

Minutes of LOC meeting Tuesday 14th July 2020 via Zoom

Present: Alvaro Borges, Amy Clarke, Clare Griffin, Nigel Harris, Ian Shapcott, Adrian Street, Ankur Trivedi.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Kerry Irvine

2. Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no new declarations of conflicts of interest but it was agreed that Adrian would remain as Secretary until his position as a Contractor was clarified.

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last committee meeting were approved.

4. Matters Arising and Action Points

Alvaro reported;

He had contacted Zoe and Graham concerning the cataract questionnaire, but nothing further had been done at this time.

He had received replies regarding the loan Goldman tonometers on Google forms but there had been no identifiers to know who had replied so the request needed to be resent. ⁱ

There had been 30 responses with request for nhs.net addresses

The remaining PPE distribution was in hand.

An e-mail had been sent to Barbara, the patient representative on the CCG to mark her retirement.

Ian noted that he had only received two responses to his question about open practices in the County and it was agreed to remove the emergency list from the web-site and replace it with a list of practices offering CUES. ⁱⁱ

5. Election of new treasurer

Sadly Sue Arnold had been forced to close her practice due to the Coronavirus crisis and had consequently resigned her position on the LOC.

It was agreed unanimously that Nigel Harris would become treasurer.

Thanks had been sent to Sue for her contribution over the last few years.

6. Treasurer's Report

Nigel noted that he didn't have any figures for the meeting as he was meeting with Sue on Friday 17th July for a formal handover.

He reported that income had reduced considerably due to Covid-19 and that LOCSU were predicting it would be the end of 2021 before things were back to normal. Nigel felt the committee probably had enough reserves to last for 18 months but he would be in a better position to report at the next meeting. It was noted;

There were no major projects to deliver in the short term and no major expenses outside of committee member's time.

The possibility of the LOC part funding for IP or the Professional Certificate in Glaucoma had been discussed previously and it was agreed to review this later in the year as there would be a better indication of the speed of the recovery by the autumn.

LOCSU had no plans to ask for extra funding at this time.

Nigel was working on updating the details at the bank and would set up on-line banking as soon as possible ⁱⁱⁱ

7. PES update

Ankur reported that it had been agreed by the CCG that the Optomanager Flashes and Floaters referral pathway would remain active as not all practitioners were registered for CUES yet, though the latter was the preferred pathway.

Ankur asked if any of the committee were aware of any barriers to signing up for CUES and noted that Asda opticians were in the process of joining the scheme. The only issue identified was obtaining a DBS certificate if an Optometrist was not an AOP member.

There was some discussion around whether the 2-hour window could be relaxed now that the County was in Amber phase on the College guidelines. Alvaro also suggested that following various comments on the Emergency WhatsApp group some CET around interpretation of OCT images would be a good idea? Ankur had a contact who could deliver a session if required.

8. PCSE eGOS

Alvaro noted that the deadline for switching to eGOS had been extended to the end of September and he wondered if this was too short notice. On the other hand, would the short deadline focus practitioners' minds and get them to changeover as eGOS offered many advantages to practices.

It was agreed that the deadline was appropriate, and Alvaro would send a County Wide e-mail to ensure all practices were aware of it. ^{iv}

9. PPE

Alvaro was not sure if the promised LOCSU supply had arrived or what quantities of which items had been sent, he would confirm as soon as possible. It was agreed to store the consignment in the short in case of an emergency, though it was noted that expiry dates would need to be taken into consideration.

Amy reported that requested items had not yet been delivered from the LOC purchased stock to;

Fairford Opticians
R J Holmes
Specsavers in Cirencester
David Kear
Becky Watt
Sarah Johnson

Alvaro would take care of the first three as he was visiting Cirencester shortly ^v

It was agreed that PPE should not be provided for locum optometrists in future as it had effectively been purchased by Contractors from the levy, Alvaro would contact the relevant practitioners to explain the position. ^{vi}

10. Secondary Care Providers Update

It was noted that;

Tetbury Hospital and Emerson's Green were both accepting cataract referrals

The Trust were only taking the most serious and urgent cases.

Newmedica were trying to maintain their 15-week waiting list for cataracts but there was no glaucoma activity at this time.

It was agreed that Ian would add this information to the web-site and an e-mail would be sent County Wide to notify practitioners where to find updates. ^{vii}

11. Newsletter/Comms

It was agreed it would be good to get back on track with a regular newsletter and be more active on social media now that practices were coming out of lockdown. Adrian said he would like to pick up the social media once his position was confirmed.

Alvaro suggested a request for new committee members, Nigel thought the WhatsApp group would be a good idea. Clare noted that another DO would be good and it was agreed to add something to the web-site with a link on the WhatsApp group. ^{viii}

It was agreed Alvaro would request advice from LOCSU regarding the duplication on the nhs.net applications. ^{ix}

Steve Guilford had requested something be added to the web-site to mark the passing away of Graham Hopkins, it was agreed to ask Steve to write something to be added. ^x

12. Any Other Business

Alvaro reported that Zoe Hamilton from the CCG would be changing rolls and would be replaced by Kerry O'Hara. Alvaro would e-mail Kerry to offer to help with the handover. ^{xi}

Alvaro was also planning to meet with Alan & Julie from the Sight Loss Council to discuss the possibility of practitioners referring patients directly to ECLOs. Agreed it was a good idea to have such a pathway publicised. ^{xii}

Alvaro also reported on the CPG meeting where it had been proposed that the CCG to provide an IT system to allow Community Optometrists to access hospital records to avoid confusion and improve access and service. It was agreed this was an excellent idea.

Clare asked if the Return to Practice WhatsApp group could be opened up to become a more general group so that the emergency chat could concentrate on urgent communications. It was agreed a County Wide LOC WhatsApp group would be a good idea, all committee members would be administrators and monitor content using the Peer Discussion Rules as suggested by Ankur.^{xiii}

Ian noted that the ICO registration was due, he agreed to pay and claim the fee back.^{xiv}

Ian also mentioned that admin@glosloc was an address that had been monitored by Sue. He said it seemed to be mainly spam but he would monitor the content and potentially change it to enquires@glosloc.^{xv}

13. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 11th August 7:00pm via Zoom

Action Points

i	Request information on loan GATs	Alvaro
ii	Update website with information on practices offering CUES	Ian
iii	Update details at bank & set up on-line banking	Nigel
iv	County wide e-mail re eGOS cut off date	Alvaro
v	PPE delivery	Alvaro
vi	Contact locum Optoms re PPE supplies	Alvaro
vii	Add Secondary Care providers updates to website	Ian
viii	Committee member recruitment request on website	Ian
ix	Advice from LOCSU re nhs.net applications	Alvaro
x	Add obituary from Steve G to web-site	Ian
xi	Contact Kerry O'Hara re handover	Alvaro
xii	Referral pathway to ECLOs	Alvaro
xiii	Set up County Wide LOC WhatsApp group	Clare
xiv	Renew ICO membership	Ian
xv	Monitor admin@glosloc	Ian