



SUPPORT FOR PRIMARY
EYE CARE DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL OPTOMETRIC CONFERENCE 2010

The National Optometric Conference will be held on 4th & 5th
November 2010 at the Park Inn Hotel,
London Heathrow

Programme and registration details can be found here:

<http://www.aop.org.uk/conferences/12674388451696.html>

LOC Support Unit Newsletter

September 2010

National Optometric Conference

4th-5th November 2010



Park Inn Heathrow, London
Bath Road - Heathrow Middlesex
UB7 0DU

Great Britain

Link:- [http://www.parkinn.co.uk/
airport-hotel-heathrow](http://www.parkinn.co.uk/airport-hotel-heathrow)

The NOC is the conference for optometrists, optometric advisers and Local/Regional Optical Committees. LOC/ROC officers and members are encouraged to attend the two day conference, which will provide an unrivalled opportunity to engage first hand with the LOC Support Unit and to share knowledge and network with colleagues from around the country. A variety of companies (contact lens and equipment manufacturers, software suppliers etc) will be exhibiting at the conference.

There will be a reception and a formal dinner on Thursday 4th November (dress code lounge suits).

Free Place at NOC: LOCs who support LOCSU are entitled to send one representative per LOC, free of charge.

Involve Your MP and PCT: for the first time, LOCs/ROCs will be given the opportunity to invite Members of Parliament and PCT chief executives to join delegates for dinner at the NOC. The cost of the dinner in each case will be borne by LOCSU, who will also supply a format letter for LOCs/ROCs to use for the invitations. This will be emailed to all LOCs/ROCs and will also be available on request from LOCSU.

Please NOTE that it is important that you advise Linda Marriott lindamarriott@aop.org.uk if your MP or PCT chief executive has accepted this invitation! This will ensure that adequate provision is made in the final arrangements.

Delegate fee is £525 (inc VAT) including accommodation or £315 (inc VAT) excluding accommodation.

Accommodation must be booked through the AOP in order to obtain the specially negotiated rate.

Download a booking form at www.loc-net.org or contact Linda Marriott at the AOP tel. 020 7202 8166 or email lindamarriott@aop.org.uk

LOC/ROC SURVEY—WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK?

We are approaching the time of year when LOCSU is thinking about the annual report and the business plan for next year. We hugely value feedback from LOCs/ROCs as we are here to support you as LOC members and are financed by you. Hence we have developed a survey to try to ascertain your view on how we have been doing so far and to find out what we could do better. Is there anything that you would like more or less of, for instance?

This will be an on-line survey, to be completed by each LOC Chairman. It is a tick-box exercise but there is also an opportunity to add your own comments to any of the questions. Please take the time to fill this out so that we know how to be of even greater assistance to LOCs and ROCs. We hope to issue this to LOCs and ROCs shortly.

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING - A NEW LOCSU APPOINTMENT

LOCSU is very pleased to welcome Gill Brabner as the new Director of Education and Development to the Unit. Gill has over 10 years experience in designing and delivering bespoke leadership and management training programmes for directors, managers, clinicians and business owners. She has worked with numerous organisations within the health and social care sector and most recently has completed a contract as Head of Training and Workforce Development within primary and community care, where she led the workforce development strategy in a time of significant change.

Gill also has her own consultancy which specialises in forum theatre; working with a team of professional actors to produce high impact short drama pieces for conferences and large training events. A Chartered MCIPD Gill is also a qualified coach, work-place mediator and action learning facilitator. Gill is a guest lecturer at Middlesex University where she teaches forum theatre to 3rd year HR degree students.

Gill's role within LOCSU will be to establish and develop an integrated training programme for LOCs/ROCs and local practitioners. She will play a leading role in the development, management and promotion of LOCSU to the NHS and stakeholders.





LOCSU TRAINING DAY 18TH OCTOBER 2010

The next LOCSU Training Day will take place on Monday 18th October at Lions Quays Hotel Oswestry near Wrexham, which is close to the border with Wales. Coffee and Registration will be from 10:30am to 11:00am. There will be a 45 minute lunch break and the day will finish at 16:00pm.

The day is intended to give a basic introduction to the role and function of an LOC together with tips and discussions on how to run an effective LOC. There will be an update on LOCSU developments and a talk, with ample opportunities for discussion, on the role of the Optometric Advisor and their relationship with the LOC/ROC. Bob Hughes (AOP Chief Executive), will be outlining the function of the Optical Confederation and Sali Davis (Chief Operating Officer) will update us on Optometry Wales. A session on communicating and negotiating with PCTs will be included, which will provide you with the opportunity to meet Gill Brabner, who has been brought in to coordinate a training and development programme for LOCs.

Booking form and provisional training event timetable can be found here :-

<http://www.loc-net.org.uk/locsu/128204479915481.html>



Lion Quays Hotel, Moreton, Oswestry, Shropshire SY11 3EN
With direct access from the A5 road, Lion Quays is surrounded by private grounds and rolling countryside on the border of Shropshire and Wales. See link
multimap.com/s/T96D3UyY

DON'T DELAY - LIMITED AVAILABILITY!

ADVICE ON INTERFACING WITH GP CONSORTIA

LOCSU Hot Brief 8 July 2010 contained The Optical Confederation and the College of Optometrists' initial response to the NHS White Paper *Equity and Excellence - Liberating the NHS*. This response welcomed the announcement that primary ophthalmic services will be commissioned nationally by the NHS Commissioning Board rather than by local GP commissioning consortia. It highlighted the potential for optometrists and community based optical practices to take on more work in the community, delivering enhanced services for the benefit of patients, and enabling GP consortia and Foundation Trusts to meet their health and quality objectives as set out in the White Paper. These services would build on the successful schemes that have already been locally commissioned, but would be more widespread to benefit more patients.

Whilst we do not yet know the exact configuration of GP commissioning consortia in each area, it is clear that the commissioning groups will be broadly based on current Practice Based Commissioning (PBC) Groups, with some consolidation, and therefore the key players are likely to be those GPs who have had significant local influence in recent years. From working with LOCs/ROCs across the country over the past few years, LOCSU is very aware that there is great variability in the progress of PBC groups, from the 'leading lights' who have commissioned some very innovative service redesign projects to some groups who have really struggled to get going at all. It is vital that LOCs establish strong links with current PBC Leads if they haven't already done so, as the future of enhanced services will be within the control of these groups.

Ophthalmology has already been identified by a number of PBC groups as an area with potential for service redesign, which can create a great opportunity for local optometrists. However, there have been a few cases recently of PBC groups designing a specification for a single community ophthalmology provider and this model can exclude community optometrists from providing services in their own practices. It is important that LOC/ROC officers are firmly engaged with GP colleagues so that optometry enhanced services are given full consideration when eye care pathways are being redesigned. Commissioning of services for referral refinement by optometrists (Cataract, IOP/Fields, PEARS), as a lead into a community ophthalmology service, is a sensible use of resources, convenient for patients and excellent value for money. In addition, since services such as Cataract Follow Up, OHT Monitoring and Low Vision do not need to be consultant led, they can easily be provided in optometry practices, whilst a community ophthalmology service can look after patients' more complex conditions.

LOCSU is developing a presentation for LOC/ROC officers to use to raise awareness of the potential role community optometrists can play in the provision of eye care and it will be available shortly.

Katrina Venerus, LOCSU Associate says "This LOCSU presentation will provide LOC/ROC officers with a template for engaging with local GP consortia. This can be used as an introduction to areas where there hasn't been much in the way of previous communication between LOC/ROC and PBC leads, or can be adapted to provide an update and reminder of the valuable contribution of optometrists in those areas where strong links have previously been established. We are sure it will be a useful tool for LOCs in these challenging times".

TWO NEW ENHANCED SERVICES LAUNCHED IN TAMESIDE AND GLOSSOP

The evening of 22nd July saw the introduction of two new enhanced services in Tameside and Glossop PCT area. These were the direct referral of cataract and a scheme for repeating IOPs prior to referral. The latter was developed with the assistance of LOCSU, who worked with the PCT and West Pennine LOC to put in place a system that would match and work with the scheme in the adjacent area of Stockport.

LOC Chairman, Steve Mayer, introduced the evening, at which most practices in the area were represented. He paid tribute to the dedication of T&G PCT Commissioning Manager, George Katsande, who had worked enormously hard behind the scenes to make funding available from the PCT.

A demonstration of the electronic reporting system for the IOP scheme then followed. LOCSU associate, Trevor Warburton, and the managing director of Webstar Health, Musa Dhalla, gave a live demonstration of the use of the system which is expected to considerably reduce the number of referrals for high pressure alone. Figures from Stockport suggest that fewer than 25% of patients will be referred onwards after repeating pressures once or twice. Look out for a fuller report in OT later this month!

DEVON AREA PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Devon LOC has worked with its three local primary care organisations NHS Devon, Torbay Care Trust and NHS Plymouth, in a project to draft an innovative Partnership Agreement. The document describes the expectations of all parties in terms of working relationships and communication channels. It also specifies who is responsible for paying for LOC/ROC officers to attend meetings and it addresses procedures for conflict resolution.

The LOCSU team are very grateful to Pam Adams, Devon LOC Chairman, and Fiona Hiscox, LOC Secretary, for sharing this agreement as we are sure it will be helpful for other LOCs in their efforts to build relationships with local organisations. The bodies responsible for commissioning may be about to change but the principle of open and transparent working will remain just as important in the future as they are now.

Please contact LOCSU if you would like a copy of this document as Devon LOC is happy to share this.

SEFTON LOC - QUALITY IN OPTOMETRY PROGRAMME



Quality in Optometry is a national initiative by the optometry professional bodies to promote good clinical governance and contract compliance in primary eye care services.

NHS Sefton recently sponsored a Quality in Optometry programme in collaboration with Sefton Local Optical Committee (LOC). All General Ophthalmic Service (GOS) contractors were invited to a launch meeting in November last year and offered the opportunity to take part. The LOC, particularly the out-going Secretary, Paul Bradford, provided huge support to practices in establishing suitable policies, protocols and procedures so each participating contractor could prove over 90% compliance with the requirements of the GOS contract.

Participants completed the online checklist by 31st May this year and submitted the complete forms to Bob Wilkes, the PCT optometric adviser, who collated the responses. Nineteen practices reached the required competency, demonstrating their commitment to good quality eye care services in Sefton.

There are plans to reward these practices with a certificate to display in the practice. It is hoped this will encourage the remaining practices to join in. In the meantime, the PCT continues to work with the LOC to further develop local clinical governance.

To access the QiO toolkit for contract compliance and clinical governance, please click here:

www.qualityinoptometry.co.uk



WARWICKSHIRE IOP REFINEMENT LAUNCH

LOCSU is pleased to report that NHS Warwickshire is one of the latest areas to commission an IOP refinement enhanced service.

The development of the service started in early 2009 when Warwickshire LOC members, Jayne Dunne and Chris Gray, were invited by the Primary Care Commissioner at NHS Warwickshire to participate in the PCT's Commissioning Board.

Following publication of NICE guidance on glaucoma in April 2009 and the anticipated increase in ophthalmology referrals, NHS Warwickshire was among the many PCTs in England to identify redesigning the glaucoma pathways as a priority for the organisation.

Chris and Jane met a local ophthalmologist to discuss a proposal for referral refinement and were very encouraged by the positive response they received, with the consultant suggesting that developing the skills of community optometrists would enable a stable glaucoma monitoring service to be considered as a next stage in the pathway redesign process.

All stakeholders were involved in the development of protocols, forms etc and the PCT eventually agreed in February 2010 to commission the service to be delivered by local optometrists with the appropriate skills, training and equipment. The objectives of the scheme were to deliver screening closer to home, reduce the number of false positive referrals to secondary care and offer an equity of service provision across the county.

LOCSU Associate, Katrina Venerus, provided advice for the LOC on various elements of the service proposal and the procurement process originally undertaken by the PCT. This resulted in the PCT rationalising the procurement process to one that was far less onerous for local optometrists, therefore helping to maximise the number of practices participating in the scheme.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT LOCSU

UPDATED ADVICE ON THE STATUTORY COOLING-OFF PERIODS FOR DOMICILIARY PROVIDERS

The Optical Confederation and the UK Domiciliary Eye care Committee have revised their guidance on statutory cooling off periods to make clear that the rules also apply to patients ordering sight tests and products in the workplace, as well as in homes (when over the value of £35). This does not apply when the contract is with an employer (or body corporate – see guidance for details). A copy of the guidance is available from the Optical Confederation and LOCSU: <http://www.loc-net.org.uk/locsu/12440422646632.html>

Providers contracting to supply optical devices or other goods and services to a patient in their home, residential home, day centre or, in some circumstances, place of work, are required by law to:

- Give the patient written notice of their right to cancel within 7 days of the order (or should that patient be incapable of making the decision for themselves, give that right to a close relative or an authorised representative of the patient)
- Do so in a specified format and containing specified information
- Contain specified words
- Provide a detachable form for the patient to use if they wish to cancel and
- Accept notice of cancellation in writing in any format e.g. email or letter.



BETTER ASSESSMENT OF DRIVERS' EYESIGHT REQUIREMENTS

The Optical Confederation and Eye Health Alliance have called on the government to introduce a more systematic and scientific method of assessing drivers' vision. The European Directives on driving licences introduce a number of measures to harmonise laws relating to the testing and licensing of drivers across Europe. They also set out minimum standards of physical and mental fitness to drive; and set out the minimum age for being able to apply for a licence. The basic requirements for eyesight were amended in 2009 and require that drivers meet minimum standards for visual acuity and visual fields. The European Directive also stipulates that all applicants will 'undergo an appropriate investigation' to ensure that they have adequate visual acuity.

The Optical Confederation is calling for the current system of vision screening for professional drivers to be extended to all drivers and to replace the number plate test. It is also working closely with the optical organisations across Europe to ensure Members of the European Parliament and the European Commission are aware of the UK position on improving the system for checking drivers' eyesight. A spokesperson for the Optical Confederation stated "The number plate test is inadequate to assess a driver's vision for several reasons – it is outdated, it can be affected by environmental conditions on the day, it is inaccurate, has no scientific basis and it is not validated. This means that the results will not be consistent and cannot be repeated, which makes it unfair to drivers.'

If LOCs/ROCs would like to find out more about how to get involved in the campaign to introduce a more systematic and scientific method of assessing drivers' vision, please contact Heather Marshall on heathermarshall@aop.org.uk or 020 7202 8157.



UK VISION STRATEGY LAUNCHES A CHARTER FOR EYE CARE AND SIGHT LOSS SERVICES

The Vision Charter 'You and your vision: a charter for eye care and sight loss services' was launched by Rt Hon David Blunkett MP at the Vision UK 2010 Conference in June.

The charter outlines, in jargon-free terms, the basics of what people should expect from eye care and sight loss services. It is the result of an extensive consultation process, involving services users, health and social care professionals and voluntary organisations.

It covers all the key stages of the eye care journey, starting with a sight test. It then looks at the point of diagnosis for those who have an eye condition, and goes on to cover issues such as the need for emotional support and referral to specialist services.

Optometrists could play a key role in ensuring that this charter gets into the hands of those who need it. There is a space on the back page for practitioners to include their own details so that local people embarking on the eye care and sight loss journey know exactly where to go for support.

Please click <http://www.vision2020uk.org.uk/UKVisionstrategy/> to download the charter.

VETTING AND BARRING SCHEME HALTED

In the recent Hot Brief to LOCs/ROCs (August, Issue 10), we drew attention to the fact that the Coalition Government had ordered a review and complete "re-modelling" of the vetting and barring proposals. The issues are now whether the vetting and barring system should exist at all and, if so, which registered professionals, if any, should be included.

NHS Primary Care Commissioning also covered this in issue 218 of their newsletter, dated 30 June 2010, when they announced that registration with the vetting and barring scheme had been halted. Whilst some PCTs have been working with contractors to raise awareness and to encourage **voluntary** registration, it is unlikely that they will continue with this endeavour until further clarification has been received from the Government.

Despite the Government announcement that the scheme was halted, LOCSU has been made aware that some PCTs are actually insisting that pre-registration students have to be ISA registered or, at the very least, undertake training in child protection. It goes without saying that this is unacceptable and that these PCTs do not have the legal powers to make such demands. Please contact LOCSU if you encounter such a situation in your area.

If you want to find out more about the government's stated position on its review of the vetting and barring scheme please click here to access the Home Office website: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/press-releases/Vetting-barring-scheme>



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EYE CARE DEVELOPMENT**



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**If your LOC has a story that you would like us to feature,
then please contact us at:**

DebbieMintern@locsu.co.uk

We are happy to print your LOC stories, news or updates

**Many thanks,
from the LOCSU Team**

**If you have any feedback on this
newsletter or would like to make
any comments regarding any of the
content, then please contact the
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