



e-mail: enquiries@essex-loc.org
website: www.essex-loc.org

**DRAFT MINUTES of the ESSEX LOC
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

held on

Wednesday 19th June 2024 at 7.55pm

in the Northumberland Suite, Writtle College, Chelmsford CM1 3RR

Present:

Officers: Chris Rushen CR (Vice Chair) Emma Spofforth ES (Secretary) David Dixon DD (Treasurer)

Committee members: Bhups Battu (BB), Mark Carhart (MC), Vickie Hamilton-Barr (VH), Kiran Lal (KL), Hayley Moore (HM), Reshma Patel (RP), Sara Porter (SP)

List of attendees: Ernest Akwenuke, Harold Amah, Gordon Ayling, Gurpreet Battu, Karen Castle, Andrew Chenery, Jogah Dhillon, Karen Fitzsimons, Chris Gray, Arminder Kahlon, Lisa Luxton, Emma Leahy, Claire O'Leary, Philip Read, Trevor Smith, Nicola Stanhope, Louise Stanton, Jessica Veen.

In attendance: Katie Kingcott KK – Minutes
LOCSU – Fionnuala Kidd

24/28 Welcome to AGM

Welcome by CR to the 75th Essex LOC AGM. CR standing in for SAP who is unable to attend.

24/29 Apologies for absence

Sheila Purser, Maggie Glover, Nick Hagan, Pooja Bij, Philip Bridgford, Jasraj Bhangra, Mike Daly and Kevin Lewis unable to attend.

24/30 Minutes of last AGM

Held on 14th June 2023. No amendments to be made. Proposed as true record by RP; second by DD. Accepted as true record. SAP to sign minutes and return to KK.

24/31 Matters arising from minutes

None raised.

24/32 Chairman's report questions

Available as separate document as an enclosure which was distributed by e-mail prior to the AGM. CR summarises report. No questions.

24/33 Treasurers Report questions

Available as separate document as an enclosure which was distributed by e-mail prior to the AGM. DD gives summary. No questions.

24/34 Statutory Levy

Scope to reduce levy going forward. DD proposes lowering the levy from 1.5% to 1.4% - meaning the LOC should run at a loss for next year which will reduce LOC balance down.

MC: Loss less year, what are you anticipating the following year? DD: Plan is to reduce surplus. We have surplus over what we should have. Plan to make a loss next year, but to do this slowly. Will be reviewed again next year. Surplus currently is £22,000, want to bring that down to between £5,000 to £10,000. Vote on the levy – all optometrists can vote. DO's can only vote if they have a GOS contract. DD proposes to lower the stat levy down to 1.4 %, seconded by RP. Voted unanimously.

24/35 Vote to update constitution

Constitution states the rules and regulations of how the LOC should run. Papers regarding this were sent out ahead of the AGM. LOCSU doing a lot of work on the constitution currently to bring it up to date.

Essex LOC has a lot of performers and fewer number of contractors - have an imbalance of members.

Proposal to change 4.1 of the constitution: *The Committee shall consist of at least six elected members, with a maximum of 16 elected members. Where at least one quarter of the elected members shall be local contractors and at least one quarter shall be local performers.* However, we would also need to ensure: *"In first instance we will aim for eight Contractors and eight Performers to ensure a balanced committee."* ES proposes this change, seconded by HM. Carried unanimously.

24/36 PES Report questions

Available as separate document as an enclosure which was distributed by e-mail prior to the AGM.

Clinical leads Sana Asif and SAP both unable to attend.

Q: What is happening with the Hydroxychloroquine screening program? ES: Very low level pilot – ground to a halt with issues around administrative support not available. Q: Where do I send px to? ES: Send px's to GP and ask for GP to make referral to hospital.

24/37 LOCSU Update

CR welcomes Fionnuala. Powerpoint presentation shown.

LOCSU is a support unit for LOC's - tries to help LOC's do their work more easily. Fionnuala explains what LOCSU does. LOCSU are being more transparent about the work they do. Trying to provide better training for LOC's. Hoping to create a newer constitution which is future proof - last updated in 2016.

Essex LOC is fore runner in the country and is an excellent LOC. Essex covers large area - work across three ICS areas which is challenging.

West Essex as part of HWE ICS has been given funding for a hypertension pilot

LOCSU want to know what they're not doing well enough. Any questions or comments contact

info@locsu.co.uk

Q: MC - Asked about recent statement made by Labour politician Wes Streating, stating if they are in power, they will speak to Specsavers to support the waiting lists. Is this fair on independents? ES: Although one company were named, it is fair to say many organisations have campaigned to politicians including all the Optical Sector Bodies and it is not unusual for politicians to get the answer muddled.

24/38 Appointment of Committee

Every year the LOC re-elects committee members who are up for elections. Two contractors and three performers want to re-stand. ES proposes re-electing Sara Porter and Bhups Battu as Contractors -voted unanimously. Proposal to re-elect Chris Rushen, Nick Hagan and Pooja Bij as Performers - voted unanimously.

24/39 AOB

None

24/40 Date of next LOC meeting

Wednesday 3rd July (virtually).

Meeting closed at 8.37pm.