

Avon Local Optical Committee

Avon LOC AGM
7pm Wednesday 12th May 2021

Remote meeting: Zoom

1. Apologies

None

2. Minutes of last AGM

Approved

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Chairman's report (Amar Shah)

I do not think anyone, save for Bill Gates, could have predicted the year we have just had. To say it has been a rollercoaster would be an understatement. Avon LOC has pulled together in a different way this past year and I'm really proud of the work we have done, I know at times it has been challenging and frustrating on the ground but, as everyone has, we have had to adapt to an ever changing situation often with limited guidance or direction. From sourcing PPE, to infection prevention control guidance, to NHS funding support, to commissioning CUES in Bath, to vaccinations, to general sector advice – we have been out of our usual working comfort zone for the majority of the year – and the workload at times has been immense. Thank you to each and every one of our committee, it's been a tough and fast paced year and there have been

times where many have come to meetings/pulled together at last minute requests, to really help community. As we bring the year post our last AGM to a close, I am pleased to say that dialogue with Bristol Eye Hospital and BNSSG CCG has re-commenced, with regards to their eye health strategy and discussions around an early 2022 post cataract and glaucoma scheme have begun. We are in the midst of on-going discussions for our Bath colleagues as to the future of CUES and what other services may come on board in the new financial year. I've said this before, but the recent white paper from Matt Hancock has further cemented this, change is afoot within the NHS and the new format of working with integrated care at the heart of what the NHS do, will be an interesting roadmap for us to follow. I have to apologise for not running more Q&A sessions as promised, but this is not a full time job and at times this year it has felt like more than a full time position. I'm just glad we've managed to get a vaccination route for our sector across Avon LOC's footprint and the support of the Local Pharmacy Committee and the links we'd forged with them have been invaluable to that. We have strengthened our relationship with our regional NHS England/Improvement colleagues and conversations with the two CCGs in our patch are on going. Primary Eyecare Services have had a busy year across the patch and I will ask our local Clinical Governance Performance Lead, Amy, to write to you all with an update and how you can get involved in their roll out of post cataract schemes in the area/CUES if your practice is in the Bath vicinity. I don't know what the next year is going to bring for us, needless to say I don't think PPE is going away soon and I think for our sector some restrictions will still apply with regards to social distancing and IPC guidance. I encourage you to sign up to our mailing list if you have not already done so and suggest that any clinical colleagues that work for/with you to do the same. We really have done everything we can this past year to support colleagues in the community and I hope we can continue to pull together to get through the next phase of this chaos. Finally, our annual plug for new members of the committee: you can only make a difference by being involved and part of the conversation, so I encourage

anyone who has an interest or time to reach out to Mark (Vice Chair), Amy (Secretary) or myself to have an informal chat about joining the LOC. Stay safe and stay in touch.

5. Treasurer's report (Andrew Pinn)

I continued the treasurer's role from January 2020 to today. My remit was to manage the incomes and expenses of the Avon LOC. The figures in the accounts therefore cover activity for the period 1 st January 2020 to 31st December 2020.

Avon LOC income for the period was £27,260 the majority £26,508 was from the statutory levy. The levy is deducted by NHS England as a percentage from the NHS GOS sight test fee prior to payment to GOS contractors. The Avon LOC proportion of the statutory levy remained at 0.6%.

Other income was from payment by NHS England for providing representation at the PLDP (Performers List Decision Making Panel).

The proportion of statutory levy paid to LOCSU (LOC Support Unit) remained at 0.5%, however LOCSU suspended collecting levy for 4 months because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Expenditure by Avon LOC was £22,533 which is less than the previous year.

Compared to last year:

Expenditure on the National Optometric Conference was less as this year's conference was online.

Expenditure on our website was more as we needed to make functional changes.

Expenditure on CET was less because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year all LOC work was carried out by individual committee members with support when needed from LOCSU (LOC Support Unit). In view of the COVID-19 pandemic the committee agreed to reduce their hourly rates by almost half from 01/04/2020 as we anticipated a fall in revenue because of reduced GOS activity.

This combined with meetings being online rather than face to face resulted in significantly lower expenditure than the previous year. As a committee we continued to build and maintain strong relationships with all eyecare organisations working in our area.

Committee member attendance at LOC committee meetings is funded which is in line with the practices of other LOCs in England.

In my view the time costs invoiced by the committee members in the last year has been significantly less than they could have legitimately claimed.

I would like to thank Ruth Davies for auditing the accounts and recommend the AGM appoints her to audit next year's accounts.

I am happy to answer any questions you have either now or at any time throughout the year. I can be contacted by email at treasurer@avonloc.co.uk

Ruth Davies proposed and seconded to audit accounts again next year – motion carried.

6. LOCSU Membership

Continued LOCSU membership proposed and seconded – motioned carried.

7. Elections to Committee

John Hopcroft, Amy Hughes, Jenni Ogidi and Amar Shah are elected unopposed.

8. Any other business

None