

**Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Local Optical Committee  
Committee Meeting, 17.05.16 following AGM  
Waterfront4, Newburn Riverside NE15 8NY**

**1) Members present:**

Ian Hickson, Kaye Winship, Lisa Gibson, Tony Marshall, Gill Marshall, Andy McGregor, Naomi Smith, Lesley Oglethorpe, Iain Armstrong, Gary McMullen, Mike Offord, Stephanie Cairns, Sarah Townsend, Sylvia Bailey, Simon Raw, Carole Thorpe

**2) Apologies for absence:** all here

**3) Minutes of 8.3.2016 meeting:** were accepted

**4) Secretary Report:** Naomi:

Capita issues are ongoing with vastly the wrong amounts being paid leaving some practices in financial difficulty. Katrina Venerus LOCSU has been brilliant in helping resolve individual cases.

GOS forms-changes in supply and submission. Supply has been a nightmare. Andy thinks system will run well as time goes on. There should eventually be a phone number for Darlington so we can ring if we are short of forms.

**5) Treasurer Report** Lesley:

As AGM

**6) Children's and IOPRR service:**

Running well (see AGM report)

Children's Service will never be big numbers.

Mike and the committee thanked Gill for her tireless work on the Children's service.

**7) MECS:** Tony:

Some correspondence with Tony Brown, Northumberland CCG who is aware of us but no take-up at present.

70 practitioners have requested codes to complete part 1 of the LOCSU training.

Part 2 is OSCE at cost approx. £125. Discussion how cost should be met – Tony

thinks we should pay for ourselves, Gary thinks some younger performers may be put off by cost, Naomi thinks contractors should pay for performers. Gill suggested LOC refund cost when practice joins up.

Mike thinks we should be organised and ready to go immediately should CCGs commission.

Decision to convene a MECS sub- committee to organise. We don't know how many people will be interested, we need as many as possible.

**Post cataract refraction:**

Ongoing issue from RVI re 'misuse' of GOS for post cataract refraction and completion of HES form for no fee. Andy asked whether we put a formal complaint to LEHN. If we could communicate then post-operative refraction could be subcontracted to community optometrists for minimal cost. Zoe suggests we communicate with HES Trust rather than CCGs. If all practitioners have opportunity to be involved then can continue to use GOS as part of service.

Lisa will update business plan for MECS and Post Cataract Refraction.

**8) AOB:**

- Lisa thanked all for card and gifts following the birth of her baby son.
- Stephanie- Seeability has invited her to an event at the House of Lords. LOC will fund her for the meeting.

- Mike is intending to complain about Tyneside Optical offering domiciliary service to his patients by personal letter.

**DONM:** Tues 5 July 2016.