



**LOCSU**

# **Regional Optometry Partner (North)**

## **Applicant Pack**

**June 2026**



# Regional Optometry Partners



<b>Job Title:</b>	Regional Optometry Partner
<b>Salary scale:</b>	£53k - £60k (full time equivalent, pro-rata to contracted hours)
<b>Hours:</b>	Flexible PT, 3 – 4 days (21 – 28 hours) per week (evening working required)
<b>Reports to:</b>	Head of Regional Optometry Partnerships
<b>Location:</b>	Remote with travel across England
<b>Duration:</b>	Permanent

## Who are LOCSU?

LOCSU is the Local Optical Committee Support Unit - a non-profit membership organisation established in 2007 to provide support for [Local Optical Committees](#) (LOCs).

Our [team](#) work to provide LOCs with commissioning support, tailored training, communications, governance and compliance support alongside back-office functions, to support LOCs and nurture the eye health care leaders of the future.

We are seeking a highly skilled and enthusiastic local leader to join the LOCSU team in the role of Regional Optometry Partner. We are particularly interested in hearing from applicants in the North of England, preferably with commissioning experience.

The Regional Optometry Partner plays a central role in supporting and empowering LOCs to act as effective, influential leaders of primary eye care within their local systems. Working closely with LOC officers and members, the role strengthens governance, builds committee capability, supports succession planning and enhances LOC influence in commissioning and service development.

Find out more information about LOCSU [on our website](#) or contact [info@locsu.co.uk](mailto:info@locsu.co.uk).

To apply for the role, please complete [this application form](#) and send it to [info@locsu.co.uk](mailto:info@locsu.co.uk) by **9am on Monday 6 July 2026**.

We look forward to hearing from you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janice Foster".

**Janice Foster**  
CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fionnuala Kidd".

**Fionnuala Kidd**  
Head of Regional Optometry Partnerships

**Are you looking for a role where you can support and empower local leaders and LOCs? Are you passionate about improving outcomes for patients and communities? Do you want to shape the future of local eye care and advance primary care optometry?**



**If so, we'd love to hear from you.**

You will be invaluable to the LOCSU team as we seek to recruit local leaders 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 Purpose**

The Regional Optometry Partner plays a central role in supporting and empowering LOCs to act as effective, influential leaders of primary eye care within their local systems. Building close relationships with LOC officers and members, the role strengthens governance, increase committee capability, supports succession planning and enhances LOC influence in commissioning and service development. Working with LOCs to ensure peer to peer sharing and best practice to support NHS collaboration and the wider role of optometry within all levels of the NHS.

Regional Optometry Partners will work closely with the LOCSU team, to ensure high-quality, responsive support and drawing on LOCSU's subject matter experts to meet local needs. The role brings national strategy to life at local level, supports the development and sustainability of extended primary eye care services, and fosters collaboration across NHS regions, ICBs, place-based teams and neighbourhood structures. This is a key role within the LOCSU team, as both a subject matter expert and a link between LOCs and practices' operational reality and LOCSU's specialist expertise - ensuring that local insight informs national support, and that national guidance is translated effectively into local practice.

The role requires subject matter expertise drawn from clinical practice, commissioning, regulatory environments or LOC leadership, and contributes to LOCSU's wider strategic, clinical and operational work.

## **LOC Relationships and Support**

- Support LOCs to review governance, structure and committee effectiveness, identifying strengths, gaps and development needs.
- Provide recommendations for training, development and improvement to support succession planning and committee resilience.
- Working alongside the LOCSU Training and Development Lead, support LOC succession planning by identifying, nurturing, and developing local talent.
- Encourage and support LOCs to undertake skills and knowledge self-assessments to inform capability growth.

- Promote adherence to professional standards, good governance and best practice across LOCs.
- Support LOCs to understand and apply LOCSU resources, national guidance and local intelligence.
- Provide LOCSU representation at events, national and regional optical conferences.
- In tandem with the Regional Engagement Partner, as named contacts for a group of specific LOCs, foster a community of LOCs with shared purpose, collaboration and networking, including facilitating and leading the Regional Forums, signposting enquiries to the appropriate LOCSU subject matter expert.
- As the named and primary local partner for a group of specific LOCs, ensure excellent customer service and direct timely support.

## Local Partnership, Engagement and Influence

- Provide expert advice on commissioning processes, NHS structures and local system priorities.
- Support LOCs in meetings with commissioners, including preparation, attendance and follow-up.
- Help LOCs build strong relationships with ICBs, place-based teams, neighbourhood structures and wider NHS partners.
- Support LOCs to develop compelling proposals for service retention, expansion and redesign, drawing on LOCSU pathways and national guidance.
- Identify opportunities for service development and population health engagement, providing tools and resources to strengthen local influence.
- Promote primary care optometry and the value of community-based eye care services.
- Act as a central point for local LOC commissioner engagement and local service enquiries, ensuring timely, accurate and customer-focused responses.
- Act as a central point of contact for specific subject matter expertise queries, ensuring timely, accurate and customer-focused responses. Key areas include workforce, digital, research and evidence, and commissioning and influence enquiries.
- Foster cross-fertilisation of knowledge, best practice and learning across regions.
- Maintain strong relationships with local NHS organisations and stakeholders.
- Represent LOCSU at regional and national meetings, conferences and events.

## Team Working, Data, Evidence and Insight

- Maintain accurate LOC records and service trackers, ensuring up-to-date information on local activity and performance.
- Work with the Data Insight and Information Lead to support the collection and collation of data to build a national picture of primary eye care service delivery.
- Work with the Head of Regional Optometry Partnerships to identify trends, risks and opportunities emerging from LOC engagement and regional discussions.

- Work with the Training and Development Lead to support LOC capability growth (training).
- Work with the Communications and Engagement Manager to review and provide feedback in developing LOCSU toolkits, guidance and resources that support LOCs.
- Work with the Head of Governance and Operations to support LOC governance capability (policies and committee running).
- Contribute subject matter expertise (workforce, digital, commissioning influence or data and research) to LOCSU strategy, pathway development and resource creation.
- Work collaboratively with LOCSU colleagues on cross-organisational projects and initiatives.

Undertake other duties within the broad remit of the role as required to support organisational objectives.

## Experience and Skills

### Essential

- Experience working with/in primary eye care, commissioning, regulation or LOC leadership.
- Strong understanding of NHS structures, commissioning processes and local system working.
- Experience supporting service development, pathway implementation or transformation.
- Ability to build rapport, credibility and collaborative relationships with stakeholders at all levels.
- Strong communication, influencing and negotiation skills.
- Ability to analyse issues, identify solutions and support decision-making.
- Experience facilitating meetings, forums or collaborative groups.
- Ability to work flexibly, manage competing priorities and respond to emerging needs.

### Desirable

- Experience supporting governance, committee development or organisational improvement.
- Understanding of population health, public health priorities or local system drivers.
- Experience contributing to resource development, training or guidance materials.
- Experience working in a dispersed team or matrix environment.
- Experience on an LOC or similar committee.
- Experience with and/or understanding of good governance

### All Staff Skills and Qualities

- Excellent communications skills (written and verbal), proficient in SharePoint, outlook, PowerPoint, word, excel, virtual meeting platforms.
- Enthusiastic, friendly and helpful team player that is solution focussed and ready to support others succeed and desire to 'make it easy' for all colleagues and customers.

- Proactive, with a positive ‘can do’ attitude and a desire to strive for self-improvement.
- Highly motivated and flexible problem solver who can adapt to change quickly.
- Able to work autonomously and create a vision for their own area of work, explaining how this fits with the overall strategy.
- Ability and flexibility to travel in England for team and LOC meetings, including some evening meetings.
- Excellent relationship development and management skills with a focus on providing high quality customer service.
- Excellent problem-solving skills including understanding how a national support unit can complement and enhance regional teams.
- Experience working in a fast-paced environment with multiple stakeholders and, sometimes, conflicting priorities.
- Proven track record in taking ownership and identifying opportunities for innovation.
- Act as project lead where required and provide appropriate partnership, leadership, support and training in own subject matter.
- Facilitate and demonstrate LOCSU value proposition and drive confidence in services.
- Support whole LOCSU team with ad hoc tasks where required to ensure overall business objectives are met.
- Ability to manage confidential and sensitive information.
- Used to working to deadlines, prioritising workload, working on multiple projects and tasks at the same time.

## Want More Information?

We have a strong team culture. Existing members of the LOCSU team, including the existing Advancement leads, will be happy to provide working insight on their roles and the opportunity they afford to new talent.

Please do contact existing team members [directly](#) or contact:

- Fionnuala Kidd, Head of Regional Optometry Partnerships: [fkidd@locsu.co.uk](mailto:fkidd@locsu.co.uk)
- Janice Foster, CEO: [jfoster@locsu.co.uk](mailto:jfoster@locsu.co.uk)

## How to Apply

Please complete [the application form](#) and return to [info@locsu.co.uk](mailto:info@locsu.co.uk) no later than **9am on Monday 6 July**. Successful applicants will be invited for interview by **Friday 10 July 2026**.

## Process of Appointment

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

We are interested in hearing from a wide range of applicants with a variety of experience and backgrounds.

### Interview

Interviews will be held in person on Monday 27 July in the North of England - full details and location will be provided to successful applicants.

The interview will consist of a **ten minute presentation**, followed by **five minutes for questions**. This will be immediately followed by a **30 minute panel interview**, allowing time for applicant questions.

Please allow **up to one hour** for the interview. Information about the presentation will be shared with you in advance.

### Eligibility and Essential Criteria

Applicants must have a working knowledge of primary eye care or NHS commissioning.

Applicants will be expected to have either an in-depth understanding of LOC working, optical practice or local commissioning and be well versed in the challenges and opportunities facing LOCs, optical practices and the NHS.



# 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 LOCSU team, LOCs and wider stakeholders (national, regional and local bodies).

## Personal Impact

- Has credibility amongst peer group.
- Able to foster strong relationships and create opportunities for networking and collaboration, bringing LOCs together.
- The confidence and skill to speak up and constructively challenge LOCs and team members where appropriate to do so.
- Through actions can influence and inspire others.

## Political Astuteness

- Understands the wide range of NHS bodies and interest groups, their strategies and influence and demonstrates the ability to manage the dynamic between them to provide effective leadership.

## Team Player

- Enthusiastic and friendly, ever willing to support a team member.
- Work with team members and the senior leadership team to continually develop and improve a positive team culture.

## Decision Making

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

## Self Sufficient

- Highly motivated with excellent problem-solving skills and able to work autonomously.
- Proven track record in taking ownership and identifying opportunities for innovation.
- Good time management with ability to work to deadlines, managing workload, working with multiple LOCs and on multiple tasks at the same time.

## 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.

**For further information on this role and  
vacancy, please contact [info@locsu.co.uk](mailto:info@locsu.co.uk)**

**2 Woodbridge Street,  
London EC1R 0DG  
e [info@locsu.co.uk](mailto:info@locsu.co.uk)  
t 020 7549 2051  
[locsu.co.uk](http://locsu.co.uk)**

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**LOCSU**