**SEFTON LOC**

**Minutes**

Chairman: Paul Newell Secretary: Nicholas Watson Treasurer: Andrew Willetts

*9th August 2023,18*:00 | Venue: Pioneer Bar, Crosby

# **In Attendance**

Paul Newell (PN), Andrew Willetts (AW), Nick Watson (NW), Neil Pearson (NP), Luke Threlfall (LT), Georgia Hunter (GH).

With guests: Bob Wilkes (BW) Chair CMLOC; Keith Williams (KW), Fionnuala Kidd (FK) LOCSU.

# **Apologies for absence**

Rebecca Ireland (RI) PES – CGP, Mel Lutas (ML) Chair Liverpool LOC.

# **Declaration of Interest**

* No new declarations declared.
* Declaration of Interest forms were distributed to LT, NP and GH.

# **Approval of Minutes**

* 2023 AGM LOC meeting minutes reviewed, amendments made. To be reviewed again at 2024 AGM.
* 17th March 2023 LOC meeting minutes reviewed. PN proposed acceptance, seconded by AW.

# **Matters arising from minutes**

* **Referral Issues:** (PN) A number of Cataract Post-Op Referrals back into the hospital via OPERA don’t appear to receive the full referral information when viewed on the hospital’s Medisite system, causing significant confusion for the reason for referral. The problem is possibly caused by; IT system communication failure, referral duplication by GPs or patients being referred elsewhere subsequently without the original referral being cancelled.
* **Referral Rejection:** (AW) To solve issues of rejection by HES due to; pacemakers, inability to lie flat, GA, etc. could OPERA not have a filtering check-list built in, so only appropriate providers are listed as end-points. (FK) Certainly feasible, but would take time to gather the required information and could only be implemented at the next platform redesign.
* **Communication:** Discussion on the lack of good communication can cause friction between HES and community optometry and even between colleagues.
* **Lack of Post Op Cataract Service**: (AW) Concern raised about iSIGHT’s lack of follow-up care since COVID. They continue to us a simple a telephone call, often missing pathology or not addressing patient s concerns adequately. Community Optometry often have to deal with patient concerns potentially using GOS or CUES inappropriately to manage these patients. iSIGHT are saving money on Post-Op care and also excepting their patients back as a new referral and therefore claiming a second fee. Since iSIGHT are unwilling to have a formal Post-Op service, could we not raise our concerns with NHS England. (FK) The LOC should raise concerns of patient safety with the ICB and also consider sending patients elsewhere where Post-Op care is valued.

# **Chairman’s Update (PN)**

**Meetings attended:**

* **Bootle New Strand (x2):** The development of the new Health Hub is still in the early days and it is unclear of the actual end design. It appears very unlikely there will be any optometry services which could affect local optometry businesses. The health services on offer could be; 24 hr GP service, Alder Hey satellite clinic, diabetic eye screening by LUFT or homeless eye testing service. Signposting is probably the only service we would need to offer.
* **Central Merseyside LOC Chairs Catch-Up**:
* **Cheshire & Merseyside Ophthalmology Network:**
* **Central Mersey LOC AGM and Post AGM Meeting:**
* **LOCSU-PES-LOC Catch-Up:**
* **Northwest LOC Forum:**
* **Sefton LOC meetings and AGM:**

**Optometry First (OF):** Contracts are now signed-off and Enhanced Services can now be started.

* **Enhanced Case Findings-** Patients referred to the HES with suspect glaucoma may go through a filtering service which will then redirect them out to optometry practices which are participating with the service.
* **Stable Glaucoma Monitoring-**
* **CUES/MECS Merge-** MECS OCSEs to be organised. (FK) LOCSU are planning a CPD lecture and practice/support session, also foreign body removal workshop in the coming months.
* **Practice Fee Uplift-** The uplifted tariffs for existing services will be in effect from 1st July 2023.

CUES/ MECS F2F  £51.00 to £53.50

OCT/IP £25.00 to £26.00

Pre Cat £41.00 to £43.00

GRR 1st IOP own patient £25.00 to £26.00

GRR Repeat £25.00 to £26.00

* **Pre-Cataract with Glaucoma-** Glaucoma Patients requiring cataract surgery should be sent to their glaucoma consultant via GOS18 for potential combined glaucoma and cataract surgery. S&O Hosp now have an end point on OPERA only for patients already under their care.

**NHS Fraud**: The NHS Counter Fraud Authority (NHSCFA) have been made aware of fraudulent invoices being received by various organisations across the health sector from Office Hub East Ltd for printer equipment, i.e. toner and drum kits. Any suspicious activity should be raised with NHSCFA.

**Change to PAYE:** See Treasure Report

**Patient Initiated Follow-Up (PIFU):**

All Hospital departments are struggling with patient numbers. The current outpatient model is outdated and high numbers are waiting for outpatient care, therefore the trust are starting to utilise PIFU. .

* **PIFU** describes where the patient is discharged without any planned follow-up.
* A **patient, or carer, can initiate follow-up appointments when they need one.** This can be a change in symptoms or circumstances.
* **This helps patients be seen quickly when they need to**, while avoiding the inconvenience of appointments they don’t need.
* **Most patients come back less often when using PIFU.** This creates capacity to see other patients, e.g. off the waiting list.
* **Shared decision making** between a patient and clinician means PIFU is used for those who are suited to it.
* **Safety nets** should be used to ensure: - appropriate review still takes place, if required and that PIFU is recorded and reported.
* **PIFU** can offer outpatient care in more effective ways that improve patient experience and support elective recovery

With the use of PIFU, we may start to see an increase in discharged patients seeking advice from community optometry. Would it be appropriate to utilise the CUES/MECS pathway or should new PIFU pathway be commissioned to help them.

# **LOCSU Update (FK)**

**NOC 2023:** Conference to take place Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th November 2023 and will be hosted at Wyboston Lakes Resort, St Neots, Bedfordshire. This year it will allow LOCs to build their own conference, allowing delegates to tailor the conference via various work streams, whilst networking and collaborating within regions.

LOCSU have **25 complimentary tickets** for nominated succession candidates and available to 1 per LOC area. These are addition to the 1 free unconditional place per LOC.

(PN) Which LOC would like to go and how many places can we afford to fund? The cost will be higher for this year’s NOC because of location, travel time and Sunday night stay. It could be possible to share transport costs with other areas.

(AW) The LOC does have enough funds to send members the the NOC and we can always adjust the levy if needed.

**Glaucoma OSCEs Event.** LOCSU is hoping to host a Glaucoma OSCEs prior to Optometry first relaunch on the 11th September 2023. Discussion on candidate numbers, costs involved and venue. We will need 5 assessors and volunteers, with a maximum of 20 candidates. We will aim for Monday 4th September. We could also open it up to neighbouring LOCs who could help funding by them paying per candidate. Second OSCEs event will be planned for later in the year.

# **Enhanced Service Update** (RI. Primary Eye care)

* No Update

# **Treasurer Report (AW)**

Account Summary:

* Current Account as of 9th August 2023: £18,359.13
* Reserve Account as of 9th August 2023: £9,261.97
* Total LOC funds as of 9th August 2023: £27,621.10
* Statutory LOC Levy currently 1.5%. Current LOCSU Levy 0.5%.
* LOC Meeting Fee £100. LOC Hourly Rate £60.
* Full copy available on request.

Treasurer’s Update

* With the implementation of PAYE, payments to members will take longer to process.
* The submissions are currently on a monthly basis. A link to a claims folder will be distributed for any member’s claims and expenses for LOC business.
* Individual passwords to access personal payslips have now been distributed.

# **Any Other Business**

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| **Merseyside LOC Merger**: As committee numbers shrink over the coming years with retirements etc. it makes sense for the neighbouring LOCs to merge into one Merseyside LOC.  FK- Liverpool LOC are not in the same position regarding services and as the committee has recently changed it needs time to develop before they are in a postilion to merge.  PN- Working more as a collaboration rather than complete merger perhaps is the way to start. |  |
| **CHEC**: CHEC Preston are still not on OPERA as an endpoint, even though they are marketing their services heavily. |  |
| **Newsletter-** Time to release a newsletter with up lift in fees, OSCEs and new services etc. |  |

# **Next LOC Meeting**

*Date:* Next LOC Meeting 12th October 2023, to be confirmed.

MEETING CLOSED 22:30