

# **AVON LOC AGM**

## **MINUTES**

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

**BAWA 589 Southmead Rd, Filton, Bristol**

**18.30-20.30**

### **Present**

Bashir Ahmed, Kathryn Anthony, Gordon Batham, Andy Beavis, Ruth Bowering, Fiona Bromfield, Lindsey Carr, Pauline Cox Marian Donovan, Claire Esfahani, India Farrell, Lynne Fernandes, Neil Foster, Neil Fraser, Simon Goldsmith, Zoe Herbert, Madeline Hocking, John Hopcroft, Victoria Hopcroft, Amy Hughes, Amar Iqbal, Honor Jones, Ruth Keating, Mike Killpartrick, Ruth Low, Corrina Mcelduff, Anne-ita Mchugh, Kate McMahon, Ellen Morris, Nina Newsom, Kola Oduwaiye, Jenny Ogidi, Gary Orriss, Meera Patel, Emma Perrigo, Andrew Pinn, James Powles, Mitra Sabet, Ian Schofield, Robert Scott, Amar Shah, Steph Swire, Kerri Thomas, Peter Turner, Brian Vousdon, Rebecca Weston, Kim Williams.

### **1. Apologies**

Ruth Davies, Andrew Edwards, Mark Humphries, Mark Houlford.

### **2. Minutes of last AGM**

Approved.

### **3. Matters Arising**

None.

### **4. Presentation by Dunkley's Chartered accountants and Octagon financial planners.**

### **5. Chair's Report**

AS thanked each of our sponsors for their support with this year's AGM; Dunkley's Solicitors and Octagon financial planners, 360 and Clinitas.

It has been an interesting year both for Avon LOC and for the Optics profession as a whole, including a large merger between Essilor and Luxottica.

There has been a MECs event funded by the LOC and our sponsors which saw 37 practitioners in the area become fully MECs accredited. A second MECs event will take place later in the year, once again fully funded and proved by WOPEC.

There are a number of shared care schemes currently running, namely the North Somerset and Bristol repeat measures schemes and the Bristol post-cataract scheme.

The BANES area is in a period of flux with the older schemes still running and new schemes on the way.

Although MECs schemes are not available as yet, accrediting practitioners in the area is a way of future proofing. The HES is chronically overworked and, by their own assessment, four of five patients attending their A+E patients could more effectively be seen elsewhere. We have been in constant discussion with the Bristol Eye Hospital with a focus on moving these patients into the community. One barrier is the question of unmet need; those patients who do not attend A+E but would attend a more convenient community based scheme. These patients would be raising a cost where one did not exist previously (as many of these conditions may have self-limited without ever seeing an eyecare professional). As any community scheme could not be capped, this unmet need makes uptake hard to predict in an environment where the NHS is under massive financial strain.

The Bristol CCG structure has changed to incorporate North Somerset and South Gloucestershire CCGs. This will leave the combined group in financial deficit as previously only Bristol CCG was running to budget. As this is a new development, practitioners are advised to watch this space for the changes this may bring.

Many practitioners have registered to the new website which will be increasingly used for LOC communications. There is a locum page and a jobs page. A number of successful CET events have been advertised through the website including at The Chesterfield Hospital (Nuffield Health) and 2 Clifton Park (SWES). Thanks go to Alison at JLC for her ongoing administrative assistance. At the same time, we have continued to move our admin in-

house as a cost saving exercise. All practitioners are encouraged to subscribe to the website and newsfeed to make sure they stay up to date. There will soon be a specific page containing the minutes from all LOC meetings and a Bristol Shared Care page (the BANES Shared Care page is already up and running).

Thanks was given to the committee for their hard work over the year and specifically to:

- Andrew Pinn for so much hard work over the last year as both treasurer and cataract post-op lead. This scheme has presented many challenges and Andrew has done a fantastic job.
- John Hopcroft for taking the lead on MECs accreditation.
- Peter Turner for his role as vice-chair, running the North Somerset glaucoma scheme and being a director of the PECC along with Andrew Pinn.
- Lynne Fernandes for all her support along the steep learning curve of becoming Chair
- Andrew Edwards for his work in BANES; this has helped to ensure that BANES has received a lot more focus over the last year. Andrew has done a lot of work with a positive CCG – leading to glaucoma repeat measure alongside pre and post-cataract assessment schemes going live in the next few months. Going forward, Andrew will continue to work towards agreeing a MECs scheme, if conversations are permitted.

In conclusion it has been a busy and successful year with a number of shared care schemes up and running, more to launch soon and the potential for additional schemes with the merger of the three CCGs. Please do come to meetings and get involved. We have one vacancy for a permanent member available – for more info contact me or the secretary directly.

## **6. Treasurer's report**

The treasurer's report from Andrew Pinn is reproduced below:

I continued the treasurer's role from May 2016 to today

My remit was to manage the incomes and expenses of the Avon LOC and maintain an account balance of approximately £20,000.00.

Avon LOC income for the last year was £40,693 the majority £34,670 was from the statutory levy. The Avon LOC proportion of the statutory levy remained at 0.6%. (The levy is deducted by NHS England as a percentage from the NHS GOS sight test fee prior to payment to GOS contractors.)

Other income was from the sponsorship of our AGM, sponsorship of the MECS accreditation event last December, funding of CET from residual funds of the Bristol Society of Opticians, payment by NHS England for providing representation at the PLDP (Performers List Decision Making Panel) and payment by Bristol Clinical Commissioning Group for organising and holding an accreditation event for their (Glaucoma) Repeat Measures and Monitoring Scheme and providing representation at their Community Cataract Follow-up Scheme accreditation events.

As reported at last year's AGM the proportion of statutory levy paid to LOCSU increased to 0.5% from 01/04/2016. This increase was to fund LOCSUs increased activity with their "Breakthrough Strategy".

Expenditure by Avon LOC was £33,639 which includes the costs of MECS, (Glaucoma) Repeat Measures and Monitoring and Community Cataract Follow-up accreditation events.

Compared to last year:

Expenditure on the National Optometric Conference was the same as we sent 1 delegate and they benefited from the LOCSU funded place.

Expenditure on our website was significantly less as our website which was redesigned and relaunched last year only needed maintaining.

The work carried out by the committee was generally split between work carried out by individual committee members and work carried out by our retained consultant JCL

consulting. The combined cost was a more than the previous year as there has been a high level of activity not only around commissioning and recommissioning enhanced services but also continual work to keep existing enhanced services running smoothly.

Committee member attendance at LOC committee meetings is now funded which is in line with the practices of other LOCs in England, but this brings a small increase in our operating costs.

In my view the time costs invoiced by the committee members in the last year has been significantly less than they could have legitimately claimed.

I will recommend to the committee to keep the statutory levy at 0.6% for the time being.

I would like to thank Ruth Davies for auditing the accounts and recommend the AGM appoints her to audit next year's accounts.

AP invited questions. None were asked.

## **7. LOC Constitution**

The new LOC Model Constitution was made available on the website for perusal ahead of tonight's vote on adopting it.

A vote on adopting the new LOC Model Constitution was taken and carried.

## **8. LOCSU Membership**

A vote on continued LOCSU membership was taken and carried.

## **9. Elections to Committee.**

There were four vacancies in total. Three current committee members, Andrew Pinn, Peter Turner and Meera Patal were elected unopposed. One vacancy therefore remains and anyone interested in joining the committee should contact any committee member.

## **10. AOB**

Peter Turner expressed his thanks to Amar Shah for his hard work and energy as Chair.

The Redland Opticians is being offered for sale. Anyone interested should speak to Pauline Townsend.