

# News Release



## NEW APPOINTMENTS BOOST LOCAL EYE HEALTH COMMISSIONING

A team of eight experienced optometrists have been appointed as Optical Leads by the Local Optical Committee Support Unit (LOCSU) to raise the profile of community optometry and eye health within their local regions. These appointments reflect the determination of LOCSU and the optical bodies to put local eye health services at the heart of the new commissioning agenda emerging as part of the current changes to the NHS in England.

Katrina Venerus, Director of Commissioning and Operations at LOCSU explains:

“Health care reforms in England have meant that our professions need to engage with a wide range of stakeholders from GP Commissioning leaders to local authorities in moving local eye care forward. As the face and voice of Local Optical Committees across their region, optical leads will be pivotal in opening doors for Local Optical Committees to move forward in getting more enhanced services commissioned in their region.

“Waiting for the reforms to be completed is not an option; we need to influence these future commissioners now and the LOCSU Optical Leads will complement and support the efforts already made by LOCs. “

Optical Leads will be tasked with:

1. Providing leadership for LOCs in their region and representing LOCs to SHA transition directors, PCT cluster leads, GP commissioning leaders and local authorities.
2. Supporting LOCs to build effective working relationships across the regional health system and to raise their profile amongst commissioning groups to get more enhanced services delivered across England.
3. Contributing to national policy development.

The full list of named Optical Leads is as attached; recruitment for London and East of England Optical Leads is still in progress. The Optical Leads will participate in an intensive leadership development programme designed by LOCSU to support these new posts, and they will have the opportunity to undertake a Leadership in Optics postgraduate module (which is being developed by LOCSU with the Wales Optometry Postgraduate Education Centre at Cardiff University) as part of the development programme. The Optical Leads will work alongside the LOCSU Associates who will continue to give expertise and advice on specialist areas.

**Ends**

### Media enquiries

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