



optometry**scotland**

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh EH99 1SP

31st January 2024

Dear Health, Social Care and Sport Committee Members

Optometry Scotland Strategy 2024–2027

I am pleased to present Optometry Scotland's strategy three year strategy for 2024–2027. This sets out how we intend to continue to advance world-class eye care in Scotland.

As we embark on a new year, which will undoubtedly be full of new opportunities and challenges, this focused action plan will ensure that we continue to deliver tangible results for community eyecare in Scotland.

We have identified three strategic priorities which will guide our actions as the industry's collaborative voice:

- To lead the GOS and service enhancement agenda for community eyecare in Scotland
- To influence policy direction and workforce development for community eyecare in Scotland
- To build our collaborative voice for community eyecare in Scotland

I have enclosed our strategy and would welcome an opportunity to discuss this with the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee at a time that is convenient over the coming months. Please contact Elizabeth Docherty on elizabeth@optometryscotland.org.uk who will support meeting arrangements.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Your sincerely

Julie Mosgrove
Chair
Optometry Scotland



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Advancing World-Class Eye Care in Scotland

STRATEGY 2024-2027

On behalf of Optometry Scotland and all our members, I am pleased to present our strategy for 2024–2027, which sets out how we intend to continue to advance world-class eye care in Scotland.

As a sector, we have much to celebrate and of course there have been some fantastic achievements over the past few years.

Up until 2021, the optical sector was the only primary care provider without an annual fee review process, so it is extremely welcome that the Scottish Government has acknowledged and remedied this. Securing an annual fee review mechanism for the sector, particularly the most recent 6% uplift in GOS fees in 2023/24, on top of additional increases in the previous two years is a key highlight.

While there is much to be proud of, there is still work to be done to collectively ensure that eye care in Scotland becomes more accessible and is available to those who need it.

The new education and training requirements (ETR), widening the use of OCT technology, preserving GOS, community glaucoma work and changes to staffing legislation are issues which will affect us all.

We must also make sure our world-class service is sustainable and effectively supports the workforce and our businesses and livelihoods whilst promoting optometry and related positions as an attractive profession.

Our strategy therefore sets out our three key priorities. The focused action plan will allow us to continue to lead the GOS and service enhancement agenda for community eyecare, while influencing policy direction and workforce development. The overall objective to further building a collaborative voice for community eyecare in Scotland.

Thank you for your continued support of Optometry Scotland. We are proud to represent you and look forward to what we can achieve, working both for you and with you, over the coming years.

Julie Mosgrove
Chair of Optometry Scotland



Who We Are

Optometry Scotland (OS) is the representative body for Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians in Scotland.

With more than two decades of experience in advancing world class eye care in the country, OS is the first point of contact for the Scottish Government, all health officials and external bodies in Scotland on community eyecare. Our dedicated team works on behalf of members to preserve the integrity of General Ophthalmic Services (GOS).

Through campaigning for better support services, enhanced status for the Optometric and Dispensing professions, and sustainable funding mechanisms, OS ensures Scotland remains at the forefront of eye health care.

Membership is made of over 370 members, from across Scotland in all Health Boards. This includes a large mix of independent opticians and multiples operating in Scotland. OS offers members a range of benefits, and a strong collective voice, to promote and develop the profession for the people of Scotland.

OS will continue to work to shift the balance of eye care to ensure patients are seen in the right place, working in partnership with public, primary, secondary and third sector stakeholders who share our ambition to ensure Scotland delivers world class eye care.



OUR VISION



To advance world class eye care in Scotland.

OUR MISSION



To sustain community eyecare services, mobilise the sector to influence policy and enhance service delivery and build strong relationships, ensuring Scotland remains at the forefront of eye health care.

OUR VALUES



Integrity

We inspire trust and confidence.



Collaboration

We learn from each other and achieve more together.



Transparency

We are open in our actions and decisions.



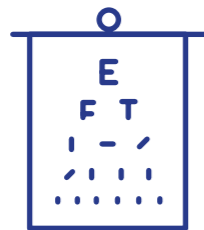
Respect

We recognise the value of, and champion fair treatment and opportunity for all.

Key achievements

OS has achieved significant milestones that reflect our commitment to excellence and advancement within the field of optometry.

Established a formal process for **ANNUAL GOS FEE REMUNERATION REVIEWS**



Secured further GOS fee increases including a **6% uplift for 23/24**



ACHIEVED A 4.5% FEE INCREASE FOR 22/23, AND 3% FEE INCREASE FOR 21/22

the first primary eye examination increase in over 10 years



Secured £1.5 million

for Enhanced Supplementary Eye Examinations from October 2018



SECURED AN ADDITIONAL BUDGET OF £1.2 MILLION

for the increase in Supplementary Eye Examination fees from 1st April 2017



Achieved £0.45 million of capital funding for

pachymetry machines for practices to aid in the diagnosis of glaucoma



Supported and promoted

the profession as the first port of call for eyecare needs



Our Strategy Priorities 2024-2027



To lead the GOS and service enhancement agenda for community eyecare in Scotland



To influence policy direction and workforce development for community eyecare in Scotland



To build our collaborative voice for community eyecare in Scotland

To Lead the GOS and Service Enhancement Agenda for Community Eyecare in Scotland



AIM

Secure sustainable funding mechanisms for community eyecare services

We will:

- Develop a robust GOS review mechanism with the Scottish Government to ensure the integrity of eye health care in Scotland; and monitor and evidence the economic impact in collaboration with optometry
- Continue to support the development of the Community Glaucoma Scheme, and work with the Scottish Government to establish the Anterior Eye Scheme and Low Vision Scheme
- Work with the Scottish Government to ensure the sustainability of domiciliary care provision in Scotland



AIM

Explore technological advances to improve future eyecare provision

We will:

- Ensure the value of a comprehensive consultation is known, understood and acted on by professions and policy-makers by developing a robust communication campaign in partnership with key stakeholders
- Call on the Scottish Government to provide financial support to ensure the provision, and sustainability, of digital equipment is fair and equitable for the profession and patients across Scotland



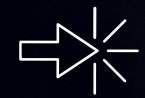
AIM

Ensure access to essential eyecare services in the community to support other NHS services

We will:

- Continue to drive the shift in balance of care from hospital and GPs to enhanced optometric services by highlighting benefits, and capacity, of the sector to the Scottish Government and key decision makers
- Negotiate and support the implementation of future enhanced service delivery by liaising with members to determine capacity and potential; and maintain dialogue with the Scottish Government to present opportunities and capability of the sector

To Influence Policy Direction and Workforce Development for Community Eyecare in Scotland



AIM

Ensure community eyecare remains a priority policy and is equally valued within the healthcare sector

We will:

- Continue to act as the first point of contact for all key health spokespeople and political parties to raise awareness, and support, for priorities within community optometry
- Work with partners to embed optometry as an integral part of the public health strategy
- Maintain our position as a sector thought leader and represent members on key working groups and committees across Scotland
- Work with key stakeholders to preserve the requirement for regulation in eyecare examinations and treatment



AIM

Ensure the sector has a highly skilled and sustainable workforce

We will:

- Work with partners across Scotland to support and promote optometry as a career pathway of choice
- Continue to support partners to effectively implement Education Training Requirements within Scotland
- Ensure members have consistent access to a high standard of training and development
- Call on the Scottish Government and NHS to fund the upskilling of the profession to align with and enable the provision of enhanced services across Scotland
- Call on the the Scottish Government to fund sufficient training places at Higher Education Institutions and in the community to meet future workforce requirements

To Build our Collaborative Voice for Community Eyecare in Scotland



AIM

Bridge the gap between optometry, community health and third sector organisations

We will:

- Work with partners to establish ways in which to improve signposting, communication and pathways between all sectors



AIM

People in Scotland enjoy the best possible quality of life thanks to preventative optometry services

We will:

- Work with stakeholders to ensure driving standards are fair and equitable
- Broker, and support, a campaign to promote eye health awareness





“ Optometry Scotland has been and continues to be a huge benefit to the optical community in Scotland. It is recognised by the the Scottish Government and has been successful in lobbying and negotiating on behalf of the profession, ultimately securing the highest standard of care for our patients. ”

Malcolm McPherson, McPherson Opticians

“ OS has been at the forefront of everything good that’s happened in Scottish Optometry over the last two decades. They’ve built extensive and valuable relationships in Government which has been able to move the profession forward and continues to represent our interests at a national level. ”

Ian Cameron, Cameron Optometry



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