



## DRAFT

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Cheshire LOC held at the Fox and Hounds, Sproston, on 16th March 2023

#### Present: Committee Members

Fionnuala Stott            Chairperson  
Phil Cooke                Treasurer  
Amy Thompson            Secretary  
Jill Umpleby  
Harinder Notay  
Andy Riley  
Stephen Halpin  
Cahir Mullan

Sandie McBennett        Administrator

#### 1. Welcome by the Chair, Fionnuala Stott

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

#### 2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Jane Smellie, Sara Lorenz, Rupesh Bagdai, Fionnuala Kidd, Manish Patel and Gary Lesser.

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

#### 3. Minutes of the 2022 AGM

Proposer: Stephen Halpin, Seconded: Andy Riley.

**Resolved: that the minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.**

#### 4. Matters Arising

No matters arising were noted.

#### 5. Chair's Report

Fionnuala Stott, Chair, report received. The following points detailing the past year's LOC activity were noted:

- Working closely with PES
- Building relationships with our Primary Care colleagues and raising awareness of the services we offer.
- Providing Optometry representation on the Cheshire and Merseyside ICS Primary Care forum.
- Working with our three Hospital Trusts to support them in their recovery since COVID-19 and help reduce the pressure on the Hospital Eye Service.
- Representing the views of our members when engaging with our NHS colleagues and commissioners.
- Keeping our members up to date via regular newsletters.

A strategy day had been held in January when it was agreed the LOC should focus attention on the following:

- Engagement with any newly qualified Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians in our area.

- Update and make the website more user friendly and easier to follow the referral pathways.
- Improve practice uptake to extended services and better signposting from non-participating practices to participating practices.
- Work with GP practices and Pharmacies to better signpost patients.
- Improve our communications. We are always striving to communicate better with our members and reach a wider audience.

Some successes over the past year:

- PES has paid £550k to practices for extended services over the past year; £412k was for CUES alone.
- We average approx. 880 CUES episodes per month across Cheshire.

The Chair wished to record her thanks to the committee for their work to date. Lyndon Taylor had been a huge support during his tenure as Chair to the committee and members, and latterly to the new Chair, Fionnuala Stott; Lyndon had not stood for election this year and would stand down. The committee wished to note their thanks to Lyndon.

## 6. Election Result

David Knowles acted as Returning Officer for the 2023 Election; in 2023 there were 3 Contractor seats elections and 3 Performer seat elections.

The Contractors voted in were Mark Simpson, Amy Thompson and Jill Umpleby.

The Performers voted in were Harinder Notay, Jane Smellie and Helen Counsell.

The Chair wished to thank all those who were nominated. All members were very welcome to attend LOC meetings as observers.

## 7. Treasurer's Report

Report received. The Treasurer, Phil Cooke gave an overview of the accounts. Due to meetings mostly being held remotely, there had been a reduction in expenses for meetings.

## 8. Approval of 2022 Accounts

Proposer: Stephen Halpin, Seconded: Fionnuala Stott

**Resolved: that the Cheshire LOC 2022 Accounts be agreed.**

## 9. Vote on the Following Resolutions: -

Vote on the Following Resolutions: -

a) **Resolution 1**- to set the statutory levy on all NHS sight tests at 1.25%

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.**

## 10. Adoption of the 0.5% contribution to the LOC Support Unit for 2023

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

## 11. Appointment of Account Inspector for 2023

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 2023.**

## 12. LOCSU

Presentation from Mohammed Bhuta.

Mo gave background to his work at LOCSU to demonstrate the value of LOCSU to LOCs.  
In 2023 LOCSU planned to focus on the following:

- LOC payroll service
- National LOC Forum (funded LOC attendance)
- Increased training and development, particularly under the leadership CPD requirements
- Webinars, podcasts and other accessible learning and information opportunities
- LOC model constitution engagement and update
- NOC 2023
- Further development of clinical care pathways and focus on Optometry First
- Support to increase uptake of pathways and services

### **13. Any other Business**