

Optometry Newsletter



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Addysg a Gwella Iechyd
Cymru (AaGIC)
Health Education and
Improvement Wales (HEIW)

September 2022

Third Year of Optometry Fellows!

Two optometrists, Kath Lowry and Eleanor Thomas, have just started as HEIW Welsh Clinical Leadership Training Fellows (WCLTF).

The fellowship provides them with the opportunity to take a year out of employment with a focus on leadership and quality improvement activities via a collaborative project with HEIW. During the year, fellows have a wide and varied programme of leadership training and the opportunity to shadow leaders from across health, education and training. The Fellows are co-sponsored by Welsh Government and the initiative has been a great success since initially launched a few years ago.

Kath is leading on a project to develop a support programme for optometrists with newly acquired additional clinical roles, with Eleanor leading on development of an advanced practice framework including a quality improvement programme for optometry.

This is the third time optometrists have been appointed as Welsh Clinical Leadership Training Fellows; a unique opportunity for optometrists not available anywhere else in the UK.



Kath Lowry



Eleanor Thomas

Optometry intern

Our summer optometry intern, Nazia Rahman, has been busy working on a project, liaising with pre-registration supervisors and gathering data via pre-reg questionnaires over the summer.



We will use the information to help better support our pre-registration optometrists and supervisors in the future and our newly qualified optometrists. We are very grateful for those of you that took the time to fill in the questionnaires or talk to Nazia. Thank you very much from all the optometry team in HEIW.

New contract

With the new contract on the horizon, we have been preparing to develop our online resources to support the new contract.

Our offer of education and support will be:

1. **proportionate** and in line with expectation of services,
2. **inclusive** and supportive to the learner for the stage they are at in their learning journey, and
3. **continuously developed** following feedback and regular audits from the service.

We would like to take this opportunity to strongly advise all optometrists in Wales who have not previously been accredited to perform EHEW examinations in Wales to contact us as soon as possible to get ready for the new changes to the Wales GOS service. Contact details are at the end of this newsletter.

New staff member and a fond farewell

It is with genuine sadness that we say goodbye to a stalwart of Low Vision Training and Education, Rebecca Bartlett.

Rebecca transferred to HEIW with the rest of the team from Cardiff University and has been developing our Low Vision training over the last couple of years. Rebecca is now leaving her post to become one of the new clinical leads for GOS in Wales, which is very exciting. We will all miss Rebecca very much, but we will be working closely with her in the future and know there will be plenty of opportunities to catch up, so it is not so much goodbye as see you soon!

Fortunately, we are delighted to announce that Kaiya Anwar will be joining us on a permanent

basis as our Low Vision Education and Training Lead. Kaiya has fitted in with the team perfectly and is looking forward to continuing to build on the amazing work that Rebecca has set in motion.

Kaiya said, 'I am really enjoying working within the Optometry team at HEIW. I feel that we all work efficiently and collaboratively, with each team member having various skillsets which complement one another. We have many plans to execute over the next year regarding the transformation of the training programme for Low Vision, but I



Kaiya Anwar

feel confident that we will be able to achieve this. I am really excited to see what the future holds for Low Vision training delivered via HEIW'.

Events: past, present, and future

HEIW Optometry & Pharmacy CPD Event

On 11 May 2022, a joint virtual CPD event was held between the Optometry and Pharmacy teams in HEIW, entitled 'What difference do independent prescribers make to delivering eye care services in the community?'. This was a very successful evening with around 150 colleagues tuning in to hear about how independent prescribing services work in both professions and the potential for greater communication and collaboration. If you were unable to attend but are interested in learning more about the event, please email HEIW.Optometry@wales.nhs.uk for information on how to access the recording.

Eye Health Week 19-25 September

We will be holding several events in September and will hold an optometry IP webinar to coincide with this year's eye health week- see details below. Please do join us if you can.

Independent Prescribing in the Wild; experiences from qualified IP optometrists across Wales

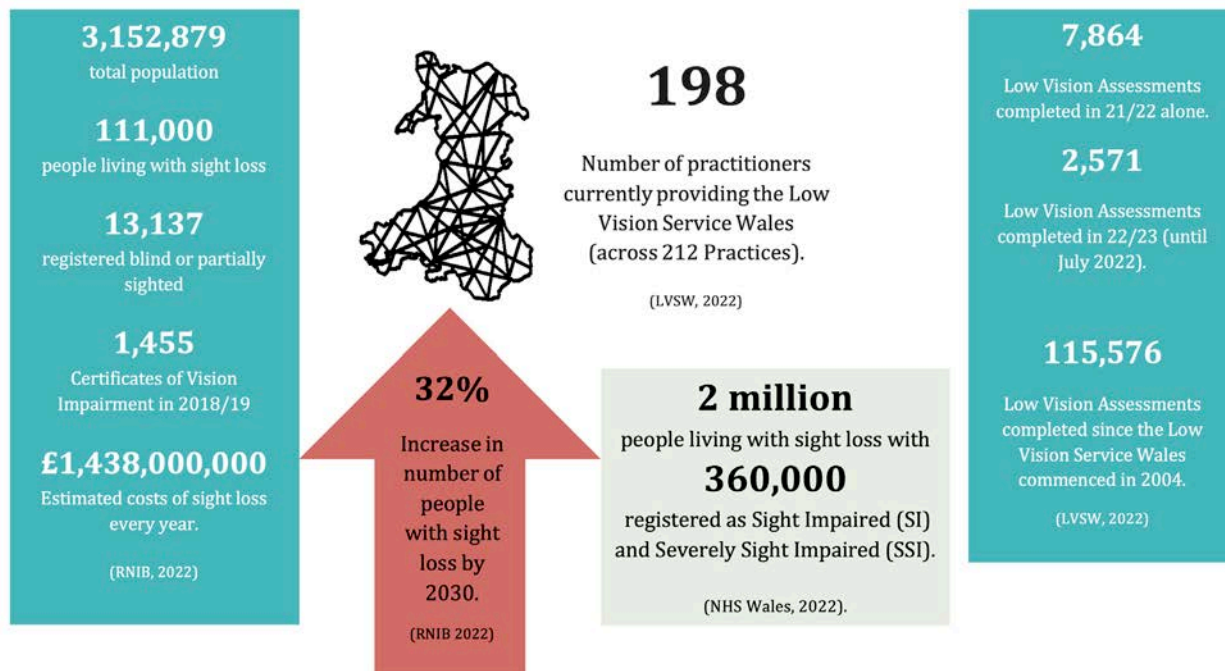
A virtual CPD event on Wednesday 21 September 2022, 7.30-9pm. Building on from the interest in our joint event held between Optometry and Pharmacy, this event will explore independent prescribing in optometry in more detail. We will be exploring the pathway to IP qualification, hearing from a

panel of experienced IP-qualified optometrists, and tackling interesting clinical cases. We will also address those common questions around access to IP services in Wales. Please email HEIW.Optometry@wales.nhs.uk for details on how to register.

HEIW Event for Foundation Pharmacists and Pre-Reg Optometrists in Wales

A virtual CPD event on Wednesday 28 September 2022, 7-8.30pm. This is a virtual event for pre-registration optometrists and foundation pharmacists. We will examine EHEW, the Common Ailments Scheme and improving communication. There will be short presentations and cases to peer review (in small groups of both optometrists and pharmacists).

Low vision in numbers



1 in 5

people will start to live with sight loss in their lifetime.

(RNIB, 2022)

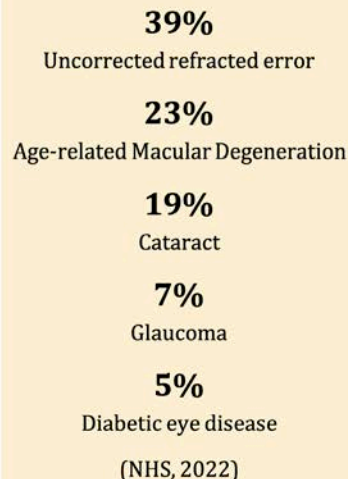


250 people start to lose their sight every day in the U.K.

(RNIB, 2022)



MAIN CAUSES OF SIGHT LOSS



2004

Low Vision Service Wales was launched allowing practitioners with low vision qualifications to autonomously manage low vision service users in the community reducing the strain on secondary services.

Launch of the Eye Care Building in Careersville

23 September 2022

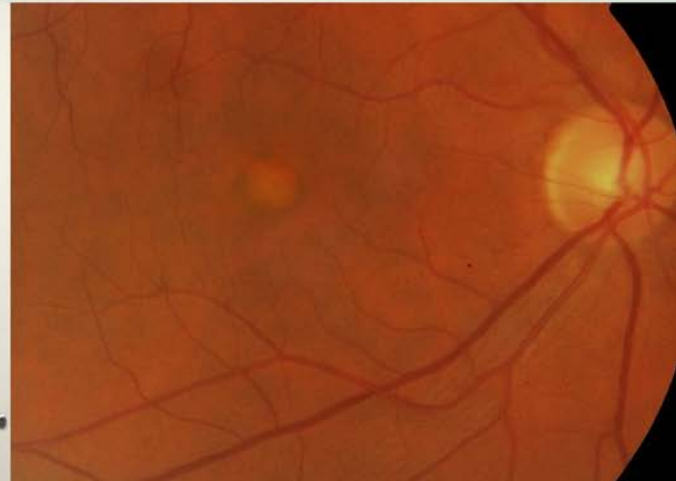
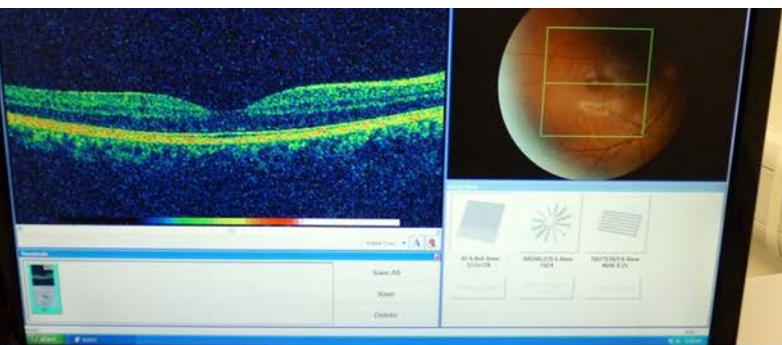
Careersville is a concept which initially launched to school years 9-11 (students aged 14-16) in Autumn 2021 with a fully bilingual (English/Welsh) event.

The aim was to raise the profile of the career opportunities available within health and social care in Wales. It has been developed as an interactive village with various buildings representing the different health and social care workplaces. The

Eye Care building has been under development, but we are now excited to announce that it will open its doors on 23 September! The building has an Optometrist, CLO/DO and orthoptist floors, all accessed via the virtual lift. We're hoping that the combination of

information posters, blogs and videos will raise awareness of roles in eye care and inspire the next generation of eye care professionals.

Careersville:
<https://careersville.heiw.wales/eye-care>



Contact emails

heiw.optometry@wales.nhs.uk

Any queries or EHEW training and accreditation

nwssp-primarycareservices@wales.nhs.uk

EHEW clinical or EHEW management queries

HEIW.OptometryLVS@wales.nhs.uk

Low Vision training and accreditation

Low.vision@wales.nhs.uk

Low Vision Service Wales - clinical, management or service delivery queries