

AVON LOC MEETING

Minutes

Monday 8th April 2019

The Kensington Arms, Stanley Road, Redland

18.30 for 18.45

Present

Ed Bickerstaffe (EB), Andrew Edwards (AE), Lynne Fernandes (LF), Amy Hughes (AH), Mark Humphrey-Ali (MHA), Anne-Ita McHugh (AM), Jennifer Ogidi (JO), Andrew Pinn (AP), Amar Shah (AS).

Guests

None

Apologies

John Hopcroft (JH), Meera Patel (MP), Peter Turner (PT), Nicola Milhench, Gareth Whatley.

Minutes of last meeting

February 2019

AE not AS action 8.

Otherwise 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.

Trustee for Bath Area Play Project and Butterflies Haven, consultant to the Macular society. Works with RNIB. Works at Bath RUH.

Matters arising.

RUH fax turn off.

Direct referrals to BEH

Actions agreed February 2019

JH send Amy flowers as had baby Reuben Arthur – **Done**.....many thanks everyone!

PT to circulate LOCSU summary of NOC – *AH to follow up*

AP to send an email to all Bristol practitioners to say keep calm and carry on with your referrals in the usual way, more info on website. **Done.**

AP to set a date for cataract post-op accreditation when numbers sufficient. **On agenda.**

AE to send email to all optoms in area to advise them about the AGM and use Eventbrite and confirm numbers and include election info and agenda in that email - **Done**

AS to send election process and agenda to AE - **Done**

AS to email and request New Medica to provide an Ophthalmologist and interactive CET – **On agenda**

AE to write agenda for evening, include 10 mins for Altcor and New Medica and read chair report - **Done**

AP - treasurer's report – **On agenda**

AP to forwards BNSSG questionnaire to JH and once confirmed forward to all on list with an explanatory email. **Done.**

1. AGM and AGM CET (AH, 10 mins)

CET – Newmedica have not been able to find a local ophthalmologist who is available to do the talk and provide the necessary information in advance to apply for CET points.

AM suggested approaching Newmedica optometrists instead. *AM to approach Newmedica Optometrists to see if anyone is available to provide AGM CET.*

MHA reminded of need to include DOs in CET. *MHA to approach ABDO for AGM CET (or, if not, for a DO centred event later in the year.)*

If nothing comes from these leads, we will offer a peer review session. *AH to co-ordinate efforts to find CET speaker, and arrange for a peer review session as needed.*

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

Funding – Altcor: £200. Allow time for 10 minute presentation at beginning of AGM. Newmedica: £500.

Nominations – LF, AE, AM up for re-election this year. *AE to send out reminder that deadline for nominations is tomorrow (Tuesday 8th April), and share the Eventbrite link again.*

2. Update from Chair (AS 20 mins)

Bristol CCG commissioning. AS, AP and PT met with Bristol CCG to discuss the commissioning of eyecare services going forward. There are plans to streamline schemes within the three areas (Bristol, South Glos,

North Somerset). For example, the cataract post-op scheme is made more difficult to manage as only Bristol patients can be discharged onto it. Bristol CCG are interested in piloting a triage scheme similar to the one running in Wiltshire, and want an optom involved in this. The plan is to start implementing these changes from April/May 2019

Thomas Pocklington Trust. This is a national charity for people with sight loss. Alun Davies is engagement manager for the South West and is setting up a Bristol Sight Loss Council. AS has added a news item as local patients and practitioners with sight loss/a special interest in sight loss are invited to get involved. Lauren Williams will be working in Bath, focussing on better links between eyecare professionals and wider services for those with sight loss.

BEH anterior eye scheme. Kieran Darcy is the Head of Cornea, Cataract and Refractive Surgery at the BEH. He is working on an idea to provide paid placements to local optometrists to train under him to become anterior eye specialists. There would also be an opportunity to work towards the IP qualification. Optometrists would then provide specialist satellite clinics in the community.

3. BaNES update (AS/AE 10 mins)

Tom Rhodes from BaNES CCG has been in discussion with AS – there is pressure for us to form links with Evolutio and encourage local practices to sign up and provide the schemes. It is not felt that this is primarily the responsibility of the LOC as BaNES chose to commission a scheme with a provider who did not, at that time, have a commitment from any practices to provide the scheme locally. There was also no engagement with the LOC through much of the process of setting up these schemes, with emails from the LOC to Evolutio being ignored. Policies have now been sent to AS to “check”; although the LOC will give feedback on processes, we cannot sign off on, or take liability for, the pathways of external companies.

AS had an “informal meeting” with Christian Dutton from Evolutio to discuss some of practitioners’ concerns about the fees and processes. Christian’s take was that NICE guidelines are guidelines and not rules. However, many practitioners would be unhappy working on that assumption due to liability issues should anything go wrong. Christian floated the idea of Evolutio opening a clinic to do pre-op cataract assessments, then combining the two (pre-op + post-op) £20 fees so that a practice would be paid £40 to do a post-op assessment. The committee felt that practitioners would likely be happier to engage at this fee as it is more in line with existing and previous schemes.

It was also stressed during tonight's meeting that the LOC are here to advocate for local practitioners and practices and address their concerns. The LOC cannot "tell" local practices whether to sign up to a given scheme or not. We are simply trying to address the concerns around low fees and perceived problems with pathways that local practitioners have raised with us.

4. GDPR/data update (AS, 5 mins)

Nothing new to report.

5. Bristol cataract follow-up and next accreditation event (AP, 10 mins)

There are now sufficient on the waiting list to arrange the next accreditation. *AH to agree date with AP then book at BAWA.*

Feedback from AM that discharges onto the scheme much improved recently – around 80% coming out with the correct paperwork.

However, there are still concerns that not enough patients are being discharged onto the scheme.

6. Bristol glaucoma /NS repeat measures – NICE compliance (AP 10 mins)

We had an enquiry from a local optometrists asking whether there were any plans to implement NICE guidelines on OHT monitoring so optometrists providing this service have a glaucoma level 1 certificate.

The LOC is supportive of upskilling local optometrists. The cost of the course is £605; it may be that we could offer to fund a number of places each year, or offer a contribution towards the cost of the qualification.

AS to enquire what the cost of the course would be for a closed cohort. We can then continue to discuss options at future meetings.

7. CCG payment processing (AP 10 mins)

Practices are not receiving remittance information from Bristol CCG, making it difficult to link payments to patients. For the post cataract scheme the patient ID is the Medisoft pin. For the repeat measures scheme

it is the patient's initials and date of birth. AP is going to have a meeting with Nick Gough to discuss the need to use the practice's patient ID on the remittance information.

8. Myopia control/BEH (AS 10 minutes)

We have received feedback from the BEH that some optometrists are referring children in for myopia control. There is no NHS provision for myopia control and practices need to decide whether they wish to provide this service themselves. If not, it would be sensible for practitioners to familiarise themselves with other local practices who do provide a myopia control service so interested patients can be referred on.

AH will write LOC guidance and send out to practitioners.

9. AOB (10 mins)

RUH Fax

This has now been permanently turned off.

Practices can contact AS if they need a secure email link set up.

AE to send update to whole mailing list.

Direct referrals to BEH

Referrals that have been sent directly to the BEH that are not emergency (same day) are being bounced back, sometimes to the referring optom, sometimes via the GP. This is probably not a change of policy so much as a tightening up of existing guidelines to ensure the BEH are paid correctly. *LF will liaise with the BEH and update the Bristol referrals guidelines as necessary. AE will liaise with the RUH and update the BaNES referrals guidelines as necessary.*

Meeting closed 20.15.

Next meeting Monday 3rd June.

Actions agreed

AH to follow up LOCSU summary of NOC with PT

AH to agree date for next cataract accreditation with AP then book at BAWA.

AM to approach Newmedica Optometrists to see if anyone is available to provide AGM CET.

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

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

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

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

AS to enquire what the cost of the WOPEC glaucoma module would be for a closed cohort.

AH will write LOC guidance on myopia and send out to practitioners.

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

LF will liaise with the BEH and update the Bristol referrals guidelines as necessary.

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