

AVON LOC MEETING

Minutes

Monday 5th February 2018

The Kensington Arms, Stanley Road, Redland

18.30 for 18.45

Present

Ed Bickerstaffe (EB), Andrew Edwards (AE), Lynne Fernandes (LF), John Hopcroft (JH)

Amy Hughes (AH), Mark Humphrey-Ali (MHA), Anne-Ita McHugh (AM), Jennifer Ogidi (JO), Andrew Pinn (AP), Meera Patel (MP), Peter Turner (PT).

Guests

None

Apologies

Amar Shah (AS), Chris Newall

Minutes of last meeting

Approved.

Declarations of conflicts of interest

LF- has 3 practices, works for NHS England on behalf of LOC, AH works for LF as locum.

AE- Owns independent practice in Bath

AS- Owns Keynsham Boots, is business consultant and work with owners around UK. Trustee for Bath Area Play Project and Butterflies Haven, consultant to the Macular society and associate school governor in Easton. Works with RNIB.

JH- Works for Boots and is a Director of a PEC in London

AM- Director SS, Vice Chair of LHN, Regional Chairperson for the Bristol/Gloucester region for Specsavers

JO - Director Mike Cees Opticians, Piloted Community eye service scheme for SGCCG.

AP- Independent Optom, owns practice, Director LOC Company

MP- Director Specsavers Bath

AH – Locum optometrist, works for LF. PhD student at the University of Bradford, currently in receipt of iPro funding from the College of Optometrists.

EB – Optometrist at an independent practice in Wiltshire, Director of the AOP. Works for Wiltshire CCG optom led referral management centre.

MHA – DO and owner and manager of Goldsmith and Harvey.

Matters arising.

None

Actions agreed - December 2017

AE to liaise with Capita regarding funding for EGOS event. **On agenda.**

LF to liaise with NHS England regarding them using their email list to reach practitioners about EGOS. **On hold**

AH to email Chris Newall Avon LOC meeting dates for 2018. **Done**

AH to add NICE glaucoma guidelines changes as an agenda item for February's meeting. **Done**

AP to draft an update about the post cataract scheme to circulate to practitioners. ***On hold***

JH to start a waiting list for those who wish to attend MECs practical accreditation. ***Done***

JH to send engagement letter to BNSSG STP. ***Letter written, will be sent this month after committee approval and review from Chris Newall.***

AH to contact CN regarding WOPEC codes - ***Done***

1. PECs South (PT/AP 10 mins)

MofU has been signed.

Looking into using PEC South model contract for NS CCG repeat measures contract renewal.

There are a lot of changes at the CCG due to the upcoming merger with various staff changes etc.

Some discussions may need to be started from scratch with new contacts.

2. England Vision Strategy South West and West of England Regional Event (AH 5 mins)

Tuesday 20 March 2018, 10:30-15:30. The Vassall Centre, Gill Avenue, Bristol, BS16 2QQ

AH will attend with either LF or PT (will check diaries and confirm).

3. England Vision Strategy Conference

Thursday 17th May 10.30-4 BMA House, Tavistock Square, London

It was felt that we wouldn't usually send an LOC representative to a nation event such as this, particularly if Chris Newall is going and can report back.

AH will email Chris Newall to confirm that he is attending and will be able to report back.

4. Bristol glaucoma /NS repeat measures update, including NICE guideline changes (PT, 10 mins)

Bristol - In process of updating to most recent standard contract.

The updated contract will incorporate the AOP guidance on the updated NICE guidelines.

Bris CCG is planning to review the RMMS contract in view of the NICE guidelines recommendations relating to OHT & glaucoma suspect monitoring. The LOC will input into this.

The CCG is not currently following up patients discharged onto the scheme to confirm that they have been seen in the community. This is a potentially gap in the scheme that the CCG will need to close.

PT will send a letter out to practitioners from Avon LOC once the CCG confirm that the new contract is ready to go out.

PT will send a letter out to practitioners just before the new contract goes out.

5. Bristol CCG merger (PT/AP, 5 mins)

Nothing new to report.

6. Bristol cataract follow-up update (AP, 10 mins)

At the November meeting with the BEH, payments were chased and subsequently paid. However, no further payments have been made again so this will be chased before our February meeting.

The agreed discharge pack has not happened. Currently a sticker is being added to the records of patients being discharged onto the scheme but this was not discussed with AP.

It has been confirmed that patients who present at A+E following their surgery can still be seen under the scheme.

The BEH will seek to identify patients who have been discharged onto the scheme but not presented in the community for follow-up via Medisoft.

Medisoft have been asked to make a default follow-up period of 4-6 weeks as feedback from practitioners was that patients were being advised to present as soon as 2 weeks after surgery.

If the BEH lists are full and they cannot list new patients, they will write to patients informing them of the likely wait (this was approximately 4 weeks last time this occurred).

Direct second eye referral does seem to be working, but is yet to be made an official pathway. A possible question has been raised around patient choice as patient may not want their second eye done with the same provider as the first. However, if a patient were to raise this at the follow-up appointment, the optom could choose to not use the direct second eye referral system and re-refer via the GP instead. It was also suggested that it would depend on the wording of the original referral; if the GP referred for surgery on both eyes it would be appropriate to go ahead and list for the second eye with the same provider.

At the November meeting it was reported by the BEH that 40% of patients were being referred onto the scheme (although it is unclear whether this was an estimation or based on data). This is much lower than the 90% target and the 70% previously cited by the BEH.

All actions will be reviewed at the next meeting later in February.

7. Delays to non-urgent surgeries

This has not affected surgeries in Bristol or Bath. Some feedback from a patient who was listed for second eye surgery Nov 2017 but has still not heard anything further. Possibly lost in the system?

AP will ask for current waiting times from referral to assessment and listing to surgery at BEH.

8. Research study announcement (PT, 5 mins)

The BEH are to launch a research study about discordant cataract surgery outcomes, and would like local practitioners to be involved in reporting back such outcomes. This work would be unfunded.

It was felt that if planned numbers of patients were being discharged onto the community follow-up scheme then this information would be available via Medisoft.

As cataract lead, *AP will write to Pippa Craggs/John Sparrow regarding this study.*

9. BANES update (AE, 5 mins)

AE met the new contact just before Christmas, effectively starting again as previous contact has left.

Seemed positive about a MECs scheme, now waiting for further response.

AE will make contact with Helen Broadbent, the new Head of Optometry at the RUH.

10. Capita/PCSE (AE, 5 mins)

Capita have asked for another meeting in May.

They have contacted the multiples regarding EGOS, but not independents as yet.

An engagement/information event is still a way off as Capita are not in a position to do this yet.

11. AGM (AH, 10mins)

1st choice date: Wednesday 16th May

2nd choice date: Monday 14th May.

AH will contact BAWA to book.

CET – We were approached last year by the Optical Engagement Manager of the Brain Tumour Charity asking for an opportunity to give a 15 minute talk or hour long CET lecture on the signs and symptoms of a brain tumour that present during an eye examination. It was agreed that this would be a worthwhile and interesting lecture to offer.

AH to contact the Optical Engagement Manager of the Brain Tumour Charity to arrange CET lecture.

AH will liaise with Alison regarding notice of AGM, elections etc.

JO to arrange sponsorship for AGM

12. MECs (JH, 5 mins)

Alison how holds a list of those waiting to do MECs practical accreditation (currently 1). It is anticipated that the next session will be run when there are 30 on the list.

Specsavers run regular MECs practical sessions.

AM will discuss whether Specsavers could offer MECs practical accreditation to external candidates.

13. BNSSG STP (JH/MP, 5 mins)

JH to send engagement letter to BNSSG STP, after committee approval and review from Chris Newall.

A Healthier Together Weekly Round-Up has been circulated by Laura Nicholas, the Programme Director of Healthier Together, however there is no mention of optometry/ophthalmology.

JH will make contact with Laura Nicholas, the Programme Director of Healthier Together

14. AOB

- The NHS Choices website has some questionable advice about optometry.
 1. Suggests that patients can present for a GOS eye examination whenever they have symptoms.
 2. Actively encourages patients to shop around with their GOS3, which is contrary to OCCS and collage advice.

EB will speak to AOP and LOCSU to confirm whether they are aware of this advice and whether any action/advice can be given about NHS Choices website content.

- There was a meeting at UWE in January, coinciding with the GOC Educational Committee visit. It was a positive event, resulting in provisional approval for 60 students to start in Sept 2018 subject to the next stage of approval in May. Students would be recruited through clearing.

- MECs for CLOs. This course will be available through ABDO for a cost of approx. £350. WOPEC are in discussion around offering a MECs module for CLOs.

Meeting closed 20.25

Next meeting: Monday 9th April 2018 18.30 for 18.45 at The Kensington Arms, Stanley Road, Redland.

Actions agreed

AH to email Chris Newall to confirm that he is attending England Vision Strategy Conference (London) and will be able to report back.

PT to send a letter out to practitioners just before the new Bristol glaucoma scheme contract goes out.

AP will ask for current waiting times from referral to assessment and listing to cataract surgery at BEH.

AP to write to Pippa Craggs/John Sparrow regarding cataract study.

AE to make contact with Helen Broadbent, the new Head of Optometry at the RUH.

AH will contact BAWA to book AGM.

AH to contact the Optical Engagement Manager of the Brain Tumour Charity to arrange CET lecture.

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