



To all Contractors, Optometrists, Dispensing Opticians & Contact Lens Opticians

Shropshire County & Telford and Wrekin



Seasons greetings to you and your staff

COMMUNITY SERVICES



SEE HEAR EXHIBITION

Negotiations are ongoing, the deadline is April 1st. The present position with SLAs cannot carry on after then so something has to change, either by having the full NHS contract with the CCG or subcontracting by the LOC Company who would hold the full contract for services (the much preferred option). Things will change and it is likely they will change rapidly as we approach April 1st, so watch this space.

Shropshire Children's Eye Screening - there was a training event held 12th September, compulsory for maintaining accreditation and for those who wished to come on board. It was well attended and several Optometrists gained accreditation.

11 May 2016,
Shrewsbury Sports Village,
10.00 am to 4.00 pm

The LOC will again be supporting this event with a stand, offering a free eye screening service (hopefully using an OCT machine) and answering questions from the public. We suggest that visitors who need eye care go to an Optician near their home.

This is an important date on our calendar and we welcome Optometrists who are able to spare two or three hours to help out or just to come and see the Exhibition.

National Eye Health Week This was held this year from 21-27 September and has in previous years produced many useful items for use by practices. Contractors are the main beneficiaries of this type of event we urge them to support it again in 2016.

On OHT, unfortunately Miss Kadyan is off work at present and therefore not able to push through changes that she wants; the old discharge forms are still in use.

The LOC is currently interested in hearing from Contractors and Optometrists about any delays in the provision of training and accreditation for community services. Are there any delays? We want to know if anyone needs accreditation in order to put on relevant events locally.



PRE REG OPTOMETRISTS

We asked Contractors to send us contact details of pre Reg Optometrists. If there are any Contractors who haven't replied, please inform alanb@shropshireloc.co.uk.



CORNEAL CROSS LINKING OPERATIONS

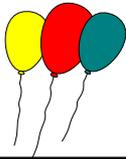
These operations are now available at Stoke Hospital, refer patients to Miss Pherwani.



NATIONAL OPTOMETRIC CONFERENCE

Chairman Paul Cottrell and Treasurer Martin Viggars again attended Conference for us. Read all about it in LOC News.

We will shortly be able to issue a Pre Reg Information Handbook, introducing the work of the LOC and other matters of interest.



HOSPITAL CARE Patient Details

The continuing problem of Optometrists not being copied into the GP's letters to hospital about patients is still with us. However, better things are afoot! It has been agreed that a copy of the first clinic letter will be sent to the referring Optometrist so secretaries are now printing a further copy and manually addressing an envelope!

This should have already begun to happen.

There is also further investigation ongoing to add Optometrists to the hospital computer systems to reduce the administrative burden.

HOSPITAL TRANSPORT

Please see the *enclosed /attached* sheet which can be printed off for your front of house staff.

ARC The latest advice

The number for ARC has not changed. Out of hours contact is through the hospital switchboard 01743 261000 to the on call Ophthalmologist for advice and referral. Please introduce yourself as an Optometrist so that the receptionist will put you through - not everyone gets to talk to the on call!



CET & OTHER TRAINING

The training event held 27th September at the Golf Hotel, Telford was deemed a resounding success with Optometrists from four Counties attending. The sessions were well received with 100% reporting that it met their objectives and over 75% rating the content and relevance of the lectures and workshops as being excellent.

One issue was highlighted. Whilst late cancellations were put in by people with health or family problems, we had 11 no-shows without notice or apology. Non-appearance means reduced income for the LOC because sponsorship is based on the number actually attend. No-show means less cash.

We have not yet fully organised training for the remaining months of the training year so should you have ideas please let us know, we would be pleased to hear from you. Email Emma Close on Close-Vision@hotmail.co.uk. We are also considering the possibility of introducing online booking for training events.

CLAIMS FOR CET ALLOWANCE

should now be sent to Preston PCSS, 3 Caxton Road, Fulwood, Preston PR2 PZZ, Telephone [01772 221314](tel:01772 221314), Email lasca.payments@nhs.net.

If you sent your claim to any other address and have not received payment, allow sufficient time for it to be processed and then send a duplicate claim to the new address, clearly marked

'duplicate; original claim sent to (place) on (date)'.

This will help you avoid situations caused by extra claims!



PCSS CHANGES

It appears that the changes may have been introduced without any significant difficulty so far but *please* keep us in the picture

at alanb@shropshireloc.co.uk.

You already know about the changes involving the CET allowance (see centre column.



OTHER LOC CHANGES

A decision was taken at the AGM to return member numbers from 15 to 12. We said Farewell to Stephen Evenett after many years of service as member, Deputy Chairman, Chairman then Deputy Chairman again. Also to Michael Shinn who served with the LOC for some 45 years including service as Deputy Chairman and Chairman.

We thank them for their service and wish them both well.

Michael being an Administrator of the Central (LOC) Fund Committee is well placed to see what is happening nationally and has been appointed as Consultant. (Sorry Michael, none of the usual emoluments that usually go with that title here!)

Ellen Windsor-Crewe is now Deputy Chair. We hope to fill the remaining place on the reduced Committee quite soon.



2015 AGM and the new membership

Committee Officers -

Chairman Paul Cottrell,
Vice Chairman Ellen Windsor Crewe,
Treasurer Martin Viggars.
Secretary Alan Barker (non-member).

Members appointed for a three year term from June 2015 -

Emma Close
Carina Gerrard
Gareth Hardcastle
Vinay Najran

Clare Darbyshire
Daina Gromadzki
Rizwaan Makda
David Parkinson

SHROPSHIRE LOC Website changes & Facebook



The website is always being updated and we are grateful for the effort Daina Gromadzki puts into it. Please do make use of it because everything you need to know is on there.

All the forms involved with community services can be downloaded.

Please note we have introduced a Facebook page. Have a look at -

<<https://www.facebook.com/Shropshireloc/>>

LOC CONTACTS

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Local Representative Committee Meeting

Chairman Paul Cottrell recently attended an important meeting in London of Local Medical, Optical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Committees, where each group spoke about their committee membership and format, the tasks and problems they faced and what they were doing about them. Those also attending included representatives of NHS England (previously the Department of Health). Following this meeting the LOC will be attempting to improve working relationships with local professional committees in Shropshire (including Telford and Wrekin). We will also be looking at ways education and training can be passed on to practice staff.

The division of roles and responsibilities looks like this

LOC Representation:

Eye Care Group -	Paul Cottrell
Performance Steering Group -	Carina Gerrard, (T&W), Daina Gromadzki (Shropshire)
Low Vision Representative -	Ellen Windsor-Crewe
Representative Deputy -	Carina Gerrard, Daina Gromadzki
LOC Positions	
LOC Company Board -	Gareth Hardcastle, Daina Gromadzki (Temp Appointment)
Online Communications Coordinator -	Daina Gromadzki
Education Coordinator -	Emma Close
Education Working Group -	Emma Close, Carina Gerrard, Gareth Hardcastle, Ellen Windsor Crewe
NOC Representation -	Paul Cottrell, Martin Viggars
Assistant Treasurer -	Carina Gerrard
Press & Publicity Officer -	Vinay Najran



We wish you and yours a Very Merry Christmas & the best of health & good fortune in 2016