Norfolk & Waveney Local Optical Committee

# **Annual General meeting 7 June 2023**

# Minutes

The 2023 Annual General Meeting of the Norfolk & Waveney Local Optical Committee was held at Aldiss Park, Norwich Road, Dereham. Norfolk NR20 3PX and was called to order at 19:30 on 7th June 2023 by Mrs. Deborah Daplyn. (Chair)

## Present: Ed Adkins, Charlotte Berryman, Pamela Bramwell, Clare Campbell, Elizabeth Bunn, Deborah Daplyn, Ali Ganiwalla, Deborah Hargraves, Michelle Horn, Tanya Josebury, Roger Lee, Julien Nelson, Niall O’Brien, Simon Ray-Jones, Sinead Rogan, Linda Vernon-Wood, Peter Hutchinson (Administrator),

## Apologies for Abesence: Ian Sinha, Dan Rosser, Kate Fenn Observer: Fionnuala Kidd– LOCSU Eastern Area Clinical Lead, - Returning Officer for the Election

## Declarations of Interest: None

## Business

1. Mrs. Deborah Daplyn welcomed those present to the Norfolk & Waveney Local Optical Committee Annual General Meeting for the year ended 31st March 2023 and congratulated everyone for making the effort to attend the first face to face AGM for three years.
2. **The Draft Minutes** from the AGM held on 8th June 2022 were uploaded to the NWLOC website on 8th May 2023 where they were available for download. No comments or objections had been received by the committee so it was proposed they be taken as read. Julien Nelson proposed they be accepted as a true and accurate record, seconded by Ed Adkins. The minutes were duly approved and signed.
3. **Chair’s Report NWLOC. June 2023**I should like to start with a welcome to our newest committee member Ali Ganiwalla who joined this year. As many of you will know, Ali practices in the East of our region, an area that has had no direct representation on the committee for a while, so it is great to have boots on the ground over there again. We wish a fond goodbye to Kate Fenn who has represented the DO Contractors for a while with great energy, enthusiasm and good humour. We wish her well in her future endeavours and hope that we might still be able to use her practice for holding OSCEs in the future.

It has been an odd year committee wise, it promised much but frustratingly, progress is very slow. Our enhanced services have recently moved forwards in the launch of the new cataract post op service with a fee lift to £43 per episode, a whopping 60% uplift, although long overdue. The service comes with a few other changes in that an eye examination should be performed with the post op assessment, not left to be done later by someone else and eventually it will be rolled out to include patients seen by all the providers across the area. Discussion is still ongoing regarding a possible change to referral guidelines and we will keep you posted as and when this is decided. The ICB are already looking at the glaucoma related services and will look at CUES in due course. We have a working group looking at a paediatric service, commissioned by the NNUH, which is making good progress, news to follow when we have it. Updates to the Opera system are also taking forever to appear but not through lack of pushing from us. New services are being spoken of, specifically a greater role in glaucoma management and possible medical retina services but these are at such an early stage that I have little to report so far.

We remain committed to keeping opportunities open to all of you who wish to engage but also understand that it will not be for everyone. We absolutely understand the need to have fees which do not undermine our practices’ very existence and are constantly making that case to the Commissioners. We have tried again, to run some more glaucoma OSCEs locally, but are still struggling to get enough interest to make it financially viable. If you require an OSCE exam, please do come forwards and make yourself known.

We have secured the provision of FP10 pads for our independent prescribers to use BUT ONLY within the CUES service. If you feel you should have an FP10 pad and have not received one so far, please contact the committee.

We have been pushing the case for all new optometrists into the area to be provided with their own NHS mail accounts. This has been particularly difficult as the national position is that EGRESS can be used instead. Sadly EGRESS is only free to use if you are sending to an nhs.net address which the NNUH has changed away from, meaning that referrals to them will be charged. We have now made some progress, so if you/your practice needs an nhs.mail account then please do contact us and we will try and get you some help.

You will be aware by now that management of Primary Care and the GOS contract has been moved from NHS England (at a national level) to individual ICBs. The ICBs are reaching out to us to see how this new future will unfold. We have been reassured that whilst management of GOS has moved locally, GOS is still a national contract and therefore the ICB cannot change the contract itself. An area that they have identified for all Primary Care services is around workforce planning, something that is dear to all her hearts in Norfolk and Waveney. We can expect communication from them in the coming weeks and months as they try to build a picture of the current situation and see where they can help in the future. The LOC would urge you all to be open to engaging with them as more optometrists can only benefit all of us going forwards.

Once again, I would like to thank the work of the committee without which, none of this would be happening at all. Quietly, and behind the scenes, we have had to battle with succession planning and PAYE which happily seem to be coming to fruition, whilst working and having a life. Please help us to help you, join the website, keep your details up to date and engage with us if you can.

I wish you a healthy and prosperous rest of 2023.

Deborah Daplyn  
**Chair. NWLOC.**

P.S. Deborah Daplyn said that the current work of the LOC revolves around Enhanced Service provision and discussion with the Integrated Care Board (ICB) which moves very slowly. Recently the ICB announced a budget cut of 40% in the current financial year, resulting in a complete re-organisation. All the current Enhanced Services are being reviewed; a large uplift in fee, from £26 to £43, has been agreed for the Post Cataract service which still may not meet expectations. The Committee recognises the difficulties but feels the agreed fee is unusually generous in the current climate and it remains the choice of individual practices to participate or not in the scheme. Other projects under discussion are; Medical Retina with respect to Hydroxychloroquine screening and Paediatric Services. The Paediatric Service has progressed well and will be contracted directly with NNUH rather than the ICB.

The OPERA referral platform still has some anomalies which the LOC has addressed with Primary Eyecare Services (PES), there has been little progress to date but LOC will continue to press for changes to the CUES system. Deborah Daplyn asked those present to report to LOC any difficulties they experience with PES and the OPERA system.

**Secretary’s Report**The idea of a paediatric scheme was first floated about five years ago but the CCG were not interested in commissioning the service but the NNUH paediatric department and other local hospitals are under immense pressure to meet demand for appointments. Negotiations were revived with NNUH in recent months and are currently with their Contracts Department awaiting a draft document for discussion.

Please will you notify me of any changes to email addresses or the arrival of new colleagues in the area. NWLOC Administrator, Peter Hutchinson, added that the website has a growing number of practitioners registering for accounts but there have been no notices of members leaving the district; retiring from practice or dying. He went on to ask to be notified of any such events.

Ed Adkins  
**Sec. NWLOC**.

**Treasurers Report 2022**

Income from the statutory levy (0.5%) was just above the previous year, but still not at the level of the three years pre-covid. Expenditure was just above income, members fees and National Optometric Conference costs were a little over budget, mainly due to an actual in-person NOC held in Leeds. Norfolk & Waveney had two representatives at the 2022 NOC allowing us to attend all the sessions running in tandem. It has been noted that revenue from PCSE for the NHS levy has not returned to pre-covid levels, suggesting fewer NHS Sight Test are being performed now than before the pandemic.

Virtual committee meetings have continued to allow us to control meeting costs with an annual zoom subscription costing the same as one of the six committee meetings previously. We are not currently asking for any change to the levy rate.

LOCSU has not requested any change to the levy percentage they receive (currently 0.5%).

All contributions to the Voluntary Central (LOC) Fund are now handled by PCSE; contractors can alter their contribution rate online to both the Central Fund and Eye Care Trust. CoF has supported many projects including “National Eye Health Week” and the associated “Is your Vision Roadworthy?” campaign. The fund is currently offering funding to each LOC for a Wellbeing workshop and is always keen to hear from practitioners who want to run small research projects that may benefit the profession. Please see the website for details about applying for funding.

**Declaration of interest**: I am a Central Optical Fund director for region 5 which includes Norfolk & Waveney.

| **Norfolk & Waveney LOC Scrutinised Accounts 2022-2023** | |
| --- | --- |
| Income |  |
| Statutory Levy | £‎62,477.78 |
| Other | £‎0.00 |
| Total Income | **£‎62,477.78** |
| Expenditure |  |
| Honoraria | £‎5,339.00 |
| Admin fees | £4428.25 |
| Admin travel | £0.00 |
| Members fees | £18881.94 |
| Members travel | £0.00 |
| Meeting Rooms | £143.88 |
| Website | £120.00 |
| Office costs | £775.55 |
| Training & NOC | £3207.39 |
| AGM & Misc. | £‎0.00 |
| Central Fund | £‎0.00 |
| Payment to LOCSU | £‎31,238.88 |
| Total Expenditure | **£‎64,134.89** |
|  |  |
| Balance brought forward 6/4/22 | **£‎39,839.29** |
| Income | **£‎62,477.78** |
| Expenditure | **£‎64,134.89** |
| Balance as 5/4/23 | **£‎38,182.18** |
| Treasurer: Linda Vernon-Wood | |
| Scrutineer: Helen Hillis | |
| Scrutineer: Rachel Adkins | |

Linda Vernon-Wood

Treasurer, Norfolk & Waveney Local Optical Committee

**Motion:** To allow the LOC to have the leeway to alter the levy between 0.4% and 0.9% allowing the Treasurer flexibility to respond to local developments.

**Proposed:** Michelle Horn: **Seconded:** Robert Amey: **Motion passed**: Nem Con

**Scrutineers for LOC Accounts:** Rachel Adkins and Helen Hillis agreed to continue in the role.

1. **Committee Election**

The Constitution requires one third of the Committee members to retire each year; the members standing down this year are Ed Adkins, Michelle Horn and Roger Lee; each of these committee members has indicated their willingness to stand for re-election. A further committee vacancy has arisen due to the resignation of Kate Fenn.

A nomination has been received for:   
Hannah Castley BOptom. MCOptom. DipTp(IP).

Proposed: Charlotte Berryman BSc. MCOptom.

Seconded: Clare Campbell BSc. MCOptom

There being only four candidate nominations for the four vacancies the four members were elected unopposed.

Mrs. Daplyn said she was happy to take questions later and closed the meeting at 19:48 hrs.

Signed………………………………………………..

Deborah Daplyn,   
**Chair Norfolk & Waveney Local Optical Committee**

Date……………………………