



## **KENT & MEDWAY LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES** OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF KENT & MEDWAY LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026 IN THE TERENCE SUITE, BRANDSHATCH PLACE HOTEL, BRANDSHATCH ROAD, FAWKHAM, DA3 8NQ

Attendees: George Barnard, Susan Blakeney, Marthinus Bonthuys, Jon Brothwell, Charles Greenwood, Bhavesh Hansjee, Alan Hawrami, Kirendeeep Hayre, Ian Paterson, Lynne Pulley, Gutta R Rao, Siven Reddy, Lesley Reid, Louise Robinson, Kate Rowe, Azzam Shweiki, Lisa Stonham, Joseph Treloar, Elaine Yorwarth (Michelle Martins).

### **1. Welcome**

The Chairman, Joseph Treloar, welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting of the Kent & Medway LOC.

### **2. Apologies for absence**

Lewis Marshall, Sharon Maunder and Huw Pinney.

### **3. Minutes of Kent & Medway LOC AGM held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025.**

The Minutes were unanimously agreed.

### **4. Chairman's Report for 2025/2026**

The Chairman's Report was given and is replicated below:

*Welcome all to the 2026 AGM.*

*The LOC would like to express its sincere appreciation to all members for their commitment and contributions over the past year. Throughout this period, the LOC has continued to support local contractors and practitioners by circulating relevant updates through the mailing list and website, as well as responding to enquiries as they arise. Members are encouraged to contact the LOC whenever guidance or support is needed.*

*I would also like to acknowledge and thank the committee members for their continued dedication during the year. Details of upcoming LOC meetings are available on the LOC website. If you wish to attend a meeting or would like a copy of the previous meeting's minutes, please contact JCL Consulting in advance.*

*The LOC met five times since last year's AGM and members have also been involved in various working groups across the Kent & Medway area.*

*Local community services continue to be commissioned by the ICB. If your practice is not already involved but would be interested in doing so, please contact the LOC or PEKM to discuss this further. There will be more details on all the current services in the following PEKM AGM. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all community service providers for their continued dedication and essential contribution over the past year. Please be assured that the LOC, together with the PEKM Directors, remains fully committed to working proactively to ensure practitioners are supported and encouraged to take part in community services within their local areas.*

*As you will be aware, from 28th April, all cataract referrals across all areas of Kent will now be managed by the Referral Management Centre (RMC) and all non-cataract referrals will be managed by PEKM. We would like to thank all members for their patience whilst this updated referral pathway was rolled out. If you have any issues with your Rego account or login, please contact the Rego Help Desk, details of which are on the LOC referral guidance. A copy of the up-to-date referral guidance has been included in the AGM packs.*

*During the year we have continued to circulate details of the KAB's mobile sight centre visits, and we would*



*encourage members to visit the KAB team when they are in your area.*

*I would like to thank Louise Robinson and Lisa Stonham from LOCSU for attending this year's AGM and for their upcoming presentation.*

*Please do stay on after the AGMs to participate in our CPD session which is a provider-led peer review. We have some interesting cases for you to consider with your peers which, I am sure, will generate interesting discussions!*

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

#### **5. Annual Accounts for 2025/2026**

Ramu Rao, Treasurer, presented the LOC Annual Accounts for 2025/2026. He began by explaining that the statutory levy has been reduced to 0.4% which is paid directly to LOCSU so there is no levy income coming to the LOC. He advised that payments to LOCSU equate to approximately £4,000 per month. He then explained some of the expenditure items including the payments to JCL Consulting (for administration services), committee meetings, NOC attendance and speaker fees. Expenses also included payment for members attending MECS OSCEs in East London and also website costs.

#### **6. Appointment of Account Examiners for 2026/2027**

6.1 The Treasurer confirmed that, historically, the LOC had used Osborne Accountants in Rainham. It is now considering using LocumKit for PAYE and accountancy services and this will be discussed at the committee meeting.

#### **7. Louise Robinson: LOCSU**

7.1 Louise began by outlining what LOCSU can do and how they can support LOCs. She continued by discussing what LOCs are working towards including helping to reduce A&E pressures, tackling eye health inequalities and providing glaucoma care closer to home. She then continued by expanding on what LOCSU can do with regards to enhancing, enabling and empowering LOCs. Louise provided some information on work undertaken in 2025 including producing and sharing case studies, issuing WOPEC codes and publishing clinical pathways on the LOCSU website. She finished by announcing that in November the LOCSU will be visiting each region. A question was raised as to why optometry is specifically excluded from the electronic prescription service. Louise agreed to find out and report back.

**ACTION: Louise**

#### **8. Any Other Business**

None.

The Chairman thanked all for attending the Kent & Medway LOC AGM.

Meeting closed: 7.40pm