



AGM

19 May 2021

1900 hrs

Via Zoom Call

Recorded by

Carolyn Hudd, Secretary

Chair's Welcome

Colin, Gault, Chair of LOC began the AGM by welcoming the attendees to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. Attendees were asked to leave their name and GOC number in the zoom call chat for the records.

Minutes of the previous AGM

Colin recapped the minutes of the last AGM, held late in October 2020 due to the corona virus, and reminded the group that many practises in Wiltshire were signed up to CUES to ease the strain on the hospitals and this was working well. PPE was also being accessed through the NHS.

Chairs Report

- Eight months on from the last AGM and CUES is still in place until at least then end of June 2021 with plans in place to try and extend its commission for further three months.
- Optometry is in a strong position due to it being recognised as a frontline requirement. Therefore, most staff have been fully vaccinated and PPE has been provided free through NHS England. With ongoing changes to virus variants, it is unclear how long PPE measures will need to be in place but guidance will arise over the coming weeks and months.
- Medicare is now appearing on Opera for cataracts.
- Routine referrals will continue to go through the Wiltshire triage system. The Wiltshire CCG are undertaking work to move towards uploading electrical referrals and the LOC is in contact to ensure specific requirements and pitfalls will be recognised and addressed.
- The LOC intend to continue with the quarterly meetings, whether by Zoom or in the future returning to face-to-face.
- The LOC intends to split the committee members into specific roles to ensure continuity of progression.

Treasurers Report

- Martin Bull, Treasurer, gave an insight to LOC expenditure in the last year. The opening balance was £15,029 and the closing balance was £22,450. This was due to lower than normal activity in turn due to COVID-19. The total income made from the LOC levy was £6533 and the total expenditure made was £2321. The amount collected for the LOCSU levy was £10,523.

- The expenditure was split between attendance of meetings, coordinator fees and website fees.
- The current levy fee received by the LOC and LOCSU are as follows:
 - LOC 0.25%
 - LOCSU 0.5%
- It was purposed by the committee that the LOC levy be suspended for one year due to a higher than normal balance with a caveat that should an unexpected circumstance arise, this could be reinstated at any time. The attendees all agreed with this and the act of suspending the levy was agreed. The treasurer's report was also accepted.

Election of New Committee Members

- The LOC committee stood at 11 members out of a possible 12. Two members, Alisha Daley-Morris and Paul Shimmel took the opportunity to step down at their re-election, leaving three spaces available. The LOC wish Paul and Alisha many thanks for their hard work and contribution and look forward to seeing them again as observers or future members.
- Tom Mogford and Martin Bull were up for re-election on to the committee. Both offered two nominees and were re-elected to the committee.
- Three further attendees had applied as candidates to the committee. These were Jamie Bowman, Victoria Unsworth and Maddy Hocking. Each candidate gave an introduction to their background and was each accepted on to the committee. The committee look forward to working together.

LOCSU Update

- Amar Shah, LOCSU Lead updated the AGM on the activities of LOCSU in the last year. These concentrated on the development and maintenance of CUES, PPE sourcing, NHS mail rollouts, recognition as frontline health workers enabling early vaccination of all staff, and general engagement with other services with the aim of progressing the profession.
- The next challenge will be over the next 3-5 years and follows Matt Hancock's white paper laying out new methods of commissioning and a new landscape for the NHS. This will see the NHS broken into 7 regions each of which will be further split into ICS' or Integrated Care Systems. The system will aim to provide better communication between relevant care departments with the focus on prevention rather than treatment.
- The proposed plans are likely to become mandated and will lead to a nationwide generalised mechanism of commissioning services.

- £7 million has also been allocated for the development of software to enable primary care systems to interact with secondary care systems more effectively. LOCSU are attempting to guide the process into what is required for the Optical profession.
- Advice was given to encourage the LOC to continue to gain further contact, communication and relationships with other PCNs (Primary Care Networks) to facilitate engaging with the new ICS'.

Primary Eyecare Services

- A statement was read out by the Colin Gault from Amy Hughes, Clinical Governance and Performance lead at Primary eyecare Services. CUES continues to be a desired service and PES are working towards making this permanent and nationwide. Local CCG are keen to allow this continue but its future depends on funding.

Meeting end: 1945 hrs