

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

Chair: Adam Holliday

Bi-Monthly Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21st January 2020
7.30pm – Mercure Nottingham Sherwood Hotel

Present: Adam Holliday **Chair**
Indy Atwal **Treasurer**
Andrew Spybey
David Cartwright
David Bennett
John Clissold
Ravi Chawda
Katie Franklin
Sameen Qayyum
Mo Aslam
John Yeomans

In Attendance: Sam Stretton **Administrator**
John Duffy **East Midlands Medical Services**
Latha Korvi
Adam Kennaugh
Khandu Mistry

2. Apologies for Absence

Roma Malik

3. Declaration of Interest

Adam Holliday as a Director of East Midlands Medical Services and Sam Stretton as Services Coordinator at East Midlands Medical Services.

4. East Midlands Medical Services (EMMS) – Community Provider

Adam Holliday welcomed John Duffy to the meeting.

EMMS has been a provider of community services with the boundary of NHS Nottingham City CCG since 2009. The aim at that time was to provide community based glaucoma services.

In 2015 NHS Nottingham City CCG commissioned a community ophthalmology services and the contract was awarded to EMMS. Under this contract EMMS provides the community Triage, CAS, LVA and COAG/OHT services. Most recently a Post Cataract assessment services has also been included.

The workforce comprises of: 2.5 wte office staff / admin 3 Consultant Ophthalmologists, 1 Staff grade Ophthalmologist, 3 DipGlau Optometrists, 1 Higher Cert Glau Optometrist, 3 Prof Cert Glau Optometrists, 3 Orthoptists, 7 Paediatric Optometrists, 7 Low Vision clinicians (Optom / DO), 8 CAS Optometrists and 4 Prescribing Optometrists.

Along with training for its own workforce, training is also available to Health Visitors and GPs. EMMS also provides the opportunity for Optometrists to gain practical experience in regards to glaucoma and paediatric eye care.

Patients are referred into the service by way of: GOS 18 referral, Self-referral for Low Vision services, GPs and Health visitors.

EMMS has a good geographical spread of locations, meaning patients can be offered choice of location in either an Optometry practice, GP surgery or health centre. Waiting times, can vary for each service typically between 1 – 7 weeks.

Patients are seen in the COAG/OHT service by Ophthalmologists & Specialist Optometrists. The CAS service by Optometrists. The LVA service by Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians. The Orthoptic service by Orthoptist and Optometrist. All of which have the appropriate qualifications, experience and clinical skills.

The services have been very effective with triage deflecting 30-50%, depending on the service and onward referral 5-15%, again depending on the service.

Patient feedback across all services has been very positive and no serious incidents have been recorded to date.

EMMS vision for community eye care sees that demand will out strip hospital capacity and the role of community services will increase, with integrated and collaborative working for more Optometrists and practices.

IT will play a central role in all of this and EMMS is currently developing a service management software platform.

Following the presentation a couple of questions were asked:

Adam Kennaugh asked how many complaints EMMS had received. Formal complaints were low and predominately related to administrative processes.

David Cartwright enquired about the Low Vision Services in regards to the number of patients referred into the service. Sadly the referral rate was very low and efforts had been made to improve this through advertising via Optical practices, GP surgeries and Health Centres.

Those present thanked John for attending and presenting at tonight's meetings.

5. Eye Health Care Strategy Board Update

For the benefit of those present and not aware, David Cartwright as Chair of the Local Eye Health Network (LEHN) explained that the Eye Health Strategy Board sits below the Integrated Care System (ICS), who are responsible for the provision of health care across Nottinghamshire.

The Eye Health Strategy Board have a clinical session team, who look at health care provision and bring the appropriate clinicians together to discuss and look at how services can and are delivered.

Last week the Eye Health Strategy Board met and David confirmed that Ophthalmology is one of the areas that is going to be looked at and they are keen to get more services out in the community. The CCGs are also keen to do this. A series of six workshops are planned to look further into this and create an action plan to present to the ICS.

David feels that community Optometry needs to be ready in regards to skills and qualifications to deliver services that may well be delivered in the community in the future.

6. Healthy Living Optical Practices (HLOP)

David Cartwright raised the HLOP initiative and encouraged involvement, as it will provide valuable development for people working in optical practices.

Nottinghamshire LOC fully supports the HLOP initiative.

7. Any Other Business

LOC Bank Account

The formal hand over of the LOC finances from Jill Gratton to Indy Atwal is now complete. However there is an issue in regards to Indy making payments via the on-line banking app. This is being addressed with the NatWest and should be resolved fairly soon. So for the moment, Jill is still making payments on behalf of the LOC.

Committee Fees

To enable payments to be made to new committee members and at the request of Indy, Sam Stretton will be circulating a pro-forma for them to provide their bank account details.

Tuesday 19th March 2019 - bi-monthly meeting

Tuesday 21st May 2019 - AGM

Meetings are held at: Mercure Nottingham Sherwood Hotel (A60) NG5 2BT
Buffet – 6.45pm
Meeting - 7.30pm

If you are unable to attend this meeting please e-mail

info@nottsloc.org.uk