

## LOC HOT BRIEF

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### Private & Confidential

*Dear Colleagues*

*LOC Hot Briefs contain guidance and advice from the Optical Confederation and LOCSU on important issues relevant to all ophthalmic contractors and performers, which we would like LOCs to be aware of or to take action on.*

**Any LOC requiring advice/support on any aspect of their work should contact LOCSU on 020 7549 2051 or email [info@locsu.co.uk](mailto:info@locsu.co.uk)**

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### UK Vision Strategy 2015 General Election Manifesto

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The UK Vision Strategy team has launched a [General Election Manifesto](#) which calls on politicians standing in the 2015 Election to prioritise eye care services, improve support for people who have lost their sight, and promote a society fully inclusive of blind and partially sighted people. The Manifesto is supported by LOCSU and the Optical Confederation and all other leading eye health stakeholders.

Local and national eye health and sight loss organisations and interested individuals are being encouraged by the UK Vision Strategy team to lobby their local parliamentary candidates in the lead up to the 2015 General Election. A [UK Vision Strategy lobbying guide](#) has been produced and LOCs should be aware that local voluntary sector colleagues may get in touch with them to discuss approaching prospective parliamentary candidates.

LOCs are reminded that Optical Confederation's Public Affairs Team has coordinated and supported successful practice visits for MPs for a number of years. Prospective parliamentary candidates are also being contacted by the Public Affairs Team with the offer of a practice visit as they are announced. This current programme of visits will continue up until the end of March 2015 and will restart once the new parliament commences.

**Please contact Jenny Gowen, Head of Public Affairs [jennygowen@opticalconfederation.org.uk](mailto:jennygowen@opticalconfederation.org.uk) if you identify an opportunity to arrange a visit so that the Optical Confederation's PA Team can provide advice and attend the visit to support you where possible.**

As LOCs will be aware, prospective parliamentary candidates will want to focus on local issues when they attend practice visits, however, LOCs should also take the opportunity to highlight some of the key demands from LOCSU and the Optical Confederation's Call To Action response where possible. You can find the [full response on the LOCSU website](#) and the key asks are listed below for your convenience.

In the **Call to Action** response we said the NHS must ensure that:

- pathways are commissioned to reduce unnecessary referrals to hospital eye services;
- capacity is deployed at the most appropriate and cost effective level to meet individual and population needs;
- commissioning services becomes more efficient and effective (avoiding duplication and higher and unnecessary transaction costs);
- services are properly integrated and communication systems are networked, with IT is key to achieving this;
- people with sight loss are properly supported;
- current and anticipated levels of avoidable sight loss are radically reduced;
- episode and clinical data are effectively gathered, retained and then harvested to enable audit of outcomes, evaluation of pathways and future commissioning decisions, and;
- existing technology is better utilised and innovation is embraced.

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