



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Cheshire LOC  
Held on 23rd March 2021**

**Present: Committee Members**

Fionnuala Stott	Chairperson
Phil Cooke	Treasurer
Amy Thompson	Secretary
Lyndon Thompson	
Jane Smellie	
Jill Umpleby	
Harinder Notay	
Andy Riley	
Stephen Halpin	
Mark Simpson	
Gordon Elliott	

Paul Carberry	NHSE
Tom Mackley	LOCSU
Sandie McBennett	Administrator

**1. Welcome by the Chairman, Fionnuala Stott**

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Chi Choi, Philippa Longmore, Rupesh Bagdai, Manish Patel.

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

**3. Minutes of the 2020 AGM**

Proposer: Lyndon Taylor, Seconded: Amy Thompson.

**Resolved: that the minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**4. Matters Arising**

No matters arising were noted.

**5. Chairman's Report**

Fionnuala Stott, Chair, report received: -

The Chair note how difficult the year had been, sending condolences to those who had lost loved ones and colleagues during the year. Further, she reported the LOC had worked hard during the past year to take up opportunities that had been presented; the Chair wished to note thanks to the Committee members who had contributed over the year, many of whom had faced significant challenges in their own personal lives and professional practice.

In 2021, three CCGs had merged into one which had been a very positive move for the Optometric profession. Discussions on the Pre-Cat roll out across the whole patch had been held. The Chair thanked LOC Members for

responding to information requests when data gathering or requests for expressions of interest, it was of great value to the LOC in their work with Commissioners and PES.

The skills and commitment of the whole LOC Committee was noted, their expertise and experience was very valuable to the Committee and in representing the membership in commissioning services and being active to read and consider all opportunities for Cheshire Optometric Practices.

The CUES rollout had been man hour intensive for the LOC, the service would demonstrate the skills and support available from the profession to the wider Primary Care Services.

Primary Care Networks had been pivotal in the primary care service delivery, in extended services such as CUES and vaccination services.

Thanks to were noted for Julia Maiden, PES CGPL; Julia's commitment and dedication as CGPL in Cheshire had been a great asset in Cheshire. Julia had been a great asset as had Gordon Elliott as CGPL. Jag would take over from Gordon.

The Chair requested members report back to the CLOC to give feedback on important subjects and items members would like to take forward.

## **6. Secretary's Report**

Amy Thompson, Secretary, report received.

The Secretary thanked members in attendance to the second remote LOC. It was noted that the recent working conditions during Covid and had helped to put the LOC onto a wider platform and bring forward services such as CUES and the MECs scheme.

The committee had continued to meet virtually throughout the year and also regular communication via email and WhatsApp.

On a national scale, the NOC Conference was held virtually for the first time. It was felt the format was a success as more members of the committee could attend and report back from more workshops and seminars.

## **7. Election Result**

David Knowles acted as Returning Officer for the 2021 Election; in 2021 there were 2 Contractor seats elections and 2 Performer seat elections. The Contractor elections were uncontested; therefore, the following nominations for Cheshire LOC members of Fionnuala Stott and Chris Houghton were agreed.

The Performer candidates were Amy Thompson, Phil Cooke and Fionnuala Kidd.

The election result confirmed Amy Thompson and Phil Cooke were voted back in.

The Chair thanked Fionnuala Kidd for her application and to David Knowles for his oversight and verification of the election process.

## **8. CET Officer's Report**

Jill Umpleby reported the next event would be a See-ability CET Event for testing and dispensing for children with learning disabilities which aligned with the work underway on the Special Schools Pilot. A date would be confirmed in the near future.

## **9. Treasurer's Report**

Report received. The Treasurer, Phil Cooke gave context around the accounts circulated and scrutinised.

Phil gave an overview of the reduced income during the year, which had been significantly reduced in year due to Covid lockdowns; expenditure had been significantly increased to the covid response. Expenses had been reduced due to travel restrictions, no CET events and no in person meetings.

Reviewing the year; the levy had been set at 0.5% plus the LOCSU contribution; in the mid year position after the reserves had been run down, it was agreed in August to increase the levy to 1% to maintain 1 year turnover.

Thanks to David Knowles for his oversight of the accounts were noted.

## **10. Approval of 2020 Accounts**

Proposer: Fionnuala Stott, Seconded: Amy Thompson.

**Resolved: that the Cheshire LOC 2021 Accounts be agreed.**

**11. Vote on the Following Resolutions: -**

Vote on the Following Resolutions: -

- a) **Resolution 1**- to set the statutory levy on all NHS sight tests at 1%
- b) **Resolution 2**- to give the Cheshire LOC a mandate to vary the statutory levy by no more than plus or minus 0.5%

**Resolved: following the vote with those present, all in favour that the Resolutions 1 and 2 were agreed.**

**12. Adoption of the 0.5% contribution to the LOC Support Unit for 2021/22**

**Resolved: following the vote with those present, that the adoption of the 0.5% contribution to LOCSU was agreed.**

**13. Appointment of Account Inspector for 2021**

The Chairman wished to note Cheshire LOC's thanks to David Knowles for his work and oversight during the past year.

**Resolved: that David Knowles be appointed the Account Inspector for the Cheshire LOC for the year 2021/22.**

**14. Primary Eyecare Services Limited Report**

The written report received from Julia Maiden from PES would be published on the LOC website. The following highlights from the report were noted:

- In the CUEs Service 80% of patients were fully managed and discharged in Q3, only 5% were referred for general health concerns, 3% were referred to the hospital for routine and 11% were sent to hospital on an urgent referral.
- The Cataract Service at Leighton was now open again and building back up to capacity. The LOC had been working hard on communication with the hospital.
- Rapid AMD Service referrals were still being received via a GOS 18; there is a form on the LOC website for Rapid Access AMD that should be used, not GOS.
- 97% of PreCat Service patients were sent to their preferred provider.
- Discussion to extend the cataract service across Cheshire were ongoing – led by LOCSU.
- A Glaucoma Service for patients who were already under the hospital may be possible.
- Post Cat in Macclesfield was under discussion, this depended on integrating Medisoft and Opera.
- FP10s were still requested for IP Optoms.
- PES recognised the payments for the CUEs Service had not been as expected; this was due to the invoice structure in Cheshire.
- A new invoice IT system would be launched in April.

**15. LEHN**

Report received. Rupesh Bagdai had sent apologies. A request for complete and record the lateral flow tests was noted.

Jane Smellie gave an overview and update on the LD Service; a meeting in November was held with the NHS, Rupesh Bagdai, Julia Maiden and members from Seeability. Contact with all Optometrists on the LD pathway was checked and updated; it was planned to re-launch the Service in March, however the work on the Special Schools Service may come before this as it was taking up Seeability time. The LD Pathway was now available to all ages and included patients with autism.

**16. LOCSU**

Report received.

**17. Any other Business**

The Chair asked members attending if they had any questions:

- Cathy Tripp asked if the GRR Service was running; yes, it had been running although there was little activity. The service had not been transferred to Opera.
- Sarah Caddy asked a question regarding Cataract Referrals; a patient had been assessed as unsuitable for Optegra; a letter was then sent back to the Optom asking for the patient to be re-referred. FS would take the problem up with Julia Maiden.

The Chair thanked all those who had attended the remote AGM and requested feedback on the subjects and actions the LOC had taken over the year.