



Important Announcement on Hampshire Services

February 2025

Dear Colleagues,

We regret to inform you that effective from 1st April 2025, the Integrated Care Board (ICB) has taken the decision to decommission the following Primary Eyecare Services enhanced service contracts in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight:

- Enhance Cataract Referral Service (IOW)
- Post-op Cataract Service
- Glaucoma Referral Refinement
- Glaucoma Enhanced Referral Service
- Glaucoma monitoring service
- West Hants Enhanced Triage.

The Community Urgent Eyecare Service (CUES) contract (which also expires in March) will be extended for a period of 6 months, during which time the ICB will consider its long terms plans for this service.

We wish to highlight that the decommissioning of these services is not a reflection on the optical practices delivering these services, or Primary Eyecare Services as the contract holder. On the contrary, all services have been running efficiently and effectively throughout, and all have received very positive feedback from patients. This decision has been taken by the ICB in the context of ongoing financial constraints and a desire to invest in other services for ophthalmology.

We are meeting with the ICB to finalise their decommissioning plans next week and will be in touch once we have the information on what dates the services will be required to stop accepting patients. We are also actively working with local trust hospitals to see what could be directly commissioned, and both Primary Eyecare Services and the Local Optical Committee (LOC) will be in regular communication with updates and advice as we know more

This decision has been made very quickly, with Primary Eyecare Services and LOC only receiving the ICB's new service specifications last week that confirmed this activity would move to elective care contracts that are unsuitable for a primary care delivery model. Despite the best efforts of Primary Eyecare Services and the LOC, we have been unable dissuade the ICB from its intended course of action.

Thank you for your hard work and cooperation in providing these services. We are disappointed to be unable to continue to provide the high-quality patient care that have made the services so successful.

Primary Eyecare Services