



# The role you can play: Working with AOCs, LOCs and ROCs

A guide for ABDO members

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**This guideline information reflects the aspirations of the Association of British Dispensing Opticians to ensure equality for its members when working with AOCs (Area Optical Committees, Scotland), LOCs (Local Optical Committees, England) and ROCs (Regional Optical Committees, Wales).**

Commencing 1 January 2017, ABDO has strategically reorganised its structure by abandoning its old 'area' concept and replacing with a new regional structure. In doing so it is envisaged that Regional Leads and Sub Regional Leads, together with the support of the ABDO board, staff and individual members, can play a pivotal role in significantly raising awareness of the vital role the dispensing optician can play in eyecare provision. In addition, there are growing opportunities to facilitate professional development and expansion of scope of practice.

For any member of the Association who attends any local meetings, we would encourage unity by adopting the aspirational guidelines listed opposite:

1. Recognition that dispensing opticians are classified as providers of primary eyecare services and are integral to the profession
2. Participation in all relevant local initiatives such as low vision services, MECS and paediatric pathways and to be consulted on potential opportunities where dispensing opticians with appropriate training could deliver a service
3. Recognition that dispensing opticians have a rightful place on AOCs/LOCs/ROCs in their own right and not by secondary means
4. Raising standards of dispensing, particularly for children, the visually impaired and the vulnerable and to promote the importance and need for patients to be seen by a registered dispensing optician
5. Engagement with local committees to provide CET to meet the on-going challenges of CET despite no funding or agreement to be involved in DOCET training.

With assistance from our members we strongly believe that all of the objectives listed above are achievable. ABDO will continue to lobby aggressively at a national level, however it is also essential that members do their utmost to improve the position within their local region.

**Working together we can make a difference.**

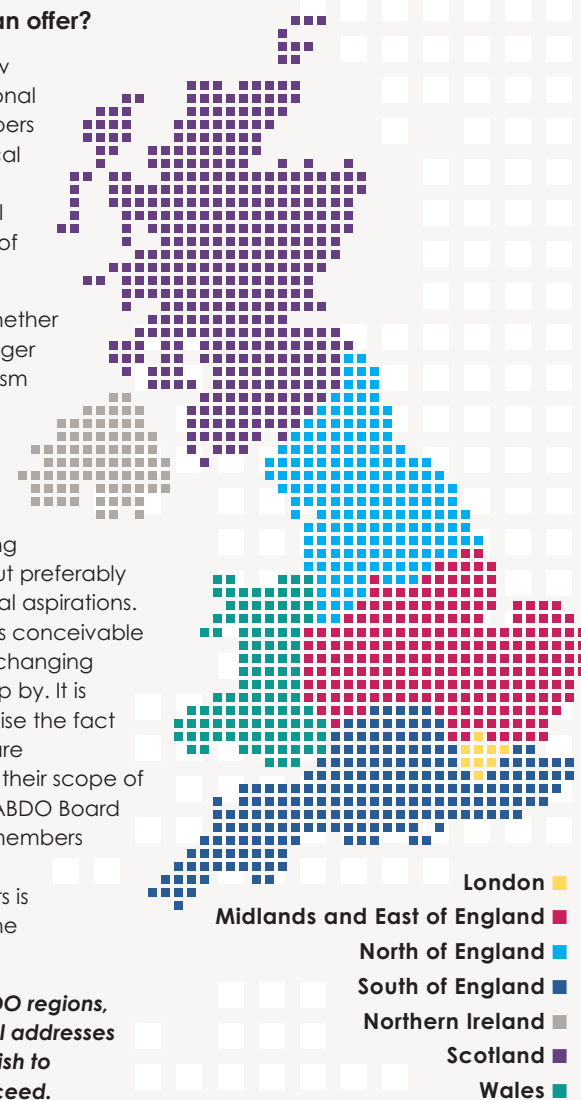
### How to get involved and what you can offer?

From January 2017 ABDO will adopt a new regional structure, which will have a Regional Lead (RL) designated to support all members participating in, or wishing to join, their local committee. Additionally each RL will be supported by Sub Regional Leads who will assist in supporting members at all stages of their participation locally.

Regardless of your position in practice, whether you are practice owner, a practice manager or a dispensing optician your professionalism and expertise will be the starting point to participate and generate engagement.

Throughout the course of 2017 and beyond, ABDO has the very achievable aspiration of having at least one dispensing optician on each AOC, LOC and ROC, but preferably more, to drive our political and professional aspirations. Without input and a place at the table it is conceivable that opportunities to progress in the ever-changing landscape of optometry and optics will slip by. It is essential that dispensing opticians recognise the fact that often many of the skills they possess are underutilised and the foresight to expand their scope of practice is not given priority. Clearly, the ABDO Board believe in the skills and capabilities of its members and wish to see progression at the earliest opportunity. Involvement from its members is fundamental to success and delivery of the objectives outlined.

**The UK will now be divided into seven ABDO regions, a list of the Regional Leads and their email addresses is printed on the back page should you wish to discuss your involvement and how to proceed.**





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