

AVON LOC MEETING
MINUTES
Monday 30th March 2020
E-Meeting using Microsoft Teams
18.15 for 18.30

Present

Ed Bickerstaffe (EB), Andrew Edwards (AE), Lynne Fernandes (LF), John Hopcroft (JH), Amy Hughes (AH), Mark Humphrey-Ali (MHA), Jennifer Ogidi (JO), Meera Patel (MP), Andrew Pinn (AP), Amar Shah (AS), Mona Thacker (MT), Gareth Whatley (GW).

Guests:

None

Apologies

Peter Turner

Minutes of last meeting

Approved

Conflicts of interest

EB – Optometrist at an independent practice in Wiltshire, AOP council member. Works for Wiltshire CCG optometrist led referral management centre.

AE- Owner of Bath Opticians.

LF- Owner of Lynne Fernandes Optometrists group of three practices, works for NHS England on behalf of LOC.

JH- Professional Services Manager for Boots Opticians and FODO board member.

AH – Locum optometrist. PhD student at the University of Bradford, currently in receipt of FODO funding. PES CGPL South West.

MHA – Dispensing optician, owner and manager of Goldsmith and Harvey, local lead for ABDO.

JO - Director Mike Cees Opticians, piloted community eye service scheme for SG CCG (now part of the merged BNSSG CCG).

MP- Director of Specsavers Bath. Newmedica run post-op cataract clinics once a month in Specsavers Bath.

AP- Partner in Andrew Pinn Optometrist, Director of PEC (Avon).

AS- Owner Keynsham Boots, business consultant and work with owners around UK. LOCSU Optical Lead. Works with RNIB. Works at Bath RUH. Trustee with Vision West of England, J&J faculty associate.

MT – Locum working in practices across the BNSSG area and at the Royal United Hospital, Bath.

PT – Optometrist at Turners Opticians Bristol and the Bristol Eye Hospital. Community Ophthalmology Clinician Evolutio, Director of PEC (Avon).

GW – Resident optometrists Boots Bath Southgate, Senior Lecturer in Optometry University of West England

Matters arising

None

Actions agreed checklist

Actions agreed Feb 2020

AE and JH to send BaNES update to AH to add to newsletter. **No longer relevant – newsletter published**

AH to collate BNSSG event feedback forms **MT - Done**

AP will seek some clarification on patient experience document then circulate. **Done**

AS to remove current referral guidelines from website and replace with a link to the new guidelines. **Done**

AH will check whether practitioners have to attend NM event to provide **service Done – desirable but don't have to**

MT to confirm Cricket Ground booking. **Done**

AH to send out invites to AGM **Done**

MT to book CET for AGM (confirm that SW will handle CET application and declaration)

Done

MT to apply for DOCET funding for AGM **AH Done**

AH to prepare AGM schedule and contact AS and AP for materials **Done**

AH will contact committee members due to stand down for re-election at AGM **Will do next week**

AH to add LOCSU presentation to AGM agenda **Done**

MT will contact Richard Brown of the LPC again re joint pharmacy event **AH spoken to Lisa Fisher**

LF will suggest a date in March for Nuffield Ophthalmology Symposium **Done**

JT will publish key dates as an editable document **JH will try on Teams**

JH to add a list of potential future CET venues to the key dates document **JH will try on Teams**

AH to finalise and send out LOC newsletter once website live **Done**

GW to find out whether HCPC have a local council and if so make contact. **On hold**

Agenda:

1. COVID-19 Overview (AS)

We are still waiting for an announcement from NHSE, LOCSU, the ONFP and all professional bodies have been working on an agreement.

LOCSU are looking at a national service to provide essential and emergency care. This would probably work on a hub model and would provide eyecare for those with urgent symptoms and keyworkers needing eyecare provision.

Eyecare has not been high on the agenda.

At the moment it is not viable to keep practices open, there is almost no demand.

Patients are unclear what to do. At the moment hospital eye departments are very quiet, although this will likely change as increasing numbers of staff are redeployed to COVID.

After the peak, ophthalmology departments will not have the capacity to catch up.

2. BNSSG and BEH (AS, AP)

Communication from BNSSG and the BEH has not arrived at the speed of other areas. The BEH sent out communication guidance at the end of last week and we have heard from the CCG today. Andy Newton has indicated that the CCG would be happy for us to come up with a joint proposals between the LOC and BEH, and may be able to fast track if we can reach an agreement. Andy Newton has specifically mentioned Paul Spry and Mark Stevens as contacts to liaise with.

AP – to liaise with Paul Spry (Glaucoma) and Mark Stevens (Cataract)

MT – to liaise with Bose and Rebecca Ford, the Medical Directors (Med Ret, MECs, Paeds etc.), with support from LF

AH – To reply to Andy Newton and ask about fast tracking of rolling out existing services across the historic CCG areas.

AS – Send LOCSU pathways to AP, MT and LF.

3. BaNES and RUH (AS, AE)

We have received regular updates from the RUH and have been in regular communication with Lauraine Jones, BSW CCG. Anna Field has moved into Director of Commissioning role for BSW during COVID-19, as her boss who was Director is now in charge of the hub for COVID in BSW. We are trying to secure a meeting to discuss eyecare services, the CCG are keen but very busy.

The Evolutio contract in Wiltshire will not be renewed. Furthermore, it has been agreed to end the contract early; no further referrals will be sent to Evolutio from the 1st April 2020.

4. AGM (AH)

The AGM and elections will be conducted remotely via Microsoft Teams on the original date of Wednesday 20th May. Any votes can be carried out within forms within Teams.

AS and AH to test forms function before AGM.

AH to send out materials and administrate AGM

5. LOC hourly rate (AS, AP)

It is unclear how the LOC will be funded as income from GOS dwindles. There is sufficient contingency for the short term. It was proposed that committee member's hourly rate will be reduced to support the ongoing work of the LOC during the COVID-19. Proposed rate £45 per hour/£300 per day, to be reviewed in 6 months.

Motion proposed, seconded and carried.

6. AOB

AP – Suggested we discuss with LOCSU if there will be NHS E funding for LOCs given the stopping of GOS in the region. – *AS to follow up*

Actions agreed April 2020

JH will publish key dates on Teams

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