

**BEXLEY, BROMLEY & GREENWICH LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – TUESDAY 25TH JUNE 2024: 7.15PM
The Eagleton Gray Room, Royal Blackheath Golf Club, Court Road, Eltham, SE9 5AF**

Attendees: Georgina Amure, Farah Awan, Savithri Bhat, Andy Byrne, Matthew Carter, Kris Cottier, Rosemary Davis, Lisa Donaldson, Terence Evans, Bhavina Gosrani, Charles Greenwood, Helen Gregory, Ketan Jadeja, David Parkins, Faizel Randeree, Ray Small (Michelle Martins).

1.	Welcome Kris Cottier, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting of Bexley, Bromley & Greenwich LOC.
2.	Apologies for absence Apologies were received from Jo Cashell, Mehul Patel, Paras Patel, Abi Page, Lesley Reid and Mark Waine.
3.	Minutes of BBG LOC AGM held on 20th June 2023 The Minutes were proposed by Faizel Randeree, seconded by Ray Small and unanimously agreed.
4.	Matters Arising None.
5.	Election of Committee The Chairman reported that 12 nominations had been received for the next three-year term of the Committee and, therefore, the following members were elected unopposed: Farah Awan Matthew Carter Kris Cottier Lisa Donaldson Terence Evans Abi Page Paras Patel Helen Gregory Ketan Jadeja Faizel Randeree Lesley Reid Mark Waine
5.	Chairman's Report for 2023/2024 The Chairman gave his report (full copy re-produced below): <i>Welcome all to the 2024 AGM.</i> <i>On behalf of the Bexley Bromley & Greenwich Local Optical Committee (BBG LOC), I would like to thank the LOC members for their ongoing support over the past year. BBG LOC continues to help our local contractors, performers and eye care professionals by providing relevant information and guidance, via email, telephone and the BBG LOC website and I would like to thank JCL Consulting for their support. The challenges raised by the COVID pandemic still linger with us, and we urge all members to contact the LOC if they need any help or support.</i> <i>I am pleased to thank all committee members for their hard work over the last year, and it is with sadness that we say goodbye to long-standing members, Ray Small and Jo Cashell. Unfortunately, Jo cannot be here tonight, but we have a little gift for Ray to thanks him for all his</i>

work over the years. They have served the committee and the membership with diligence over many years. You can find further details of the current committee on the BBG LOC website.

The LOC has met six (6) times since last year's AGM, and members continue to be actively involved in various strategic national, pan-London and South East London initiatives within the Bexley, Bromley and Greenwich areas. The committee continues to represent all areas within its membership: independents, multiples and locum practitioners, optometrists and dispensing opticians who provide general optical service (GOS) eye care.

The dates of future LOC meetings are published on the LOC website and you are most welcome to come along. Please let JCL Consulting know, in advance, if you would like to attend or if you would like to request a copy of the Minutes from the previous LOC meeting.

The LOC continues to engage with our ophthalmological colleagues to develop locally enhanced services (LES) for the benefit of our patients. Our commissioned and active pathways are MECS, MECS OCT, MECS topography, pre & post-Cataract, Glaucoma filtering, Paediatric community screening scheme, Single Point of Access, HCQ and learning disabilities. Our pilot schemes are a care-home pilot, Community Health Screening and Glaucoma refinement. Schemes on the horizon include an Independent Prescribing Optometry Service (IPOS).

The LOC and the Primary Ophthalmic Solutions (POS) Directors continue to work tirelessly to ensure that practitioners get the best outcome possible and there are some more exciting developments to come. POS will give a full report, but we would like to thank all MECS providers for their invaluable work over the last 12 months in making the locally enhanced services in South East London a resounding success. I can assure you that the opportunities to provide LES in SE London are the envy of the London LOCs and are some of the best in England. That said, the Scottish and Welsh optometry models indicate that there is still work to be done.

Thank you all for participating in this year's AGM. I hope you find the evening to be both interesting and informative.

6. Annual Accounts for 2023/2024

Helen Gregory, Treasurer, presented the LOC Annual Accounts for 2023/2024, which had been independently examined. Her report is replicated below:

The accounts have been independently examined by the accountants Simpson Wreford and copies were circulated prior to the meeting. At the end of the financial year 2023/2024 the LOC has a surplus of £11,575. This is in contrast to the previous financial year where there was a deficit of £1,305. The statutory levy remains at 2%. The LOCSU contribution for the year was £24,269.

The Accounts were proposed by Matt Carter and unanimously agreed.

The Chairman advised that LOCSU has suggested that each LOC keeps funds in reserve. It was confirmed that, due to the levy being kept as it is, BBG LOC has 6-12 months of funds in reserve.

7. Appointment of Accounts Examiners

The Treasurer proposed that Simpson Wreford LLP be the accountants for 2024/2025. The Chairman seconded the proposal, and it was unanimously agreed.

8. Primary Ophthalmic Solutions Activity Report

The POS report was tabled. The Administrative Secretary outlined the structure of the company including the Directors and Clinical Leads and listed the current services being run by the

	<p>company including the Single Point of Access (SPA). He reported that the SPA processes approximately 50,000 referrals annually. He then outlined the number of providers for each service and the approximate activity figures including the relatively new Learning Disabilities Service where activity is starting to increase. He commented that the number of post-op cataract providers is a little disappointing and the company continues to encourage practices to participate. The Administrative Secretary finished by reporting that the SEL contract has been extended until the end of the year.</p> <p>Attendees were invited to raise any questions or make any comments. None were received.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>LOCSU Report – Andy Byrne</p> <p>Andy began by commenting that members in the BBG area have a very good, supportive LOC, ably supported by JCL Consulting. He then outlined his background and explained how LOCSU have responded to members’ needs and feedback. This has included providing a payroll system available to all LOCs and providing advice on how LOCs might respond to commissioners asking for more than what is required from optometrists under the GOS contract. This involves educating commissioners on the requirements of GOS. He then explained that there will be no national conference this year. Instead, there will be regional conferences, with the NOC returning in 2025. He asked members to let LOCSU know if there’s anything they would like LOCSU to do and any support they require.</p> <p>David Parkins asked a question with regards to post-op cataract services and how, with an increase in activity, can this be funded in the future, especially with the increase in the use of independent service providers (ISPs). It was commented that there has been a suggestion that, in some areas, referring optometrists are being incentivised by some of the ISPs, so the issue is that patients are not being offered choice and money is being taken out of the NHS. Andy confirmed that this has been escalated to the sector bodies and is being looked at by the GIRFT team.</p> <p>The Chairman asked if LOCSU could push for higher GOS fees. Andy confirmed that this does not come under LOCSU’s remit but reported that they are in communication with OFNC to see if they can help with this issue.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the BBG LOC AGM.</p>

Meeting closed: 8pm