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Powys Teaching
Health Board

Powys Teaching Health Board

Primary Care Contracted Optometry Services

Annual Report

2025/2026

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1. Summary of the provision of WGOS 1-5

1.1. Wales General Ophthalmic Services (WGOS) is a Primary Care Optometry service delivered from both fixed location premises in the community and closer to/in homes via mobile practices. WGOS is a tiered Service comprising of the following:

- WGOS 1: eye examinations and patient management plan.
- WGOS 2: made up of three bands:
 - Band 1 – Acute eye care and referrals for examination from another healthcare professional.
 - Band 2 - Further examinations following WGOS 1 to inform or prevent a referral.
 - Band 3 - Follow up examinations to WGOS 2 Band 1 and Cataract Post-operative Assessments.
- WGOS 3:
 - Assessments for those with low vision and providing low vision aids where appropriate, as well as holistically supporting the patient and providing rehabilitative support.
 - Certification of Vision Impairment
- WGOS 4: examinations for patients who would previously have been referred to/or managed in the Hospital Eye Service (HES) instead remain in primary care for further enhanced assessment as part of an agreed referral refinement or monitoring pathway for patients:
 - with or with suspected medical retina conditions
 - with or with suspected glaucoma or ocular hypertension; and
 - who are at risk of retinopathy due to taking hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine
- WGOS 5: examinations in primary care for acute eye conditions that require management by an independent prescriber optometrist to reduce the need for onward referrals to Hospital Eye Services.
- NHS Optical vouchers: financial support for the provision of spectacles or contact lenses to patients in eligible categories determined by Welsh Government.

There are currently 14 Optometry practices across PTHB and 4 mobile contractors. All 18 contractors offer a mandatory level of service of WGOS 1 and 2 and a range of additional services across WGOS 3-5 are offered.

1.2. The Powys WGOS 1 and 2 mandated access offer is detailed below (accurate as of February 2026), and can be changed with the agreement of the Health Board:

Business name	Location	Core Hours Mon-Fri	Core Hours Weekend
Jonathan Partridge Optometrists	Welshpool	09:15 - 13:00 13:50 - 16:40	Test one Sat/month core hours on that day 9:00 - 12:30
Specsavers Welshpool	Welshpool	09:00 - 17:30	09:00 - 17:00
Mehta Opticians	Welshpool	09:30 - 13:00 14:00 - 16:30	
Mehta Opticians	Newtown	09:30 - 13:00 14:00 - 16:30	
Specsavers Newtown	Newtown	09:00 - 17:00	09:00 - 17:00
SG Marshall Metropia Optics	Builth Wells	09:30 - 13:00 14:00 - 17:00 (Weds 9:30 – 13:00)	
SG Marshall Metropia Optics	Llandrindod Wells	09:30 - 13:00 14:00 - 17:00	
Evans and Jones	Llandrindod Wells	09:00 - 13:00 14:00 - 17:00	
Specsavers Brecon	Brecon	Mon/Tue/Wed/Fri 09:00 - 17:30 Thu 09:00 – 18:30	Sat - 09:00 - 16:00 Sun - Closed
Vision Express	Brecon	09:00 - 17:30	09:00 - 17:00
First Optic	Brecon	09:00 - 17:00	09:00 - 16:00 (Sat)
Jackson & Gill Opticians	Hay-on-Wye	09:00 - 17:00	09:00 - 16:00 alternate Saturdays
Crickhowell Optometrists	Crickhowell	Mon/Wed/Fri 09:30 - 13:30 (Term time only)	
David R Jenkins Optometrist	Ystradgynlais	09:00 - 12:45 14:00 - 17:00	
Mobile Providers			
Outside Clinic Services	Swindon	09:00 – 17:30	
Catvog Domiciliary Specsavers Home Visits	Barry	09:00 - 17:00 Tuesdays only	
Clwyd and Snowdonia Domiciliary	Mold	09:00 - 17:30	
Gwent Domiciliary Specsavers	Caerphilly	09:00 – 16:00 Tuesdays only	

Table 1: Contractor core hours

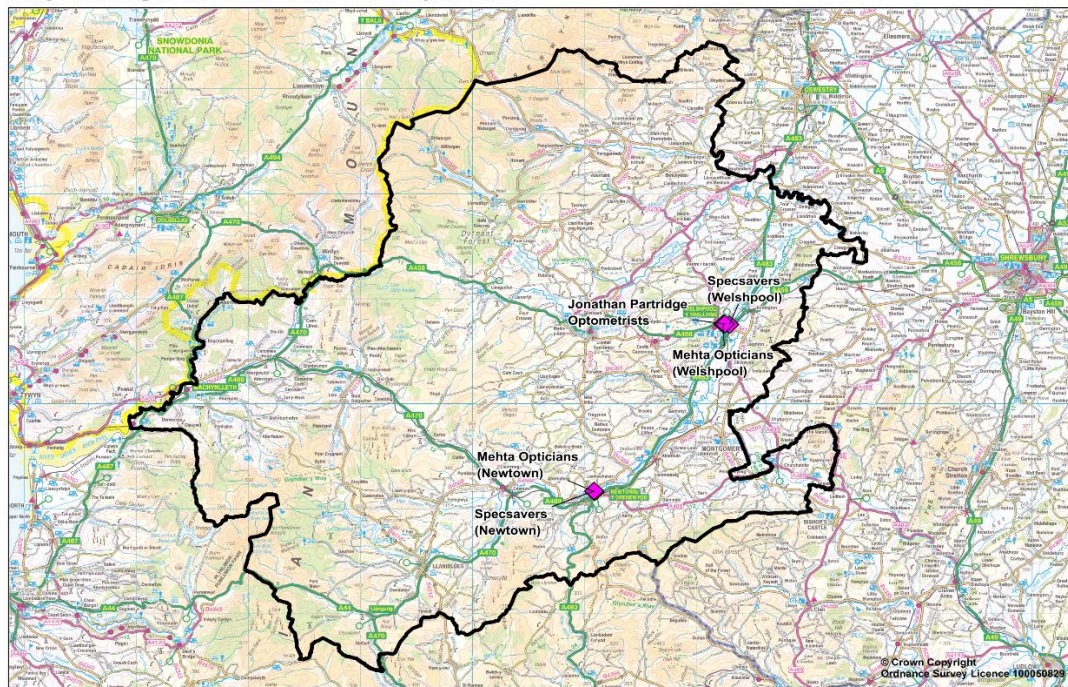
1.3. Location of WGOS providers across PTHB

Patient access to optometry services is not linked to patient registration and therefore patient choice informs where patients choose to access optometry services. Many Powys residents choose to access across border optometry services. This includes both Wales and England services.

The following maps outline the current location of Optometry practices across each of the three Powys Cluster footprints:

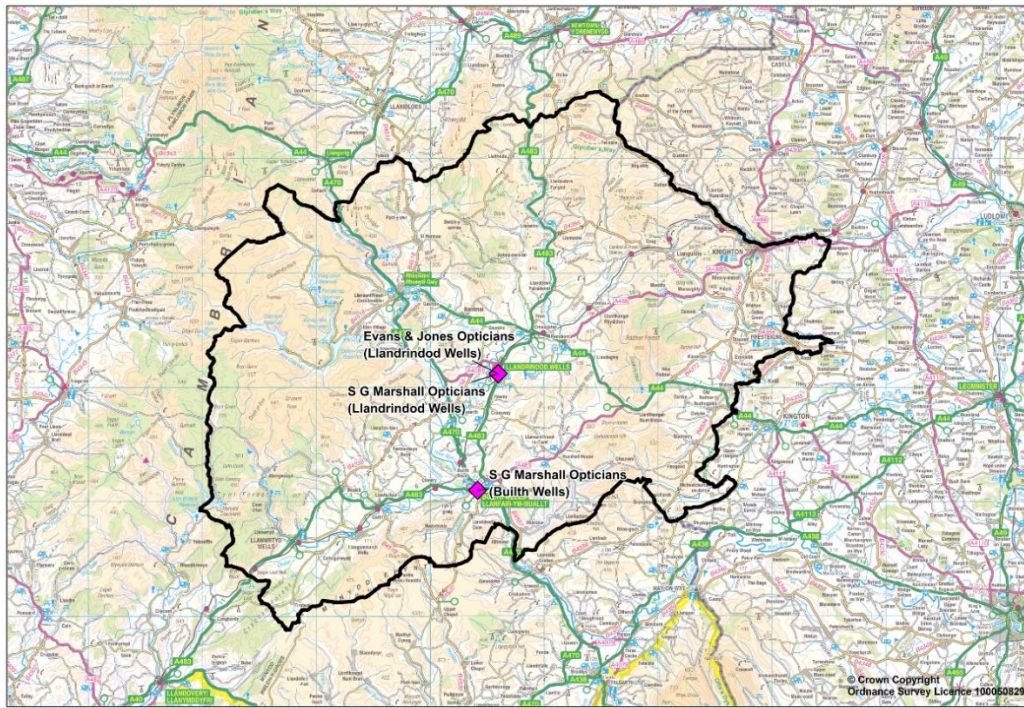
a) North Cluster:

Powys Teaching Health Board - North Cluster Optometrists



b) Mid Cluster

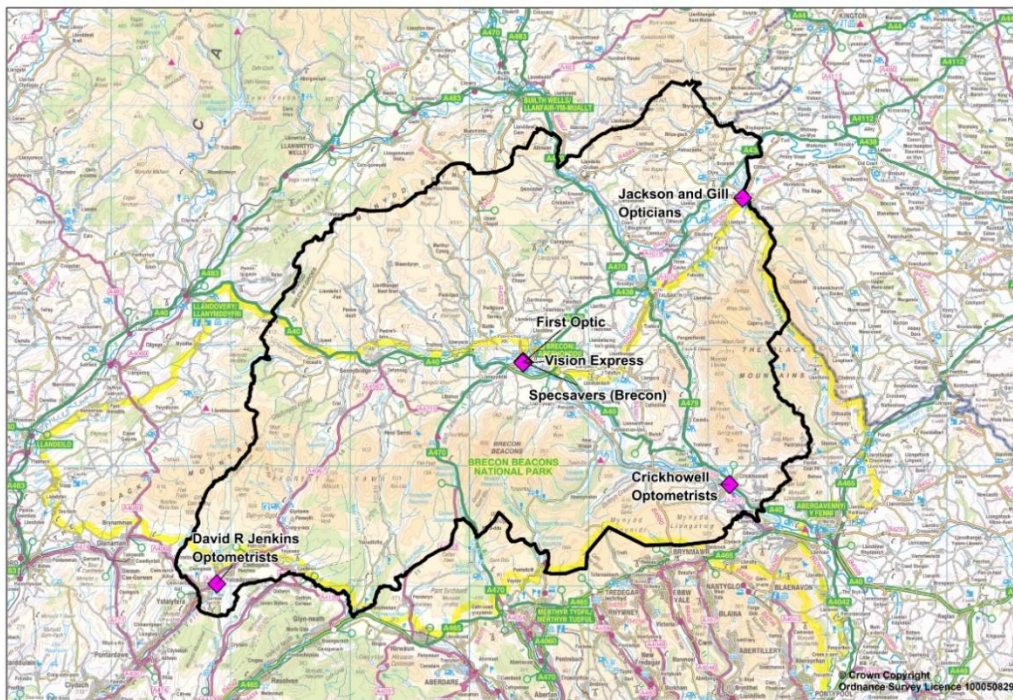
Powys Teaching Health Board - Mid Cluster Optometrists



Digital Health and Care Wales February 2025

c) South Cluster

Powys Teaching Health Board - South Cluster Optometrists



Digital Health and Care Wales February 2025

WGOS level (1-5) by Practice		1	2	3	4				5
					GF	GM	MR	HCQ	
North	Jonathan Partridge, Welshpool	x	x	x		x	x		x
	Specsavers Welshpool	x	x			x	x		x
	Mehta Opticians, Welshpool	x	x				x		
	Mehta Opticians, Newtown	x	x				x		
	Specsavers Newtown, Vision Plus	x	x	x					x
	5	5	5	2	0	2	4	0	3
Mid	SG Marshall, Builth Wells	x	x	x	x	x	x		
	SG Marshall, Llandrindod Wells	x	x	x	x	x	x		
	Evans & Jones, Llandrindod Wells	x	x	x					
	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	0	0
South	Specsavers Brecon	x	x			x	x		x
	Vision Express, Brecon	x	x	x					
	First Optic, Brecon	x	x	x			x		x
	Jackson & Gill, Hay on Wye	x	x				x		
	Crickhowell Optometrists	x	x	x		x	x		
	David R Jenkins, Ystradgynlais	x	x	x					
	6	6	6	4	0	2	4	0	2
Mobile	Outside Clinic Services, Swindon	x	x						
	Catvog Domiciliary Specsavers	x	x	x					
	Clwyd and Snowdonia Domiciliary	x	x						
	Gwent Domiciliary Specsavers	x	x	x					
	5	4	4	2					0
Totals	14 Practices and 4 mobiles	18	18	9	2	6	10	0	5

Table 2: WGOS (1-5) provision by contractor

2. Summary of the workforce providing WGOS 1-5

2.1. PTHB currently has 42 registered professionals on the PTHB Ophthalmic Performer List.

Contractor reported data shows the regular Ophthalmic workforce across PTHB below:

Staff Role	StaffCount	Cluster
Dispensing Opticians	2	Mid Powys
Optometrists	6	Mid Powys
Dispensing Opticians	3	Mobile
Optometrists	24	Mobile
Dispensing Opticians	3	North Powys
Optometrists	26	North Powys
Student Optometrists	2	North Powys
Dispensing Opticians	3	South Powys
Optometrists	25	South Powys

2.2. The local higher qualified workforce aligned with WGOS 3-5 is summarised below:

Higher Qualified workforce					
	Higher Certificate Glaucoma	Professional Certificate Glaucoma	Professional Certificate Medical Retina	Independent Prescribers	Low Vision
North Cluster					
Welshpool	0	2	3	3	1
Newtown	0	1	2	2	1
Mid Cluster					
Llandrindod Wells	1	1	1	0	2
Builth Wells	1	1	1	0	1
South Cluster					
Hay-on-Wye	0	0	1	0	0
Crickhowell	0	1	1	0	1
Brecon	0	2	3	2	2
Ystradgynlais	0	1	0	0	1

Table 3: PTHB Higher qualified (WGOS 3-5) workforce

3. Assessment of the effectiveness of the provision of WGOS 1–5

3.1. WGOS 1-2

All 14 practices and the 4 mobile providers are mandated to provide WGOS 1 and WGOS 2 across their core hours. There is a reasonable geographical spread of these services across the Health Board, noting the permanent service gap in North-West Powys discussed in section 4.

3.2. WGOS 3

There are currently seven WGOS 3 practices and two mobile providers. There is good coverage across all three clusters. However, the limited mobile provision presents challenges across a geographically large, rural Health Board.

3.3. WGOS 4

The implementation of WGOS 4 in Powys has faced several challenges, which has limited activity through this service including:

- The complex nature of Powys' secondary care eye services, which are delivered through a combination of in-reach services and external referrals.
- A significant proportion of patients access ophthalmology care outside of the Welsh system, particularly in Shrewsbury and Hereford hospitals.
- As a commissioning organisation rather than a direct provider of ophthalmology services, PTHB has encountered complexities in pathway alignment and stakeholder engagement.
- Integration of WGOS 4 with services outside of Wales has required additional negotiation and support, particularly from the Planned Care Assistant Medical Director, to resolve pathway and governance issues.

Glaucoma Filtering: WGOS 4 Glaucoma Filtering service went live in February 2025 with two optometry practices in mid-Powys (Builth Wells and Llandrindod Wells). These practices initially focused on referrals from WGOS 2 to WGOS 4. However, due to the limited geographical coverage of these practices and the wide rural spread of the Powys population, this has limited activity through optometrist-to-optometrist referrals. As of December 2025, redirection of 'new' glaucoma referrals to WGOS 4 glaucoma filtering has commenced from Llandrindod Wells and Brecon Hospitals.

As of Q4 2025/26, there is a lack of higher qualified (or in training) workforce to provide a health board-wide WGOS 4 Glaucoma Filtering service. Additionally, there is a lack of available provision in North and South Powys.

Glaucoma Monitoring: WGOS 4 Glaucoma Monitoring launched during September 2025 with six practices offering this service Health-Board wide across all Clusters

(Crickhowell, Brecon, Builth Wells, Llandrindod Wells, Welshpool). As of Q3 25/26, a temporary optometrist post (GF certified) has been secured to undertake case note reviews, enabling the discharge of suitable patients from PTHB Ophthalmology clinics into WGOS 4 for Glaucoma monitoring. Discharge to Glaucoma monitoring is expected to commence during Q4 2025/26.

Medical Retina: WGOS 4 Medical Retina (filtering and monitoring) launched across PTHB during August 2025. Referral redirection to Medical Retina filtering and discharge to Medical Retina monitoring is expected to commence during Q4 2025/26.

Hydroxychloroquine monitoring: As of Q4, 25/26, WGOS 4 HCQ monitoring is not currently anticipated to be available within Powys. Two practices in North Powys (Welshpool and Newtown) meet the necessary qualification and equipment requirements to provide this service. However, engagement with local optometrists indicates a limited interest in delivering this service. HCQ screening continues to be accommodated within secondary care services

Despite the complexities and challenges associated with Powys' unique service configuration, the Health Board anticipates a significant increase in activity during Q4 25/26 and throughout 26/27.

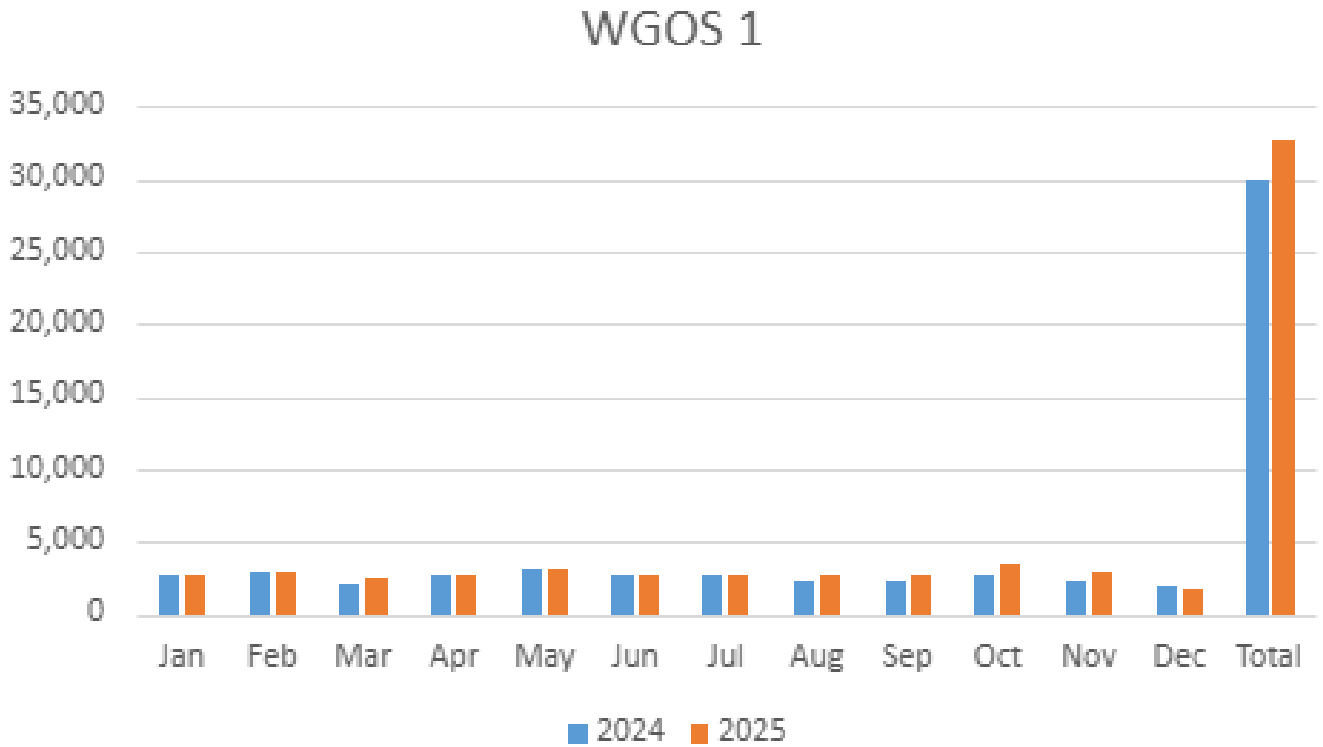
3.4. WGOS 5

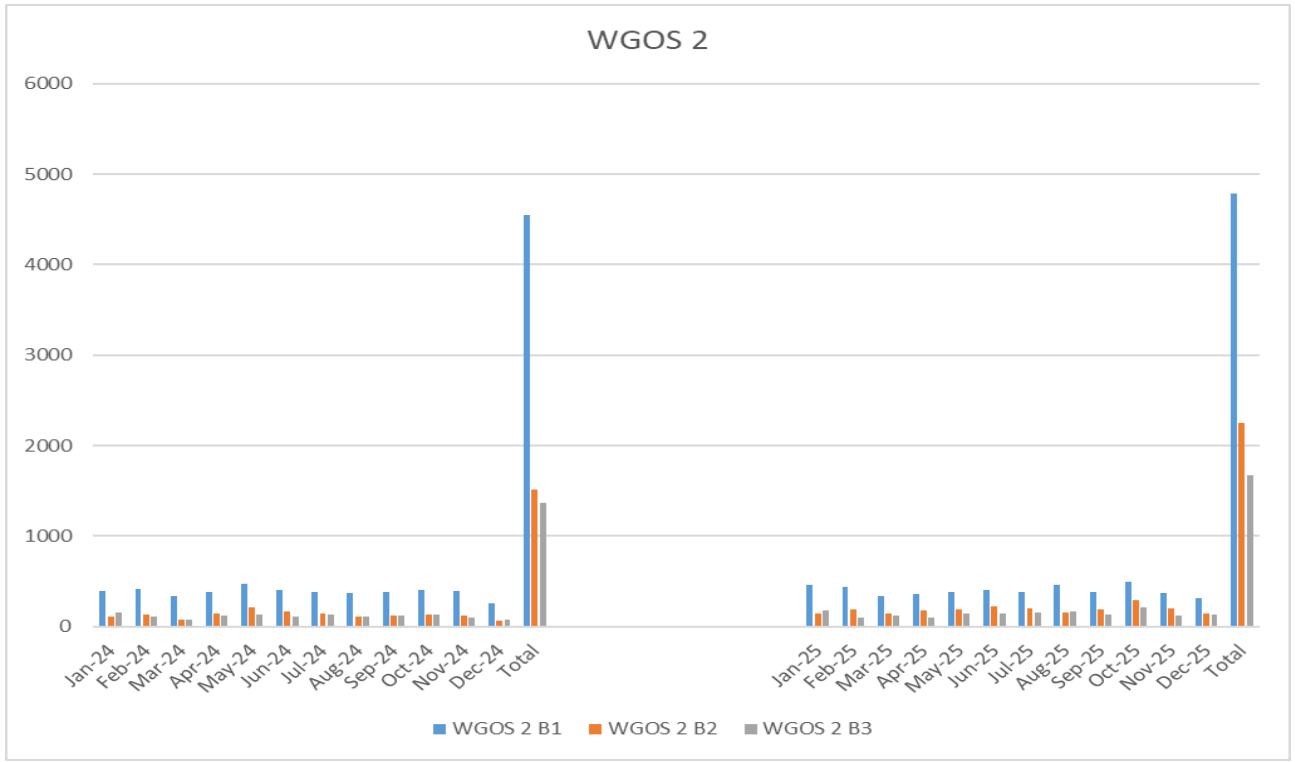
As of Q4 2025/26, there is WGOS 5 provision in two out of three Clusters. WGOS 5 services are currently provided in North Powys (Welshpool and Newtown) and South Powys (Brecon). There is no provision in Mid Powys. There are no mobile providers of WGOS 5 within PTHB.

At the time of report completion, Q4 2025/26 WGOS activity data is not yet available. Therefore, the following data presented reflects the calendar year 2025, covering the period from Q4 2024/25 through to Q3 2025/26, with comparative data drawn from the equivalent period in the calendar year 2024.

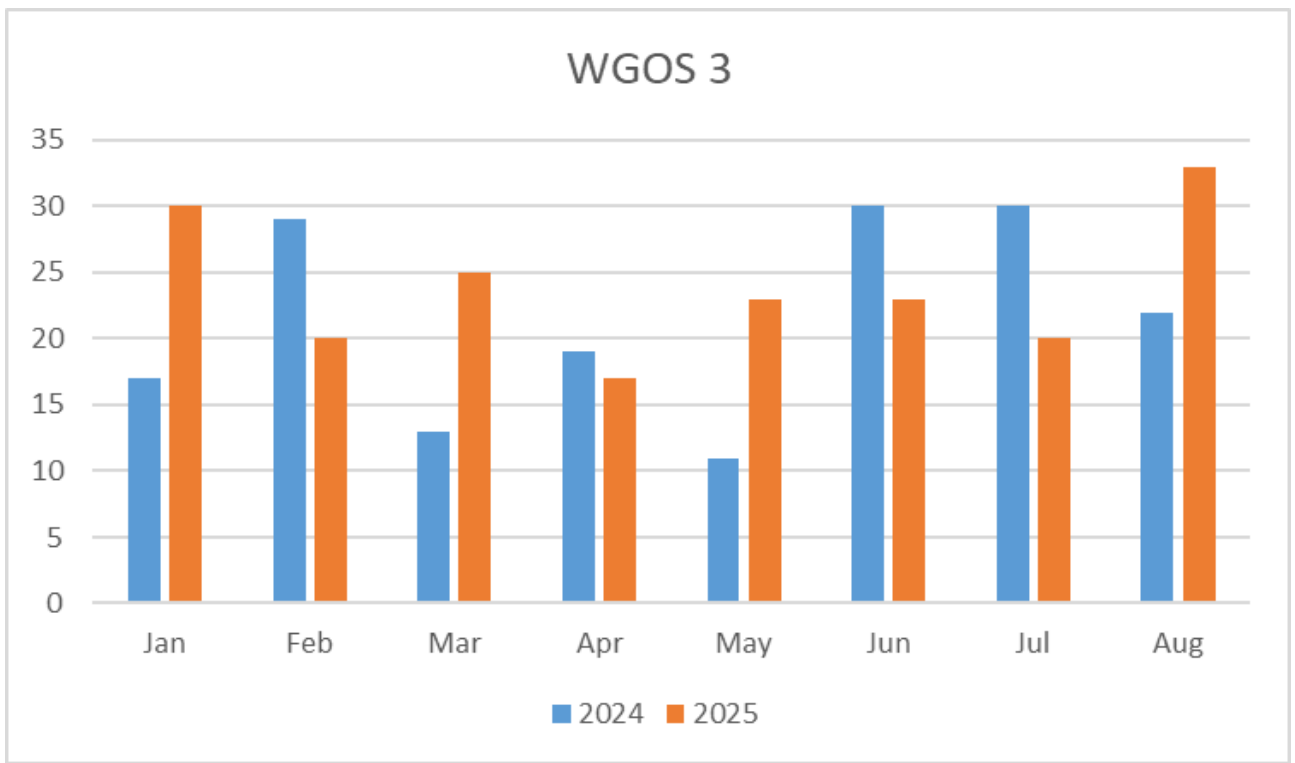
Activity 2025	WGOS 1	WGOS 2 B1	WGOS 2 B2	WGOS 2 B3	WGOS 3	WGOS 4	WGOS 5 New	WGOS 5 FU
Jan-25	2,777	460	142	174	30	0	58	26
Feb-25	2,972	438	185	92	20	0	45	26
Mar-25	2,448	340	144	118	25	0	95	41
Apr-25	2586	361	180	102	17	0	86	46
May-25	3028	384	191	137	23	2	101	51
Jun-25	2740	408	218	141	23	0	80	33
Jul-25	2730	377	202	150	20	0	58	34
Aug-25	2629	463	155	160	33	1	64	32
Sep-25	2597	383	192	133	14	1	72	37
Oct-25	3527	491	291	215	21	11	65	41
Nov-25	2,816	369	199	122	21	10	50	27
Dec-25	1,772	308	145	130	14	2	49	29
Total	32,622	4782	2244	1674	261	27	823	423

Table 4: Activity data (WGOS 1-5) 2025

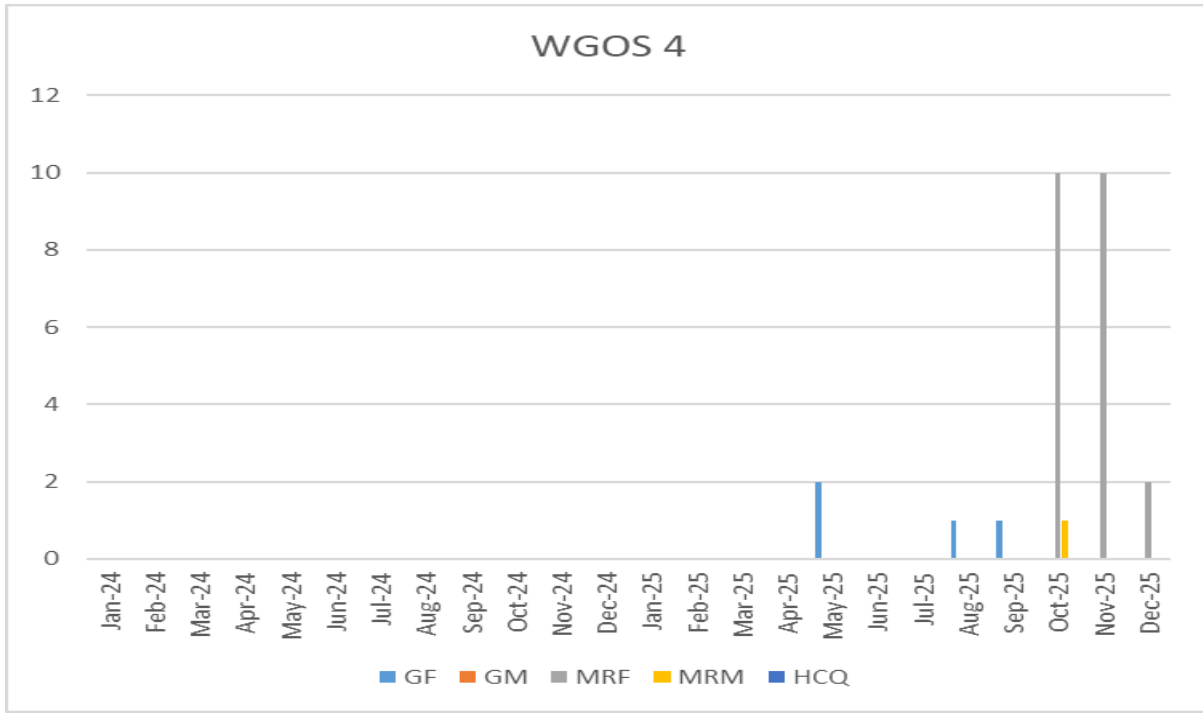




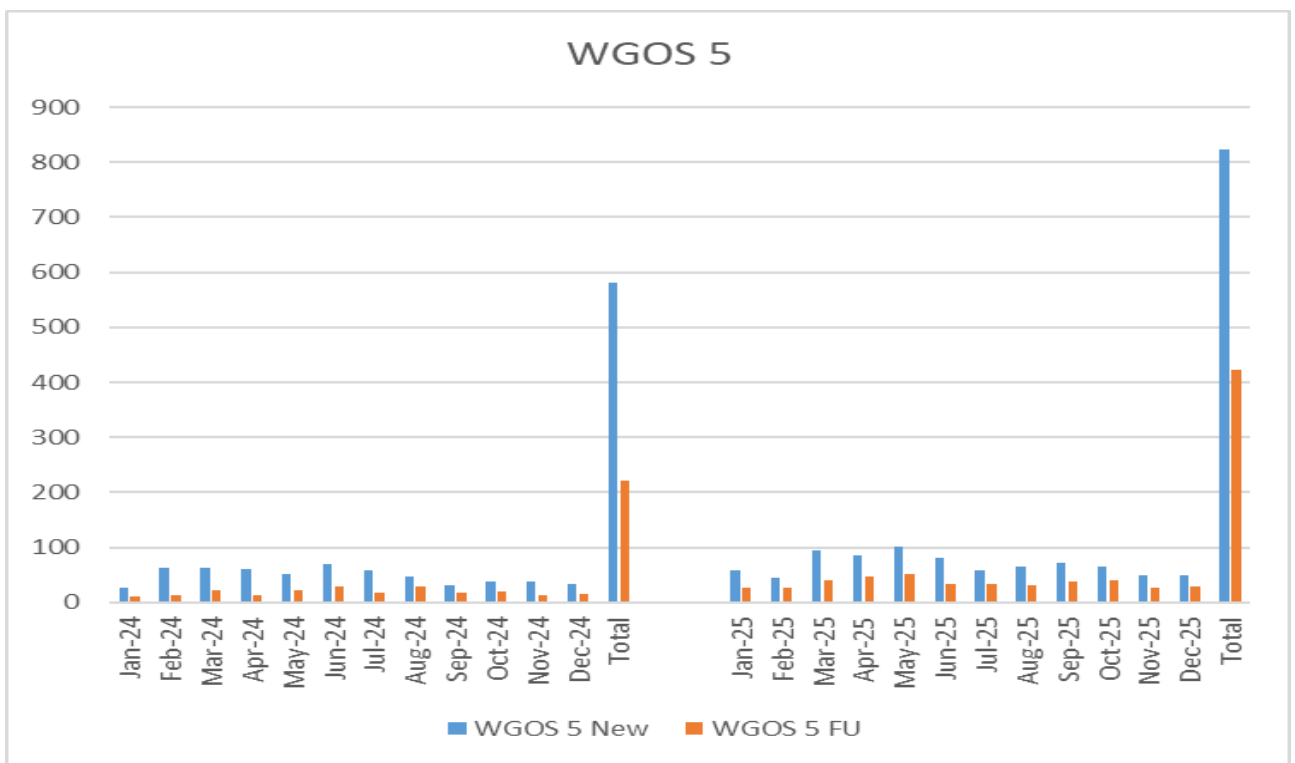
Despite practice closures in Knighton and Machynlleth, activity levels for WGOS 1 and 2 have remained stable, with predictable seasonal variation. Activity is trending upwards slightly versus the same period during 2024.



Reflecting the specific nature of low vision services for a smaller cohort of patients, activity within WGOS 3 has always been lower volume, typically 20–35 patients per month. However, this activity remains stable versus 2024, with no noted patient access concerns.



WGOS 4 activity has been very low during 2025. This reflects the early stage and challenges of local implementation. Significant WGOS 4 activity growth is anticipated during 26/27.



WGOS 5 activity has shown sustained growth versus the same period during 2024. This reflects the embedding of the local pathway, increased inter-practice referrals and additional qualified IP Optometrists.

4. Any identified gaps in service

4.1. There are no optometry practices in some of the Powys towns where there is main General Medical Services provision.

There is no optometry service provision in the following Powys towns:

North Cluster	Mid Cluster	South Cluster
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Llanfyllin • Llanfair Caereinion • Montgomery • Llanidloes • Machynlleth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knighton • Presteigne • Rhayader 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talgarth

The lack of Optometry practice in these towns requires patients to travel either within PTHB or outside of the Health Board to access Optometric care. This may include patients having to travel to practices outside of Wales where the nearest practices are along the Wales-England border. As a consequence, this may raise issues regarding equity as these English practices are not providers of WGOS 1-5. The table below highlights the travel distance for patients who are unable to access services from these key towns:

Town	Distance to nearest Optometry practice	Travel time
Llanfyllin	11 miles (Welshpool) (PTHB)	20 minutes
Llanfair Caereinion	8 miles (Welshpool) (PTHB)	15 minutes
Montgomery	8 miles (Welshpool) (PTHB)	14 minutes
Llanidloes	14 miles (Newtown) (PTHB)	25 minutes
Machynlleth	16 miles (Dolgellau) (BCUHB)	25 minutes
Knighton	13 miles (Kington) (Herefordshire)	22 minutes
Presteigne	14 miles (Leominster) (Herefordshire)	25 minutes
Rhayader	11 miles (Llandrindod Wells) (PTHB)	16 minutes
Talgarth	8 miles (Hay-on-Wye) (PTHB)	14 minutes

Table 5: Travel distance from Powys towns without an Optometry practice

4.2. The table below shows the current WGOS provision by Cluster and highlights the gaps in service.

Percentage of practices providing WGOS 1-5 across PTHB Clusters									
	WGOS 1	WGOS 2	WGOS 3	WGOS 4 MRF	WGOS 4 MRM	WGOS 4 GF	WGOS 4 GM	WGOS 4 HCQ (not live)	WGOS 5
North Cluster	100%	100%	40%	80%	80%	0%	40%	0%	60%
Mid Cluster	100%	100%	100%	67%	67%	67%	67%	0%	0%
South Cluster	100%	100%	67%	67%	67%	0%	33%	0%	33%

Table 6: WGOS provision by Cluster

4.3. As of June 2025, there has been a practice closure in North-West Powys (Machynlleth), resulting in a permanent service gap in this area. Before the permanent closure, this practice had declared ‘zero core’ hours for several years which resulted in a service gap for WGOS 1 and WGOS 2 in this area, previously noted as part of the 2024/25 Annual Report and 2025 Eye Health Needs Assessment. Patients previously registered with this practice have been transferred to another practice within the group, located in Aberystwyth, Hywel Dda University Health Board. The lack of provision for acute appointments under WGOS 2 in North-West Powys remains a concern. Currently, patients face increased travel to access a WGOS 2 service. Often this will be out of Powys to either Hywel Dda University Health Board (HDUHB) to the West, or Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) to the North. The following table highlights the increased travel for patients who are not currently able to access services from the registered contractor in Machynlleth:

Destination	Distance from Machynlleth	Travel time from Machynlleth
Aberystwyth	18 miles	35 minutes
Dolgellau	16 miles	25 minutes
Newtown	32 miles	50 minutes

Table 7: Travel distance from Machynlleth to nearest Optometry practices

4.4. In January 2025, a separate practice closure occurred in Knighton, leaving only three practices operating within the Mid-Powys Cluster. The Health Board engaged with the practice to understand the reasons for closure and to offer support. Whilst the records transferred to the main branch of this business in Llandrindod Wells, it has

resulted in reduced access in the Knighton area. Patients now face increased travel to access Optometry services either to Llandrindod Wells or Newtown within Powys, or outside of Wales to Kington, Leominster, or Hereford. In response to this closure in Knighton, and with the support of Optometry Wales, PTHB has communicated with Local Optical Committees (LOCs) along the Wales–England border to communicate the provision available within Powys for cross-border referrals into WGOS 2–5.

The table below highlights the increased travel for patients who are no longer able to access services from an Optometry practice in Knighton:

Destination	Distance from Knighton	Travel time from Knighton
Newtown	20 miles	35 minutes
Llandrindod Wells	19 miles	30 minutes
Kington (England)	13 miles	22 minutes
Leominster (England)	19 miles	34 minutes

Table 8: Travel distance from Machynlleth to nearest Optometry practices

4.5. There are also challenges in providing domiciliary eye care services in Powys which may result in gaps in service provision. This is primarily due to the limited number of mobile Optometry providers. Currently, there are only four mobile WGOS 1&2 Optometry providers serving the health board, and all of them are based outside of Powys.

This situation is further complicated by the limited provision of WGOS 3 mobile services (only two mobile providers offer WGOS 3) and the complete absence of WGOS 4 & 5 mobile services. As a result, residents of Powys may face challenges in accessing timely and convenient eye care, highlighting the need for ongoing support in this area.

As of Quarter 4 2025/26, the Health Board has commenced early conversations with fixed premises contractors to explore any opportunities to increase the coverage of domiciliary services across the Health Board.

5. Any identified need and, if applicable, proposals for service improvement pathways

5.1. Due to an ageing population and increasing prevalence of most major eye conditions, there is an increasing demand for all levels of WGOS across PTHB. Access to Optometry services within Powys has reduced over the years with practices closing, however the demand for WGOS 1-3 continues to be met through reasonable geographical coverage across the Health Board, with the notable exception of service gaps in some main towns and in particular North-West Powys.

Currently across Powys there is a very small cohort of Optometrists with specialist skills and qualifications to provide WGOS4 services. This includes no WGOS 4 and WGOS 5 provision in some clusters, or a low level of service provision, providing an inequitable service offer.

The complexity of Powys secondary care pathways and the lack of available data regarding secondary care activity makes it difficult to identify the true demand of services that can be transferred into primary care WGOS 4. However, based on the Powys population eye health demographics and the RNIB future predictions for prevalence of ocular conditions (see Appendix 1), there is a particular need to focus on increased service delivery for WGOS4 including glaucoma, medical retina and hydroxychloroquine within primary care optometry.

The PTHB aspiration is for a minimum of 50% of Practices to be delivering the full range of WGOS services.

The Health Board's priority, in order to meet future demand, will be to continue to support the provision and development of WGOS services including supporting and promoting the optometry workforce to expand their skill set and gain the required accreditation.

5.2.

	Current service provision	Planned increase 2026/27	Future aspiration 2026 - 2029
WGOS 4			
Glaucoma Filtering	Mid cluster provision only	Two practices in the north cluster anticipated to join the service during 26/27 (Welshpool and Newtown).	To encourage South Cluster practices to progress required qualification through HEIW.
(Higher Certificate Glaucoma qualification requirement)	Two practices currently providing, located in Llandrindod Wells & Builth Wells	This will provide a total of 29% of Powys coverage, but only in the north and mid cluster area. The mid cluster may have capacity to support south cluster referrals.	To aspire to a minimum of 50% practices offering the service.
Glaucoma Monitoring	Six practices signed up to	Planned discharge of patients to this service with the support	To maintain a minimum of 50% of

<p>(Professional Certificate Glaucoma qualification requirement)</p>	<p>offer this service covering all three Clusters.</p> <p>These practices include Crickhowell, Brecon, Llandrindod Wells, Builth Wells and Welshpool (x 2)</p>	<p>of planned care clinicians and case note reviews.</p> <p>Two additional practices are anticipated to join this service during 26/27 (Brecon and Newtown).</p> <p>This would increase coverage from 43% to 57%</p>	<p>practices offering the service.</p>
<p>Medical Retina monitoring and filtering</p> <p>(Professional Certificate Medical Retina qualification requirement)</p>	<p>Ten practices signed up to offer this service covering all three Clusters.</p> <p>These practices include Crickhowell, Brecon (x2), Hay-on-Wye Llandrindod Wells, Builth Wells, Welshpool (x 3) and Newtown</p>	<p>The assumption is that the Medical Retina provision will be sufficient to meet health board demand.</p> <p>To maintain a minimum of 60% service offer.</p>	<p>The assumption is that the Medical Retina provision will be sufficient to meet health board demand.</p> <p>To maintain a minimum of 60% service offer.</p>
<p>Hydroxy-chloroquine monitoring:</p>	<p>No provision currently in place</p>	<p>To explore local HB specific solutions to HCQ monitoring</p>	<p>To aspire to a minimum of 50% practices offering the service</p>
<p>WGOS 5</p>	<p>North and South cluster service provision already in place</p> <p>Five practices providing</p>	<p>Anticipated that a further two practices will provide this service in 2026/27.</p> <p>The service will be extended to Crickhowell (South cluster) and Llandrindod Wells (Mid cluster).</p> <p>This will provide 50% of coverage across Powys, available in all three clusters</p>	<p>To encourage a further mid Cluster practice to progress required qualification through HEIW</p> <p>To aspire to a minimum of 50% practices offering the service</p>

	North Cluster – Welshpool x 2, Newtown x 1		
	South Cluster – Brecon x 2		
Mobile Provision	4 mobile providers delivering core level 1 & 2 services Poor access being offered to Powys residents due to the geography of the county and the mobile providers being placed out of county.	To secure additional mobile providers and increase access offer to patients	To secure additional mobile providers and increase access offer to patients

Table 9: Summary of PTHB WGOS 4-5 implementation and future aspirations

5.3. Implementation of WGOS4 will enable opportunities for referral management support across both PTHB in-reach and commissioned services and pathways.

The implementation and roll out of WGOS 4 will support the ‘shift left’ of services by enabling care closer to home and freeing up Ophthalmology capacity within community hospitals, in-reach services and secondary care. It is important to note that Patients will continue on some existing secondary care pathways alongside WGOS pathways.

The Health Board’s priority, in order to meet future demand, will be to continue to support the provision and development of WGOS services, including supporting and promoting the optometry workforce to expand their skill set and gain the required accreditation.

Optometry capacity to undertake WGOS extended services needs to be considered against the following factors

- practices capacity to deliver
- performer capacity to deliver
- the location of the service (due to rurality)
- other available WGOS services in the practice/cluster, and
- to not be at the detriment of the delivery of mandatory services (WGOS 1 & 2)

The pace of change to implement WGOS pathways is dependent on the above factors.

Unfortunately, due to the geography and size of optometry practices in Powys, there is, and will continue to be a high risk of potential single points of failure for WGOS pathways. WGOS pathways are reliant on individuals with the required qualification working in practices and service provision can be impacted by sick leave, retirement, and optometrists moving out of the area. Therefore, alternative pathway arrangements need to be considered to mitigate this potential eventuality, so patients do not get lost in the system.

The WGOS 4 service delivery cannot be to the detriment of WGOS mandatory services. WGOS 1 & 2 has to be maintained. Practitioner capacity to meet WGOS service demand along with the continuation of WGOS 1 & 2 will need to be continually reviewed and monitored.

To meet the current and future demands, The Health Board, through its primary care, Academy and Cluster teams, will continue to work with HEIW to support targeted workforce upskilling in the necessary areas. During 25/26, PTHB's Primary and Community Care Academy, has sponsored a number of places on the ABDO Optical Assistant course. The intention behind this sponsorship is promote Optometry services as a career within Powys as well as providing a 'first-step' on a progression pathway, potentially to registrant Optometry Careers such as Dispensing Optician, Contact Lens Optician or Optometrists.

6. Financial forecasts for service delivery

PTHB forecast	Allocation	M1-10 Actual	Q2 Year End Forecast	Q3 Year End Forecast	Q4 Year End Forecast
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Activity	0.775	0.622	0.752	0.760	0.756
Occupational Health Total	0.023	0.005	0.006	0.006	0.006
Cluster Engagement Total	0.032	0.005	0.027	0.027	0.027
Total CPD	0.031	0.014	0.012	0.012	0.017
Quality for Optometry	0.135	0.100	0.154	0.154	0.140
Total	0.996	0.746	0.951	0.959	0.946

Table 10: 2025/26 financial data

(Reporting financial data available at time of publishing)

The financial forecast indicates a variance of £50,000 below the allocated budget, primarily driven by decreased WGOS 4 activity levels against initial forecast.

A significant increase in WGOS 4 activity claims is expected in the 2025-26 financial year. Welsh Government have been made aware and dialogue between Primary Care Finance Business Partner and Welsh Government is ongoing.

7. A summary of the Local Health Board's communications activity relating to WGOS 1–5

7.1. Community Engagement

Ongoing efforts continue to promote attendance at optometry practices, with a focus on encouraging individuals to support family members and friends in accessing routine eye care.

During Autumn 2025, the Powys Health Protection team ran a series of 'Keeping Healthy in Powys' events across 3 events in Brecon, Machynlleth and Newtown. WGOS Optometry services were represented at these public engagement events through the support of Optometry Wales and the ROC.

7.2. Engagement with the local Optometry Profession

WGOS 4 pathways have been launched with online service presentations allowing the opportunities for feedback and questions. All local WGOS communication and guidance is shared with Optometry Wales and the Regional Optical Committee.

Regular communications are issued to the optical profession regarding any changes to service delivery. During Quarter 4 2025/26, a PTHB Optometry SharePoint has launched as a 'one stop' page for local guidance, reminders and useful links.

7.3. Engagement with ROC

The Local Health Board continues to engage and work with South-West Wales Regional Optometric Committee (SWWROC) to ensure that optometric services align with regional healthcare priorities. This facilitates the exchange of insights and the development of strategies to improve patient care and service delivery.

7.4. Optometry Professional Collaboratives and Practice Engagement

The Health Board has actively engaged with Optometry Professional Collaborative to enhance the delivery of WGOS 1–5 services. Until Quarter 2 25/26, contractors met as a pan-Powys Collaborative representing all 3 Clusters and mobile providers. As of Quarter 25/26, this has split into two smaller local Collaboratives. Regular meetings and collaborative efforts have ensured that optometric practices are well-represented and engaged in these clusters.

7.5. Engaging with Clusters/GP Collaboratives

WGOS services are regularly discussed at Pan-Powys Cluster Meetings, with particular emphasis on urgent care access points under WGOS 2 and WGOS 5. This aligns with the cluster's prioritisation of urgent care. There is also open dialogue around maximising collaborative working across clusters and improving cross-professional referral pathways.

Engagement with Clusters and Collaboratives has seen improved focus during 2025/26 and remains a high priority for 2026/27 with valuable opportunities for sharing improvement work and influencing service development across the healthcare system.

7.6. Eye Care Collaborative Group

The Local Health Board has an established Eye Care Collaborative which ensures primary care Optometry is aligned with the wider Eye Care agenda across Powys including secondary care and third sector services.

8. Appendix 1

The RNIB (2023) Sight Loss Data Tool¹ estimates the prevalence of a number of ocular conditions for PTHB. This data has been used to inform the Powys future eye healthcare needs:

Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD)

Across PTHB, the RNIB estimate:

- 8,310 (6.2 %) people are living with the early stages of AMD;
- 640 (0.48%) are living with late-stage dry AMD;
- 1,320 (0.99%) are living with late-stage wet AMD.
- 1,860 (1.39%) combined late-stage AMD
- Between 2022 and 2032 the RNIB estimates an increase of 22% (409) in the number of people living with late-stage AMD

Cataract

The RNIB estimate that, across PTHB:

- 2,080 (1.56%) people living with cataract.
- Between 2022 and 2032 there is estimated to be an increase of 22% (458) in the number of people living with cataract.

Glaucoma

Across PTHB, the RNIB estimate:

- 3,030 (2.278%) people are living with ocular hypertension.
- A further 1,940 (1.45%) people are living with glaucoma.
- Between 2022 and 2032 there is estimated to be an increase of 14% (272) in the number of people living with glaucoma.

Diabetic Retinopathy

Across PTHB, RNIB estimate

- 2,700 (2.03%) people are living with diabetic retinopathy.
- Of these, it is estimated that 250 (0.18%) have severe diabetic retinopathy likely to result in significant and potentially certifiable sight loss.
- Between 2022 and 2032 there is estimated to be an increase of 2% (54) in the number of people living with diabetic retinopathy.

(¹Source: RNIB Sight Loss Data Tool Version 5.2 - Powys Teaching Health Board sight loss briefing. 2023)