



**Report:** Central Optical Fund Support for LOCSU's Contribution to Primary Care Report

**To:** Central Optical Fund

**From:** LOCSU

**Date:** September 2022

## **Overview**

This report gives a high-level summary of the Central Optical Fund's ('Central Fund') financial support for LOCSU's engagement in the 'Stronger Together: 2020/21 State of the Nation Report' into primary eyecare.

## **The Central Fund**

Central Fund support made LOCSU's engagement with this project possible. LOCSU would like to express its thanks to the Central Fund, not only for the support for this particular project, but for all other projects to date. The Central Fund's financial contribution to this and other projects is vital not only by helping LOCSU deliver for LOCs, but for the whole of primary eyecare.

## **Project context**

Primary eyecare, primary care, and health and social care in general is going through structural and systemic change with the objective of ensuring that the NHS continues to meet the health needs of the population. LOCSU has been centrally engaged with eyecare service redesign in the last two years.

LOCSU's involvement with the Stronger Together project's development, production, and delivery was in keeping with LOCSU's objective of supporting LOCs to maximise the potential of primary eyecare in helping to achieve Government and NHS objectives for more/better:

- Preventative care, empowering patients to understand the correlation of lifestyles and health

- Integrated care
- Out of hospital care and reduced siloed working
- Primary-secondary engagement
- Overhauled health architecture including Integrated Care Systems and other new bodies
- Covid recovery
- Enhanced patient decision making, with patient involvement throughout patient journeys leading to better outcomes
- Emphasis on collaboration rather than competition and contracts.

### **Importance to primary eyecare**

This was a pan-primary care research project. It was therefore essential that optometry had a voice throughout the development stage and upon the project's launch. It was also essential that the role and skills of LOCs, as local eyecare leaders, be identified and promoted towards wider audiences.

### **LOCSU engagement**

Richard Whittington (CEO) and Zoe Richmond (Clinical Director) were contributing authors to the report. The Central Fund provided the funding for the hosting of the optical sector round tables. Two round tables were held either side of the interim report. Following the publication of the final report in April 2022, Zoe Richmond presented at the launch event.