dates For Your Diary
Political Events
2010**

25—29 April 2010 Royal College of Nurses Congress , Bournemouth – the Eye Health Alliance will be organising a fringe event – day and topic tbc

w/c 14 June 2010 National Eye Health Week—for queries please contact Giles Butler — giles@fodo.com

The Eye Health Alliance will have a stand and other events at the three main political party conferences and will be looking for optoms and dispensing opticians to help on the stand.

19—22 September inclusive Lib Dems, Liverpool

26—30 September inclusive Labour, Manchester

4 – 7 October inclusive Conservatives, Birmingham

For queries about all the above events please contact heathermarshall@aop.org.uk

CONTACT DETAILS

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