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LOCSU NEWS
LOC SUPPORT UNIT
SUPPORT FOR PRIMARY EYE CARE DEVELOPMENT

September 2016 Newsletter

October induction

ARE you new to your LOC? New LOC officers and committee members can sign up for the online induction course starting on Monday 3 October.

The four-week online programme takes place on the interactive Noddlepod platform.

The planned dates are:

Monday 3–Sunday 9 (Orientation Week)

Week 1 Monday 10–Sunday 16

Week 2 Monday 17–Sunday 23

Week 3 Monday 24–Sunday 30

Announcing details of the course, LOCSU Learning and Development Consultant, Gill Brabner, said: "There will be a chance to discuss all things LOC via our online platform called Noddlepod. The course includes a range of resources and activities for each week."

Delegates will need approximately two hours per week for the course. Topics will be announced in the coming weeks.

To apply send your name, email address and the name of your LOC to gillbrabner@locsu.co.uk.

MECS now covering a swathe of south London

A decision by Southwark CCG, *writes Assistant Director, Commissioning, Richard Whittington*, to introduce a MEC Service now means that the LOCSU pathway covers a swathe of south London commissioning areas. These include Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark CCGs as individual contracts.

Health minister confirms for NOC

PRIMARY Care minister, David Mowat has confirmed that he will attend this year's National Optical Conference.

In addition to the ministerial address and questions, there is a jam-packed programme of headline speakers, strategic updates and the latest research findings.

The 2016 conference will include a progress report on the Breakthrough Strategy led by Richard Whittington, LOCSU's new Assistant Director who joined the expanded commissioning team and brings a wealth of experience from his former role as an NHS Commissioner.

Engaging with New Care Models, such as the Vanguards and health devolution in Manchester forms another segment of the conference following a presentation on Sustainable Transformation Plans (STPs) that have leapt to the top of the NHS reform agenda.

With many LOCs sending new officers as first-time delegates to the NOC, Katrina Venerus said: "Again, the NOC offers the latest in policy and research and unrivalled networking opportunities as well as the place to pick up practical skills through the workshop sessions.

"We have published the programme as early as possible so that LOCs can choose delegates at their September meetings."

Each LOC receives one free place and there will be "buddy" system to match first-time attendees with experienced delegates.

Follow the relevant link for the full programme and for delegate bookings.

NOC poster competition to focus on impact

WITH around two thirds of LOC Companies now delivering community services, this year's poster competition will allow you to showcase your success.

"Service Impact" is the chief category for this year's event. LOCs, LOC Companies and LEHNs should complete a 400-word abstract by 3rd October 2016.

Again, LOCSU will organise to have your poster professionally designed. See the website for full details.

MECS in Sussex... which also agrees to a merger

HIGH Weald Lewis Havens CCG commissioned MECS through an AQP for a contract worth around £80,000 which began in August 2016.

Also on his patch, Commissioning Lead covering the South, Chris Newall reports that a signficant merger is to take place.

Primary Eyecare Surrey has agreed to merge with neighbouring Primary Eyecare Sussex. Chris says that both companies are keen to pool resources to work across the region.

GM Regional Company phasing in contract

GM PRIMARY eyecare began delivering a MEC service in July as part of a phased contract for Tameside & Glossop CCG.

It began in April with the company delivering Repeat Readings and Pre-Cataract services.

Following the start of MECS, the Regional LOC Company will also begin delivering a Low Vision Service for the CCG as the third phase of the contract between October and November this year.

Second extension for Norfolk & Waveney

PRIMARY Eyecare Norfolk & Waveney has had a second contract extension added for an additional one year for a basket of services.

Oxfordshire MECS

OXFORDSHIRE CCG has commissioned MECS with Primary Eyecare Oxfordshire using OptoManager with a community triage element. In August, 80% of the 500-plus triaged patients were managed within the service which has the full cooperation of ophthalmologists at John Radcliffe.

Vanguard services goes live

Step-down treatment also planned with Better Care Together initiative

THE South Cumbria and North Lancashire CCGs Better Care Together Vanguard is now live reports Commissioning Lead Zoe Richmond.

The basket of services includes Glaucoma Repeat readings, MECS, Post-Op Cataract and Paediatric refractions on behalf of the Acute Trust.

Further activity due in November will include stepped down care for OHT Monitoring and Childrens' Post-Vision Screening.

Community optical practices across both CCG areas are participating.

Learning

Practitioners have been busy readying themselves for the launch of the services by completing the WOPEC distance learning and participating in OSCEs over the past few months.

Momentun on Merseyside

FOLLOWING quickly in the footsteps of Manchester and Birmingham, Primary Eyecare Merseyside is the latest to experience the positive benefits of having a regional company, reports Commissioning Lead, Rupesh Bagdai.

In July Primary Eyecare Merseyside began a direct-to-company contract with Liverpool CCG to deliver Glaucoma Repeat Readings.

Rupesh *(pictured)* told *LOCSU News* that it is part of a wider pattern with South Sefton CCG and Southport and Formby CCG running the same GRR service since October 2013.

The Merseyside Company also delivers a MEC Service for Halton CCG and St Helens CCG which began last year. At the same time both CCGs also introduced a Pre-Cataract pathway.

"We are having positive discussions with commissioners across the whole of Merseyside. There is no doubt CCGs are looking across borders to see what is happening in neighbouring CCGs. They are attracted to the Company Model and the Regional Company means that collective knowledge and experience of established pathways are transferrable skills.

"There will be more positive news in the pipeline to report from Merseyside in the coming months with the possibility that we will see Glaucoma services across the entire Merseyside area."

Regional Roundup – North

■ *This month, LOCSU Board Member, Matt Jinkinson, outlines how the north of England is setting a progressive pace with a place at the top table of health devolution and how the LOCs are using the Company model to integrate eye health services for patients and CCGs.*

THESE are exciting times locally for me at the moment with "Devo Manc" going live!

The governance structure within the newly-formed Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership puts primary care as a key partner. That means enjoying the same voting rights as the other key health and social care partners, such as local authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups, hospital trusts and NHS England.

Within the structure we have the Optometry Advisory Group, which I have the opportunity and pleasure of chairing and also representation on the Primary Care Advisory Group.

The Primary Care Advisory Group has two key workstreams that sees all four primary care contractor professions working collaboratively for the benefit of the patient. The initial workstreams are Diabetes and the Health Living Framework, seeing optical practices and

staff being utilised for health prevention and health checks.

Recently, the Greater Manchester LEHN and GM Primary Eyecare – The GM Regional LOC Company – launched a People with Learning Disabilities (PwLD) pilot across the whole region in June 2016, along with support from SeeAbility. This sees the largest service of its kind in England with over 80 practices signed up to participate.

The north of England is also providing a great example of how an LOC Company can successfully contract with a trust in a partnership providing a fully-integrated eye service.

East Lancashire Foundation Trust and Primary Eyecare Lancashire are both seeing the benefits of the Integrated Eye Service. It is going from strength to strength widening the range of service being provided by optometrists.

This example is also being followed by Morcambe Bay Health Trust with MECS and Glaucoma Monitoring Services launching shortly.

Many new services were established in late 2015/early 2016 across the North and LOCs, CCGs and patients are beginning to see the benefit of optometrists being at the heart of the eye care services across their region.

LOCSU Commissionining Leads join College events

LOCSU and the College of Optometrists are working together to keep optometrists up to date on the development of local pathways and services.

LOC Commissioning Leads and Chairs will be giving short presentations at the College's member regional events for 2016–17 on the commissioning landscape in their local areas. The College of Optometrists new events cycle, which includes CET lectures, filmed scenarios, peer reviews and discussion, is now open for booking. Visit the College website for details of events close to you.

■ *Members of the expanded Commissioning team.*

LOCSU launches conference app

LOCSU and the AOP will be launching a new mobile app for this year's NOC.

With most delegates using smart phones, the app will give delegates the convenience of having the conference brochure in the palm of their hand.

In addition to providing the NOC programme and speaker biographies, it offers the potential for live polling and live Q&A during the presentations and panel discussions.

Announcing details Head of LOCSU Communications, Chris McGachy, explained: "Most conferences now include an event app. They are becoming the standard that attendees expect.

"We want to ensure the NOC is up there with the best and that delegates and LOCSU get the most out of our keynote event. We never forget that delegates are taking valuable time out of practice to attend and we want them to return well-informed, better connected and with practical skills to benefit their LOC.

"The new app will enhance the NOC by offering LOC delegates more interactivity with speakers, with live questions and live polling. It will give delegates more networking opportunities and a chance to drive the agenda in a way the works best for them."

The AOP, who organise the conference, have agreed to fund the app as part of the exhibition package and LOCSU will be working with them to deliver it in place of the conference brochure.

■ ***Why not follow @LOCSU on Twitter or sign up for our e-Alerts to get the latest on the NOC and news of when the app is available to download.***

UPDATE on MP practice visits – organised by the Optical Confederation's Public Affairs team along with LOCs

Roads minister visits LOC

TRANSPORT minister, Andrew Jones, held talks with North Yorkshire LOC recently and heard that optical practices are an underused resource.

On a practice visit to Page and Smith opticians in his Harrogate and Knaresborough constituency, Mr Jones said: "I have done a lot of work with Guide Dogs locally and nationally. I know from that just how important it is that we look after our eyesight.

This visit really hammered home the important message; regular checks and early intervention mean that problems that may cause blindness later in life are identified and dealt with before they have chance to damage your eyesight."

Optometrist practice owner, Sarah Smith said: "It was great to meet Andrew and talk about our work as optometrists and opticians. We are an underused resource in the NHS and many additional services can, and should, be delivered in practices like this one. This would help reduce pressure on NHS budgets and reduce attendance at A&E, GP surgeries and hospital eye departments."

North Yorkshire LOC Chair, Darryl Taylor, said: "We really appreciated Andrew taking the time to meet with us and discuss the role opticians and optometrists can play in delivering eye care in the community. We also discussed the importance of regular sight tests to pick up symptoms of eye conditions in their early stages – which may not be obvious to the patient – so they can be referred on for investigation and treatment."

■ ***Image L-R, Nizz Sabir LOCSU Commissioning Lead, Andrew Jones MP, Darryl Taylor North Yorkshire LOC Chair, Lisa Barker Development Manager NYHPEC and Sarah Smith Practice Owner.***

It's holy wedloc-su for Jacque Hudson

CONGRATULATIONS to LOCSU Office Manager, Jacque Hudson, who recently got married over the August Bank Holiday.

Jacque has been a stalwart of the LOCSU office since 2011 and has dealt with most – if not all – LOCs and many individuals calling the office. We wish her and new husband, Darron, all the best for the future. Mrs Fooks, as she will now be known, will be changing her email address after her return from honeymoon on a cruise in the Mediterranean.

Optom launches keratometry survey

RUBINDER Panesar, a Boots optometrist in Harrogate, is looking for views on attitudes to keratometry. She has set up an online survey which takes no more than five minutes to complete.

The survey, part of an Ophthalmic Doctorate at Aston University, asks whether attitudes to keratometry are influenced by date and place of qualification, the type and location of optometry practice, ethnic background and contact lenses practice volume. It also asks whether it is considered useful to assess cornea contour. Follow the link to find out more and complete the survey.

LOC want to increase scale of tumour work

AN initiative using community optometrists to spot signs of brain cancer needs to increase the size of its footprint to be effective.

The pilot involving Tees LOC has attracted national interest. Macmillan has highlighted that the scheme is currently the only one of its kind in England. The charity's intervention came following parliamentary questions to the Department of Health asking what work was currently being done to improve brain cancer referral rates in hospitals.

Tees LOC has held preliminary discussions with local neurology department to cement a closer working relationship with by introducing shared care for non-symptomatic pituitary tumour; regular, Goldmann perimetry testing and onward referral for field changes.

A report is being drawn up locally for NHS England's Acceleration, Coordination and Evaluation (ACE) Programme and the Macmillan Integration of Cancer Programme. It updates results from the South Tees Optical Referral Project (STORP) to speed up the diagnosis of potential brain and central nervous system tumours.

Explaining the background to the project, LOC Chair, Julie Breen, said: "On a national level, this is the very first collaboration between community opticians and secondary care to improve patient care in relation to the earlier diagnosis and treatment of brain cancer, and NHS England is taking a keen interest.

"The footprint of STORP, needs to increase if we're going to be able to show how well it works. Thankfully, brain tumour is rare, but the downside is you need a large population to show the service's merits."

LOCSU Commissioning Lead, Zoe Richmond *(above)* is pushing to extend the service into Hambleton, Richmond and Whitby with an education evening scheduled for evening of 13th October for current providers and the newcomers.

Venerus' View

WITH the summer fading fast and autumn approaching at speed, a key focus for the LOCSU team is preparing for the NOC. The Programme for this year's conference has a perfect mix of strategic and practical sessions covering a broad range of topics, making the event a must for all local leaders in LOCs and LOC Companies.

In the June edition of LOCSU News we announced with a fanfare that Primary Care Minister, Alistair Burt MP, would be the headline speaker at NOC 2016. So when Mr Burt announced a few weeks later that he would be standing down from his ministerial post in the cabinet reshuffle, it is fair to say it put a spanner in the works for the conference and it also felt like a bit of blow for the sector in general.

Mr Burt's commitment to speak at the NOC 2016 was part of his pledge to fully engage with our sector. In his recent responses to Parliamentary Questions, it was clear that the efforts of the Optical Confederation to meet with the Minister had started to pay off, as he publicly recognised the potential role community optical practices could play in the future NHS. He had also committed to speaking at the NOC 2016 as part of his pledge to fully engage with our sector.

At the recent Parliamentary Reception on eye care for People with Learning Disabilities, Alistair spoke with a genuine fervour about the need to address inequalities in eye care. He has promised to be a noisy backbencher and hopefully will be a good friend to optics in our efforts to influence the new health team.

So what of Burt's successor, David Mowat? Interestingly, Mr Mowat has had little to say on health during his time in parliament before he arrived at the Department of Health, choosing to concentrate on energy and monetary policy. Therefore, we have a lot of work to do bring the new Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Community Health and Care up to speed on eye care.

Encouragingly, Mr Mowat has shown the same willingness as his predecessor to engage with our sector since taking up his new post. We are delighted that he has agreed to give a keynote speech at the NOC in November and that the Public Affairs team have already secured a meeting with Mr Mowat for Optical Confederation leaders. We look forward to hearing what he has to say about the role of opticians and optometrists in the future NHS through his conference address.

As readers would expect, the Breakthrough Strategy will feature prominently on the NOC agenda. I know that the LOCSU team are looking forward to sharing with delegates what we have been doing to implement the strategy and what early progress has been made.

The involvement of senior colleagues from ABDO, AOP and FODO, the College of Optometrists and the GOC in this year's NOC reinforces the fact that the Breakthrough Strategy is a strategy for the whole sector and not just LOCSU and LOCs. And going beyond optics, David Parkins, Chair of the Clinical council for Eye Health Commissioning will bring a perspective from the wider eye health sector.

So if you haven't booked to attend NOC 2016 yet, make sure you get booked as soon as possible. You won't be disappointed!

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome: katrinavenerus@locsu.co.uk or @katrinavenerus on Twitter.

Get involved in National Eye Health Week

THE seventh annual National Eye Health Week (NEHW) will take place 19–25 September 2016.

More information on NEHW can be found on the Vision Matters website This includes online resources and a map of regional and local events. Vist the NEHW website: www.visionmatters.org.uk/.

Central Fund back NEHW

THE Central Optical Fund has given financial backing to National Eye Health Week. It will help with the production of Vista magazine which helps promote stories from the sector.

The Central Optical Fund is a vital source of funding and support for national initiatives which recently include the Optical Confederation Foresight Project and AOP legal scenario video.

They have an ongoing membership campaign for LOCs. And it is looking for Directors for Regions 1 and 4. Visit the Fund's new website for more details.

Visionbridge available for LOCs

SIGHT-LOSS campaigner Julian Jackson has launched VisionBridge, a fully independent, not-for-profit organisation which is designed to promote eye research via talks, presentations and workshops to raise awareness and understanding of sight loss and inform research priorities. The roadshow is availabe for LOC meetings. Find out more by emailing Julian Jackson or by telephone 07773 800073.

Join the dots for RNIB campaign

RNIB will be running a charity campaign in October and is looking for LOCs to participate. The "Wear Dots, Raise Lots" initiative aims to raise awareness of sight loss. To register and receive a fundraising pack, visit www.rnib.org.uk/wear-dots-raise-lots.

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Dates for your Diary

- Webstar Health Optomanager User Groups. 7 September Manchester, 14 September Durham, 21 September Birmingham and 5 October London.
- Optometry Tomorrow Bitesize. Sunday 18 September, Holiday Inn Wembley. One-day conference and exhibition, offering the best sessions from their annual conference.
- 19–25 September National Eye Health Week.
- National Optical Conference 2016, 10–11 November 2016, Hilton Birmingham Metropole NEC.
- 21-27 November Road Safety Week. ***Look out for Optical Confederation involvement and resources.***
- The College of Optometrists is hosting 25 regional events throughout the year.
- The Association of Optometrists (AOP) has launched its extensive programme of CET and CPD events throughout the country, offering over 200 CET points during the course of the year. Download the guide.

If you have an item of interest for *LOCSU News*, contact Editor Chris McGachy, Head of Communications. You are receiving this email from the Local Optical Committee Support Unit. If you would like to unsubscribe, please contact info@locsu.co.uk.