

EAST SUSSEX LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

Annual General Meeting of the East Sussex Local Optical Committee
Wednesday 16th March 2022: 7pm
Via Zoom

Present:

Ian Bradbury - LOC
 Liz Christie – LOC
 Tom Collicott – LOC
 Graham Freeman - LOC
 Paul McDonald – LOC
 Daeron McGee – LOC
 Josie McKellar - LOC
 Dimple Mehta – LOC
 Nuleen Panday - LOC
 Lorna Partridge - LOC
 Claire Reed – LOC

Pritti Patel - Observer
 Max Halford – LOCSU
 Charles Greenwood: Administrator
 Michelle Martins: Minute- taker

		Action
1.	Welcome and Introductions	
1.1	The Chairman thanked all for attending the AGM and introduced Chris White, Head of Cyber & Innovation, The Cyber Resilience Centre for the South-East.	
2.	Apologies	
2.1	Joanne Broad.	
2.	<p>Chris White, Head of Cyber & Innovation, The Cyber Resilience Centre for the South-East</p> <p>Chris began by explaining his role within the Cyber Resilience Centre for the South-East and the purpose and scope of the centre. The centre, and others across the country, were set up by the Government to help companies and businesses with their cyber security. He observed that some small business owners are not necessarily good at cyber resilience and need some assistance. The Cyber Resilience Centre utilises the skills of university students who are screened, trained and mentored by the centre. Organisations who sign up receive a free welcome pack which provides guidance including many worthwhile cyber security facts and services.</p> <p>Chris then ran through the cyber services available. There is also an accreditation service which has a start-up charge of £300 plus VAT and, with this, the organisation will receive free cyber insurance. This is open to any organisations with a turnover of less than £20 million. Chris confirmed that organisations can join up for the free, core membership via the centre's website www.secr.co.uk/membership. There then followed a discussion on weaknesses in cyber security and he advised that there is a website which individuals can use to identify any data breaches involving websites visited (Have I Been Pwned). He advised all to change the passwords for any websites which have been involved in breaches. It was agreed that Chris would send some details to JCL and they would circulate this to the wider East Sussex LOC membership.</p>	JCL
3.	Minutes of the previous AGM: 17th March 2021	

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3.1	It was agreed that any actions within the minutes had been completed.	
3.2	The minutes were agreed as accurate (proposed by Liz Christie, seconded by Nuleen Panday and unanimously agreed).	
3.3	Matters Arising: None	
4.	Chairman's Report	
4.1	<p>The Chairman gave his report, which is re-produced below:</p> <p><i>Firstly, I would like to thank everyone for attending today. Once again it has been an unusual 12 months and although things feel very different to a year ago, we still remain in strange times.</i></p> <p><i>As our patients and customers get used to returning to some level of normality, we remain under some level of COVID restrictions, which I'm sure I don't have to tell anyone here, comes with its own challenges.</i></p> <p><i>I have been extremely encouraged and proud as to the way our local practices have helped their communities throughout the past year. I'm sure I speak for most people in saying it has been a tough year regarding workload. My hat goes off to our colleagues who, despite huge capacity issues, have maintained additional services, such as the MECS service in parts of the county and dealing with the onslaught of post cataract patients the hospitals have been churning out. It definitely has not been easy, and I would just like to recognise the hard work everyone has put in.</i></p> <p><i>I would like to take this opportunity to update everyone on what the LOC has been up to over the past 12 months. Although it feels like not much has changed, please be assured that we have been liaising with the trusts and CCGs to look at ways community Optometry can better support patients. We are all aware of the challenges in secondary care and know the hospitals are keen on our help in the community. Some of the largest challenges revolve around conditions such as Glaucoma and in order for these patients to be managed successfully in the community it will require huge changes around training and I.T. provision. These have been some of the discussions we have been having and hopefully in the coming year we shall start to see small steps to being able to provide these services locally.</i></p> <p><i>One of the things the LOC has always been good at is providing great CET events, however, due to the pandemic this has been challenging. I would like to thank Ian and the team at Eastbourne hospital for providing some great quality virtual CET over the past year, particularly seeing as it was the final year of the GOC CET cycle!</i></p> <p><i>I hope at some point this year we can arrange some face-to-face CET/CPD events as it's always nice to interact with the speakers and catch up with colleagues.</i></p> <p><i>On a final note, I would like to thank the LOC committee for their hard work throughout the year and their commitment to help our local practices.</i></p> <p><i>I cannot stress enough that the LOC is there for our local community and should anyone have any concerns, ideas or would like to get involved then please feel free to get in contact.</i></p>	
5.	Treasurer's Report	
5.1	It was confirmed that the LOC's accounts had been circulated prior to the AGM and the Treasurer summarised the report noting that there was a significant reduction in savings as monies had to be transferred to cover the period when there was no statutory levy. He	

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	<p>observed that it was good that the LOC had this buffer and proposed, therefore, that the LOC should always ensure that it has a buffer to protect itself from unforeseen circumstances. He recommended that the levy remain the same as now. The Treasurer thanked Charles, Michelle and the bookkeeper, Jamie for their help during the year. He also thanked the Officers and all the committee members for all their hard work. The Chairman asked if the LOC needed to rebuild its buffer and the Treasurer confirmed that it should as the LOC may incur more expenses in the coming year: more face-to-face meetings and CPD events.</p>	
6	<p>Adoption of the Statutory Levy</p>	
6.1	<p>The Treasurer recommended that the levy remain at 1% in total for the forthcoming year (with 0.5% going to the LOC and 0.5% going to LOCSU).</p> <p>This recommendation was unanimously approved by all present.</p>	
7.	<p>Contribution to LOCSU</p>	
7.1	<p>A question was asked as to what factors determine the amount paid to LOCSU. Max confirmed that this is driven by the LOCSU's Board of Directors. The LOCSU levy currently stands at 0.5% and it was unanimously agreed that this should remain the same for the forthcoming year.</p>	
8.	<p>Nominations and elections</p>	
8.1	<p>It was reported that there were four places up for election this year and four nominations were received. The following four people, therefore, were elected unopposed for a three-year term:</p> <p>Lorna Partridge Ian Bradbury Paul McDonald Daeron McGee</p> <p>It was confirmed that the Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer posts would be agreed at the following LOC meeting.</p>	
9.	<p>Presentation by Max Halford, LOCSU representative</p>	
9.1	<p>Max began by outlining where LOCSU can support LOCs and their members. He advised that, within East Sussex, the majority of queries have been to do with PCSE and QiO. He reminded all that the CCGs will be moving into ICSs and that GOS will be devolving to ICS level although the intention is that GOS will still be nationally led but locally delivered. He reported that the 'Optometry First' pilots will be rolled out and that the closest one is on the Isle of Wight. Max then gave an update on the rolling out of EeRS and reported that this is progressing well in Kent & Medway. He then moved on to the Planning Guidance 2022/2023 and advised that the emphasis is on reducing follow-ups. He finished by encouraging the LOC to revisit LOCSU's Needs Assessment and then thanked the committee for the opportunity to speak at the AGM.</p>	
9.2	<p>Lorna thanked Max for his report and for his support of the two Sussex LOCs during the year. This was echoed by the Chairman.</p>	
10.	<p>Primary Eyecare Services (PES) Report</p>	
10.1	<p>It was confirmed that a PES Report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Chairman outlined the ways in which PES now provides support to its members. The Chairman then gave a breakdown of MECS activity which remains consistent and then reported that PES had apologised for the delays in payments experienced by MECS practices during 2021. It was confirmed that all payments are now up to date. The Chairman went on to report that there is</p>	

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	a new post-op cataract service being set up by PES in West Sussex which will be run using the OPERA platform. It was confirmed that the details had been circulated to East Sussex members in case any practices, specifically those on the border of West Sussex, wanted to participate.	
12.	Any other Business	
12.1	The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the AGM. Meeting closed: 8.05pm	