



## CHESHIRE LOC

### Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting Held at The Fox and Hounds, Sproston on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024

#### **Present: Committee Members**

Fionnuala Stott            Chairperson  
Phil Cooke                Treasurer  
Amy Thompson            Secretary  
Jill Umpleby  
Andy Riley  
Stephen Halpin  
Helen Counsell  
Mark Simpson

Sandie McBennett        Administrator

#### **1. Welcome address by the Chair**

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

#### **2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Harinder Notay, Jane Woodward, Helen Denton, Manish Patel, Graham Doyle and Maggie Valavanis.

**Resolved: that apologies for absence from the above named be accepted.**

#### **3. Minutes of the 2023 AGM**

Proposer: Rebecca Ireland

Seconded: Fionnuala Kidd

**Resolved: that the minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting be confirmed as an accurate record.**

#### **4. Matters Arising**

The Chair wished to note the Committee's sincere thanks to David Knowles for his many years work as accounts auditor; 2024 would be the last year he would inspect the accounts.

#### **5. Chairperson's Report**

Report received.

- Fionnuala Stott reported on work to involve and onboard practices to OPERA, any practices not engaging with OPERA; please contact the LOC for advice and assistance.
- The LOC encouraged all practices to use OPERA for referrals; 88% of Cheshire practices now used OPERA.
- Engagement was ongoing with GP practices in area to correctly signpost referrals into CUES service.

- Any problems experienced by practices regarding patients not being signposted correctly, please refer to the LOC.
- FS explained, the LOC would be available to help and is elected to represent practices
- Extensive work was ongoing across Cheshire and Mersey following the award of Transformation Funding which had been secured to provide training across the area.

## 6. Election Result

The recent election process had been concluded; Fionnuala Stott, Mark Simpson and Phil Cooke were re-elected uncontested as no other applications were received.

Following the resignation of Fionnuala Kidd, there remained a Casual Vacancy.

The Chair encouraged anyone interested to attend an LOC meeting as an observer or contact her for further information.

## 7. Secretary's Report

Report received.

- Amy Thompson re-iterated the Chair's invitation; any Contractor or Performer would be welcome to attend an LOC Meeting as an observer.
- Please do contact the LOC with any questions or queries.
- Newsletters would be circulated regularly throughout the year.
- The following meetings and events had been held during 2023/24:

### Meetings since last AGM:

July 4 <sup>th</sup>	Remote
Sept 14 <sup>th</sup>	Fox & Hounds, Sproston
Nov 29 <sup>th</sup>	The Swan, Tarporley
Jan 31 <sup>st</sup>	Remote

### CPD events:

June 29 <sup>th</sup>	Leighton hospital. Local Optom service update event. 2 interactive cpd.
Oct 19 <sup>th</sup>	Leighton hospital- Interpreting OCT event.
Oct 31 <sup>st</sup>	Macclesfield hospital. Cataract service update. 3 CPD
Nov 9 <sup>th</sup>	Virtual. Transform your mind. 3 CPD

## 8. Treasurer's Report

Report received.

- Phil Cooke reported there had been a significant increase in expenditure, mainly due to the increased workload being conducted by the LOC. This included time spent maintaining and negotiating new extended services, time spent engaging with GP practices and with the ongoing consultation on single point of access for referrals (Cheshire being one of the pilot areas for advice and guidance).
- The LOC had also invested resources in securing £200k in workforce funding.
- Other projects included the update of the LOC website so the referral pathways and enhanced services were up to date for each Cheshire area and local Ophthalmology department.
- Hourly rates were increased following committee agreement earlier in 2023 to bring the remuneration into line with current market rates.

- The additional workstreams had resulted in a circa £6k loss for the financial year 2023. The LOC voted in January 2024 to increase the levy by 0.50% to 1.75% to make up for the loss and to leave enough financial reserves going forward.

#### 9. Approval of 2023 Accounts

Proposer: Amy Thompson

Seconded: Fionnuala Stott

**Resolved: that the Cheshire LOC 2023 Accounts be agreed.**

#### 10. Vote on the Following Resolutions: -

a. **Resolution 1 - to retain the statutory levy on all NHS sight tests at 1.75%**

Proposer: Andy Riley

Seconded: Cathy Tripp

b. **Resolution 2 - to give the Cheshire LOC a mandate to vary the statutory levy by no more than plus or minus 0.5%**

Proposer: Jane Smellie

Seconded: Cathy Tripp

**Resolved: following the vote with those present, all in favour that the Resolutions 1 and 2 were agreed.**

#### 11. Adoption of the 0.5% contribution to the LOC Support Unit for the forthcoming financial year#

Proposer: Amy Thompson

Seconded: Emma Bennett

**Resolved: following the vote with those present, that the adoption of the 0.5% contribution to LOCSU was agreed.**

#### 12. Appointment of Account Inspector for the forthcoming financial year:

Lyndon Taylor, past Chair of Cheshire LOC had kindly agreed to scrutinise the accounts annually.

**Resolved: that Lyndon Taylor be appointed Account Inspector for the Cheshire LOC for the year 2024.**

#### 13. AOB

A member asked the following question:

Q: Will there be an uplift in the CUES fee?

A: Fionnuala Stott responded: A fee uplift had been noted and raised with Primary Eyecare Services. PES had engaged with all commissioners with the following feedback:

- We need to demonstrate better coverage in the area and teamwork between practices
- Practices would need to work together to improve the coverage and encourage uptake in more practices.