

Influencing the influencers (Part 1) LOCSU's Optical Leads

For the first time, Optics now is in a strong position to influence the system for commissioning primary ophthalmic services in the NHS – thanks to LOCSU's Optical Leads. Following a recent meeting with officials working with the NHS Commissioning Board design and implementation team, the Optical Leads team has been asked to make suggestions on how the emerging proposals for **Local Professional Networks** could work for optics.



Some of LOCSU's Optical Leads

clinicians that they would be engaged in co-producing the new system and involving LOCSU now is part of that commitment.

The NHS Commissioning Board design and implementation team has proposed that Local Professional Networks would be set up as part of the NHS Commissioning Board's formal structure at local level and that they will be a required part of the system.

Emerging thinking is that local networks of clinicians would provide the new operating model for commissioning primary care with valuable local input, strategically and operationally. The NHS Commissioning Board design and implementation team is developing proposals for how a Local Professional Network for optics might operate. Detailed proposals for the whole primary care commissioning system including Local Professional Networks, will be presented to the NHS Commissioning Board senior team once they have been appointed later this year. Sir David Nicholson, Chief Executive of the NHS Commissioning Board gave a commitment to

LOCSU's Optical Leads will be working with the NHS Commissioning Board design and implementation team in the coming weeks to take the project forward including identifying pilot sites to trial the networks and gathering the views of LOCs. The design and implementation team will be reporting back to Sir David Nicholson and his senior team in the Autumn.

Welcome to LOCSU news.

This newsletter will keep LOC and ROC members up to date with news from LOCSU.

We would also like to feature examples of LOC/ROC success so if you have any local news you would like us to feature please contact Jenny Manchester, Communications Officer, on jennymanchester@locsu.co.uk or call 0207 202 8156.

Alan Tinger, Chair of LOCSU commented

"The fact LOCSU has developed a group of identified leaders working across the country has meant that the architects of the new NHS system have come to us at the design stage to help shape their proposals, which is fantastic testament to the value of these new appointments to the profession. Optical Leads will now begin the task of consulting with local optical committees in their regions as more detailed plans emerge."

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Influencing the influencers (Part 2)

LOCSU GP Roundtable event

“What are the issues GP Consortia will need to consider in order to improve local eye health?”



(Photo: Optometry Today)

“My commissioning group has implemented a LOCSU scheme on glaucoma referral refinement that reduced the number of patients going to hospital for further tests. We have an ageing population and an increasing number of people with glaucoma. Optometrists are highly skilled professionals but only get paid for sight tests and then have to refer on.” So spoke Dr Tim Dukes at a LOCSU roundtable event, held during National Eye Health Week.

LOCSU set up this round table discussion, the first of its kind to bring GPs and optometrists together, alongside GP magazine as a way of raising awareness amongst clinical commissioning groups of the benefits of local enhanced services and the role of local and regional optical committees. The significance of the event was underlined by securing a high profile Chair, Dr James Kingsland, National Clinical Commissioning Lead and Chair of the National Association of Primary Care. A well renowned speaker on NHS commissioning reforms, Dr Kingsland expressed his keenness to see groups of health professionals getting together in this way to explore how they will work together in the future. As he said at the event, his own recent sight test had made him realise that there was scope for expanding services.

“The shop was open on Saturday, they had open premises, with a spare consulting room, and were involved in screening. It made me think they could easily have had a nurse providing blood pressure checks, audiology or even GP services.”

The success of this round table in developing relationships with GPs and raising awareness of the value of enhanced services means that LOCSU plan to use this discussion as a springboard for further media discussion events later on in the year. Watch this space!

The panel

Dr James Kingsland, GP in Merseyside and Chair of the DH National Clinical Commissioning Network

Katrina Venerus, Optometrist and Director of Operations and Commissioning for LOCSU

Trevor Warburton, Optometrist and Chair of LOCSU Clinical Advisory Group

Paul Carroll, Optometrist and Director of Professional Services for Specsavers

Dr Andrew Parson, GP Lead at Bromley Clinical Commissioning Consortium

Dr Tim Dukes, GP and clinical lead at Seisdon Peninsula Locality Commissioning Group, Staffordshire

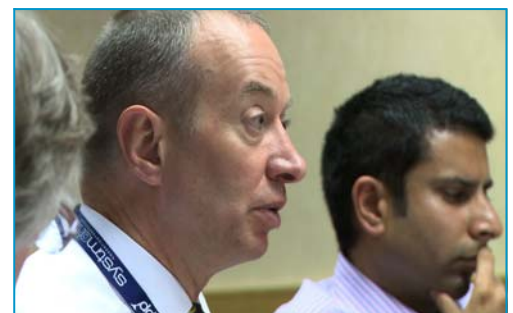
Dr Raj Thakkar, GP in Buckinghamshire

Full coverage of the discussion or to view footage from the event

You can download the discussion from the Optometry Today website
<http://www.optometry.co.uk/news-and-features/news/?article=2477>

Or via GP magazine

<http://www.gponline.com/News/article/1075899/GPs-build-better-eye-services/>



(Photo: Optometry Today)

Key note speaker announced for NOC

With a compelling programme focussing on the opportunities and challenges the NHS reforms will bring for optics, this year's NOC is not to be missed. We are delighted to announce that Dame Barbara Hakin, National Managing Director of Commissioning Development in the NHS, will be a Keynote Speaker presenting on **Clinical Commissioning —The Future.**

This will be an essential session for anyone who wants to ensure that their LOC is able to get eye health services in their area, firmly on the map. Barbara Hakin is responsible for overseeing development of the new commissioning architecture in the NHS and so her presentation is a 'must see' event for anyone that does not want their committee to be left behind as we enter this new NHS era.



Dame Barbara Hakin

Further speakers include Dr Niti Pall, Clinical Lead NHS Sandwell and Dr Sue Gregory, Deputy Chief Dental Officer, Department of Health and Public Health Specialist

This year's National Optometric Conference takes place from 3rd–4th November 2011 at Chesford Grange, near Warwick. To find out more information about costs and to download a booking form, visit <http://www.aop.org.uk/about-the-aop/events/noc-2011>
Online booking facilities will be set up over the next few weeks.



National Eye Health Week 2011

Your events in pictures!

Many local and regional optical committees took part in National Eye Health Week last month. Please send us any details including any pictures for us to use in LOCSU's annual report for this year.

Similarly we want to hear about any success stories involving the work of your committee during the past year. Please send all reports to Jenny Manchester, Communications Officer at jennymanchester@locsu.co.uk



SUPPORT FOR PRIMARY
EYE CARE DEVELOPMENT

News Round up

As detailed in LOCSU Heads Up two new Optical Leads have been appointed for East of England (Joan Myhill) and London (Sue Leighter). More details can be found On LOCSU's website at www.loc-net.org.uk under latest news.

LOCSU's new board member, who will be representing LOCs in the North of England is Steve Mayer, Chair of West Pennine LOC.

Full details were in our recent LOCSU Heads Up or can be found under latest news at www.loc-net.org.uk

There are still a few spaces left on the LOCSU induction training day at Leeds on 18th July 2011.

Following recent feedback from LOCs, further induction training days will take place in London on 19th September 2011 and in Exeter on 6th October 2011. (Venues to be confirmed.)

Although the induction training days are designed specifically with new committee members in mind, anyone involved with an LOC or ROC is welcome to attend. Please contact jacquehuson@locsu.co.uk to register your interest.

Influencing the influencers (Part 3)

UK Vision Strategy Conference

The LOCSU team were out in force at the recent UK Vision Strategy Conference, with experienced Associate Bruce Gilson and Chief Operating Officer for LOCSU Wales Sali Davis staffing our exhibition stand to spread the word about improving local eye health services. Vision UK 2011, held during National Eye Health Week, attracted more than 300 delegates who heard Earl Howe, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in the Department of Health, speak on 'A vision of the 'Big Society' for eye care and sight loss provision'. The event also saw the launch of a new online eye care commissioning tool, <http://www.commissioningforeyecare.org.uk>. We asked Sali how it went.



Sali Davis

What kind of conversations did you have with delegates?

There was a lot of traffic within the exhibition area. Many delegates visiting the stand asked about the Low Vision Pathway which was interesting and also useful as Bruce had **led the group designing the pathway**—so it was great to have a primary source of contact. Delegates seemed to have been really impressed with the conference and the breakout sessions and chatted about how important primary care, community based optometry was. There was a lot of discussion about the importance of collecting robust data and good audit with delegates interested in what LOCSU did and how it was able to support ROCs/LOCs.

Anything else that would be of interest to LOCs/ROCs?

It was really great to see how delegates saw the value of LOCSU once you explained what LOCSU stood for and the work that we do. We were able to distribute copies of the Bosanquet report, which were very well received. We were able to explain what the report covered and why it was so valuable to the future of primary care services.

Spotlight on DOCET

What is DOCET?



DOCET (Directorate of Optometric Continuing Education and Training) is a special committee which was set up by the Department of Health in 1989 to oversee the management of government funds for the provision of CET for all UK registered optometrists. All of DOCET's work is administered by the College of Optometrists, and its remit includes ensuring that optometrists keep up to date with technological and scientific advances relevant to their services and the public's needs, and assisting them in acquiring additional skills necessary to the development of eye care services.

How will it benefit me and my regional or local optical committee?

Each year DOCET also sets aside some of its funds to provide financial assistance for CET events being delivered locally throughout the UK – this can be in the form of meetings, courses, events or workshops (including peer review groups). Local optometric societies and groups who need some financial support to help them to hire a room or pay for lecturers or speakers, can apply for DOCET funding. Work was carried out in 2010 to streamline the application and claim processes, and all the funding guidelines, forms and processes are currently being further reviewed to make sure that they are as clear and simple to use as possible. DOCET would strongly encourage anyone thinking about organising an optometric CET event locally to consider applying for this funding.



How do I find out more? Current guidelines and application and claim forms are available via the funding pages of the DOCET website www.docet.info. If you have any questions about course funding or about any other aspect of DOCET's work, please contact enquiries@docet.info

Hold the back page!

Message from Katrina Venerus, Director of Operations and Commissioning



Since our last newsletter, the Government's Listening Exercise has come to an end and we have had the NHS Future Forum's report on the changes proposed by the Health and Social Care Bill, followed by the government's response to the report. The next Hot Brief, the political update produced in conjunction with colleagues in the Optical Confederation, details more but it is clear that the pause was not a stop and plans to reform the NHS are back on track. LOCSU is working hard to influence these influencers and I thought it would be helpful for you to give you a flavour of some of our activity in this very important area.

- 1. NHS Commissioning Board** - as you will have read on the front page of this issue the Optical Leads team were recently invited to meet with senior officials of the team charged with designing the NHS Commissioning Board to discuss emerging proposals for Local Professional Networks. The Optical Leads are now working with the Department of Health team to develop further the early ideas for how these networks might work and will be consulting with LOCs in due course.
 - **What does this mean for my LOC?** What is proposed is that the Local Professional Networks would have clinical legitimacy and would be a required part of the local system in all areas, therefore every LOC will have a clear route to influence Health and Well Being Boards and Clinical Commissioning groups if the proposals are accepted.
- 2. Commissioning 2011 and GP Roundtable event**— LOCSU had an exhibition stand at Commissioning 2011, the leading conference event for GPs and others involved in commissioning. Trevor Warburton (LOCSU Associate) and I were on hand to promote to commissioners the role community optical practices can play in delivering eye care services in primary care. LOCSU also held our hugely successful GP roundtable event in the fringes of the conference (featured on page 2)
 - **What does this mean for my LOC?** LOCSU is undertaking a variety of initiatives to increase awareness of the case for enhanced services amongst commissioners and plans to continue similar events over the coming year.
- 3. Quick QIPP Guide** - The QIPP programme (Quality, Innovation, Productivity, Prevention) is central to the commissioning plans of every PCT cluster and is about ensuring that each pound spent is used to bring maximum benefit and quality of care to patients. As part of LOCSU's efforts to demonstrate how well enhanced services link to the new commissioning agenda we have produced a Quick QIPP guide (available shortly) to eye care commissioning.
 - **What does this mean for my LOC?** This guide will help optical committees raise awareness amongst commissioning colleagues about the value of enhanced services and the work of LOCs.
- 4. LOCSU Wales, Optometry Wales and the Welsh Optometry Postgraduate Education Centre** have been working together to deliver presentations to all GPs across Wales as part of the GP CPD programme.
 - **What does this mean for my ROC?** This programme means that GPs are now more aware of the benefits of enhanced services and more likely to be support the drive to establish new services

These initiatives along with the work of the Optical Leads and individual LOCs/ROCs are all important elements of the overall drive to push eye care higher up the agenda. Your feedback is always welcome so please contact me anytime.

LOCSU Contacts

you can contact the LOCSU team by phone via Jacque Hudson, Office Manager, on 0207 202 8156, or by direct email:

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