



#YourLOC

Q&A

Gareth Whatley, Avon LOC

Which LOC are you a member of and what is your role?

I am a member of Avon LOC and in the future the committee is aiming to make roles more specific - social media and newly qualified/student outreach has been identified as my area. The duties that I have undertaken to date have involved setting up Twitter and Facebook accounts for the LOC and linking them to the mailing list to help keep our members informed on local developments, and re-wording a statement for a press release.

How long have you been involved in the LOC?

About 18 months now – I believe the time has flown!

What made you decide to get involved in the LOC?

I had become frustrated with the lack of shared care schemes in the area I practice (Bath) and wanted to do everything I could to try and effect positive change for my profession.

What have you got out of being an LOC member?

I was very naïve when I joined the committee and it has been a steep learning curve. The benefits I have felt from getting involved have been the greater local network I have had access to, and a much greater understanding of the multi-faceted problem of helping optometry evolve towards the future demands we will face.

What would you say to anyone wondering whether to get involved with their LOC?

Get involved! It is the best way to shape the future of your profession.

