Enhancing eye care through collaboration and expertise

February 2024

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LOCSU

What are LOCs?

Established by the NHS (Amendment) Act 1949, Local Optical Committees (LOCs) were formed to be the official representatives for all GOS contractors and practitioners within their area.

LOCs work with their local commissioners on service design and improvement to develop enhanced eye care services for the best interests of patients.

A well-run LOC is a major asset to the local eyecare community, NHS and local authorities and the public alike. There are 74 LOCs in England, each one representing ophthalmic contractors and performers within a defined geographical area.

LOC websites allow local eyecare professionals to learn who their LOC officers and committee members are, what community services are operating in the area and other information and guidance that their LOC feels is relevant. Every LOC has an annual general meeting where you can go along, meet people and learn more.

Visit loc-online.co.uk or click on an individual LOC opposite to go to their website.

North East and Yorkshire

- Bradford
- Calderdale & Kirklees
- Doncaster & Bassetlaw
- Durham
- East Yorkshire
- Leeds
- North & North East Lincolnshire
- North Cumbria
- North Yorkshire
- Northumberland, Tyne & Wear
- Rotherham & Barnsley
- Sheffield
- Tees
- Wakefield

North West

- Ashton, Leigh & Wigan
- Bolton
- Central Mersey
- Cheshire
- Greater Manchester East
- Lancashire & Morecambe Bay
- Liverpool
- Manchester, Salford & Trafford
- Pennine Lancashire
- Sefton
- Wirral

Midlands

- Birmingham
- Coventry & Warwickshire
- Derbyshire
- Dudley
- Herefordshire
- Leicestershire & Rutland
- Lincolnshire
- Northamptonshire
- Nottinghamshire
- Sandwell
- Shropshire
- Solihull
- Staffordshire
- Walsall
- Wolverhampton
- Worcestershire

London

- Barnet, Enfield, Camden & Haringey
- Bexley, Bromley & Greenwich
- Brent & Harrow
- Croydon
- Ealing & Hounslow
- East London, City & Islington
- Hillingdon
- Kensington, Chelsea, Westminster, Hammersmith & Fulham
- Kingston, Richmond & Twickenham
- Lambeth, Southwark & Lewisham
- Merton, Sutton & Wandsworth
- North East London

East of England

- Bedfordshire
- Cambridgeshire
- Essex
- Hertfordshire
- Norfolk & Waveney
- Suffolk

South West

- Avon
- Cornwall & Isles of Scilly
- Devon
- Dorset
- Gloucestershire
- Somerset
- Wiltshire

South East

- Berkshire
- Buckinghamshire
- East Sussex
- Hampshire
- Kent & Medway
- Oxfordshire
- Surrey
- West Sussex

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Why join an LOC?

Want to help expand primary eyecare?

Have your voice heard on issues that matter?

Meet new people and learn more about the sector you work in?

Benefit from career development opportunities?

Your Local Optical Committee is your route to making an impact.

LOCs represent the optical profession on all local general ophthalmic services matters and play a pivotal role in the design, commissioning and delivery of primary eyecare services.

Joining your LOC committee gives you the opportunity to influence how eye care is delivered on a regional basis, make positive changes, represent your peers and gain new skills along the way.

Why Join?

- Play a full role in your local primary eye care sector as part of a formal and important representative committee
- Help protect and develop your profession and your local eye care community
- A change in scene from testing rooms and practice settings
- Help design and negotiate services that utilise professional skills and improve outcomes
- Work with other primary care specialisms, NHS and other health organisations, and wider stakeholders
- Career development through enhanced work profiles and new contacts: open doors
- Develop personal knowledge and skills as a member and potentially specialise as an officer
- Grow your leadership potential
- Through joint working with other LOCs and regional forum understand where you and your LOC sits in the national framework
- Understand and shape sector trends and developments across professional and commissioning fields
- Network with professional colleagues
- Raise your voice – a route to deliver innovation and service transformation locally
- Bespoke training opportunities, collecting CPD points. LOCSU develop and deliver tailored training for LOC members, including leadership skills, to support continued professional development.

What is an LOC?

Find out on our Local Optical Committees Background page.

#YourLOC also contains lots of useful information.

LOCSU

Why did LOC induction course attendees join?

- To make a difference
- To meet colleagues
- To share knowledge and best practice
- Networking
- To gain knowledge
- To improve the profession
- Improve skills
- Variety
- Better informed
- Local referral protocol
- As a change to your daily work
- Give something back
- Become more effective with discussions
- To be given a chance to do something and being listened to

New members and how they got involved

New members bring new ideas and energy to LOCs. It's useful to develop them as officers of the future and helps raise the profile of optics.

Past member, Charlotte, said "I found out about the LOC from colleagues that are involved in different counties LOCs. I wanted to get involved myself to have a better knowledge of the basis of how optics and the NHS works together especially with the changes in our profession over the last few years."

Gareth said: "Through working with the LOC to try and provide best care for my patients at this turbulent time I decided I wanted to be in the best position to try and make a difference and put myself forward as a candidate to join the LOC committee. I'm really excited to get started and contribute all that I can."

Sameen felt very welcomed when her LOC members encouraged her to join after attending a few meetings. "I feel my experience in varied fields will enable me to improve the overall clinical care provided by Optometrists regardless of which sector they work in."

"I got involved with our LOC to both find out what was happening locally and nationally, and to promote the optometry service within our area. Optometry services are changing, and its good to be involved at an LOC level in shaping this locally for the future. Engagement and CET are the current focuses in our LOC, as well as preparing from further commissioned services."

Tony Wing

"I've been involved with the LOC for many years because I find it interesting to know what's going on 'behind the scenes'."

Jane B

LOCSU

Mini-courses available

LOC AGM – A beginner's Guide to LOC's (thinkific.com)

Attracting and Developing New LOC Members (LOCSU

Who Are LOCSU?

LOCSU is the Local Optical Committee Support Unit, supporting Local Optical Committees (LOCs) in England across a range of activities relating to primary eye care.

Underpinning our work is a determination to make it easier for LOCs to maximise opportunities and improve eyecare in their area. We do this by providing practical support to LOCs in pathway development, governance and compliance, training and by liaising with and influencing commissioners and wider primary care.

With an emphasis on strong communication and collaboration, we work with all eyecare sector bodies on a national level, elevating the LOC voice and amplifying national messages. Together we proactively influence politicians and commissioners to protect and promote primary eyecare for the benefit of patients. We drive innovative thinking about present and future opportunities and challenges within the primary eye care sector, to meet the changing needs of LOCs.

In additional to the central team, LOCSU have a national network of Advancement Leads. All practising clinicians, they are an invaluable link between LOCs, providing expertise, support and sharing knowledge across the country. All LOCs will recognise the Advancement Leads as the regular ‘touch point’ with LOCSU.

Find out more about us, our people, or visit our contact page.



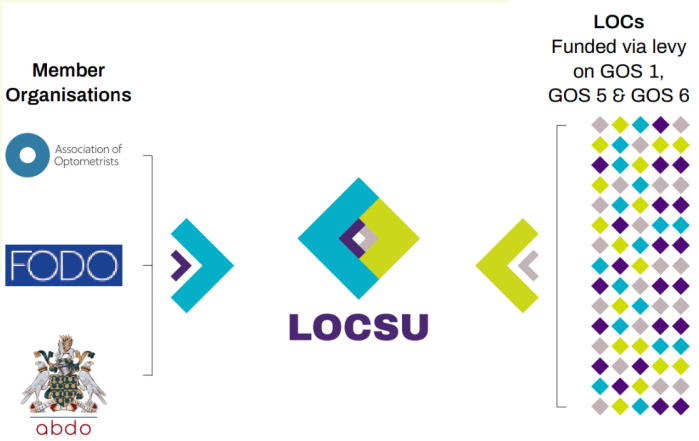
What do we do?

LOCSU was established in 2007 to provide support for Local Optical Committees (LOCs) across a range of activities from commissioning guidance and policy development to governance and compliance support, education and communications.

The fast-moving healthcare landscape means LOCSU must continuously adapt its strategy and activities to ensure that it meets the changing needs of LOCs.

Today, the NHS is facing the biggest test of our lifetime as we recover from the Covid-19 pandemic whilst dealing with ongoing economic, environmental and political challenges. This is against a backdrop that saw the NHS undergo the most significant programme of reform in its 75-year history.

Who influences LOCSU?



74	12	74%	98%
LOCs in England	LOCSU clinical pathways	of the population in England have access to urgent and emergency eye care services, provided by primary care	of place based commissioners have commissioned at least one of LOCSU core pathways (enhanced services)

The situation presents very significant challenges which need to be dealt with through a unified approach; however it also presents opportunities for the optical sector and it is LOCSU's role to help LOCs engage with key stakeholders to drive an agenda that benefits patients, ensures the best use of public finances and underpins a strong future for the sector itself.

LOCSU does this through its work in the following key areas:

- Policy work and influencing
- Commissioning support
- Governance and compliance
- Communication
- Training

LOCSU is governed by its first principles, which inform our decision-making and strategic focus.

These principles are that:

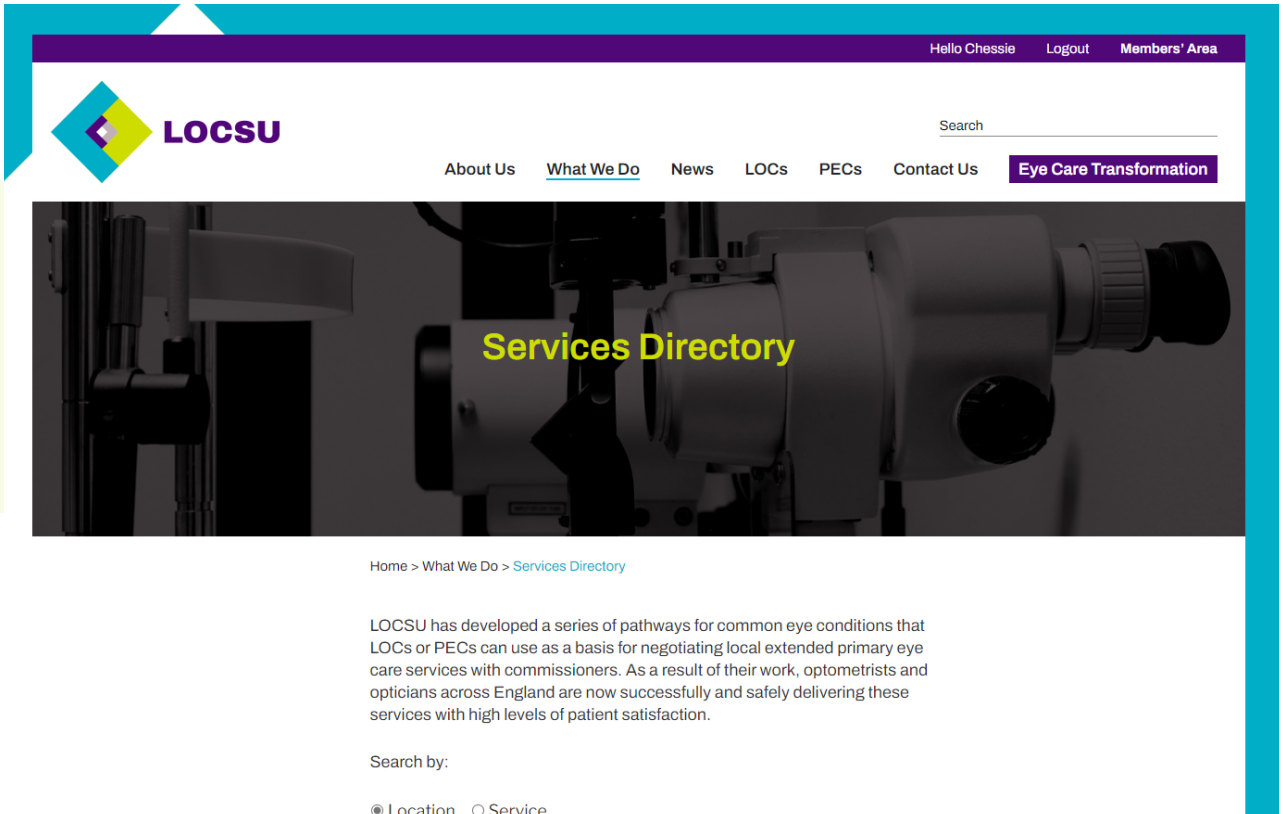
- LOCs are local experts in eye health and the local eye health commissioners must engage with LOCs to ensure this expertise is best put to use
- Far more patients can be seen in the community than is presently the case
- Community practice must be better valued
- Collaboration across the optical sector is essential
- Optics must position itself for the future
- Good governance is vital

Service Directory

LOCSU has developed a series of pathways for common eye conditions that LOCs can use as a basis for negotiating local enhanced primary eye care services with commissioners.

As a result of their work, optometrists and dispensing opticians and their teams across England are now successfully and safely delivering these services with high levels of patient satisfaction.

Visit our Service Directory page to search by service or location.



Celebrating LOCs



Please click the image to be taken through to the full video

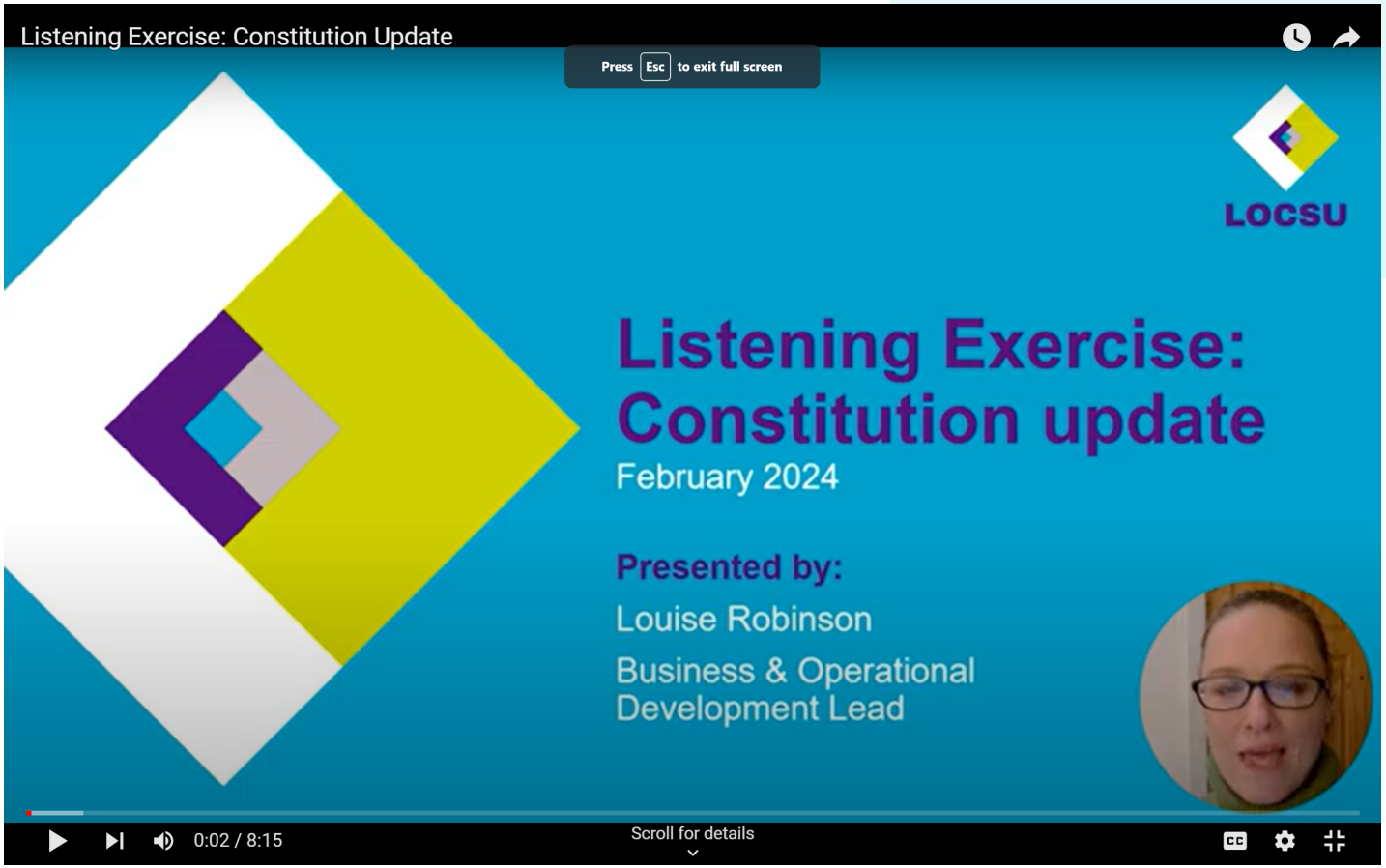
LOCSU Listening Events

LOCSU recently carried out a series of listening events with LOCs to understand:

- the support LOCs require in developing and implementing local strategies;
- how we can improve LOCSU services and support.

Feedback will also inform the development of a new model constitution which will meet LOC obligations laid in statute, while enabling flexibility to accommodate differing LOC models.

This short video from Louise Robinson, LOCSU's Business and Development Lead, gives an update and explains some of the feedback.



Please click the image to be taken through to the full video.

#YourLOC campaign

#YourLOC is a LOCSU developed campaign to raise awareness of LOCs and encourage people to join their LOC.

For more information, and to find out more about the campaign, please click here.

Want to be featured in the campaign?

Email info@locsu.co.uk with a photo and and a few sentences on why you decide to get involved with your LOC to be featured on social media and the LOCSU website.



LOCSU Support

Podcasts

The LOCSU podcast covers a range of topics, including:

- The Importance of Sight Tests With Dave Myers
- New Board Members
- Low Vision
- LOC Succession Planning

Click here for our full list of podcasts.

Toolkits

LOCSU creates a number of resources for LOCs, including:

- Succession planning
- Low Vision Toolkit
- Press releases

Click here for the full list of toolkits.

Case Studies

LOCSU is creating a bank of case studies featuring various aspects of the clinical pathways. Case studies are available to download and more will be added on an ongoing basis.

- Cataract
- Glaucoma Filtering and Monitoring
- Health and Wellbeing
- Innovation
- People with Learning Disabilities
- Urgent and Emergency Care
- Improving Patient Experience
- More

Click here for the full list of case studies.

Get in Touch

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