

# Collaboration Between LOCs: Stronger Together!



LOCSU

Having a wider field of view greater than your own LOC is essential in understanding the bigger picture of what's going on around you and what could happen in your specific area. Our Southern Region Forum is essential for transfer of knowledge between LOCs, insight and resource sharing.



As our regional slogan goes 'Stronger Together!'

Background

In recent years, LOCs across the South East of England have faced increasing pressures—ranging from NHS structural changes to workforce challenges and the ongoing demands of service delivery. In response, South East LOCs with support from LOCSU recognised the need to become more resilient and sustainable.

One key strategy has been collaboration: Sharing ideas, resources, and support with neighbouring LOCs. Rather than working in isolation, we saw strength in partnership. The aim was to reduce duplication, build capacity, and create a more consistent approach to supporting contractors and performers across the region.

What We Did

South East LOCs began by establishing regular communication through the quarterly Southern Forum, group emails, and virtual joint working groups. We shared templates, guidance documents, and ideas to ease workload pressures and improve governance. Joint training events were organised for committee development, often hosted by one LOC but opened up to others.

When one LOC faced a challenge – be it HR, clinical governance, or local contract issues – others offered insights and solutions based on experience. We also collaborated on aligning priorities and responses to regional commissioning initiatives, allowing us to present a united voice to ICBs. This regional collaboration is built on trust, mutual respect, and shared goals.



Local collaboration of BHS, Berkshire, Hampshire and Surrey for the Frimley area. Developing communication and discussion with the Trust. This led to a successful Post Cataract service creation and delivery. An example of how cross border collaboration brings success!

LOCSU’s Inaugural Chair Conference is a Great Success



This month, over 50 attendees joined LOCSU's inaugural chairs conference in London.

An initiative as a region to attend the Chair’s conference together. This social media post from Buckinghamshire LOC showcased the experience and energy in the room, enhanced by the experience from, their own Chair.



Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire LOCs regularly share resources and develop initiatives together to benefit their constituents. Once is example is feedback and collaboration with the ICB to develop an AI SPoA system for Pre-Cat known as DORA. The LOCs, together, attend ICB workshops and are part of an oversight group to support the ICB and ensure the voices of their constituents are heard.

Outputs and Impacts

As a result of this regional collaboration, LOCs have become more efficient and better equipped to serve their constituents. Shared resources have saved time and individual energy. Committee members feel more supported, with better access to peer knowledge and mentorship. Joint efforts have improved relationships with regional stakeholders and increased the impact of our collective voice in NHS negotiations.

One key learning has been that small-scale cooperation can drive significant improvements – sometimes more effectively than larger and more formal structures. Resilience is easier to build when you’re not working in isolation.

Ultimately, this approach has strengthened our LOCs, making them more agile, informed and connected.

Acknowledgements

- Berkshire LOC
- Buckinghamshire LOC
- East Sussex LOC
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight LOC
- Kent & Medway LOC
- Oxfordshire LOC
- Surrey LOC
- West Sussex LOC

Further LOC case studies can be found here

