

**MINUTES OF CHESHIRE LOCAL OPTOMETRIC COMMITTEE MEETING**

**13th OCTOBER 2020**

**HELD REMOTELY**

**Present**

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

**In Attendance**

Sandie McBennett – Administrator

Rupesh Bagdai – LEHN Chair

1. **Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

Fionnuala Stott opened the meeting and welcomed all to the meeting.

**2. Conflicts of Interest**

No conflicts of interest were noted.

**3. Minutes of the last Meeting held on 23rd March 2020**

It was noted, the previous minutes should have recorded:-

*The committee agreed to form a working party for CET made up of Amy Thompson, Jill Umpleby and Stephen Halpin.*

**Resolved: That the minutes of the 23rd March 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.**

**4. LEHN Update – Rupesh Bagdai**

RB gave a regional update as follows: -

Communications: the LEHN had taken time to support practitioners and contractors during the lockdown period, together with the meetings with LOC Chairs and attending their meetings. A NW Engagement event had been well attended with over 500 attendees.

Recovery: there were a total of 804 open practices across the patch with 11 closures; concern was noted that this number may rise once financial support stopped. The risk had been recognised and more work would be completed in preparation.

Health Inequalities: Homeless Health model would be cascaded across the network.

Connectivity: the mass backing of the letter to object to the switching off of the fax had been very powerful.

Atrial Fibrillation: Work had taken place to investigate ways of bringing PCN into Optometric workstreams. The AF screening pilot would pay a grant of approximately £1,000 to participating practices. The screening would take place over a 1 year period to ascertain how many people in the community had a problem which was discovered during the pilot; the pilot would access patients who were not part of screening at the GP practice. The committee were in unanimous agreement to participate in the pilot and circulate the offer of participation to the Cheshire LOC Members.

The Chair and committee thanked Rupesh Bagdai for his attendance and presentation.

**5. CET Update**

Jill Umpleby reported there was a deferment in place for CET at present. There were no CET Events planned.

**6. Treasurer’s Report**

Phil Cooke reported the bank account held £20K. Members had previously discussed the review of the current levy of 0.5% which was paid to LOCSU in its entirety. £20k represented an average year’s expenditure, therefore, the levy could remain the same or consider an increase under the mandate of + or – 25%. An increase in the levy to 1% would maintain the annual cost base of c. £20k.

Andy Riley proposed an increase in the levy to 1%; Fionnuala Stott seconded the proposal.

**Resolved: that the Committee agreed to raise the levy to 1% with immediate effect.**

**7. Chair’s Report**

Fionnuala Stott reported GP’s had been very grateful for the roll out of CUES – it was positively received.

The NW Regional LOC Chairs Meeting minutes had been circulated to update Members.

**8. Code of Conduct**

Members reviewed the Code of Conduct.

**Resolved: that the Code of Conduct would be formally adopted by the LOC.**

**9. Secretary’s Report**

Amy Thompson expressed her thanks to the Chair, Fionnuala Stott and Julia Maiden, CGPL for their work to date.

**11. PECS Update**

Gordon Elliott reported from PECS as CGPL. The CUES service remained at the top of the agenda with the launch event taking place at the end of October. CUES had been launched in a number of neighbouring areas where there was very good uptake. The inequity of services across Cheshire since the CCGs had merged had been noted and the CCG were aware of it. The launch of the Opera service would also take place in the near future.

**12. Area Updates**

All areas were discussed at length; similar issues felt across the patch were noted.

**13. People with Learning Disabilities**

Jane Smellie reported she was now a ‘Cheshire Champion’; she would attend a meeting on 30th November and report back at the next meeting.

**14. LOC Needs Analysis Update**

Deferred until next meeting.

**15. NOC**

Members would attend the on line NOC and plan for each member to attend to provide maximum coverage. All members were asked to report back on the sessions attended for dissemination.

**11. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Cheshire LOC would be held remotely on Tuesday 12th January 2020.