



MINUTES OF CHESHIRE LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

16 JULY 2024 HELD REMOTELY

Present

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

In Attendance

Sandie McBennett, Administrator.

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

No apologies were received.

2. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

FS wished to note her role with the PES Board.

3. Election of Officers

The following officers were elected:

Chairperson: Fionnuala Stott

Secretary: Amy Thomson

Treasurer: Phil Cooke

Resolved: that the above Cheshire LOC Officers be appointed.

4. Minutes of the Meeting on 20th May 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th May 2024 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

5. Workforce Development

- Update on C&M requirements
- IP – September Cohort
JS reported the uptake of IP qualified optoms joining the IP Clinical Network Group had been excellent with 35 presently registered.
The Clinical Network Group would use the Pando App for support, it was agreed this was an excellent resource.
A Peer Review Event had been planned for 11th September in the Chester area.
The March 2024 cohort of IP Qualification students would need to arrange their hospital placements; the LOC had surveyed the students to understand the future hospital placement needs.
- ICB Update
AR reported on Advice and Guidance:

The Trust was now ready for roll out; with participating practices names received and agreed as well and training arranged for September 2024.

- **Single Point of Access:**
The SPoA had gone live, with a few teething issues to begin with. The problems were being monitored.

Andy Riley left the meeting at 8.00pm to enable an open discussion amongst the Committee.

The following points were summarised from the discussion:

- The information disseminated was not clearly understood.
- The process was not understood by practitioners.
- Practitioners should see the choice letter, understand the process and be in a position to explain it to the patient.
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Action: Cheshire LOC would write to the ICB to register the SPoA concerns raised.

- Cheshire LOC would recommend the SPoA be paused.
- Would like sight of the patient letters.
- Be given guidance to understand the process clearly.

The conflicts of interest surrounding the SPoA, and AR's role within the ICB was robustly discussed. It was agreed that no conflict of interest was noted and that AR recusing himself from the discussion was sufficient.

Andy Riley returned to the meeting.

6. **Treasurer's Report**

PC reported the balance at bank was circa £43k, with creditors payments bringing the subtotal to £30k, plus debtors of £4k from the ICB, bringing the balance to £34k.

The first drawdown payment requested from the ICB for Workforce expenditure was expected to be £60k. Committee members were asked to submit claims against the Transformation Funding on a monthly basis to enable more accurate fund management and forecasting.

The Cheshire LOC levy had been increased. PC had enquired with PCSE if the LOCSU levy was taken directly at source.

Action: Add LOCSU Review to the next LOC agenda.

7. **Careers/Education Events**

The committee discussed if careers in optometry and present at optometry should be part of the remit of the LOC. The committee would consider if LOC funds could be used to provide a careers kit to use at events.

Action: JS to provide details of optometry apprenticeship information.

8. **VIN**

No update.

9. CVD Pilot and Funding Award

Cheshire LOC had been successful in the funding awards for the CVD Pilot; £60k was awarded. CLOC would replicate the BP and AF programmes in the Cheshire & Mersey area.

10. CPD

A CPD event was considered for end of September/October.

Action: JU to check with Mo Bhuta what CPD with points approved would be available.

11. Strategy Document

The Chair wished to note thanks to Cahir Mullan for his work in preparing the Strategy Document. The finished document would now be shared with the ICB and would be the standard.

12. AOB

No items of AOB were raised.

13. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Cheshire LOC would be held in person on:

Monday, 16th September at 6.30pm at The Swan Tarpoley.

Actions

Item	Action	Lead/update
3	Cheshire LOC would write to the ICB to register the SPoA concerns raised.	FS
6	Add LOCSU Review to the next LOC agenda	FS - Complete
7	JS to provide details of optometry apprenticeship information.	JS – Complete
10	JS to provide details of optometry apprenticeship information.	JU
12	AT to update the Cataract Pathways on the website.	AT