

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

Chair: Adam Holliday

Bi-Monthly Meeting

Nottinghamshire Local Optical Committee
Bi-Monthly Meeting
Tuesday 16th March 2021
Virtual Meeting – via Zoom

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|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Present: | Adam Holliday | Chair |
| | Roma Malik | Deputy Chair |
| | Indy (Indervir) Atwal | Treasurer |
| | Andrew Spybey | |
| | David Cartwright | |
| | David Bennett | |
| | Sameen Qayyum | |
| | John Yeomans | |
| | Mo Aslam | |
| | John Clissold | |
| In Attendance: | Sam Stretton | Administrator |
| | Richard Rawlinson | Optical Lead – LOCSU |
| | Anthony Harvey | |
| | Sonia Jethwa | |
| | Hannah Murphy | |

Adam Holliday welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. **Apologies for Absence**

Katie Franklin and Janisha Seaman

3. **Minutes of previous meeting – 12th January 2021 - Matters arising**

NHS X

David Bennett referred to the discussion held at the meeting in January 2021 about NHS X (Electronic Referral System) and that further information would be available about this a week or so after the LOC meeting. David Cartwright confirmed that the service specifications for seven regions had been published and suppliers had been interviewed and appointed across four regions. However this has not happened in the Midlands as yet.

David Cartwright went on to say that the Midlands region decided that they would not be able to access national money that was on offer, but had their own money to use for this. This meant that they could go slightly slower in their approach and interview suppliers, including the viewing of software platforms where in some regions suppliers had been chosen just from their written bid.

CET Events

David Cartwright advised that Derbyshire LOC held a virtual Low Vision CET event the previous evening. They could only accommodate 100 participants on Zoom, but had 120 sign up for the event. Sameen Qayyum advised that she attended part of it and it was really good.

4 & 6. Eye Health Strategy Board & Transformation Pathways

A pathways working group meeting was held the previous week and 'single point of contact' was discussed. This is a model for people who have poor vision and was developed in Greater Manchester with the help of the RNIB and the hospital. Basically it is around ensuring that anyone diagnosed with sight loss is provided with information and support from one source and almost immediately when informed of their sight loss condition.

Those present discussed the model and how it could be delivered, ensuring that patients had easy access to services. It was felt that getting monies invested in this would pose a challenge, however the RNIB do have funds which could be used.

David Cartwright advised that both he and Indy Atwal had been involved in conversations with Derbyshire, who are losing children's vision screening. This has already happened in Nottinghamshire. Derbyshire's intention is to produce a leaflet which will go to parents of children just starting school, to advise them to have a sight test for their child. This is not ideal and the preferred option would be to have a pre-school vision screening service. Those present discussed the prospect of getting more children into practices, as well as funding being made available, training / support and having both public health and the commissioners on board. A good PR campaign would also be needed to target / inform parents. It was felt that a screening services delivered in schools would be the preferred option.

Roma Malik attended a meeting on 4th March 2021 regarding the cataract pathway. At the moment both Orthoptists and hospital Optometrists are triaging all cataract referrals by telephone, thus avoiding the patient having to attend two appointments. It would appear that no further action was required for around 17% of these referrals as patients had changed their minds about having surgery. Due to the turnout at this meeting, the group only looked at the pre-operative cataract pathway. A further meeting has been arranged for next week to discuss both pre and post-operative cataracts. Those at the meeting felt that community Optometry could provide this service, as with the Clinical Assessment Service that is currently operating.

Those present at tonight's meeting discussed the cataract pathway and obtaining patient consent, which is not the responsibility of the referring Optometrist. It is also not a requirement of GOS to do this. Having a properly funded cataract pathway would allow for this and something which LOCSU would be happy to support and assist with.

5. Electronic Referral System

Covered under matters arising NHS X.

7. LOCSU Update

Richard Rawlinson advised that a regional meeting had taken place the previous week and the minutes have been shared with the LOC.

Richard wanted to touch on a few points this evening and went on to say that some changes will be taking place over the next 12 months in regard to the structure of the NHS, with plans in place for April 2022. A 'White Paper' has been passed to the government about this.

Systems are already moving to a new footing and planning ahead for the movement of CCGs to the ICS (Integrated Care Systems). This is already happening with staff working collectively together. ICS will be the decision maker and hold the money.

LOCSU will be providing more support to LOC's as they engage with the ICS's and Primary Care Networks.

Richard asked what if anything, Nottinghamshire LOC had done in regards to engagement already. Adam Holliday advised that work had happened in regard to finding out who service leads are and who is responsible for eye health commissioning etc., but gets the feeling that these are not well established at the moment. Richard expects Primary Care Networks to gather momentum over the next few months. LOCSU will be working with LOC's over the next 12 months and providing information on the ICS's and Primary Care Networks.

8. Finances

- a) Following the last LOC meeting, Indy Atwal was asked to approach LOCSU to see if the amount paid to them could be reduced, given that saving needed to be made. Unfortunately this is not possible and is a fixed 0.5% payment, based on the GOS collected. Given this, Indy asked if Nottinghamshire LOC wished to continue supporting LOCSU. If the answer is no, then this money will no longer be collected from the contractors. If the answer is yes, then the money will continue to be collected and passed onto LOCSU. Currently there is only one LOC that does not collect levy and receive support / assistance from LOCSU.

Following discussion around the support given by LOCSU a vote was taken. Out of the 10 committee members present at the meeting tonight, all 10 voted in favour of continuing to support LOCSU.

Richard Rawlinson agreed to provide the LOC with further information around the role and work of LOCSU. This would also be shared with the membership.

- b) To help reduce costs, Indy asked if a cut could be made to the fee paid to committee members for attending LOC meetings. The Chair, Deputy Chair and Treasurer have spoken outside of this meeting and decided that they will not be claiming any fees for attending LOC bi-monthly evening meetings for the time being.

Currently committee members are paid £60.00 per hour / £120.00 per meeting (including travel time) to attend LOC bi-monthly meetings. As meetings normally last around 1 hour 30 minutes, are virtual with no travelling involved, Indy proposed reducing the fee to £70.00 in total per meeting. Indy proposed this cut and in a retrospective manner covering the previous year and moving forward for the time being.

Following discussion around the fee paid and the reduced income the LOC is currently receiving, it was suggested that the fee should be reduced further to £50.00 per meeting. Out of the 10 committee members present at the meeting tonight, 9 voted in favour of a reduction to £50.00 per meeting and 1 committee member abstained. Out of the 10 committee members present at the meeting tonight 9 voted in favour of the reduction being retrospective covering last year and moving forward and 1 committee member voted against this.

It was agreed that the fee paid to committee members attending meetings that take them out of practice would remain the same.

- c) Indy also asked if it would be possible for the committee to allow him some autonomy to make changes quickly, but in discussion with the Chair, Deputy Chair and perhaps another committee member. This is in relation to income received by the LOC from GOS fees and increasing the fee for attendance at LOC bi-monthly meetings.

Following discussion and given that the LOC meets on a bi-monthly basis, autonomy for the Treasurer was not agreed too or approved by those present at the meeting tonight.

9. Any Other Business

None.

Date and times of future meetings:

AGM – Tuesday 11th May 2021 at 7.00pm