

**LOCSU**

# Hampshire LOC AGM

## 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Mohammed Bhuta  
LOCSU Optical Lead

## Baby donkey theft from farm in Hampshire leaves owner 'devastated'

Police issue an appeal after an infant donkey named Moon is stolen from Miller's Ark Animals in Hook, Hampshire. The owner posts on social media saying they are "incredibly concerned".



Moon was stolen from a farm in Hampshire. Pic: Miller's Ark Facebook

# Baby donkey stolen from Hampshire farm found and reunited with her mother

The two-month-old foal's disappearance caused a social media outcry. Now, owners said they are "beyond thrilled" to reunite the baby with her mother.

🕒 Thursday 1 June 2023 17:09, UK

# Our strategy

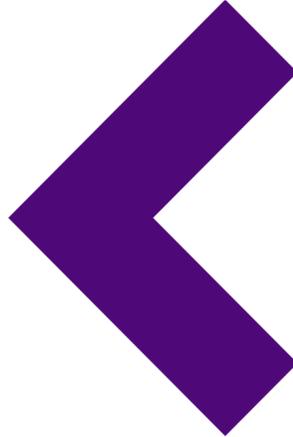


## Purpose

Our purpose is to support Local Optical Committees to fulfil their statutory functions well, so that GOS contractors and performers can deliver NHS eye care effectively in their areas.

## Vision

Our vision is to make it easier for Local Optical Committees to function and maximise opportunities to improve primary eyecare in their areas.



## Values

In doing so we will live our values of being: professional, transparent, supportive, proactive, inclusive, collaborative and approachable.

# Who are LOCSU?

LOCSU is the Local Optical Committee Support Unit, supporting Local Optical Committees (LOCs) across a range of activities relating to primary eye care.

We make it easier for LOCs to improve eyecare in their area by providing practical support in pathway development, governance and compliance and training.



**Janice Foster**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Zoe Richmond**  
Clinical Director



**Richard Knight**  
Head of Policy



**Lisa Stonham**  
Information Officer



**Jacque Fooks**  
Office Manager



**Simone Mason**  
Digital Learning Support Officer

# Our Optical Leads

In addition to the central team, LOCSU have a national network of Optical Leads shown below.

All practising clinicians, they are an invaluable link between LOCs, providing expertise, support and sharing knowledge across the country.



**Mohammed Bhuta**



**Alvaro Borges**



**Danielle Ellis**



**Sarvat (Bobby) Fida**



**Fionnuala Kidd**



**Nizz Sabir**

# How will LOCSU support you?



# What has LOCSU done for you?

## Pathways and case studies

- 3 new pathways
- 7 local case studies
- 445 extended services

## Influencing and leadership

- 1116 meetings

## Learning and development

- 677 CPD points
- 8 courses

## Consultations

- 8 national consultations

## ICS explainer film

- 892 views



# What are LOCSU doing in 2023?

- LOC payroll service
- National LOC Forum (funded LOC attendance)
- Increased training and development, particularly under the leadership CPD requirements
- Webinars, podcasts and other accessible learning and information opportunities
- LOC model constitution engagement and update
- NOC 2023
- Further development of clinical care pathways and focus on Optometry First
- Support to increase uptake of pathways and services
- Extend the suite of case studies and tailor them to different audiences
- Refreshed LOCSU website and LOC online
- Active promotion of LOCs throughout all work to encourage membership and succession planning

# Training and development

- Bespoke CPD training for pathways
- Leadership courses
- Bite size CPD workshops
- Online training opportunities to meet LOC development needs e.g. media training
- Tailored courses developed and delivered in collaboration with expert training providers, WOPEC and LOCs
- Resources for undergraduate students
- Understanding the NHS landscape
- HLOP – webinars and revision for Level 2 Understanding Health Improvement (Health Champion)
- e-assessments
- Online Treasurer course
- LOC induction course

# Case studies and pathways

There are currently 30 case studies in the LOCSU library, showcasing the great work taking place in LOCs across England and providing strong evidence on the benefits of enhanced primary eyecare services delivered in the community.

LOCSU continually work with LOCs to develop new case studies to share excellent local initiatives and best practice; if you have an idea for a case study, we want to hear from you.



## Low Vision Services Delivered Within Primary Care

### At a Glance

This case study considers the benefits of widespread commissioning of the LOCSU Low Vision pathway.

A case study considering the need for widespread commissioning of Low Vision services, delivered locally within primary care optometry to improve access to care for patients living with sight loss. Low Vision services support independent living and improved quality of life.

### Challenges

Increasing demand for convenient and timely low vision assessments close to home due to an ageing population. Fragmented services between primary and secondary care.

### Objectives

Improve access, quality of life, patient experience and reduce health inequalities. Utilise skilled primary care workforce to increase hospital eye clinic capacity to meet complex demands.

### Solution

Commission a comprehensive integrated low vision service delivered within primary care optical practices.

### Results

Improved access to low vision services in a familiar setting closer to home, with tailored care to support patients to live independently. Hospital eye clinic capacity released.

### Definition of Low Vision

A person is considered to have low vision if they have an impairment of their visual function that cannot be remedied by conventional spectacles, contact lenses or medical intervention and which causes restriction in everyday life.<sup>1</sup> It is estimated that around 2 million people in the UK are living with some form of sight loss, with this expected to rise to 2.7 million by 2030.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> National Eye Institute, Low Vision (2022). (Accessed 11/11/2022).

<sup>2</sup> Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) and Specsavers (2017). The State of the Nation Eye Health 2017: A Year in Review. (Accessed 11/11/2022).



## Referral Feedback Within CUES in Manchester

### At a glance

This study considers the additional benefit that referral feedback brings to the CUES service.

### Challenge

COVID-19 significantly impacted on patients access to eyecare.

### Objective

- Reduce the need for patients to travel to a hospital setting
- Manage presentations through to resolution in primary eye care, aided by consultant opinion and feedback where needed

### Solution

The introduction of CUES, supported by ophthalmology feedback, ensured more patients had access to urgent eye care within primary care, delivered in a COVID-safe way, without the need to travel to a hospital.

### Result

Optometrist skills and confidence grow through validation of their clinical decision making. The ability for direct feedback to the referring optometrist, from the ophthalmologist in secondary care has improved referral quality and allowed more patients to be fully managed within primary care. Reduced referral activity is anticipated as confidence grows thus releasing capacity in secondary care.

### Introduction

The COVID pandemic caused a significant disruption to how patients accessed eyecare. In April 2020 the COVID-19 Urgent Eyecare Service (CUES) was developed and recommended for implementation across England by NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE-I), the Local Optical Committee Support Unit (LOCSU) and the Clinical Council for Eye Health Commissioning (CCEHC).

CUES delivered assessment of patients with urgent symptoms by optometrists in primary care. This enabled prompt access to remote consultation and where necessary face to face assessments, with the aim to provide care closer to home and an easing of capacity pressures in secondary care.

[Visit our case studies page](#)



# Are we on the right track?



This is just the start of the conversation. Now it's your turn. Are LOCSU meeting your needs? Could we do more or do you have a particular concern which you would like to share?

Contact us'



# 2023 big challenges

- Direct referral
- Advice and guidance
- Shift to ICB local/regional commissioning and contract management
- Providing eye care services to meet population health needs
- Connectivity

# Why join an LOC?



# The importance of LOCs

- Only official representative of GOS contractors and practitioners within their area
- Pivotal role in the design, commissioning and delivery of primary eye care services
- Develop and embed enhanced eye care services for the best interests of patients
- Influence local and regional commissioners
- Increasing pathways and NHS funding within their area
- Career development for practitioners and leaders of the future
- Providing guidance and leadership to the profession
- Training, including CPD, provision for providers
- Networking and sharing of best practice
- Important link between national, regional and local bodies
- Maximising opportunities for providers and patients to make a difference