

Case Studies: Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians in Wales Seeking Leadership Roles

Case 4: Qualified Optometrist Aspiring to Become a Welsh Clinical Leadership Fellow



Background: Asif, an experienced optometrist in Wales, has over a decade of experience in primary care. Inspired by the challenges and opportunities he has encountered; Asif aims to influence policy and contribute to the planning of eye care services in Wales. Although he has limited leadership experience, he is particularly interested in the Welsh Clinical Leadership Fellowship (WCLTF) program offered by Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW). This program focuses on developing healthcare leaders through training in leadership, management, and policy development. As a Fellow, Asif hopes to drive innovation and improve service delivery across NHS Wales eye care services, aligning with the vision outlined in the "A Healthier Wales" strategic plan.

Achievements: Despite limited formal leadership experience, Asif has made notable contributions in several areas. He has completed training in quality improvement fundamentals and improvement in practice and now is engaged with her practice staff in performing a quality improvement project on increasing patient attendance. His comprehensive understanding of eye care challenges positions him well for leadership. Asif has actively sought growth opportunities, which have led to significant professional development. Additionally, he has demonstrated his ability to collaborate effectively within multidisciplinary teams by working closely with stakeholders such as Welsh Government, NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership, Optometry Wales, Public Health Wales and other healthcare providers to ensure seamless patient care.

Outcomes: As a WCLTF, Asif will develop skills to influence eye care policy in Wales, advocating for evidence-based, innovative solutions to enhance patient outcomes. He will contribute to the planning of eye care services, aligning with strategic plans such as "A Healthier Wales". This training will enable him to drive improvements in service delivery across NHS Wales, allowing for a more efficient and patient-centred approach. Additionally, Asif's leadership development will inspire other healthcare professionals to pursue leadership roles, promoting a culture of continuous improvement and innovation in Welsh healthcare. By transitioning from a skilled clinician to a strategic leader, Asif aims to advance the quality and accessibility of eye care services in Wales.

For further information on the resources that supported Asif's journey, you can refer to:

Quality Improvement Skills Training (QIST) – Fundamentals, improvement in practice and project

Meet the Leadership Fellows

Leadership in Optometry Podcast