



MINUTES OF CHESHIRE LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

31 JANUARY 2024 HELD AT THE SWAN, TARPORLEY

Present

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

In Attendance

Sandie McBennett – Administrator

1. **Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

Fionnuala Kidd has resigned from the LOC. The committee wished to note their thanks to Fionnuala for her commitment to the profession and the LOC.

2. **Declarations of Conflicts of Interest**

Andy Riley wished to note that he had a role with the ICB working on the Accelerator Project. No new conflicts of interest were noted.

3. **Minutes of the Meeting on 29th November 2023**

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th November 2023 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. **Chair's Report**

FS updated on recent meetings and project progress:

- Workforce Update: Financial projections had been prepared up to the grant award of £205k. The Senior Reporting Officer would be Dharmesh Patel who would oversee from PES utilising the PES governance framework. The ICB lead would be Chris Lease, the Clinical Lead would be Rebecca Ireland and Fionnuala Stott would be Programme Manager.
- A WOPEC OSCE had been arranged for 30th April and held at Specsavers, Northwich.
- Payments would be made from PES and drawn down by PES from the Transformation Fund.
- In 2016 funding was awarded for Optoms to complete the IP Course, and towards their hospital placements. These fees would be distributed to those who had paid themselves as reimbursement.
- Mark Simpson and Jane Smellie had collated an IP Network for those already qualified and would be used when new optoms had qualified following the next tranche of qualified optoms from the Transformation Funding.
- Chairs from Merseyside and Wirral had requested a meeting to discuss the funding and workforce plan.

5. **Treasurer's Report**

2023 Accounts to 31st December 2023, report received.

Phil Cooke reported the LOC expenditure had increased in 2023 due to increased meetings and committee activity and an increase in the hourly rate claimable; this resulted in a loss of £6k. The levy was currently set at 1.25% and would require an increase of 0.5% to cover the projected increased expenditure.

A meeting had been arranged with LOCSU CEO, Janice Foster to discuss the LOCSU annual fee; Fionnuala Stott and Andy Riley would attend on 7th March 2024.

The Chair proposed the levy be increased to 1.75%.

The committee unanimously agreed to increase the levy to 1.75%.

6. Accelerator Bid

Andy Riley reported the Accelerator Project was moving slowly; the procurement bid was not complete. It would likely be mid to late March before this was complete. Advice and Guidance was being reviewed; positive meetings with Consultants had been held. Practices that would be willing to take part in the pilot would be required.

7. AGM

David Knowles had acted as Account Inspector for a number of years; David wished to retire from the role in 2024. The committee wished to note their thanks to David Knowles for his many years' service. The Treasurer would approach another person to be the Accounts Inspector. David has also acted as Returning Officer and therefore a Returning Officer would need to be appointed for 2024.

The 3 year rotation for committee member election would be for Fionnuala Stott, Mark Simpson, Phil Cooke and a vacancy.

Printed invitations would be posted to each practice to invite OO, DO to the AGM and the Glaucoma CPD.

8. Strategy Document

Cahir Mullan had drafted the Strategy Document; it would be circulated by email to the committee for comment.

9. AOB

Stephen Halpin reported on the Northwich Cataract Hub. Data on number of patients seen at Spa Medica was reported together with feedback from optoms on communication and engagement, patient management and information.

Helen Counsell had collated the information for contractor contact information.

10. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Cheshire LOC would be the 2024 Annual General Meeting held on:

Monday 15th April 2024 - 6.00pm at the Fox and Hounds, Sproston.