



**MINUTES OF CHESHIRE LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
29th NOVEMBER 2023 HELD AT THE SWAN, TARPORLEY**

Present

Fionnuala Stott, Phil Cooke, Amy Thompson, Andy Riley, Harinder Notay, Jill Umpleby, Jane Smellie, Mark Simpson, Stephen Halpin and Cahir Mullan.

In Attendance

Sandie McBennett – Administrator

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Helen Counsell and Fionnuala Kidd were accepted.

2. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

Andy Riley wished to note that he had a role with the ICB working on the Accelerator Project.

OA/LOC/LOCSU appointed roles and conflicts of interest were discussed. The committee collectively agreed that these roles posed a conflict of interest when multiple roles were held in one area. The recent appointment of Optical Adviser to Fionnuala Kidd had posed a conflict of interest for FK and the LOC. The LOC would be very sorry to lose Fionnuala Kidd as an LOC member and valued her contributions during her time on the committee; however, it was agreed that the conflict of interest between OA and LOCs roles would not be acceptable to Cheshire LOC.

No new conflicts of interest were noted.

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 13th September 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th September 2023 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

Actions from the previous meeting were complete with the following being carried forward:

Item 5 July	HC to make a list of practices in Chester that would benefit from a presentation.	HC
Item 3	Add to LOC agenda – items to be considered for the System Primary Care Committee.	SMB
Item 7 July	AT/SMB to add links to neighbouring LOCs to the website for information.	AT/SMB
Item 5	PC to chase Barclays Bank re contact with FS.	PC

3. Chair's Report

FS updated on recent meetings and project progress:

- Rejected referrals discussion with Leighton had been helpful, although referral rejections over 12 months old would stop. Communications between the hospital and practices could be improved. Rejected referrals that were problematic had been progressed by FS directly with Leighton.
- Meeting with newly appointed Glaucoma Consultant at COCH who is keen to engage with the LOC and would assist with IP Placements (although more information would need to be supplied).

Action: Invite COCH Glaucoma Consultant to the next LOC meeting.

- HN, AR, FS and MS would continue to work on the ICB Strategy Document for Primary Care.
- FS had visited practices in Cheshire; poor engagement from Locum Optoms with extended services was reported by practices.

Action: A list of Locums working in Cheshire would be compiled with the aim of offering training for extended services.

4. Workforce Development

Information received from the Workforce Development Survey had shown great interest in core competencies in foreign body removal, OCT. Qualifications such as IP were also popular and Glaucoma OSCEs.

A Steering Group would be formed to map competencies already known across Cheshire.

Action: Cahir Mullan would compile a Directory of Services detailing charges and fees for extended services for the Cheshire area.

Action: Andy Riley would co-ordinate mapping of optom/extended services.

Action: Hari Notay would investigate foreign body removal workshops along with Jill Umpleby.

5. Secretary's Report

AT reported the LOC Newsletter would be sent out soon.

6. Treasurer's Report

PC reported the balance at bank was £61,873. The LOCSU levy of £7.5k would be paid from this balance. £21k was still held for the AF/BP Pilot, of which £3k was paid for the purchase of BP monitors.

7. Accelerator Project

AR reported as Clinical Lead for the Accelerator Group; the remit of the Group was review referral data from GP/Optom to the Trusts and methods of sharing the data would be developed. The second part of the project would be to consider the single point of access for ophthalmology referrals across Cheshire and Mersey. Cheshire would be analysed due to the number of services across the area for comparison. The final part of the project would be to look at advice and guidance.

10. Digital Update

11. Website

Updated Referral Documents had been reviewed and agreed to be uploaded to the website.

12. AGM

It was agreed to hold the 2024 AGM on Wednesday 13th March 2024 at the Fox and Hounds, Sproston.

13. CPD

A CPD event delivered at Leighton on 19th October 2023 and promoted by the LOC to members had unfortunately not been awarded CPD points as expected. Leighton (as the organiser) had been asked to send an apology to attendees.

JU would plan CPD with points already approved to be delivered at the AGM.

14. AF/BP

JU reported 7 of the 10 participating practices had been secured; 3 more required. Cahir Mullan's Boots practice would participate.

Action: JU to contact CM re AF/BP pilot.

Action: JU to source more Sightloss posters.

15. AOB

Stephen Halpin would lead on tracking Cataract Referrals at Leighton alongside Kate Ness, the Ophthalmology Manager. Amy Thompson would track in the same way the Cataract Referrals and waiting times to Macclesfield which would inform future conversations with each Trust.

16. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Cheshire LOC would be held on Wednesday 31st January 2024 by remote media, followed by the 2024 Annual General Meeting held on:

Wednesday 13th March Thursday 6.00pm at the Fox and Hounds, Sproston

Actions

Item 5 July	HC to make a list of practices in Chester that would benefit from a presentation.	HC
Item 3 Sept	Add to LOC agenda – items to be considered for the System Primary Care Committee.	SMB
Item 7 Sept	AT/SMB to add links to neighbouring LOCs to the website for information.	AT/SMB
Item 5 Sept	PC to chase Barclays Bank re contact with FS.	PC
Item 3 Nov	Invite COCH Glaucoma Consultant to attend the next LOC meeting, possibly delivering CPD at AGM.	FS
Item 4 Nov	A list of Locums working in Cheshire would be compiled with the aim of offering training for extended services.	SMB
Item 5 Nov	Cahir Mullan would compile a Directory of Services detailing charges and fees for extended services for the Cheshire area. Andy Riley would co-ordinate mapping of optom/extended services. Hari Notay would investigate foreign body removal workshops along with Jill Umpleby.	CM AR HN
Item 14 Nov	JU to contact CM re AF/BP pilot. JU to source more Sightloss posters.	JU