

**MINUTES OF CHESHIRE LOCAL OPTOMETRIC COMMITTEE MEETING**

**22nd JUNE 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, Fionnuala Kidd.

**In Attendance**

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. Election Result**

Amy Thomson and Phil Cooke were re-elected to the Cheshire LOC for a term of 3 years.

**4. Resignation**

The resignation received from Gordon Elliott was accepted. The Chair and Committee noted their thanks to Gordon for his commitment and contribution to the committee and wished him well in his new practice venture.

As a result of the resignation, a casual vacancy had been noted. As Fionnuala Kidd had made an application during the recent election, Fionnuala Kidd was co-opted onto the Cheshire LOC.

**Action: update LOC website to note Gordon stepping down and co-option of Fionnuala Kidd to the Committee.**

Fionnuala Kidd would work on the mailing list and transfer to Mailchimp.

**5. Election of Officers**

Fionnuala Stott would continue as Chair.

Amy Thompson would continue as Secretary.

Phil Cooke would continue as Treasurer whilst including Harinder Notay and Fionnuala Kidd for information.

Jill Umpleby would continue as CET Officer.

**6. PES**

Payments had been a problem for practitioners expecting payment. PES had secured extra resource to address the back log and clear payments. It was noted that communications regarding payments to practitioners should be clear and regular.

**7. Minutes of the last Meeting held on 12th January 2021**

It was noted the action to update the LOC Needs Analysis had not been completed.

**Resolved: That the minutes of the 12th January 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.**

**8. CET Update**

The Seeability Event had been confirmed. This would be delivered in three parts; working in special schools; and, adapting your practice to accommodate patients with learning difficulties; and finally, CBI. The event would be held on line on Wednesday 28th July 2021 and be open to DO/OO.

**9. Glaucoma**

Lyndon Taylor reported a lead assessor would be required before the Glaucoma OSCE could be arranged.

**Action: Hari Notay would contact the lead assessor to check availability.**

**Action: Amy would include Glaucoma OSCE in the next newsletter to gauge possible uptake.**

**10. a) White Paper**

The latest White Paper was the Government Strategic Plan over 5-10 years. The strategic plan outlined changes regionally such as CCG’s being superseded by ICS – Integrated Care System.

**b) The Cheshire Hub**

It was agreed that the LOC should resist becoming part of the hub as this would be at the detriment to contractors and practitioners.

It was agreed it would be beneficial to contact practices and divide up the area between the LOC members to engage in future.

**c) Practitioner Letter**

It was noted that the request to advertise for Optometrists and Locum Optometrist/DO would help to alleviate the difficulty of finding resource to meet demand when signing up to contracts with PES.

The committee discussed the issue of advertising on behalf of Contractors with vacancies and Optoms looking for work. The work to transfer the mail list to Mailchimp may offer more flexibility to direct marketing to key groups within the membership, including those looking for work or those looking for staff.

**Action: Chris Houghton would check back with Laura from Leighton to see if this would benefit her work on career paths for the newly qualified.**

Fionnuala Kidd suggested we should work more extensively to connect with the performers on the LOC Mail list.

**Action: All Contractor members of the Cheshire LOC were requested to ensure their whole staff were registered on the mail list of the LOC.**

The Committee discussed if a Locum register should be held and be available to contractors. It was agreed the LOC would not hold a register; however, Locum Optometrists could advertise their services on the LOC website.

**11. LOC Needs Analysis**

Progress deferred.

**12. Treasurer’s Report**

Phil Cooke confirmed the Cheshire LOC account balance was £33k, with £12 due to be transferred as levy to LOCSU.

It was projected that there would be increased expenses from the committee to cover the greater number of meetings as a result of the White Paper.

The Committee discussed the current level of the levy and it an increase would be prudent in the light of increased work to cover by the LOC. It was agreed to take no action at present.

**Action: Review Levy at the next meeting.**

**13. Chair’s Report**

Fionnuala Stott reported she had shared all meetings with the Secretary and committee to share knowledge and responsibility.

**14. Secretary’s Report**

Amy Thompson reported she had recently attended meeting with NHSE regarding carbon neutral practices; this was primarily directed at the manufacture and retail of contact lenses and the increased use of PPE.

The atrial fibrillation pilot was ongoing, although it had not grown of late. Fionnuala Kidd and Jill Umpleby would discuss taking a device at her practice in Crewe. Mark Simpson agreed to have one in his practice in Neston.

**Action: Jill Umpleby would liaise with FK and MS regarding the AF pilot operating in their practices.**

Amy had been expanding the website information pages.

**15. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Cheshire LOC would be held remotely on 14th September 2021 at 7.30pm**.**

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| **Owner** | **Action** | **Update** |
| SMB | Update LOC website to note Gordon stepping down and co-option of Fionnuala Kidd to the Committee. | Complete |
| HN | Hari Notay would contact the lead assessor to check availability. |  |
| AT | Amy would include Glaucoma OSCE in the next newsletter to gauge possible uptake. |  |
| CH | Chris Houghton would check back with Laura from Leighton to see if vacancy/availability marketing would benefit her work on career paths for the newly qualified. |  |
| ALL | All Contractor members of the Cheshire LOC were requested to ensure their whole staff of Optoms were registered on the mail list of the LOC. |  |
| PC | Review Levy at the next meeting. |  |
| JU | Jill Umpleby would liaise with FK and MS regarding the AF pilot operating in their practices. |  |
| FS | To request a full list of pharmacy practices and GP practices. | Complete |