



LOCSU

Student Resources

Advice for LOCs

September 2024

Version 1



LOCSU

Student Resources

This short resource is for Local Optical Committees (LOCs) to use to build awareness of LOCs and LOCSU with undergraduate students of optometry and dispensing optics.

Encouraging a student optometrist, dispensing optician, CLO and/or other student eye care professional to join LOCs will provide them with valuable networking opportunities and real-world experience. They can gain insights into the industry, contribute to decision making, and make a positive impact on the profession.

For your LOC, it can bring fresh, new perspectives to the committee and aid succession planning. For more information on supporting students, complete this short course (please note that you will need to log into the members area to view this).

A similar resource aimed directly at the student has also been produced and can be found on the LOCSU website.

For any questions, please contact info@locsu.co.uk.

Thank you to Mona Thacker and Dr Amy Hughes from Avon LOC for their collaboration and input on this toolkit.





Tips for supporting students in LOC meetings



1. Ensure students are well prepared for meetings

Share all the papers in advance and encourage the student to read them carefully, making notes of anything they do not understand.

2. Offer support

Have a member of the committee mentor or buddy with the student in the first few months for support.

This could involve briefing them about meetings, discussing anything they do not understand in meetings and generally being there to offer support and guidance.

3. Recognise their importance

Recognise that the student's new perspective is important to the LOC.

4. Share the Jargon Buster

There is a lot of jargon and acronyms within the NHS and LOCs. [This jargon buster](#), produced by LOCSU, is designed to be a useful tool for terms and organisations that students and committee members may come across.

5. Empowering student attendees

Empower student attendees and encourage them to share information about the LOC with others.

LOCs could consider a co-opted space on the committee for a student rep who could link with other students, or offer an open invitation for students to observe.

Case study:

UWE Optometry Freshers Fair



In September 2023, Mona Thacker, Resident Optometrist at the University of the West of England (UWE) Bristol Eye Clinic and member of Avon LOC, and her colleague Katrin Hirsch organised and attended the UWE Optometry Freshers Fair.

Mona noted that LOCs can struggle to get the local optical community to engage with the commissioning process. She felt that one solution to this may be to cultivate professional identity at undergraduate level so that the vision of future optometrists and dispensing opticians, LOCs and NHS commissioners are better aligned.

Mona said: “We want the students to gain an insight into the broader profession and be able to network, thus starting to build a professional identity and take on a more proactive role in their professional journey.”

Inviting exhibitors:

Mona and Katrin invited a number of stakeholders from within the optometry sector to attend the event and speak to students. This included the NHS, local optometrists, the college of optometrists, LOCSU and more.

Each exhibitor was able to give a five-minute presentation, as well as the opportunity to talk to students at their stands.

Mona and Katrin liaised with exhibitors before the event, ensuring that they knew:

- Date, time and location of the event
- How many students were expected to attend
- Contact details for any issues on, or before, the event
- Details of other exhibitors and an internal map
- Map and parking arrangements
- Details of their exhibition space



Case study continued: UWE Optometry Freshers Fair



Tips for hosting student events:

- The organisers enhanced the student experience of the Optometry Freshers Fair by holding a quiz, for which they welcomed contributions from the exhibitors towards a prize. This encouraged the students to visit and engage with the various stands.
- Offer exhibitors the opportunity to give a short presentation to students.
- Offer of a free drinks voucher to students and exhibitors.

Top tips for attending student events:

While we know that not all LOCs will be able to organise events at their local university, we'd encourage you to contact them to see whether you're able to attend any appropriate events and promote your LOC.

- Regularly reach out to your local university and build close working relationships to ensure that you're aware of any potential future events that your LOC could attend.
- Consider ways to make your stand interactive and engaging. This could be by holding a quiz and offering prizes, giving away free merchandise or encouraging people to attend by offering snacks such as sweets.
- Ensure any presentations are engaging and relevant to students.
- Consider ways that students could sign up and get involved with their LOC.





LOCSU Support



LOCSU Team

The LOCSU team consists of Advancement Leads and the central team, who are all there to provide support to LOCs.

The team are skilled subject matter experts available to support LOCs locally and nationally.

[You can find out more about members of the LOCSU team here.](#)

LOCSU supports LOCs in England across a range of activities relating to primary eye care. While not exhaustive, the below list outlines some of the work LOCSU does:



- Data and evidence to influence
- Commissioning support
- Governance and compliance
- Develop clinical pathways
- Develop local case studies
- LOC payroll service
- Support LOCs with training and development
- Produce webinars, podcasts and other accessible learning and information opportunities
- National Optical Conference (NOC)
- Communication network, treasurer forum and role-specific training
- Support LOCs to collaborate and work together across the ICB footprint to provide the shared goal of improved patient centred care delivered by optical practices
- And more.



For any questions, or discuss further, please contact LOCSU at info@locsu.co.uk.

LOCSU Support



LOCSU produces a range of materials, including:

Podcasts

The LOCSU podcast covers a range of topics, including:

- [New Board Members](#)
- [Low Vision](#)
- [LOC Succession Planning](#)

[Click here for our full list of podcasts.](#)

Toolkits

LOCSU creates a number of toolkits for LOCs, including:

- [Succession planning](#)
- [Low Vision Toolkit](#)
- [Press releases](#)

[Click here for the full list of toolkits.](#)

Newsletter

The LOCSU newsletter is sent at the end of every month and is for LOCs and external stakeholders.

[Click here to view all of our previous newsletters.](#)

Case Studies

LOCSU is creating a bank of case studies featuring various aspects of the clinical pathways.

These include:

- [Cataract](#)
- [Glaucoma Filtering and Monitoring](#)
- [Health and Wellbeing](#)
- [Improving Patient Experience](#)
- [and more](#)

[Click here for the full list of case studies.](#)

Bulletin

This fortnightly bulletin is the 'inside track' for LOCs.

This is only sent to LOC officers and is for the committee members information only.

Information includes:

- Key updates
- LOCSU events and training opportunities
- PCSE updates
- and much more...

Focus On

These Focus On documents condense longer reports into easily digestible and LOC-relevant documents.

- NHS England 2024/25 priorities and operational planning guidance
- Amendments to The National Health Service (Performers Lists) (England) Regulations 2013
- and more

**For further advice or feedback on
contents of this toolkit please contact
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