



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Cheshire LOC**  
**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018**  
**The Cottons Hotel, Knutsford**

**Present: Committee Members**

Lyndon Taylor            Chairman  
Mark Simpson            Secretary  
Nigel Oldbury            Treasurer  
Hugh Churchman  
Chris Houghton  
Jane Smellie  
Fionnuala Stott  
Phil Cooke  
Julie Theobalds  
Jill Umpleby  
Theresa Cox

Sandie McBennett      Administrator

**1. Welcome address by the Chairman, Lyndon Taylor**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Jed Allister, Janet Beeney, Heidi Behnam, Richard Clare, Helen Corson, Wendy Diddams, Heather Grannell, Stephen Halpin, Christine Harm, Helen Kirk, Phillipa Longmore, James Ma, Mashucul Mannan, Stephen Morris, Nirmal Sekhon, Jean Oldbury, Andrew Riley, Jane Robson, Liz Taylor, Julie Theobalds, Amy Thompson, Lyn Thompson, Keith Williams, Barbara Wilson, Stuart Wilson, Sarah Wood.

**Resolved: that apologies for absence from the above named be accepted.**

**3. Minutes of the 2017 AGM**

It was noted Theresa Cox was in attendance at the 2017 AGM. Omission noted.

Proposer: Mrs C Tripp, Seconder: Mr H Churchman.

**Resolved: that the minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**4. Matters Arising**

No matters arising were raised.

**5. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reported it had been a challenging year due to the financial restraints of the NHS; which in turn had meant the LOC had been unsuccessful in commissioning additional services; however existing services had been maintained. The MECS service promised for Central Cheshire was abandoned due to finances; although this could be re-addressed by the newly formed PEC North. The new company had been merged

from Cheshire, Merseyside, Warrington, Sefton Lancashire and Greater Manchester. The merger covering thirteen 13 LOC's would be more efficient and reduce running costs. PEC Cheshire loans had all been repaid to the LOC prior the merger.

## 6. Secretary's Report

Mark Simpson reported there had been three meetings of the LOC which had been well attended by members and observers. The Committee had welcomed three new members in the last years who had been Co-opted, all 3 taken on new roles and done a fantastic job, Julie Theobalds had taken over the Webmaster responsibilities, Phil Cooke organised the MECS OSCE and Jill Umpleby had already set the CET programme for the year. Four of the LOC Committee had attended the NOC on 9<sup>th</sup> November which all had found invaluable. The event unveiled the new IT platform currently being designed which would enable management of enhanced services which would allow link up with core NHS systems. It was planned that referrals would be electronic in future rather than fax.

Mark also wished to thank Liz Taylor for arranging the Peer Review held in February.

## 7. Treasurer's Report

Nigel Oldbury reported on the accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017. Nigel wished to note his thanks to David Knowles for his help in preparing the accounts and his role as Account Inspector. The accounts were reported to be stable; showing a small profit in 2017 of £3000 as opposed to a loss in the previous year. The PECC loan of £8000 had been repaid in 2017 clearing the debt. The Levy payments had been received steadily. In 2018 repayment of PECC expenses would be paid according to agreed protocols with PEC North. The account currently showed £48,000; approximately £8000 more than last year which reflected the PECC repayment. The estimated budget for 2018 had been calculated and reflected a reduction in the Statutory Levy and low GOS activity; reduced expenditure due to the PEC no longer being supported was also taken into account. Based on these projections a reduction in the Statutory Levy had been proposed and further levy reduction was considered possible in the future.

Nigel Oldbury wished to note he would stand down as Treasurer after the 2018 AGM.

## 8. Approval of 2017 Accounts

Proposer: Mrs J Smellie, Seconder: Mrs C Tripp.

**Resolved: that the Cheshire LOC 2017 Accounts be agreed**

## 9. Vote on the Following Resolutions: -

a. **Resolution 1**- to reduce the statutory levy on all NHS sight tests to 1.25%.

b. **Resolution 2**- to give the Cheshire LOC a mandate to vary the statutory levy by no more than plus or minus ½ %.

**Resolved: following the vote with those present, that the Resolutions 1 and 2 be agreed.**

## 10. Adoption of the 0.5% contribution to the LOC Support Unit for the forthcoming financial year

**Resolved: following the vote with those present, that the adoption of the contribution to LOCSU be agreed.**

## 11. Appointment of Account Inspector for the forthcoming financial year

The Chairman wished to note the LOC's thanks to David Knowles for his work over the past year.

**Resolved: that David Knowles be appointed the Account Inspector for the Cheshire LOC for the year 2018/19.**

## 12. Primary Eyecare North Limited Report

Lyndon Taylor reported. In September the Board of Directors for PECC North had been selected. The Chairman would be an independent Chairman; not related to any LOC and ideally not even an Optom. LOCSU Director Trevor Warburton had been appointed as Interim Chairman whilst an impartial Chairman was sought. Rupesh Bagdai had been appointed as Governance Lead for the PEC North and Dharmesh Patel had

been appointed as CEO. Fionnuala Stott had been appointed as PEC Director from Cheshire LOC. The CGPLs had been appointed; Mark Simpson had been appointed for Cheshire along with Julia Maiden. South Yorkshire and Tyneside had approached PECC North with a view to joining which would give an even bigger footprint. Lyndon wished to note his thanks to all who had been Directors of PEC Cheshire.

In January all contracts had been moved over to the new company with the exception of the Leighton Cataract Scheme which would move in due course. One of the advantages of the new company would be better governance. A reduction in administration per patient from Webstar was anticipated as there were price reductions based on volume with Webstar already built in.

Lyndon concluded by forecasting the PECs would ultimately merge to form South, London and North with the possibility of East and West Midlands too. Any accreditations would transfer between regions as they would be the same qualification. PEC North would be seeking updated QIOs in future.

### **13. LEHN Report**

Rupesh Bagdai had taken over from David Knowles as LEHN Chairman. A significant amount of work had been done with the CCG's which had been instrumental in keeping our services running. The LEHN was also working towards areas adopting MECS and working with Merseyside to create a greater footprint.

### **14. Election**

David Knowles as Returning Officer had reviewed the results of the recent election.

Performers elected were Gurjeet Bhamra, John Blaney, Philip Cooke, Harinder Notay, Mark Simpson and Amy Thompson.

Contractors elected were Chris Houghton, Nigel Oldbury, Jane Smellie, Fionnuala Stott, Lyndon Taylor and Jill Umpleby.

It was decided that the term of office of each member of the LOC should be decided by blind selection; the terms of office would be as follows: -

Performers 3 Year Term: Phil Cook and Amy Thompson; 2 Year Term: Gurj Bhamra and Harinder Notay; and 1 Year Term: John Blaney and Mark Simpson.

Contractors 3 Year Term: Fionnuala Stott and Chris Houghton; 2 Year Term: Nigel Oldbury and Jill Umpleby; and 1 Year Term: Lyndon Taylor and Jane Smellie.

Lyndon thanked David Knowles for being the independent Returning Officer.

The Chairman wished to note his thanks to Theresa Cox for her time on the LOC and her work largely for PECC. His commiserations were noted to Julie Theobalds and Hugh Churchman; their time served on the LOC was much appreciated.

Lyndon Taylor was asked for an update of Diabetic Screening, had the capture price gone down?

Lyndon confirmed it would go out to tender again.

Thank you to Charmant Group for their kind sponsorship of the AGM.

### **15. CET approved presentation by Professor Ahmed Sadiq, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon on: -**

**“Lumps, Bumps and Lid Malpositions; to refer or not?” 1 CET Point Approved**