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The newsletter for AOP members



January 2007

## Regional Meetings for LOCs

**ABDO, the AOP and FODO are holding a series of meetings all around the country to launch a new, joint initiative to support Local Optometric Committees.**

The Health Act last year changed the nature of ophthalmic provision and opened up opportunities for a substantial expansion of primary eye care in the community. The onus is now on all of us to ensure that we are equipped to take advantage of these new opportunities.

Over the last few months we have been planning how we can support LOCs in developing, agreeing and achieving proposals to develop eye care services at a local level. To take this forward, we need to know what LOCs and practitioners think, what they need and what would better equip them to move the profession forward. These regional meetings will provide an excellent starting point so your presence will help to ensure that we all move together in the right direction.

We need LOCs to help to get this right – it is vital for LOCs to become strong voices on behalf of the profession and to help develop the sort of eye care services needed by local communities, all of whom now show the signs of an ageing population and a greater need for optometric services which are tailored to their changing needs.

Our aim is to establish a Central LOC Support Unit which is partly modelled on the national support arrangements run by some of the other contractor groups.

We aim to build a support unit to:

- Be a reliable source of support and advice with national and regional staff equipped to support LOCs and their leaders
- Provide a range of training, as requested by LOCs, for LOC officers, key negotiators, emerging talent, LOC administrators and LOC specialist advisers as necessary
- Provide support to help LOCs grow and to revitalise any failing LOC



**The optical sector negotiators at a road show last year**

- Monitor progress against agreed criteria for primary care development
- Communicate regularly and proactively across and between LOCs and with the national bodies

The initial objectives and models for primary eye care development will be based on the joint document "Primary Eye Care in England" and on the data emerging from the Welsh PEARS & WECI schemes and the Scottish GOS, in the context of the proposed 10 year plan for eye health. Objectives can be revised and refreshed by further research and an evaluation of emerging schemes. For the first time this work will be backed up by properly funded and robust epidemiological studies, and the first nationwide study is already under way.

We will be elaborating our plans at the meetings, and we want to hear your views.

We hope that you will come along to one of the meetings, and it would be helpful if you could let us know by e-mailing Tracy Symons at the AOP on [tracysymons@aop.org.uk](mailto:tracysymons@aop.org.uk).

Please pass this to local practitioners in your area, as they may be interested in attending. The more input we have at this early stage of the initiative, the more successful it will be.

**Details of venues on next page.**



## LOC REGIONAL MEETINGS - 2007

CITY	DATE	VENUE
London	Wed 31 Jan	Seminar Room, FODO, 199 Gloucester Terrace, London W2 6LD
Cardiff	Thu 01 Feb	Cardiff University, Redwood Building, King Edward VII Avenue, Cardiff CF10 3NB (Name of room to be confirmed)
Birmingham	Mon 05 Feb	Dollond & Aitchison Training Centre, Aston Cross Business Park, 50 Rocky Lane, Aston, Birmingham B6 5RQ
Nottingham	Thu 08 Feb	Crowne Plaza, Wollaton Street, Nottingham NG1 5RH
Manchester	Tue 13 Feb	Conference Room 1, Manchester Conference Centre, Western Building Sackville Street, Manchester M1 3BB
Leeds	Wed 14 Feb	Tomato Room, ASDA Stores Limited, South Bank, Great Wilson Street, Leeds LS11 5AD
Newcastle	Thu 15 Feb	Copthorne Hotel, The Close, Quayside, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE1 3RT
Bristol	Mon 19 Feb	Aztec Hotel & Spa, Aztec West, Almondsbury, Bristol BS32 4TS
Cambridge	Tue 27 Feb	Anglia Ruskin University, Rm: Mel 001, Mellish Clark Building, East Road, Cambridge CB1 1PT
Southampton	Wed 28 Feb	Holiday Inn, Herbert Walker Avenue, Southampton SO15 1HJ
Oxford	Mon 05 Mar	Oxford Spires Four Seasons Hotel, Abingdon Road, Oxford OX1 4PS

**MEETINGS START AT 7PM, WITH A BUFFET AVAILABLE FROM 6.30PM**



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