

# BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

[www.loc-net.org.uk/bucksloc](http://www.loc-net.org.uk/bucksloc)

## CHAIR

Bruce Gilson BSc MCOptom  
6 Eastfield Road  
Burnham  
SLOUGH  
SL1 7NZ

Home: 01628 664415  
Day/Mobile/SMS: 07973 222679  
Email: [bruce.gilson@nhs.net](mailto:bruce.gilson@nhs.net)

## SECRETARY

Angela McNamee Bsc(Hons), MCOptom,  
FBDO(Hons)CL, FBCLA, Cert.Ed.  
52 Fenny Rd  
Stoke Hammond  
MILTON KEYNES  
MK17 9BT

Tel: 07788 424152  
Email: [bucksloc@hotmail.com](mailto:bucksloc@hotmail.com)

## Bucks LOC AGM 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2011 Report from the Chair

### Finance

At the last AGM (May 2010) it was agreed to raise the Statutory Levy from 1.25% to 1.5% in order to cover increasing costs. However, this was not applied by Thames Valley Primary Care Agency (TVPCA) despite the instructions having been given to them by Jacqui. As the data they send Jacqui each month is very limited, it was difficult to tell that this had not been done. This error was discovered in March 2011.

While the increased levy has now been applied, we have additionally reduced the frequency of meetings in order to reduce costs.

The Clinical Governance sub-committee now only meets when there are items that require a meeting. The Mid & South Bucks and Milton Keynes sub-committees are now meeting only twice a year instead of four times a year. The full committee will now only meet twice a year, plus briefly after the AGM.

The number of members in each sub-committee has been frozen, with new members only replacing members who have left.

Fewer committee members will attend external meetings where possible.

Jacqui will report in more detail at the AGM.

### NHS Changes & GP Commissioning

Angela and I have already met with Bucks Primary Care Collaborative (BPCC) – this is one of the three GP commissioning consortia for Buckinghamshire. We are in touch with United Commissioning (UC) and have not had contact with The Practice (TP). In Milton Keynes there seems to be a single consortium called Premier MK.

BPCC covers 34 GP practices serving a population of about 300,000.

UC covers 21 GP practices serving a population of about 200,000.

TP covers 3 GP practices serving a population of about 30,000.

PMK covers 13 GP practices serving a population of about 148,000.

Milton Keynes is thought to be 'clustering' with Northamptonshire (to reduce management costs) and therefore may fall outside our patch in relation to this. However, we will continue to work with the commissioning consortium in MK unless we are specifically advised otherwise.

We will continue to work with the PCTs and GP Commissioners to drive optometry forward.

We have the great benefit of LOCSU's pathways and training for:  
PEARS (Primary Eyecare Acute Referral Service)  
Pre and Post-op Cataract  
Children  
Low Vision  
People with Learning Disabilities (due by the end of 2011)

**NHSmail**

We are still encouraging the PCTs to move forward with issuing NHSmail accounts to all optoms. We are making very slow progress with this. Please remember that patient identifiable information should never be sent by normal email. This is only permitted using NHSmail – this is where both the sending and receiving email addresses end in @nhs.net

**Referrals**

Please remember not to use rubber stamps for practice and practitioner details on referral letters – these tend to disappear once scanned or copied and then it is difficult for the clinic to send you a report. Please make sure the name of the referring optom and practice details are either written clearly in black capitals or are computer printed in black in a decent font size.

Bruce Gilson  
April 2011