

Dear All,

Following on from discussion at the West Yorkshire Eye Health Network, I wanted to inform you of an exciting new development for Yorkshire. The Chair of LEHN, Steve Clark, has developed a plan to work with the UK charity *Vision Care for Homeless People* and to open a new branch in St George's Crypt in Leeds. This would be the 8<sup>th</sup> branch for the charity. The clinic will operate one day per week from 11.00-3.00 (day to be finalised).

*Vision Care for Homeless People* (VCHP) is a charity set-up to provide eye-care services to homeless and other vulnerable people in an accessible and friendly environment, in which they feel safe, welcome and comfortable. This year the charity celebrates its 12-year anniversary. It has provided eye-tests to 11,783 homeless and vulnerable people and dispensed over 12,600 pairs of spectacles, all completely free of charge! Find them on [www.visioncareforhomelesspeople.org](http://www.visioncareforhomelesspeople.org)

The inaugural meeting took place at the Crypt on 1st February, 2017 and was well attended by volunteers from across Yorkshire. There was great enthusiasm and an overwhelming desire to make a positive impact to the lives of the increasing number of vulnerable people and those that are homeless. The over-arching feeling of the attendees was that they felt that they wanted to help but did not know how they could. All agreed that this would be a fantastic way of utilising their skill set to provide practical help and to give something back.

VCHP Yorkshire branch will be registered as an optical practice in St George's Crypt, Leeds with NHS England. This enables funding to be claimed from the NHS for people who are eligible for an NHS eye examination. This funding, plus some private donations, enables them to run the service free for everybody who requires it, not just those receiving benefits. As all professional staff are volunteers and all the equipment is donated, there are no over-heads from these areas. However, we need to raise £7,400 for the first two years.

***THIS IS WHERE YOU CAN BECOME INVOLVED: IT CANNOT RUN WITHOUT YOUR HELP!***

1. ***Would you like to become a volunteer optometrist or dispensing optician? Please email me on [ann.barrett@vchp.org.uk](mailto:ann.barrett@vchp.org.uk)***
2. ***Perhaps you are a practice that could allow your staff (particularly DOs) time out to help at the Crypt clinic once a month? Please email me on [ann.barrett@vchp.org.uk](mailto:ann.barrett@vchp.org.uk)***
3. ***Do you have a member of staff such as a receptionist, a friend or relative who could run the administrative side of the clinic? Please contact [mei.joseph@vchp.org.uk](mailto:mei.joseph@vchp.org.uk)***
4. ***Maybe you would like to donate something from the wish list hosted on Amazon? <http://amzn.eu/0h1N8HB> (Every donation helps)***
5. ***Perhaps you would like to donate some cash? Please follow this link to Virgin money <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/displayCharityCampaignPage.action?charityCampaignUrl=VCHP-Leeds>***
6. ***Would you consider holding a fundraising event? You can set up a sponsorship page from the VCHP Virgin money giving page. [link as above]***
7. ***You can raise donations for VCHP when you shop online or use your cards by simply registering at [Easy Fundraising](#).***

Thank you for taking the time to read this, please take action now! I look forward to hearing from you.

***Working together in Yorkshire, each giving a little help we can make a big difference. This will possibly be the most rewarding work you will do.***

Best wishes,

**Ann**

Ann Barrett, Chair Leeds LOC. [www.loc-net.org.uk/leeds](http://www.loc-net.org.uk/leeds)

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