

# **Chair’s Report – AGM 2024**

In the last year Hamsphire’s LOC has continued to focus on supporting and representing local primary care optometry. We have collaborated closely with our secondary care colleagues and ICB colleagues through several challenges and projects throughout the year and have kept the interests of Hampshire patients and optical practices at the heart of our work.

Shortly after our last AMG, work started with Frimley Park Hospital colleagues and neighbouring LOCs Surrey and Berkshire to implement a commissioned post-cataract service for patients having cataract surgery at Frimley Park Hospital. This service went live early 2024, ensuring patients get the best possible post-cataract care in their communities and that contractors are remunerated appropriately for providing this service and sending NOD data back to the Frimley team.

Continuing with the theme of cataract, Hampshire's ICB, the LOC and NHS England worked closely on an NHS User Research Project about the cataract journey and the use of AI in such a journey. Following a successful bid by Hampshire’s ICB to pilot AI within the cataract journey, the LOC worked tirelessly throughout the year in associated discussions with the ICB and AI company Ufonia to protect future Hampshire cataract patients through their cataract journey and protect optical practices from proposed system changes which could have a negative impact on business operations. At the time of writing this pilot has not yet been launched.

Commissioned services in urgent eye care and glaucoma continue to be provided by practices across the majority of Hampshire, and we continue to advocate for these to be consistent across the entire ICB to avoid postcode lotteries within Hampshire. To support the delivery of these services we provided WOPEC codes and hosted an OSCE in January 2024.

We continue to send out newsletters and maintain an up-to-date website to support local contractors and performers. To visit the website and sign up for the newsletter please visit <https://www.loc-online.co.uk/hampshire-loc/>

As always, I welcome any thoughts and comments from the optical community, so please do not hesitate to reach out.

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