



London Ophthalmology Network (LON): Terms of Reference

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1. A vision for a London Ophthalmology Network:

An Ophthalmology-focused group, that drives change in a collective and cohesive manner, for the benefit of patients. The group will focus on issues and priorities that are pertinent to London.

2. Core values and Ethos

- Inclusive of all NHS staff in London.
- Sense of belonging to an organisation that creates community.
- Collaborative.
- Empowerment of the Ophthalmology community.
- People being the assets and value of the network.
- Forum for change.
- Sharing best practice across London and other UK units.
- Working to build for the future of Ophthalmic care in London and beyond.



Ethos and values- in detail

- Created by the Ophthalmology community, by the experts for the experts.
- Network formed to drive peer-to-peer support.
- Leverage a community that helps drive better health equity and equality for all Ophthalmology patients.
- The ophthalmology network will have multidisciplinary attendance, and members will reflect on how a clinic runs in everyday life.
- Define best practice in London, which units can we learn from.
- Gather practical tips on how to create efficiency and capacity within NHS units within London.
- How to create training and development for AHCP's within clinics
- Look at therapy-related outcomes as well as how to translate them into clinics and benefit patients.
- Collectively drive research and development within London.
- Create consensus documents on therapies, training, clinical set-up, education, and research.
- Creation of best practice care pathways to manage the workload and waiting lists.
- Map out what is best practice within the community and share with all members: SOP's, protocols, and patient pathways.

3. Objectives and vision

- All Ophthalmic patients in London get the right care at the right time.
- Collective voice for those who provide Ophthalmic care, in every aspect of the pathway. This can involve the wider community beyond Hospital care.
- An inclusive network, which is non-hierarchical, and where everyone's voice is valued.
- Understanding and actioning workforce training and development needs.
- Break down silos between Ophthalmic services in the London region.
- Collaborate to ensure Ophthalmic services in the London region are fit for purpose.
- Provide a safe space to bring challenges and discuss solutions in the Ophthalmic space.
- Drive alignment in Ophthalmic patient care pathways across London and beyond.
- Educational meetings that have high value, workshops, practical skills, hands-on problem solving and continuous training to improve care.



4. Faculty of LON

Creation of faculty: *“Trusted and valued members of our community, who want to drive change”.*

- A Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) approach, where the MDT will be invited to relevant meetings.
- A faculty to drive each meeting in accordance with the unmet needs of the NHS trusts discussed at the previous meeting.
- As the network is in Ophthalmology, this will include all specialities and key priorities for helping each other. All Surgery, Glaucoma, Oculoplastic, Strabismus, Corneal, Vitreoretinal, Medical Retina, inherited diseases.
- Create roles and responsibilities that allow for creation of highly valued meetings amongst the Ophthalmology community.

Who will make up the faculty? The faculty will be created from the following NHS Trusts in each sector within London, representation and invitations will be given to all members of the Trusts that are within the Ophthalmology care pathway.

1. **Southeast sector:** King’s College NHS Trust, Guys and St Thomas’s NHS Trust, Queen Mary Sidcup.
2. **East Sector of London:** Whipps Cross Hospital, Royal London Hospital and Barts Healthcare.
3. **Southwest sector of London:** Kingston Hospital, George’s, Sutton, and any outreaches from central hospitals like Charing Cross.
4. **Northwest Sector of London:** Central Middlesex Hospital, Charing Cross Hospital, Chelsea and Westminster Hospital Hillingdon Hospital, Hillingdon Hospital. Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust (Western Eye hospital), St Mary’s Hospital.
5. **North Central sector of London:** Royal Free Hospital, Barnet Hospital and Chase Farm Hospital, Moorfields (below).
6. **Moorfield’s Eye NHS hospital foundation Trust:** To include St George’s Hospital, Croydon Hospital, Moorfields Eye Hospital, Ealing Hospital, Northwick Park Hospital, Potters Bar Community Hospital, Moorfields at Stratford, St Ann’s Hospital, Bedford Hospital.
7. **Private Providers:** where there are discussions for collaboration with the LON group, leaders in the speciality of care will be invited into the meeting.

5. Membership and Key stakeholders:

- Anyone who is invested in long-term improvement of patient pathways and services in the Ophthalmic space across London.
- We aim to have a multi-disciplinary team (MDT) approach, including representation from Consultants, Fellows, Nurses, Allied Healthcare Professionals, Orthoptists, technicians, commissioners, charities and everyone involved with Ophthalmology patient care.



“Share and empower Ophthalmology stakeholders across London (and beyond) to optimise their best practices to improve services and patient eye care outcomes.”

5. Future meetings and frequency

“Creating a long-term value for the Ophthalmology community”

Meetings and frequency

- Chairs and panels will rotate, annually, according to the needs and expertise of the creating collective solutions and shared best practice.
- One- two meetings per annum held face to face, till the network fully formed and established.
- Rotation of locations allowing access for all sectors of London to attend. If everyone, agrees. Or where funds are low for meetings.
- Invite speakers that are of value to the network to help learn from outside of London this may include national and international speakers.
- One annual meeting that is potentially a full or half day meeting.
- Series of projects will be created to allow for training, educational needs and up skilling AHCP's to change efficiency and capacity within clinics.

Ophthalmology areas of focus to include, but are not limited to:

- Medical retinal
- Glaucoma
- VR and MR surgery
- Cataract and refractive surgery
- Oculoplastics and minor surgery
- Dry eye
- Cornea and Ocular Surface
- Paediatric care
- Hereditary diseases. Gene cell therapy
- Digital surveillance and Diabetic Eye Screening Programme
- Eyecare support services
- Government shared care initiatives
- Services and reviews of capacity and efficiency across all Ophthalmic departments
- Research and development collaborations
- Training and development for all staff- focus on unmet needs and align with the needs of the community
- Future innovations coming into the Ophthalmology space
- Creation pathways and protocols
- Primary and secondary care pathways
- Alignment with the Royal College of Ophthalmology initiatives and directives
- EDI and shared vision of working within NHS
- EPR systems and integration



Frequency of Meetings: short-term and medium-term goals

- Two meetings a year with third-party Industry sponsorship
- Smaller meetings as required, to be discussed and defined by faculty and rotating chairs.
- Meetings can take the form of virtual ones too.

7. Future of LON: Long term vision and goals

- Named leaders: Chairs and rotational chairs- MDT approach.
- Whilst LON has been created with Industry support, the aim is to transition to an independent network with third-party sponsorship from Industry.
- Roles and responsibilities for Faculty - Each speciality leads and or chairs will organise meetings and lead for their speciality. There will be at least 3 chairs per speciality and faculty members will be created in line with meeting goals.
- Speciality chairs and faculty will create appropriate agendas and work within the group to source the internal and external speakers for their designated meetings, as well as organising a venue.

Goals for 2025

- Creation of fully formed organisation- registered organisation with roles and responsibilities for members.
- Creation of Website: Allowing for data base to send invites and update on events, training and all educational resources.
- Delivery of at least two meetings:
 - October: MDT training
 - 2026: Digital NHS scope.