



Chairman: Wendy d'E Vallancey

Vice-Chairman: Daniel Harris

Treasurer: Eileen Gay

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2016

March 2017

Dear Colleague

Your committee met four times during 2016 including the AGM.

We have had yet another busy year with the changes in the NHS starting to filter down.

The direct cataract referral pathway into Moorfields@Potters Bar is still running well, and accredited optometrists close to the Luton and Dunstable hospital can now directly refer cataract patients into their clinic too. We continue to discuss this service with the East and North Herts Trust and hope that this will soon be available to all our patients county wide.

The pilot project in Hatfield and Welwyn for testing people with Learning Disabilities was put on hold due to the degree of compliance and accreditation needed by each practice, for what amounts to a relatively small service. It was decided that once we have another community service up and running, we should then encourage practices to add this on.

Our two CCGs are both engaging fully with the LOC now and are looking seriously at community services to relieve the burden on the hospital clinics. Unfortunately, they are not working together so we are having to negotiate everything twice. It is possible that this will soon change with the introduction of Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs) which will put both Hertfordshire CCGs and West Essex CCGs all together. Another wait-and-see situation, I am afraid.

We did have the opportunity to bid for the first community service to be commissioned in East and North Herts (the glaucoma repeat readings scheme GRR) and although we did not win this, we are now in talks with the winning bidder to use local Optometrists to provide the service. If you work in this area and do not know about the meeting on Monday 27th March, please email us. West Herts are discussing both GRR and MECS so we will let you know any progression with these.

We held our first MECS part 2 assessment recently which was very successful. We plan to hold more of these and the GRR OSCEs so please complete your WOPEC courses and then email us for dates for the part 2s.

Our CET evenings continue to be very popular and well attended. If you think of any topics you would like covered, please contact us. We are always looking for speakers and sponsors so again, if you have any ideas, please let us know.



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This year we also had to contend with the change in our payment system to Capita. I know many of you had problems with payments and that these continue. If you are not being paid, please email us and we will use our contacts to push to resolve the issues.

I am pleased to report that no complaints were received by NHS England for this area during the year.

As is usual, your committee sent representatives to the National Optometric Conference in November last year. This keeps us up to date with what is changing in the NHS and how other LOCs across the country are adapting to these changes.

The Financial Statement of the LOC will be circulated in the next day or two. The AGM will be at 8.00pm on Monday 27th March 2017 in the Lecture Theatre, Biopark, Broadwater Road, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 3AX. All Hertfordshire contractors and performers are entitled to attend and vote on resolutions.

We have recently had 3 retirements from the LOC so we are actively looking for new members. If you want to make a difference to Optics in Hertfordshire, please come along and meet us.

Best wishes

Wendy d'E Vallancey

Any queries/ questions about this Chairman's Report or any LOC matters please email on hertsloc@btinternet.com. Please also see our website www.loc-net.org.uk/hertfordshire/