

Somerset LOC

10th July 2025 – Held at Bridgwater and Taunton College

1. Present

Sarah Farrant (SarahF) - Chair, Ben Williams (BW), Duncan Stevens (DS), Coraley Dunn (CD), Nigel Burgess (NB), Judith Medlock (JM), Amanda Travers (AT), John Rens (JR), Rebecca Donnelly (RD), Rachana Jani (RJ), Suren Kumar (SK), Damien Reavey (DR), Chris Young (CY), Lewes Hambrey (LH), Judith Wanliss (JW), Charles Greenwood (CG)

2. Apologies

Ed Farrant (EF), Ian French (IF), Jason North (JN)

3. Minutes

The minutes were proposed by BW, seconded by JM and unanimously approved

4. Matters Arising

None

5. Committee Elections

The following were elected unopposed to the LOC Committee:

Alison Davis

Rebecca Donnelly

Daniel Hill

Rachana Jani

6. Chairman's Report

Re-produced below:

The LOC has continued to work on your behalf liaising with the ICB and NHS England on enhanced services and GOS matters respectively. We have also worked with the local hospitals on both the post-op cataract services and issues of mutual interest.

I reported last year on the changes to the post-op scheme. These have now been implemented with the increase in fee and simplification of PharmOutcomes reporting. Payments are still not coming through as fast as we would like but we continue to work hard to get these payments to you as quickly as possible.

As far as the other Enhanced Services go, we implemented the replacement portal through PharmOutcomes and this has been working well with payments being made by the end of the following month of the claim period.

We have continued to attend the ICB's Primary Care Commissioning Board and a number of other ICB and cross-professional groups which whilst not always directly relevant to

optometry have provided valuable networking opportunities enabling us to forge stronger links with colleagues in the LMC, LDC, and LPC and also enabled us to speak directly with commissioning managers within the ICB.

We have continued to run the ACES Peer Reviews and accreditation events when needed as well as other support for practices ranging from advice on enhanced services and GOS issues as well as the services provided through Biffa and UK Safety Management. The LOC continues to support practitioners to gain Higher Qualifications and to provide some funding for this.

Looking to the future, we are currently involved in a comprehensive review of the local commissioned services looking at both the scope and detailed workings of the services. One exciting development is the potential introduction of an IP service, something we have been pressing for for many years. Whilst nothing is certain we have had positive noises from the Commissioners on this.

We would like to say a big thank you to all of the committee members for their continued hard work and a special thanks to Duncan Stevens who is stepping down from the Committee at this AGM after 10 years on the LOC. As you have heard we welcome 4 new members to the Committee meaning that all places on the Committee are filled. I look forward to working with you all.

7. Accounts and Reports

BW presented the accounts which were available in the AGM packs. The balance at 31st March was £85k and there was now approximately another £10k in. He had modernised the account to add online banking which made things much easier. He had also organised an interest bearing account but was keeping enough liquid to be able to run the LOC's affairs.



Somerset LOC
accounts.pdf

8. Enhanced Eyecare Services

CG stated that the business of the Company had been covered in the Chariman's report and presented the accounts. He noted that turnover had increased significantly as a result of the Company taking over the administration of the Enhanced Services portal and payments to practices. NB asked what room hire and lecturer costs were for. CG explained that some room hire would have been related to LOC business which the Company was running before September 2024 but this expenditure had now reverted to the LOC itself as the purpose of rooting expenditure and income through the Company had been fulfilled. Lecturer costs related to accreditations. The LOC had always funded these in the past but under the new regime, funding had been added to the fees for running the portal so it was appropriate that this was funded through the Company.



Enhanced Eyecare
Services CIC Draft Ac

9. AOB

NB outlined the issues that some practices were having with nhs.net. He stated that this was causing problems with referrals to hospital and that it was also a nightmare having multiple accounts. He queried if it was possible to look at a dedicated referral platform. It was noted that Opera was not available as this was exclusive to Primary Eyecare Services. It was queried if PharmOutcomes could be used. CG responded that he felt it could easily be used and should be quite easy to set up. This would simply require the login that many practices already used for the Enhanced Services. BW queried if there would be costs involved. CG stated that it would be largely covered by the existing licence but there would likely be additional charges for additional practices but this would probably be around the £1k mark. It was agreed that the LOC could easily fund this. CG agreed to look into this to progress before the next LOC meeting.