

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Gloucestershire Local Optical Committee
Tuesday 15th June 2021 via Zoom**

Those present

See Appendix 1.

1. Chairs Welcome

Alvaro welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the first guest speaker, Amar Shah the LOCSU lead for the South-West.

Amar briefly outlined changes anticipated in the next year including the NHW White Paper which would result in CCG boundary changes and the introduction of Integrated Care Systems.

Amar reported there was a National Eyecare Recover Project which aimed to improve patient care sustainably and safely as well as an Electronic Eyecare Referral Service in the pipeline.

Amar invited people to contact him with any queries at amarshah@locsu.co.uk.

2. Apologies for absence

See Appendix 1

3. Minutes of Previous AGM

Alvaro noted an error in the 2020 minutes, 0.1% CET levy had not been included, the minutes were approved with this amendment with no objections via a Zoom vote.

4. Matters Arising

There were no Matters Arising.

5. Chair's Report

Alvaro outlined what had been achieved over the last 12 months and the plans for the next year. Alvaro also thanked Eshmael Palmer for representing GHNHST at committee meetings and also expressed his and other committee members gratitude to Sue Arnold and Kerry Irvine, both of whom had stepped down from the Committee since the last AGM, for their hard work on behalf of the LOC.

See Appendix 2 for the full Chair's Report.

Steve Guilford asked how many NHS cataract surgeries were performed in Gloucestershire per year? Ankur reported the approximately 2500 cataract referrals went through the PES pathway, though this figure would not account for all procedures. He would try and find out the exact number.

6. VCHP

Alvaro introduced the second guest speaker, David Brown, General Manager of Vision Care for Homeless People.

David explained VCHP and the new Gloucester clinic, outlined the key roles and also announced there was a funded role for an Optometrist for 1 day per week with full details of the application process for the paid post to be distributed shortly.

Ankur asked if this was the first static clinic that has been supported by a CCG if the CCG would be providing financial support? David answered yes to both. Ankur went on to ask about Enhanced Services and David replied they had not been provided previously at VCHP clinics but a GOS contract would be held at in Gloucester so there was no reason why not. Ankur stated he felt the CCG had a responsibility to provide services for all patients and he was keen to support the clinic.

See Appendix 3 for the VCHP presentation slides and David invited anyone with any questions to contact him at david.brown@vchp.org.uk.

7. Treasurer's Report

Nigel thanked Kevin Rollason for his help and reported there was an issue as the accounts did not balance and further investigation was required with some outside assistance.

There were a number of factors that could have created the error had been identified, Nigel had taken over at short notice from Sue Arnold, the payments from NHSE had become more complex due to Covid-19 and the changes in the way GOS forms were claimed and paid had resulted in a two tier system. PCSE had been collecting a 1.5% levy instead of 1.4% and Nigel was finding it difficult to ascertain why this was and get it corrected.

Overall the balance showed a healthy surplus, Covid 19 had clearly reduced the LOC income though Nigel reported the level of GOS activity in the County was getting back towards pre-Covid levels. He noted that there was a lot of reaccreditation activity that had been postponed which would need to be completed in 2021 if conditions allowed which would quickly drain the reserves. Nigel had also discovered that Gloucestershire LOC was a very small committee compared to other LOCs.

Alvaro took the opportunity to say that more members were required and invited anyone interested to contact him directly.

See Appendix 4 for the Annual Accounts

8. Adoption of accounts

The Accounts in their current format were adopted without objection via a Zoom vote.

Nigel would provide an update on the investigation as soon as possible.

9. Adoption of the Statutory Levy including LOCSU Levy for the coming financial year

Nigel proposed the levy should remain the same at 1.5% with a plan to reduce as soon as possible.

The levy was approved without objection via a Zoom vote.

10. Election of Committee Members

The following committee members were due for re-election;

Clare Griffin, Nigel Harris, Ian Shapcott and Ankur Trivedi

Fawn Bennet was standing for election for the first time.

Sid Maher and Adrian Street were standing as co-opted committee members.

All of those standing were elected without objection via a Zoom vote.

11. Enhanced Services Update

Ankur outlined current and possible future activity and noted that the current contract had been extended but had to be reviewed, assessed and renewed in May 2022.

See appendix 5 for Ankur's presentation, including an uplift in the fees which would be backdated to April 2021.

12. Any Other Business

Alvaro had a couple more updates for the meeting:

- i. The LOC were planning to distribute the waiting times for the various secondary providers ion the County via the web-site. It would be up to the individual providers to keep their information up to date.
- ii. The LOC were also considering ways of collaborating and interacting more with County practitioners, a committee member responsible for each region had been suggested and would be considered further and Alvaro asked if any other suggestions could be sent to any of the committee members.