March 2014

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News from LOCSU

Leadership training candidates revealed

LOCSU has announced the list of successful candidates who will receive funding for its prestigious
leadership training course.

The successful list of funded places for this year’s course is: Shireen Bharuchi (Oxfordshire), Paul Bradford (Devon), Andrew Bridges (Hampshire), John Davidson (North of Tyne), Dan Dixon (Bradford), David Good (Avon), Bruce Gilson (Buckinghamshire), Abdullah Khalique (Northamptonshire) and Neelam Patel (Kent and Medway).

LOCSU’s Leadership Skills for Optical Professionals is a 20-credit postgraduate module and is part of WOPEC’s MSc programme at Cardiff University. For more information and to register for next year’s course see our [press release](#).

Commissioners’ Guidance available online

*The Commissioners’ Guide to Primary Eyecare Companies* has now been issued and can be viewed or downloaded from the LOCSU website. As reported in LOCSU News (January), this guidance explains about the benefits of using a Primary Eyecare Company when commissioning a community eye health pathway.

Clinical Governance and Performance Leads training

Clinical Governance and Performance Leads training will be launched this month. The module has been developed in-house by LOCSU to support Clinical and Performance Leads of Primary Eyecare Companies in their new roles, once a newly commissioned service is being implemented. Each participant will be required to complete a short assessment and once completed and signed off and they will receive a certificate of accreditation from LOCSU.

If you are a Clinical Governance and Performance Lead or hold a similar position in an LOC Company, contact LOCSU for direct access to the module, by email [info@locsu.co.uk](mailto:info@locsu.co.uk). Alternatively, if you already have registered your interest, LOCSU will contact you directly.

LOCSU seeing and being seen

Members of the LOCSU team answered questions from clinicians and practice owners at the 100% Optical trade fair at London’s ExCel centre attended by nearly 5,500 visitors last month. Discussion topics included commissioning and the LOC Company Model. And LOCSU will be attending [Optrafair from 11th - 13th April 2014](#) held at Olympia National in London. 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](mailto:info@locsu.co.uk) with details of when you are available.

Changes to LOCSU/WOPEC training

A wide range of LOCSU/WOPEC courses are available for LOC members to support them in delivering community eye health services. Some of this training now web-based and CD ROMS will no longer be issued. Please find details below:
• Cataract LOCSU/WOPEC online training – no longer issue CD ROMs – click here for instructions on the new process.
• Glaucoma LOCSU/WOPEC online training – no longer issue CD ROMs – click here for instructions on the new process.
• Changes to the PEARLS LOCSU/WOPEC online training – no longer issue CD ROMs – click here for instructions on the new process.
• Low Vision training still provides CD ROMs, so procedure is as it currently stands
• All details and documents can be found on our website: http://www.locsu.co.uk/training-and-development/enhanced-services-training

LOCSU in the news

As reported previously in LOCSU News (January), Katrina Venerus was asked to represent the interests of LOCs at a round table event focusing on access to cataract surgery hosted by Health Services Journal.

Change in LOCSU team

We would like to wish Jenny Manchester, Communications Manager at LOCSU all the very best on her maternity leave, which begins in March. Any communications enquiries or issues will be dealt in her absence by interim Communications Manager, Chris McGachy (cmcgachy@locsu.co.uk). Previously Head of Editorial Channels at the Department of Trade and Industry, Chris has been working as a freelance consultant for a range of membership organisations and industry associations in a variety of sectors, including health.

News from LOCs

Optical Lead helps Essex launches first LOC Company pathway

Poonam Sharma has helped Essex LOC secure a new, enhanced service in North East Essex after lengthy commissioning process. Now, following the successful AQP bid, Primary Eyecare (Essex) Limited will manage the new Glaucoma Referral Refinement enhanced service.

Initially, a network of 15 practices will take part in the scheme which was launched in Colchester in February with more practitioners in the south of the county expected to take participate in the coming months.

For LOCSU, it is encouraging how many LOCs and practices are actively engaging with the LOC Company Model, and how important it is as a vehicle to help LOCs secure contracts for community services.

In order to satisfy new CCG contracting requirements, the Essex LOC set up their Primary Eyecare Company with directors being appointed from the LOC membership. In other news, as part of its educational programme for its Performers and Contractors, the LOC staged a CET event in December in Chelmsford and has another planned for mid-March in Colchester.
Top marks from Sheffield pupils

Optical practices in Sheffield have scored top marks in a patient satisfaction survey. Families gave a massive thumbs-up to the children’s eye care pathway. Audits show that the Sheffield School Vision Screening service was valued and highly-regarded with 95 per cent of respondents rating the service at 8 out of 10, in the 2013 annual poll published recently.

Parents clearly value the Orthoptic-led, children’s eye care pathway for reception-age kids set up in 2010 by Sheffield Children’s NHS Foundation Trust and Sheffield LOC. Among the comments, one parent said: “Because I did not know my child's vision was impaired, her school work was deteriorating, but not even the school teachers mentioned this to me.” Visit our news pages to read the full story.

News from other organisations

UK Vision Strategy Director and Vision 2020 UK Chief Operations officer announces retirement

Anita Lightstone, UK Vision Strategy Director and VISION 2020 UK Interim Chief Operations Officer will retire in summer 2014.

College of Optometrists welcomes applications for 2014 research funding

Applications for research fellowships, postgraduate scholarships and summer scholarships in 2014 can be made to the College of Optometrists by Friday 14th March 2014. Researchers can find out more about the different grants available and how to make an application here.

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.

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 21st 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 the Chesford Grange Hotel, Kenilworth. 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.

Thyroid Eye Disease event

The Thyroid Eye Disease Amsterdam Declaration Implementation Group UK (TEAMeD) and the European Group on Graves’ Orbitopathy (EUGOGO) has organised a Thyroid Eye Disease event in Newcastle on 16th and 17th May 2014. On 16th May a patient and public event will take place in the morning and afternoon. It will be followed in the late afternoon by a one-hour session on Commissioning of Specialised Services for Thyroid Eye Disease. This session is free.

The social programme includes a dinner on the evening of 16th May, which will be an opportunity to meet the experts and to network. The scientific part of the event will take place on 17th May and involves speakers and panellists from European and UK centres who are world authorities in Thyroid Eye Disease. Registration is £35 and includes lunch and refreshments. Places are limited, for more details please visit the web page or email Nicole.OConnor@nuth.nhs.uk.

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
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.

NOC 2014

As highlighted previously in LOCSU News, LOCSU and the Optical Confederation have announced that NOC 2014 will be held on Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th October 2014 at the Hilton Metropole, NEC Birmingham.

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