

**AVON LOC MEETING**  
**MINUTES**  
**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019**  
**The Kensington Arms, Stanley Road, Redland**  
**18.30 for 18.45**

**Present**

Ed Bickerstaffe (EB), Andrew Edwards (AE), Amy Hughes (AH), Jennifer Ogidi (JO), Andrew Pinn (AP), Amar Shah (AS), Peter Turner (PT), Gareth Whatley (GW).

**Guests**

Mona Thacker

**Apologies**

Lynne Fernandes (LF), John Hopcroft (JH), Mark Humphrey-Ali (MHA), Anne-Ita McHugh (AM), Meera Patel (MP)

**Minutes of last meeting**

Approved

**Declarations of 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 iPro funding from the College of Optometrists. Will be taking up CGPL South role for PES later in the year.

MHA – Dispensing optician and owner and manager of Goldsmith and Harvey.

AM- Director of Specsavers Bedminster, Vice Chair of LHN, Regional Chairperson for the Bristol/Gloucester region for Specsavers. MBA Aston University.

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

MP- Director of 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.

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

*Relevant to agenda – has been involved with MPeye trial but has no financial involvement.*

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

### **Matters arising.**

LOC mailing list – to be discussed under item “AGM debrief”.

### **Actions agreed April 2019**

AH to follow up LOCSU summary of NOC with PT - **Done**

AH to agree date for next cataract accreditation with AP then book at BAWA. **Done.** Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July. *AH to book and advertise.*

AM to approach Newmedica Optometrists to see if anyone is available to provide AGM CET - **Done**

MHA to approach ABDO for AGM CET (or if not, for a DO centred event later in the year.) **CET on agenda**

AH to co-ordinate efforts to find CET speaker, and arrange for a peer review session as needed. **Done**

AH to check process with LOCSU to see if timing of account auditing or AGM need to change for next year. **WIP.**

AE to send out reminder that deadline for nominations is tomorrow (Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April), and share the Eventbrite link again. **Done**

AS to enquire what the cost of the WOPEC glaucoma module would be for a closed cohort. **On hold due to changes in BNSSG CCG.**

AH will write LOC guidance on myopia and send out to practitioners. **Done.** *Will also add as new item.*

*AE to send RUH fax machine update to whole mailing list.* **Outstanding.**

LF will liaise with the BEH and update the Bristol referrals guidelines as necessary. *AH will email LF to follow-up.*

AE will liaise with the RUH and update the BaNES referrals guidelines as necessary. **WIP.**

### **1. Election of officers (AS 5 mins)**

AS proposed to continue as Chair. Motion seconded and carried.

AP proposed to continue as treasurer. Motion seconded and carried.

AH proposed to continue as secretary. Motion seconded and carried.

PT proposed to continue as Vice-chair. Motion seconded and carried.

### **2. New member training (AH 5 mins)**

New member training to commence on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June. £250 to cover time as previously agreed. GW is registered and MT if joins LOC. *AH will contact Jacque at LOCSU to confirm going ahead.*

### **3. LOC workload (AS 10 mins)**

The usual annual reminder that it is imperative for all members to be actively involved in LOC work, both to share workload fairly and to ensure succession planning. GW to shadow and support AE as BaNES lead.

Suggest that there is a brief summary of actions agreed at the end of each meeting to ensure that work has been shared across the committee.

#### **4. AGM debrief (AH 10 mins)**

A successful event with 41 attendees including 3 DOs. The new venue seemed to give a better balance of Bristol and BaNES practitioners. The workshop CET worked well as an opportunity to talk to colleagues as well as gaining 3 CET points. Thanks to Jenny for organising sponsorship.

Mailing list – it would be best practice for this to be managed via Mailchimp or similar, to avoid the risk of email addresses being shared across the list as a result of human error. *AH will look into using Mailchimp to manage the mailing list.*

#### **5. BaNES update (AS/AE 10 mins)**

AE has had a meeting with Melissa Kendall-Milnes, NHS England South West (North) Pharmacy and Optom Assistant Contracts Manager. She advised that if there are issues caused by the BaNES/Evolutio situation, patients need to complain to NHS England.

NHS England have their own commissioning budget. BaNES, Wiltshire and Swindon CCGs are forming a partnership (they already form a STP).

There are some concerns around the College of Ophthalmologist guidelines that patients on Hydroxychloriquine should be screening within the HES once they have been taking the drug for 5 years.

Melissa's interpretation on patients' right to choice was that they can request to be seen at the RUH rather than at one of the Specsavers offering the Evolutio schemes. There has been some debate around this; does offering a choice of two Specsavers constitute patient choice? *AS will follow up position on patient choice with Melissa.*

There were only 5 responses from practices asked whether they were reading the Eye Health newsletter.

Quality in Optometry – a third of BaNES practices will have a compliance visit. Practices visited will be split between independents and multiples and the visit will include a record keeping check. Stuart Burdett will

carry out the visits. For pharmacy, quality and compliance checks are linked to payments; there was a suggestion that this policy could include optometry in the future.

From July – September 2019 there will also be PPV (Post Payment Verification) visits from Capita.

There is no date for NHS email address roll-outs as yet; there is a meeting with the regional team next week.

Melissa would like to meet with Avon, Wilshire and Swindon LOCs. *AS to set up a meeting.*

An online glasses supplier have approached the NHS England region team with an application for GOS 3.

The understanding of the committee is that providers cannot offer partial provision of the contract, so an online company that cannot offer provision for the dispensing of children, complex prescriptions and the partially sighted could not be awarded a contract.

Mr Burden, president of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists, has been working to stop rationing of cataract care and will be taking evidence, including from BaNES, to the Department of Health.

The next meeting with NHS England South West (North) is on the 8<sup>th</sup> of July.

#### **6. Bristol CCG contract review meeting (PT and AP, 10 mins)**

AP and PT met with staff from Bristol CCG and the BEH. Nick Goff is keen that contracts are quality of service driven, with a view to accessing more data on this measure, and to ensure that all services are NICE compliant. From March 2020 all contracts will be reviewed.

The BEH have had a 3/12 back log of cataract post-op appointments; they have run additional optometrist led weekend clinics to clear these rather than discharge them onto the scheme. Weekend overtime was stopped for a period, but has now been authorised again to clear the appointment back log.

There are payment claims coming through over the phone and via non-NHS.net emails. There are now patient IDs that include the practice patient ID number to make it easier for practices to track payments.

The BEH raised a concern about a glaucoma monitoring patient who had moved house and therefore been lost to follow-up for 4 years until they were re-referred by another optometrist. Any changes to the schemes would mean that the scheme had to be re-commissioned and go through a full tendering process, changes cannot be made via a contract variation.

AP, AS and PT have a meeting set up with Margret Kemp on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July to discuss eyecare strategies in the area.

Bristol CCG are currently stating that they can't provide NHS emails to non-employees. NHS England say they can! Every practice will eventually be allocated an NHS email (with compliance completed retrospectively) but there is no information available as to when this might happen. Secure communication for optometry is under review and may end up being a new system and not NHS net.

*AS will speak to Melissa at NHS England for a work-around for Bristol practices.*

#### **7. BNSSG Primary Care Strategy Event 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019 (AS 5 mins)**

AS, AH and Dharmesh Patel will attend. Need to ensure optometry is on the agenda; ophthalmology is the biggest speciality with the biggest budget. Also approach from value for money with falls prevention etc.

#### **8. Bristol cataract follow-up update and next accreditation event (AP, 10 mins)**

There are still not enough patients being discharged onto the scheme. BEH have been pulling back patients to be seen in-house who had already been discharged to the scheme and who had possibly even booked in to a community practice for a post op follow up having laid on the extra clinics.

#### **9. Bristol glaucoma /NS repeat measures update (PT 5 mins)**

BEH have 280 patients who have been lost to follow-up; they are now working to follow-up these patients. Looking at best way to handle patient discharge packs; currently they are handed to patient which is an imperfect system.

#### **10. PSCE/Capita information videos/ Meeting with Kirsty Adams (PT 10 mins)**

It doesn't seem that there is any real progress since Capita last came to talk to us. *PT will decline meeting.*

## **11. CET events 2019 (AH 5 mins)**

MPeye – happy to share information about any events on the website, but not to partner an event.

Daniel Williams – useful CET (practitioners can only attend once). Look to arrange Jan/Feb 2020.

Peer review – already approved. Look to run late September along with any triage scheme launch from

Bristol CCG. *JO to approach companies for sponsorship of £500-£600.*

3/10/2019 – Provisional date for RUH CET evening with Helen Broadbent.

Will follow up with MHA at next meeting re CET for DOs

## **12. AOB (10 mins)**

- Heidi - New ELCO (Eyecare Liaison Officer) working with in partnership with RUH and RNIB.

- Mona Thacker stands to fill a casual vacancy for 1 year. Proposed, seconded, motion passed,

**Meeting closed 21.15**

**Next meeting 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019.**

## **Actions agreed – June 2019**

AH to book and advertise Bristol Cataract Post-op accreditation evening.

AH to publish LOC guidance on myopia as a news item.

AH to email LF to follow-up with update of Bristol referral guidelines.

AH to contact Jacque at LOCSU to confirm new member training going ahead.

AH to look into using Mailchimp to manage the mailing list.

AS to follow up position on patient choice with Melissa.

AS to set up a meeting between Melissa at NHS England and Avon, Wilshire and Swindon LOCs.

AS will speak to Melissa at NHS England for a NHS email work-around for Bristol practices.

PT to decline meeting with Capita

JO to approach companies for sponsorship of £500-£600 for Bristol CCG peer review/scheme launch late September.

#### **Action agreed – April 2019**

AE to send RUH fax machine update to whole mailing list.

AH to check process with LOCSU to see if timing of account auditing or AGM need to change for next year.

**WIP.**

AE will liaise with the RUH and update the BaNES referrals guidelines as necessary. **WIP.**

MHA to approach ABDO for AGM CET (or if not, for a DO centred event later in the year.)