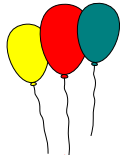




To all Contractors, Optometrists, Dispensing Opticians & Contact Lens Opticians

Shropshire County & Telford and Wrekin



Seasons greetings to you and your staff

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR CONTRACTORS

You are urged to CHECK that you are correctly included in the list for providing community services. The most up to date lists are available on our website. We are concerned that some accredited practitioners no longer appear on the lists.

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR OPTOMETRISTS

Have we got your up to date **personal** email address? If you have given us the email address of your Contractor or place of work you may be missing out on the latest news on matters that affect you.

LOCUM LIST

If you are available for locum work or you know someone who might like to be included then please email Alan Barker, showing the contact details we can publish for you.

Tell all your Optom friends about it.

We have asked Local Optical Committees in adjoining areas to tell us if they have any Optometrists, living in Shropshire or across the County boundary, who are willing to take on locum work in Shropshire.



NATIONAL OPTOMETRIC CONFERENCE NEWS

The LOC was represented by Paul Cottrell and Emma Davies who report a very worthwhile Conference. Among the many interesting items was the news that community services are to be called 'Extended Primary Care Services' to avoid confusion and make it more obvious who does the work.

Please note that the standard contract for Extended Primary Care Services will almost certainly include the IG2 Information Governance toolkit - see the Quality in Optometry website. We also advise that DOCET CET modules on Safeguarding for adults and children should be completed by all Contractors and Performers. DOs should refer to ABDO for guidance on this.

GOOD WORK

We still need examples of Good Work we can use for publicity purposes, i.e. where you have made life much better for a patient. Do let us know if you have been involved in something that may be of interest.



COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY GUIDELINES

The College of Optometry clinical guidelines are a very valuable resource and can be accessed by all College members.

Although they were originally intended for those with Independent Prescribing qualifications, they can still be used by all. The NOC was asked to strongly recommend their consideration and review by our local optometrists.

A & E CONCERNS

Remember that for patients who go to A and E with an eye problem, there is no requirement for a PEARS appointment.



CONTRACTORS

Is your practice on the correct spreadsheet?

With a recently raised question about district coverage in mind, we ask you to check your practice is correctly listed. If you find an error, or more important, an omission, contact Ting Cheung on 0300 404 2999 or email ycheung@nhs.net



Pre and post CATARACT PATIENTS

In post cataract cases, the hospitals had been giving out incomplete lists of Optometrists accredited to provide suitable care; these issues have been rectified and are frequently reviewed.

On the other side of the coin, please could you be mindful to return report forms more promptly; delays in getting them back have been causing Nuffield Hospital some problems.

HOT BRIEFS

Take a few moments to read the Hot Briefs we send you as well as LOCSU News and Newsflashes. They give you important and very useful information about what is happening in Optometry. Don't just give them a glance, take time out and keep up with the news. It might affect YOU!

PAEDIATRICS

Although there is currently no substantive consultant paediatric consultant at SaTH, please continue to refer paediatric patients in the normal way as there are still orthoptic and some paediatric ophthalmology services available. Should patients require surgical opinion the hospital will refer them on.

Still on paediatric care, and to help you contact the right person - details of individual Orthoptists having been withdrawn from the website (at the request of the Orthoptic Department) - our advice is that you should telephone the Orthoptic Department on 01952 641222 extension 5667. Give the name of the school the child attends and you will be told the name and contact details of the person you need to discuss the case with.



SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS

We regret the non-appearance of Service Level Agreements, these are still in the hands of the CCGs.

We have again been reassured that we will continue to receive payment, and are working under the same terms as the previous SLA, for the year 2015-16.

MECS / PEARS

We expect to see a MECS/PEARS accreditation event arranged early in the New Year.

The date under discussion is 1st February.



EXTENDED PRIMARY (Previously Community) SERVICES

Contractors will have made it clear to you - or you may have gathered - that the planned introduction of services overseen by the LOC Company has not been given the go ahead.

The LOC Company still exists, with just two Directors representing Shropshire and three representing Staffordshire.

We will keep you posted about any changes in the future.

BULK PURCHASING

This is something the LOC has looked into to see whether savings might be achieved if certain basic items were purchased centrally.

It now seems very unlikely that we could offer anything better than you can get for yourselves. Our thanks to Riz Makda for his efforts here.

Our advice is to consider joining a buying group to get the best deals.

LOW VISION SERVICES

Looking forward to the See and Hear Exhibition on 10th May 2017 - the tenth anniversary of the inaugural Exhibition - the Committee is looking at ways it can promote all services provided by optometry across the county and to more effectively direct people who really need your services.

If you have any good ideas on how this could be achieved, please let us know.

CET

The CET event on 6th. October went fairly well, given it was our first proper attempt at an event for both Optoms and DOs.

Online booking is urgently needed to streamline prior arrangements and we are assured by LOCSU that a computer system is being developed for this.

GOS CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT

Contractors are advised to make sure claims are submitted MONTHLY. Some claims in other areas have been submitted well in arrears.

PCSE

The LOC waits with interest to see whether the current state of play on late or missing payments can be improved. We know that LOCSU is in permanent talks with Capita - which by its own admission is in crisis condition - and there are NHS staff working on site with them on a variety of issues, of which slow payments are top priority.

We advise Contractors to err on the side of caution and keep copies of GOS forms submitted (and the date of despatch) or at least a written record of what was submitted just in case the originals go missing and you have to take action on lost or missing forms. It could save you a lot of trouble in the long run.

If contacting PCSE about this put 'Ophthalmic - Lost/Missing claim forms' in the email header and send to pcse.optical-leeds@nhs.net You should claim for any interest charged by your bank, arising directly from lost or missing claims - repayment is guaranteed.

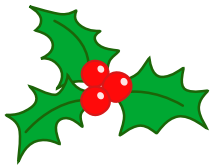
NEW MEMBER

New member We have a new member now, following the AGM at which no less than three - a record - Optoms and DOs volunteered their services! This is Iain Milne and we look forward to his contributing to the discussions and hope he finds the Committee's work interesting and rewarding. His appointment goes some way to restoring the balance of membership, the Committee having been short of employee Optoms. All twelve places are now filled and the next opportunity for becoming a member will be in 2018.

The position on stationery supplies looks to have improved but if you run out, use the electronic GOS forms we sent you this Summer; go to the website where they can be downloaded.

LOC CHANGES

Daina Gromadzki is now our (more correctly designated) Website Coordinator and Emma Davies, our CET Coordinator, takes over the social media role from Carina Gerrard; Carina is our new Treasurer after Martin Viggars retired as Treasurer. He did such a fine job for 20 years and deserves a knighthood or at least a CDM. Martin is still continuing as LOC member.



CHANGE OF PRACTICE OR PLACE OF WORK

Having notified PCSE - go to www.performer.england.nhs.net - you are advised to subsequently write (if appropriate) "previous CCG (name); notification of change sent to you on (date)" on the GOS forms you submit. Don't worry if your notification to PCSE is not acknowledged straightaway.

We advise you to send a second notification after waiting, say, a month for a response.

The system will catch up with you - sometime! The work PCSE has taken on is massive and affects doctors and dentists as well as yourselves.



LOC CONTACTS

Paul Cottrell, Chairman
01588 630542 chair@shropshireloc.co.uk

Ellen Windsor Crewe, Vice Chair

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Carina Gerrard, Treasurer
01743 23 11 11
treasurer@shropshireloc.co.uk

Daina Gromadzki
01743 344 455
website@shropshireloc.co.uk

Alan Barker, Secretary
01981 54 00 50 alanb@shropshireloc.co.uk



The division of roles and responsibilities looks like this

LOC Representation:

Eye Care Group –
Performance Steering Group -
Low Vision Representative -
Representative Deputy -

Paul Cottrell
Carina Gerrard (T&W), Daina Gromadzki (Shropshire)
Ellen Windsor-Crewe
Daina Gromadzki, Teresa Hughes

LOC Positions

LOC Company Board - -
Website Coordinator -
Social Media -
Education Coordinator -
Education Working Group -
NOC Representation
Assistant Treasurer -
Press & Publicity Officer

Claire Darbyshire, Gareth Hardcastle,
Daina Gromadzki
Emma Davies
Emma Davies
Emma Davies, Gareth Hardcastle, Ellen Windsor-Crewe
Emma Davies, Paul Cottrell,
Riz Makda
Vinay Najran

**Best Wishes from the Local Optical Committee for a very Merry Christmas
and good health and fortune in 2017!**