
Kent and Medway LOC

KENT & MEDWAY LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF KENT & MEDWAY LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 9TH MAY 2017, AT THE TUDOR PARK MARRIOTT HOTEL, ASHFORD.

Attendees: Linzi Bacon, Harkiret S Bahra, Savithri Bhat, Heather Blackburn, Marthinus Bonthuys, Peter Croucher, Tony Booth, Tim Bowden, Jonathan Brothwell, J C Cheong, Bendre Dalton, Emma Dean, Michelle Derbyshire, Alistair Elgar-Williams, O Fayefunmi, Yegi Govender, Charles Greenwood, Eimer Hammond, Mark Hammond, Deacon Harle, Gordon Ilett, Lynn Jackson, Sudheer Kondaveeti, Rosalind Meigh, Tanya McKie, Niall O’Kane, Pritin Patel, Neelam Patel, Huw Pinney, Ramu Rao, Siven Reddy, Kate Rowe, Ann Rule, Harshni Shah, Satvinder Shoker, Andrew Tremain, Amy Weaver, Jennifer Wilson, Richard Whittington, Elaine Yorwarth (Michelle Martins).

1. Welcome by Chairman

Satvinder Shoker, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting of Kent & Medway LOC.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Lucy Hall, Jo Sandford and Debbie Ward-Thomas.

3. Minutes of Kent & Medway LOC AGM held on 10th May 2016

The Minutes were proposed by Jon Brothwell, seconded by Andrew Tremain and unanimously agreed.

4. Chairman’s Report for 2016/2017

The Chairman gave his annual report, replicated below:

This AGM marks the end of the second year of the three year term for the current LOC committee.

The LOC met 5 times during the last year and Members were also involved in various working groups at NHS England (South/South East Region), local CCGs and the LEHN. Please remember that observers are welcome at LOC meetings. Please let Michelle know if you would like to attend. The dates of the future LOC meetings can found on the website, along with meeting summaries.

GOS payments – the supplier of Primary Care Support service across England is now Capita. GOS payment queries appear to be decreasing but any practices continually experiencing problems – please let Charles or Michelle know.

Local community services continue to be commissioned by CCGs. Presently the following services are running:

East Kent – Repeat IOP Service (PEKM commissioned by the CCGs to run the service)

North Kent – North Kent Eye Service (The Practice Group commissioned by the CCGs to run the service and they, in turn, sub-contract to PEKM Ltd).

West Kent – COT (commissioned by the CCG to individual practitioners). The LOC are very keen to engage with the CCG and have sent them data on MECS elsewhere to encourage the CCG to start up a dialogue.

There will be more details on the existing community services in the PEKM AGM, which follows. I would like to assure you that the LOC and the PEKM Directors are working tirelessly to ensure that practitioners get the best outcome possible.

When engaging with the CCGs, it is essential that the LOC and PEKM can assure them that we have a workforce that is ready to participate in commissioned community services. To this end, I would urge all of you to complete as many WOPEC courses as possible but, in particular, the MECS online module and OSCE. If and when you complete the online module, please advise Michelle so we have a comprehensive list of Optometrists waiting to take the practical assessment (OSCE).

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In the last few months, an electronic patient record system, has implemented in East Kent Hospitals. The first phase has been to support the Cataract pathway, and involves the availability of an electronic submission following a patient visit to a Community Optometrist.

Thank you all for attending. I would also like to thank Mr Bhermi, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon at Moorfields Eye Hospital, for giving the AGM lecture this year.

5. Guest Speaker - Deacon Harle, Local Eye Health Network (LEHN)

Deacon Harle explained the role of the LEHN and that the stakeholders include representatives from health care, social care and the CCGs. Across the country, LEHNs have been working to ensure that all optical practices are given and then utilise an NHS.net email address. In Kent and Medway, however, all practices have already been offered an NHS.net email address and Deacon urged members to make full use of this. He also reiterated the Chairman's message: to ensure that community optometry has the best chance to be a service provider, members must complete the WOPEC training and engage with the LOC and PEKM Ltd. Deacon then gave details of two LEHN initiatives: a Patients with Learning Disabilities pilot (sub-group being led by Gordon Ilett) and Vision Care for the Homeless. He thanked the LOC for their help with the deprivation model which highlighted pockets of real deprivation within Kent, with a lack of optical practices and primary eye care. He also reminded colleagues about becoming dementia friendly and mentioned the College of Optometrists study 'Provide'. It was agreed that the LOC would circulate the details.

6. Guest Speaker – Richard Whittington, Chief Operating Officer LOCSU

Richard Whittington explained the structure and role of LOCSU. He outlined Breakthrough Strategy, launched last year, and reported that the number of CCGs commissioning MECS presently stood at 52% (the target being 60%). He explained that commissioning was changing, with the introduction of Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs) at the end of 2016. LOCSU are now working with CCGs and STPs to get services commissioned across the larger STP areas. It's anticipated that as these services develop, Primary Eyecare Companies will also merge to mirror the STPs. Richard also reported that LOCSU are also looking the commissioning of step-down services (i.e. stable glaucoma monitoring) and are presently working on service specifications and IT systems.

Richard continued by reporting that Katrina Venerus is presently working with Capita two days a week to help clear the backlog of payment queries and LOCSU will not withdraw this assistance until it is happy that Capita can deliver the correct level of service. He finished by reminding everyone that LOCSU provide a number of training courses and he urged members to utilise these.

7. Annual Accounts for 2016/2017

Ramu Rao, Treasurer, presented the LOC Annual Accounts for 2016/2017 and copies were circulated to those present. The accounts were proposed by Michelle Derbyshire, seconded by Neelam Patel and were then adopted. The Treasurer was thanked for his stewardship over the year.

8. Appointment of Accounts Examiners

It was proposed by the Treasurer that Osborne Accountants be appointed to examine the accounts for 2017/2017. This was unanimously agreed.

9. Any Other Business

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the Kent & Medway LOC AGM