



LOCSU

LOCSU Board of Directors

Non-Executive Board Director (LOC) Applicant Pack

April 2026



Introduction

The Local Optical Committee Support Unit (LOCSU) was set up to support Local Optical Committees (LOCs) to fulfil their statutory functions and so that GOS contractors and performers can deliver NHS eye care effectively in their areas.

The Board

LOCSU Board has ten members and a non-executive Chair. It has two Board Directors from each of our founder bodies: the Association of British Dispensing Opticians (ABDO), the Association of Optometrists (AOP) and the Federation of Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians (FODO) as well as four Board Directors from LOCs across England (practicing optometrists or dispensing opticians, drawn from LOCs and able to represent LOC views). For the rest of this document these roles will simply be referred to as Board Directors (LOC).

The LOCSU Board has a vital role in the governance of the organisation; ensuring it is effectively and properly run and is meeting its overall purpose. Our Board Directors have a wide range of knowledge and experience.

We are currently looking to recruit a new Board Director (LOC), able to bring forward views and knowledge gained from LOCs in England to inform Board discussions and decisions. You will be an excellent strategic thinker, with a passion for improving opportunities and outcomes for community services. The role will offer the opportunity to use your skills and expertise at an exciting and challenging time for LOCSU and eye care within England.

Being a board member is a responsible but rewarding role. If you have the skills and experience, I do hope you will consider this leadership opportunity and apply.

Dr Joy Tweed
Chair, LOCSU



Are you looking for an opportunity to apply your professional experience to strategic influence?

Do you want to expand your knowledge through a portfolio career?

Can you bring leadership, strategic decision making and governance skills to the world of LOCs?

You will be invaluable to the LOCSU Board as we seek to recruit a Board Director (LOC), to ensure we fulfil our primary purpose of supporting LOCs to fulfil their statutory functions and so that GOS contractors and performers can deliver NHS eye care effectively in their areas.

Role

Vacancy: 1x Board Director (LOC), 3-year term

Reimbursement: £369 day rate (7 hours)

The exact number of days required for the role will vary, depending on appointment to other committees, such as Remuneration Committee. As a guide, the role is envisaged to require around 10 days each year, with additional correspondence between meetings.

This vacancy is due to the resignation of one Board Director (LOC).

Why?

Becoming a LOCSU Board Director is a fantastic opportunity to use your skills, share your knowledge and expertise and contribute to the future of LOCs and primary eye care in England. Whilst giving back to the profession, you can build on your strategic decision-making at a senior level as part of a portfolio career.

You will make a significant contribution to the LOCSU Board and LOCs across England, elevating the LOC voice and helping ensure LOCs remain the central focus of LOCSU work through facilitation of a two-way dialogue between LOCs and LOCSU.

Who?

It is vital as a Board that we have individuals with the right expertise in leadership, relationship engagement, LOC and clinical work, along with an excellent understanding of good governance.

As a Board Director (LOC), you will be responsible along with the rest of the board for jointly:

- Ensuring the LOC voice is reflected in all LOCSU Board discussions.
- Ensuring LOCs are fully engaged and aware of national LOCSU work.
- Holding the LOCSU executive team to account, ensuring outstanding support for all LOCs through effective and efficient performance.
- Delivering strategic leadership that ensures clarity of purpose, vision and strategic direction.
- Overseeing financial performance to ensure all LOCs receive best value for their levy.
- Upholding the highest standards of governance.

A strong LOCSU Board comprises a diverse blend of individuals, with a good mix of professional expertise, capable of representing the communities they serve. Insights from an array of backgrounds will ensure LOCSU make informed decisions on matters that impact LOCs, practices and the patients they serve. We consider it vital that our Board reflects our LOC membership, and we are keen to attract applicants from a wide range of backgrounds.

To ensure a balanced board with a wide spectrum of views and lived primary eye care practice experience, we would particularly welcome applications from dispensing opticians and wide geographical representation to complement our existing Directors (LOC).

You will represent LOC views, but it is important to note that you will be personally appointed as a company director, responsible along with other directors for the success of LOCSU. You should be willing and able to contribute to collective and effective decision-making by the Board and to act at a strategic level. Prior board experience is not required as training and development in respect of the role and function is available, as well as support from existing Board Directors; however, a willingness to speak up, contribute and challenge, as well as a desire to make a difference is a prerequisite.

When?

The LOCSU Board meets a minimum of four times per year, usually in London, and Board Directors may also be involved at other times, as needed. Additional vital meetings include National LOC Forum attendance four times per year (virtual) and the National Optical Conference (two-day commitment).

The appointment will commence 1 July 2026 and will be for a term of three years, to stagger director appointments and retain organisational memory.

What More Information?

Existing LOCSU Board Members will be happy to provide working insight on these roles and the opportunity they afford.

Please contact the Chair in the first instance: Joy Tweed, LOCSU Chair at Jtweed@locsu.co.uk.

How to Apply

Please complete [this application form](#) and return it to Trisha Dinsdale, LOCSU Executive Assistant, tdinsdale@locsu.co.uk, no later than **12 noon on 19 May 2026**.



Further Information

Process of Appointment

Appointment will be on merit, with applications short-listed following submission of a personal statement and then competencies assessed at interview.

We are interested in hearing from a wide range of candidates with a variety of experience and backgrounds. Candidates are not required to hold an officer role within their LOC; however, they are required to be a member of an LOC and have confidence that they have a strong and active understanding of LOC work. A critical element of the role is to reflect the views of LOCs across England during LOCSU Board discussions, ensuring the LOC voice is elevated and enriches LOCSU decision making.

We have provided nomination and declaration of interest forms for all interested candidates to complete. Regional Forums, facilitated by a LOCSU Advancement Lead, will review the nomination to ensure there is no known just impediment preventing the nominee fulfilling the role which they apply. Regional Forums will not see the personal statement submitted.

Each candidate will be considered based on the content of their personal statement and assessed against the essential criteria and board competencies. A short-list will then be drawn up for interview. Prior to the interview any Regional Forum concerns will be noted for further exploration as necessary. At interview, the applicant will be assessed against the board competencies, and the interview panel will seek to appoint someone who can bring the necessary skills, interests and experience, complementing the existing skills set of the board.

Key Dates

15 April: Advertisement for expressions of interest.

19 May: Nomination and application closing date

All nominations (**via the attached form**) must be submitted by 12 noon on 19 May 2026 to Trisha Dinsdale, LOCSU Executive Assistant at tdinsdale@locsu.co.uk.

May: Regional LOC Forum validation of nominations.

26 May: Shortlisted candidates will be notified via email.

15/16/17 June (one day to be confirmed): Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend a virtual interview with a panel of Board members.

23 June: Successful candidate notified.

Eligibility and Essential Criteria

All applicants must be a member of an LOC in England and are expected to have an in-depth understanding of LOC working, including both the challenges and opportunities facing LOCs and optical practices.

To complement the knowledge and experience of existing board members we would particularly welcome applications from dispensing opticians.

Board Director Competencies

Please provide evidence in your personal statement of some or all the following competencies and highlight any areas in which you would welcome support and development.

Communication

- Listens and actively seeks to understand opinions of others.
- Demonstrates a high level of interpersonal skills when approaching and building effective relationships with diverse groups.
- Has the ability to communicate effectively to ensure two-way dialogue between the Board, LOCs and wider stakeholders.

Personal Impact

- Has credibility amongst peer groups.
- Has the confidence and skill to constructively challenge other Board members and the leadership team when appropriate to do so.
- Through actions is able to influence and inspire others.

Political Astuteness

- Understands the wide range of optical bodies and interest groups and their power bases and demonstrates the ability to manage the dynamic between them so as to provide effective leadership.

Strategic Thinking

- Clear strategic thinking.
- Has the ability to support LOCSU to evolve, optimise opportunities and produce value for its members.

Decision Making

- Has the ability to make decisions objectively and within set timescales.
- Commitment to using an evidence-based approach when reaching decisions.

Creating a Climate for Innovation

- Help create a climate that is open to new ideas.
- Be prepared to challenge the status quo.
- Explore innovative ways of solving problems with colleagues.

Time Commitment

LOCSU Board Meetings:

The LOCSU Board meets a minimum of four times per annum, traditionally in London. All meetings commence at 10.30am and conclude no later than 2pm to avoid the need for an overnight stay. Board papers are issued two weeks in advance of each meeting.

2026/7 Board meeting dates are:

- 16 July 2026
- 22 October 2026
- 21 January 2027
- 25 March 2027

Additional fixed meetings:

National LOC Forum

The National LOC Forum meet virtually four times per year on a Thursday evening (approx. two hours). They usually meet three weeks in advance of the LOCSU Board, to enable Regional LOC input into LOCSU Board discussions.

LOCSU Strategy Planning Day

This will be a full day commitment in January each year, as an extension to the January LOCSU Board meeting. The location is usually London.

LOCSU Audit and Remuneration Committee

It is important that Board Directors (LOC) are actively involved in these committees to ensure LOC oversight of LOCSU governance. The LOCSU Audit Committee meets twice per year (traditionally February and October); the LOCSU Remuneration Committee meets once per year (traditionally February). Both committees meet in London or virtually.

National and Regional Optical Conference

NOC is a two-day commitment in alternate years (Nov 2027 and Nov 2029). ROCs take place in each of the seven regions (Nov 2026 and Nov 2028). Whilst there is no expected commitment to attend all the ROCs, Directors are encouraged to attend ROCs to build relationships and build their knowledge of each region to inform board discussions.

Additional Ad-hoc Meetings:

Board directors (LOC) appointed to the LOCSU Board may be called on from time to time to provide LOC views to inform project work, engage with LOC National and Regional Forums upon request, and support LOC 'online drop-in sessions' on key issues.

Additional Time Commitment:

It is important that all LOCSU Board Members ensure they are well informed when representing LOCSU at all meetings and that they actively engage with LOCs across England. To this end, it is anticipated that all Board Directors will be well read and seek briefings where appropriate. All Board Members may be requested to undertake appropriate training from time to time to maintain excellent standards of governance within the Board.

Reimbursement

LOCSU operate a fair payment policy and seek to reimburse Board Directors (LOC) for their valuable time given they undertake the role on behalf of all England LOCs.

Reimbursement is currently set at £369 per day. All Board meetings are paid as a full day rate to reflect the preparatory reading requirements. Other meetings will be reimbursed at a half or full day (further details will be provided upon appointment). Reimbursements are made on a claim basis and, as the role holds Officer status, all reimbursements are paid through LOCSU PAYE and are subject to appropriate taxation.

For further information please contact
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LOCSU