

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

Chair: Adam Holliday

Bi-Monthly Meeting

Nottinghamshire Local Optical Committee
Bi-Monthly Meeting
Tuesday 17th November 2020
Virtual Meeting – via Zoom

Present:	Adam Holliday Roma Malik Andrew Spybey David Cartwright David Bennett John Clissold Katie Franklin Sameen Qayyum Mo Aslam John Yeomans	Chair Deputy Chair
In Attendance:	Sam Stretton Richard Rawlinson Janisha Seaman Robert Blow Hannah Murphy Vimesh Bhundia	Administrator Optical Lead - LOCSU

Adam Holliday welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. **Apologies for Absence**

Indy Atwal Treasurer

3. **Minutes of previous meeting – 29th September 2020 - matters arising**

NUH

Adam Holliday asked if Mo Aslam had any update to share on the OCCCF. Mo advised that things are quiet at the moment due to COVID-19, however a couple of the IP placements have now started. These placements were agreed prior to the start of COVID-19.

David Bennett asked how many placements were available at NUH. Unfortunately Mo was not sure about this, as this was something that Mrs Tambe dealt with.

Since the start of COVID-19 there has been no further placements available. Adam went on to say this appears to be an issue nationally with Optometrists trying to secure placements in secondary care. Richard Rawlinson confirmed that securing a placement is very challenging at the moment. There is a desire to have a national placement programme in place, so that places become available as and when Optometrist complete and move on. There is also an issue around funding for these places. Mo advised that some Universities will not let Optometrists sign up for IP, unless they have already secured a placement. Sameen Qayyum confirmed that Aston University is one of those.

David Cartwright felt that funding needed to be looked at, along with what pathways will look like in the future and what training / qualifications the workforce will need to provide services in the community.

4&5. COVID-19 – Effects on Workforce & MP Visits

Adam Holliday advised that he and Sam Stretton are putting together a survey to be circulated via Survey Monkey, to help understand what the impact of COVID has had on practices workforce locally, in terms of Optometrist time away, staff self-isolating, shielding and also to see if the workforce has changed size in anyway. As there is no data currently available, Adam felt it would be interesting to then feed this back both locally and at regional level.

David Bennett agreed this was an excellent idea and something that LOCSU should introduce to all LOCs, as this exactly the type of work they should be undertaking.

Richard Rawlinson agreed that LOCSU needed to get a flavour of what is going on across the profession. ABDO have reported that they are still seeing Dispensing Opticians being made redundant or placed on furlough / continued furlough. Data needs to be shared with the ONFC so that the needs of the profession can be highlighted at a greater level. Richard advised that this was already on his agenda to action.

Richard went on to say that the mental health of practitioners during this time is vitally important and support needs to be given. Adam Holliday advised that this was something Nottinghamshire LOC addressed locally very early on in the pandemic and that this is still carrying on, on a peer to peer basis outside of the group chats.

Adam picked up on the next item on the agenda and bringing the attention of the work being undertaken during the pandemic to MPs / Counsellors and the effects this is having on the workforce. This also need to include what Optometrists are contributing and providing. Roma Malik agreed to take this action further and liaise with local MPs / Counsellors.

6. Eye Health Strategy Board Update

David Cartwright advised that the next meeting is due to be held on 3rd December 2020.

Two of the working groups are making some progress, with the third having no date to meet with the CCG yet. The CCG are still considering the format and how they wish to progress this. David does understand however that a date will be in the diary very soon. David went on to say that the LOC has a good opportunity to proactively raise issues in the group discussions, particularly the third group.

The National Outpatient Transformation team work is something that David feels the LOC should look at. One of the ways forward would be how the LOC could help facilitate / implement the community optometry pathways. The team have also expressed an interest in offering support to quickly implement / trial some pathways in our area.

Adam Holliday pointed out that at this year's NOC, one of the webinar's is around this and it would be a good for people to join this to get more insight.

It has been agreed that the Eye Health Strategy Board will be a forum for discussing current performance, both for the Trusts and David imagines Health Harmonie and EMMS also. David doesn't envisage that details will be discussed in these forums, but have a spreadsheet / dashboard with currently waiting times on for which services and what actions need to be taken to improve particular issues.

David Bennett asked where information around waiting times could be sourced. Sameen Qayyum advised that following the last LOC meeting, she had emailed the Lead for Ophthalmology at NUH about this. Due to changes caused by the pandemic across both primary and secondary care, Sameen was advised that any requests should be made to PALS at NUH.

7. LOC Financial Update

Unfortunately Indy Atwal was unable to attend the meeting to provide an update.

Roma Malik asked if Indy would be circulating a financial update to the committee. Adam Holliday wasn't aware if this would be the case or not.

8. NOC

Richard Rawlinson advised that due to obvious reasons, the NOC would be held virtually this year and there is no limit to the number of people who can attend. LOCs and their stakeholders are being encouraged to sign up, login and attend.

There are four main events over two weeks, two per week. All of which are being held in the evening.

Week one – National Outpatient Transformation update and COVID response.

Week two – LOCSU clinical pathways and LOCs, LOCSU and the future.

Sam Stretton agreed to re-circulate the NOC information to the committee.

9. CET Events

Those present discussed LOC funding CET events and how it need to think about how it would prepare its workforce for the future.

David Cartwright advised that the previous evening he had attended a virtual Derbyshire LOC CET event. The event had been organised by the LOC, CCG and local GPs. David felt it was a good networking event and ocular issues on when and when not to refer where discussed.

David Bennett agreed that LOCs should be engaging with GPs much more than we do currently. Adam Holliday suggested to David that he shares the contact details for Nottinghamshire LMC with him, so that he can progress links with them. David confirmed he was happy to do this.

10. Any Other Business

Latest ONFC Statement

The latest ONFC statement that was circulated advised practices on the criteria that needed to be met to claim. A clause was also mentioned in that if practices didn't automatically met the criteria, there was an opportunity for practices to apply for additional support.

Adam Holliday asked Richard Rawlinson if he could provide any further information on this as the cut of date was 20th November 2020. Richard had previously raised this, but is yet to receive a reply. He agreed to flag this up again on a regional basis.

Date and times of future meetings:

Bi-Monthly Meeting – Tuesday 12th January 2021 at 7.00pm

Bi-Monthly Meeting – Tuesday 16th March 2021 at 7.00pm

AGM – Tuesday 11th May 2021 at 7.00pm