January 2014

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**News from LOCSU**

**Commissioning Roundup**

More and more LOCs are reporting that using the LOC Company Model is enabling them to successfully tender for community services. As of December 2013, 13 Primary Eyecare companies from across England had won bids for a variety of community eye health services, with the LOCSU Optical Leads supporting numerous other commissioning opportunities that are in the pipeline. Both the Optical Leads
and LOCs are to be congratulated for their efforts.

**HSJ Roundtable**

LOCSU was represented at a recent roundtable discussion organised by commissioning magazine, Health Services Journal. Katrina Venerus, Managing Director of LOCSU, was invited to the event *Improving Access to Cataract Surgery* alongside leading clinicians, commissioners, managers, policy makers and campaigners from across the eye health sector.

The debate explored issues including the current state of play, in terms of demand and variation, how the patient pathway can be optimised, and how can best practice be embedded into mainstream service commissioning and delivery.

Full details of the discussion will be featured in HSJ at the end of February.

**Presentation on Community Services to the Royal College of Ophthalmologists’ Lay Advisory Group**

In recognition of LOCSU’s work to develop community eye services across England, Katrina Venerus was invited to present to the January meeting of the Lay Advisory Group of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists. The group, whose meetings are attended by the President and Chief Executive of the Royal College, wanted to find out more about the LOCSU pathways and to hear our views on the potential for collaborative working at a local level. The feedback from the group was very positive in supporting the concept of moving some eye care services from secondary care into the community. The group’s Chair acknowledged that the use of the additional resources available from optometrists should be most beneficial to patients and that clearly there is plenty to do to establish collaborative working in the community whilst at the same time retaining the viability of secondary care services.

**Guide to LOC Companies for CCGs**

A LOCSU guide for CCGs explaining the benefits of the LOC Company model is under production and is due for completion by the end of January 2014. The guide will describe how the single provider model offers CCGs the opportunity to work with a network of optical practices in their community to give patients the best access to services and choice of provider, without the complexity of managing individual contracts.

LOCSU is also working to ensure that CCGs are aware that they do not need to go through an Any Qualified Provider procurement process if their key objective is to engage as many optical practices as possible in delivering a particular community service; all practices are invited to participate as subcontractors to the local Primary Eyecare Company, subject to meeting the accreditation requirements.

LOCs will be sent a copy of the guide as soon as it is ready for circulation.
Training for LOC Company Clinical Governance and Performance Leads

A new training module is currently being developed to support those tasked with managing the implementation and ongoing performance of services that LOC Companies have been commissioned to deliver. The training will be specifically targeted at Clinical Governance and Performance Leads, but other key members of an LOC Company Management Team or Board may also find it beneficial to complete the course.

Developed by LOCSU’s Learning and Development Consultant, Gill Brabner, with input from the LOCSU Optical Leads and others who have been working at the coal face as early implementers of the company model, the online training module will provide Leads with an understanding of LOC Company policies and procedures, how to interpret Key Performance Indicators, and how to identify and manage outliers. The module will also focus on communication with subcontractors and external stakeholders.

Register your Interest

If you are a Clinical Governance and Performance Lead or hold a similar position in an LOC Company, and would like to register your interest in this free course which will be available from late February, please email info@locsu.co.uk.

New Chair for Local Eye Health Network (LEHN) Steering Group

Kate Kinsey, Head of Primary Care Operations in the Greater Manchester Area Team has taken over as Chair of the LEHN Steering Group now that Jim Barlow from the Shropshire and Staffordshire Area Team, who we worked closely with during and post the NHS reorganisation, has retired. As well as the LEHN role, Kate will also provide support for the NHS England central team on eye health issues. We welcome Kate’s involvement going forward and wish Jim a much deserved enjoyable retirement.

LOCSU at 100% Optical and Optrafair London

LOCSU will be represented at both 100% Optical and Optrafair London events over the next few weeks (details in our Dates for your Diaries section). As well as an opportunity to answer queries from LOC members, it is a chance for clinicians and practice owners from across England, that are represented by LOCs to raise any current issues with LOCSU. If you are attending either event, please visit the LOCSU stand with any questions or to simply give us your views. If you would like to book a specific time to speak to someone about commissioning or any other local issues, please email info@locsu.co.uk with details of when you are available.

NOC 2014 – hold the date

Following the success of NOC 2013 – the major conference for the development of local community eye care services – LOCSU and the Optical Confederation are pleased to announce that NOC 2014 will be held on Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th October 2014 at the Hilton Metropole, NEC Birmingham.

More details of the programme and booking information will be announced soon.
News from LOCs

Devon LOC and roundtable event in Westminster

Following on from their successful presentation on influencing MPs at last year’s NOC, Devon LOC joined forces with Devon Local Pharmaceutical Committee for a roundtable discussion with local MPs in early December, which was held in Westminster. MPs Oliver Colvile, Alison Seabeck and Ben Bradshaw discussed the management and treatment of minor health conditions in community optical practices and community pharmacy.

Supported by the Public Affairs team from the Optical Confederation, Charles Bill, Chair of Devon LOC commented: "It was great to see our local MPs get behind us and support opticians in Devon to provide high quality Eye Care across the county."

For more information or advice on working with local MPs, please contact Jenny Gowen at the Optical Confederation at jennygowen@opticalconfederation.org.uk.

News from other organisations

Domiciliary Eyecare Committee

The Optical Confederation’s Domiciliary Eyecare Committees is holding an open committee meeting in Central London on Friday 21st February 2014 at 10:30am. Everyone involved in the provision of domiciliary eye care is welcome to attend (subject to numbers).

The meeting will be an opportunity to:

- Raise any issues you have about the provision of domiciliary eye care
- Meet the Committee and speak to them about their work
- Meet fellow domiciliary providers

You are welcome to send in proposals for items for the agenda whether you are attending or not. For more details or to raise suggestions for agenda items please email domiciliary@fodo.com by Friday 7th February 2014.

Leeds Ophthalmic Public Health Course – Sponsored Places Available

Running for its 6th year, this popular course at Leeds University offers a valuable opportunity for eye health and public health professionals, clinical directors, managers working in eye health, social care and public health to better understand the links between eye health and public health and epidemiology. The four day course runs from 28th April to 1st May. The course fee is normally £650 and a number of sponsored places are available.
Further details
For an application pack, please email public_health_cpd@leeds.ac.uk. The closing date for applications for sponsored places is 28th February 2014.

Dates for your diaries

College CET events
The College of Optometrists is continuing to run its programme of regional CET events for the next year. The popular evening events, which are free for College members, provide the opportunity to gain peer review points by taking part in a peer discussion and interactive points by attending lectures by leading experts. You can also network with other optometrists in your area over the complimentary buffet.

Book an event near you.

100% Optical
On 16th-18th February 2014, Excel London will host 100% Optical. To find out more visit http://www.100percentoptical.com.

LOCSU Optometry Tomorrow 2014
The College of Optometrists is holding Optometry Tomorrow, 2014, the 10th anniversary of its annual conference from Sunday 16th –Monday 17th March in York. To find out more details or to register, please visit http://www.optometrytomorrow.org/

Fresh Eyes 2014
Newly qualified optometrists are invited to attend the Fresh Eyes Conference, where LOCSU Optical Lead Liz Greenwood is presenting. Fresh Eyes is jointly organised by the Association of Optometrists and the College of Optometrists and is also held on 16th and 17th March in York. For more details please visit http://www.fresheyesconference.org/

NB Live
NB magazine hosts its first conference, NB Live 2014: Uniting eye health and sight loss professionals, on 21 March 2014. The conference welcomes health and social care professionals working with people with sight loss including rehabilitation officers, ophthalmic nurses, eye clinic liaison officers (ECLO), orthoptists, optometrists, dispensing opticians and occupational therapists. Register now and get the early bird rate of £25.

ABDO Conference 2014
ABDO Conference and Exhibition will take place from Sunday 30th - Monday 31st March 2014 at Chesford
Grange Hotel. Conference highlights include the Sunday keynote lecture: *The future for optics in the UK – a perspective of a critical friend* presented by Professor Darren Shickle. For more details please visit [ABDO’s website](#).

**Optrafair London**

Optrafair London will take place **Friday 11th – Sunday 13th April 2014** at Olympia National. More details can be found [here](#).

**Vision UK 2014 Conference**

The Vision UK 2014 conference will be held on **Thursday 12th June 2014** at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference centre, London. For more details or to register your interest please visit the [Conference web page](#).

**Cornea and Oculoplastics for Optometrists**

The Queen Victoria Hospital Corneoplastic Unit and Eye Bank, in East Grinstead, West Sussex is holding a specialist course for optometrists on Friday 27th June. For more details or to book your place, please contact jackie.walker@qvh.nhs.uk or telephone 01342 414578.

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