



LANCASHIRE &
MORECAMBE BAY LOC

Minutes of the Meeting held Thursday 16th June 2021

Zoom Meeting

Present:	Tim Bagot Sarah Bentley Mike Broadhurst Sean Buckley Vic Cottam Ruth Cuthbert Philip Harper Paul Hutchence Riz Iqbal	Michael Jackson Phil Jones Thomas Mackley Neil Pearson Jane Quinn Mike Ryan Jennifer Smith Drew Thompson Joy Groome - minutes
	<u>Welcome</u>	ACTIONS
1	<u>Welcome and Introduction.</u> VC opens the meeting and welcomes all attendees.	
2	<u>Declarations of interest</u> RC advises that she is now a trustee at Galloways. MB advised that his practice was now part of the Hakim Group.	
3	<u>Apologies for Absence were received from:</u> Alan Bowen, Akchlass Bazza	



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4	<p><u>Minutes of the last meeting</u> All agree that the minutes were a true recording of the meeting. MR proposed MJ seconded.</p>	
5	<p><u>Matters arising from the minutes.</u> RC wanted to follow up on building relationships with Galloways/N Vision/ Vision Plus, and advised TB, JS, and AB that if they wanted an introduction to Galloways in connection with their 3rd sector work, she was happy to do this. It was reported that introductions had already been made and SB advised that she had been in touch with N Vision. VC commented that the area was very lucky to have Galloways and N Vision.</p>	
6	<p><u>Treasurer's report</u> MB advised that auditing of the accounts was taking place presently by Gary Hardwick and Kate Hurt. One query that had been picked up was that the PCSE paper and electronic statements were not matching. MB advised that this was because some practices were still using paper reporting and others EGOS. They were then all batched together, therefore making accurate accounting difficult. MB was to follow this up with PCSE at an upcoming treasurers meeting. MB advised that income was running at approximately £6K per month with monthly figures varying slightly and a recent £9,955 payment which again was an anomaly and would be checked with PCSE.</p>	
7	<p><u>Secretary report</u> A discussion is held regarding communication/mail chimp and whether everyone is happy with the current format of information being disseminated. It was suggested that information should be put onto the LOC</p>	



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website and JS advised that she would ask her husband to set up a retrospective information archive area that people could access and that she and PH currently discuss and assess whether to add the information to the website. It was suggested that weekly information may be more helpful than daily and more likely to be read. PH advised that 65% of mail gets opened currently.

LOS lectures/CET support was discussed. Nadya Booth had thanked the LOC for their ongoing financial support. RC advised that the LOS had suggested that 3 places per lecture could be offered free, but the LOC felt that this was not enough, and more places needed to be offered. RC advised that it was a cost issue and therefore others suggested that maybe people could attend lectures without having food provided. Another suggestion was that the meeting could be via Zoom therefore mitigating any costs for the LOS.

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Election of officers (Chair; Treasurer; Secretary)

At this point in the meeting, Paul H and Tom M left the proceedings. The committee discussed the fact that as Paul H was no longer a performer or a contractor the constitution stated that he could no longer be secretary however he could still perform the role of 'lay secretary' at a reduced fee (to be discussed outside of the meeting). Tom M was less of an issue as he was not holding a post and it was agreed that Tom M continue in his role on the committee with no voting rights. VC advised that Paul H would eventually give up the role in the near future and so succession would have to be looked at. It was agreed by all that Paul H should carry on in the role for the time being at a reduced rate to be discussed. VC asked if there were any volunteers to take the secretary role – no takers. VC advised that he too would be retiring in the next couple of years and again asked if anyone was interested in the role – no takers. VC was voted in as Chair nominated by JQ and seconded by MB. MB voted in as Treasurer – nominated by JS and seconded by Philip H.

VC thanks those who stepped forward for locality leads and states he feels the roles are working well.




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9	<p><u>Optical Advisors report</u></p>  <p>OA Report LMBLOC June 2021.docx</p> <p>RI asked about newly qualified optoms still waiting for numbers. RC explained that it could be a number of things i.e. waiting for references/CV's etc. RC advised that if people were having problems, she would try to find out why if the optoms details were passed to her, through NHS England /PCSE.</p> <p>PCSE paper payments were highlighted as an issue and RC advised the system was identified as not fit for purpose presently with the tiniest of errors or marks on the forms resulting in rejection – ongoing. RC suggested that if the national bodies AOP/LOCSU all highlighted the problems, then maybe something would be done.</p> <p>A query is raised regarding covid signatures date finishing on 1st July 2021– RC had not heard otherwise. AOP on twitter suggested that the date would be 1st July 2021. The committee felt that this would cause untold problems.</p> <p>Pre reg grants were discussed.</p>	
10	<p><u>Co-opting of HES representative</u></p> <p>Drew Thompson as a representative from the Blackpool area is welcomed onto the committee.</p>	



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11	<p>PES report</p>  <p>Primary Eyecare Services Report to LI</p> <p>The issue of lack of payments/bad communication from PES was raised and TM agreed that there had been problems with an enforced change of IT/Financial systems caused many problems but now with the catch up well underway. TM stated that when PES was paid the optoms would be paid however he appreciated the problems the delayed payments were causing. The question is raised by MJ 'is PES still accountable to the LOC'. TM stated yes this was the case and LOCSU was involved and keen to get this sorted out. There is a discussion around whether the LOC should send a formal complaint to LOCSU but it is agreed this would not help presently and it should be reviewed again in a short period of time.</p> <p>RC asks if the current financial situation would impact on PES getting further contracts? TM advised, yes it would, but he still believed that this is still the best way of providing MECS.</p> <p>TM explains the OPERA system and how it will get better with good information going forward.</p> <p>TB stated that teams in India and Nigeria were dealing with invoices at one stage which caused huge problems – in hindsight it was an hugely underestimated task.</p> <p>VC thanks TM and TB for their hard work</p>	
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TM discussed the National Eye Care week 20th-24th September. TM advised that UCLAN were keen to get involved as was Rupesh Bagdai regarding special schools' involvement. Rupal from UCLAN had suggested a colouring competition with a spectacles template used. NHS England was getting involved and printing the templates and may make an awareness pack. TM asked for LOC support and involvement. VC advised that the packs usually arrive far too late to implement with any degree of success. RC advised that Vision Matters are terribly slow at communications to deal with.

TM advised that UCLAN were having an official opening day of the new optom facility on 22nd September and advised anyone to go along and have a look at the very impressive facility. TM advised that there was specialist equipment that could be accessed for practitioners should they not have the facility at their own practices along with expert help.

TM advised that there was a body of work going on nationally by the ICS that, at the next LEHN meeting, would be discussed what NHS England could do to help regarding mental health issues for practitioners – counselling services/apps/ helplines etc. JQ advised that there is already a mental health helpline to identify any signs in staff. MJ asks if there would be funding for training a mental health awareness first aider/champion in each practice. TM agrees this would be a great idea and will put it forward. Any other ideas please forward to TM on his NHS email.

TM informed all that Lancashire and South Cumbria special schools projects eye care service is now in the concept phase with the second phase being launched in the autumn. TM encouraged the LOC to get involved with this new service which will be part of GOS, particularly DOs which was



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a fantastic opportunity to use and develop learned skills. TM stated that now the service needed more mass of practitioners to take part at £116 per episode. RC asked, 'do you have to have a contract to do this, can't you just be a locum?' TM advised yes – this involved an adaption to a current contract with each individual optom interviewed/trained/approved. TM asks anyone who is interest to please get in touch.

TM asks how the committee feels about meetings going forward regarding virtual/actual face to face. The committee agrees that a mix of online and actual would be best. MB suggests that the AGM should be live and Jan meeting online. VC advised face to face would be nice occasionally, but the committee should defer a decision until the covid situation was reviewed.

VC declares the meeting closed.



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Dates of Future Meetings

Date of next LOC meeting -15th September 2021

Signed:		Date:
	Vic Cottam Chair	