

**MINUTES OF CHESHIRE LOCAL OPTOMETRIC COMMITTEE MEETING**

**23rd MARCH 2020**

**HELD REMOTELY**

**Present**

Lyndon Taylor, Fionnuala Stott, Harinder Notay, Jane Smellie, Mark Simpson, Phil Cooke, Amy Thompson, Chris Houghton, Jill Umpleby, Andy Riley, Stephen Halpin, Gordon Elliot

**In Attendance**

Sandie McBennett – Administrator

Rupesh Bagdai – LEHN Chair

Paul Carberry – NHS England

Julia Maiden – CGPL Primary Eyecare Services

Tom Mackley – LOCSU

1. **Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

Lyndon Taylor opened the meeting and welcomed all to the meeting.

**Resolved: That apologies received from Nigel Oldbury be accepted.**

**2. Resignations and Election Result**

Nigel Oldbury’s term of office had ended in March 2020; Nigel informed the Committee he would not be standing for election again. The Committee thanked Nigel for his many years’ service and valuable contribution.

**Action: AT to send a formal letter of thanks to Nigel Oldbury from the Committee.**

The Cheshire LOC held an election for 2 Contractor Seats and 2 Performer Seats. As there were only 2 candidates in each category the following applicants were elected: -

**Performer Seats: Jane Smellie and Harinder Notay**

**Contractor Seats: Jill Umpleby and Gordon Elliot**

**Resolved: that the above election results be noted.**

**3. Election of Officers**

**Chairman:** Amy Thompson nominated Fionnuala Stott, Mark Simpson seconded.

**Secretary:** Fionnuala Stott nominated Amy Thompson, Mark Simpson seconded.

**Treasurer:** Fionnuala Stott nominated Phil Cook, Stephen Halpin seconded.

**CET Officer:** Fionnuala Stott nominated Jill Umpleby, Stephen Halpin seconded.

The Committee agreed to form working parties for CET made up of Amy Thompson and Stephen Halpin.

The Committee agreed to form working parties for Communications:

**Communications Officers:** Harinder Notay and Gordon Elliot would oversee communications.

**Action: SMcB to forward website access to Hari and Stephen.**

**Resolved: That the above Elected Members of the Cheshire LOC be Officers of the Committee.**

The Chair formally welcomed Gordon Elliot to the Cheshire LOC.

**3. Conflicts of Interest**

No conflicts of interest were noted.

**4. Minutes of the last Meeting held on 9th January 2020**

Jane Smellie proposed to accept the minutes of 9th January, Stephen Halpin seconded.

**Resolved: That the minutes of the 9th January 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.**

**5. Matters Arising**

**Action Point Review: -**

* Fionnuala Stott had made contact with PCN Clinical Directors and Practice Leads to be involved in regular meetings moving forward. FS had attended meetings and circulated the Meeting Report to the Committee.

Julia Maiden, Rupesh Bagdai and Paul Carberry joined the meeting at 6.30pm.

**6. Update from Julia Maiden - PES**

* Julia Maiden from PES confirmed the Post Cataract Service at the Countess of Chester Hospital had been awarded to PES, although it would be on hold for the time being.
* Julia wished to note Gordon Elliot had been appointed CGPL for Cheshire and Merseyside.
* The MECS Service would continue with a launch date of 6th April 2020 planned.
* PES requested communication to practices that had closed and would no longer be offering extended services should notify Primary Eyecare Services as well as NHSE via covid@primaryeyecare.co.uk.

**7. Update from Tom Mackley - LOCSU**

Tom Mackley reported LOCSU and the National Optical bodies were in regular contact with meetings and discussions ongoing. The College of Optometrist recommendation had been communicated to only offer ‘essential and emergency care’. An OFNC statement had been issued regarding the negotiations with NHSE.

Tom made recommendations for communications, advice and guidance that could be posted on the Cheshire LOC Website. The Committee agreed it would be most helpful to use hyperlinks to national guidance so the most up to date information could be accessed by practitioners.

**8. Update from Rupesh Bagdai and Paul Carberry**

All NHSE staff had been seconded to work on Covid Planning; all routine appointments had been cancelled nationally. Rupesh Bagdai reported the ‘100 Day Pilot’ would be paused.

**9. Questions**

* PPE provision: The Sector should discuss the supply of PPE provisions, which would then be fed back to NHS England.
* GOS Payments, will they be a grant or a loan, i.e. repaid? They will be issued as grants.
* Triage Forms issued by PES, are they up to date? JM confirmed there would be an update soon.

**10. Summary**

FS asked the Committee to be mindful of their fellow practices in each area and to contact them; to engage and offer support.

**Action: All Committee Members to contact practices in their area.**

**Action: SMCB to keep a record of practice closures and altered opening hours of those who will operate a phone triage service and share information with Paul Carberry.**

**11. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Cheshire LOC would be held remotely as and when needed.

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| **Owner** | **Action** | **Update** |
| AT | AT to send a formal letter of thanks to Nigel Oldbury from the Committee. | Complete |
| SMcB | SMcB to forward website access to Hari and Stephen. | Complete |
| ALL | All Committee Members to contact practices in their area. | JU complete |
| SMcB | SMCB to keep a record of practice closures and altered opening hours of those who will operate a phone triage service and share information with Paul Carberry. | On going |