

Interview

Millie Fellows FBDO

#YourLOC



Which LOC are you a member of and what is your role?

I am Secretary for Oxfordshire LOC.

How long have you been involved in the LOC?

Early 2021 I joined my LOC as an admin support and was then elected as Secretary at their AGM in June.

What made you decide to get involved in the LOC?

I was in leadership roles for a High St multiple for over 25 years until I was made redundant. This was a huge turning point for me, and I knew it was an opportunity to diversify. Whilst I was pursuing qualifications in the area of people management, I found myself working with the Chair of our LOC. They were looking for an admin support role, which very quickly progressed to an officer role. Having been with a multiple for so long, I really wanted to break out of the “self-contained arena” of optics and understand what optics meant from a community perspective. Joining the LOC has certainly done this.

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What have you got out of being an LOC member?

I am constantly learning, developing skills such as negotiating and influencing and excited about the prospect of being part of Optometry First. With eye care having the longest wait lists in secondary care, this is certainly a great time to be part of the solution.

On a personal level being part of an LOC has opened up so many opportunities to me in this new phase of my career. I have been appointed to the LOCSU board as well as joining the GOC fitness to practice panel. However, my focus as a leader and as a dispensing optician and an LOC member will always remain “what does this mean for the LOC and ultimately practice and patient?”

What would you say to anyone wondering whether to get involved with their LOC?

Reach out, request to attend and observe a meeting, look at their websites and spend some time chatting to members to find out more. I would advocate and encourage my locum colleagues, resident practitioners in large multiples and DO's to think about joining. LOC membership is not only a great way to meet colleagues from other parts of the sector, but also an opportunity to develop and shape the future of optics. You never know where it might lead you!