

**MINUTES OF CHESHIRE LOCAL OPTOMETRIC COMMITTEE MEETING**

**12th JANUARY 2021**

**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**

Julia Maiden - CGPL

Jagdeep Singh - CGPL

Sandie McBennett – Administrator

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. PECS**

Julia Maiden introduced Jagdeep Singh as the new CGPL Cheshire and Merseyside.

JM gave an update on the PECS activities beginning with the soft launch of CUES in November 2021. There had been slow uptake to onboard initially. The uptake as at January was 40, with a notable bias toward West Cheshire. 534 funded episodes had been recorded in 6-8 weeks.

The OHT Service had overdue patients. Detailed guidance would be update for these patients shortly.

The GRR and Cataract Service had begun to migrate onto Opera around 25th January for Cataract and mid-February for GRR.

Julia and Jag left the meeting at 7.50pm.

**4. Minutes of the last Meeting held on 13th October 2020**

**Resolved: That the minutes of the 13th October 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.**

**5. CET Update**

Jill Umpleby reported the next CET Event would be presented by Lorcan Butler of the Brain Tumour Charity on ‘Papilloedema – Is it or Isn’t It’ on Wednesday 10th February 2021. The ABDO have published on line discussion sessions.

**6. Treasurer’s Report**

Phil Cooke reported the bank account held £20K. The increase in the levy of 0.5% to 1% had been authorised by NHS England and activated actioned on 31st October 2020 by PCSE. The accounts for year 2020 had been prepared and were under review by David Knowles. The levy would be considered again before the AGM in March 2021.

**7. Chair’s Report**

Fionnuala Stott reported there had been a suggestion that LOCs would be involved in guidance for the Optometric sector vaccinations. Further meetings would be held on the subject.

**8. Secretary’s Report**

Amy Thompson reported the Atrial Fibrillation Pilot had begun with volunteer participating practices.

In an effort to promote the MECS service across Cheshire, using lists of pharmacists, GP’s and Optometrists on or off the MECS service, a laminated poster would be posted to each contact to promote the service. The costing for sending out the laminated flyer would be c. £600. The Committee was asked to consider using LOC funds to cascade the information.

**Resolved: All in favour of the spend to produce laminated guidance posters to be sent out across Cheshire to Pharmacists, GP’s and Optometrists.**

**9. Area Updates**

It was noted, Cheshire now had a central CCG, however local issues in each area would be reported independently.

**10. People with Learning Disabilities**

Jane Smellie reported two meetings had been held in November and January. JS had reached out to all PwLD Optoms in Cheshire; over 50% had confirmed they would continue to provide the service. Rupesh Bagdai was working closely with See-ability Charity, their representative would compile a list of LD leads for all CCGs across the NW and contact the LD nurses. The LEHN Chairs would raise awareness with all Trusts that discharge patients out and compile a list of social care and healthcare. The re-launch information would follow in due course.

**11. NOC Report**

Members of the Committee had attended various webinars at the virtual NOC.

Pandemic Response – a positive outcome had been that public perception of the profession had improved significantly as a result of Optometrists remaining open and accessible during the lockdown.

Care Pathway Session: a vote was held on future pathways; the dry eye pathway was the clear winner. Much of the discussion was regarding CUES; 75% had access to urgent eye care, an increase of 6.6m people in areas where there had previously been no scheme. Post Covid-19, the service would be very dependent on the support of NHS England.

The national out-patient transformation programme would be the radical transformation of patient experience, including eye care would look for 70% of out-patient activity in the hospital eye service to be in primary care – cataract, medical retina and glaucoma.

The healthy living optical practice proposed possible pathways such as frailty, falls and smoking cessation.

The Chair summarised; the reports highlighted the importance of being able to evidence the work of primary care optometry to the CCG.

**12. LOC Needs Analysis Update**

The LOC Needs Analysis would continue to be an agenda item at each meeting and reviewed.

A sub-committee would be formed of Harinder Notay, Andy Riley, Amy Thompson and Lyndon Taylor to review the document before the next LOC meeting.

**Action: SMB to set up a meeting to review the LOC Needs Analysis Document.**

**13. AOB**

**Safeguarding**

Correct guidance on safeguarding and reporting would be requested of NHSE, Rupesh Bagdai.

**Insurance/Atrial Fibrillation**

The AOP had agreed that the pilot would be covered from an insurance point of view.

**13. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Cheshire LOC would be the AGM to be held remotely on **Tuesday 23rd March 2021.**

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| **Owner** | **Action** | **Update** |
| SMB | SMB to set up a meeting to review the LOC Needs Analysis Document. | Date to be confirmed. |
| FS | Correct guidance on safeguarding and reporting would be requested of NHSE |  |