

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

Chair: Adam Holliday
Deputy Chair: Roma Malik

Bi-Monthly Meeting

Nottinghamshire Local Optical Committee
Bi-Monthly Meeting
Tuesday 21st September 2021
Virtual Meeting – via Zoom

Present:	Adam Holliday Roma Malik Andrew Spybey David Cartwright Sameen Qayyum John Yeomans Ravi Chawda Tony Harvey	Chair Deputy Chair
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In Attendance:	Sam Stretton Richard Rawlinson	Administrator Optical Lead LOCSU
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Adam Holliday welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Apologies for Absence

Indy Atwal Treasurer, David Bennett Sonia Jethwa and Janisha Seaman

3. Minutes of previous meeting – 20th July 2021 - Matters arising

Children's Screening

As everyone is aware, there are currently no children's screening services operating in Nottinghamshire. David Cartwright advised that a plan was now in place and a draft leaflet was currently with NUH for them to confirm the wording and content. The content of the leaflet basically advises on the importance of children's eyes being screened as this is not undertaken in schools. It also advises parents / guardians to take them to a community optical practice to have a sight test. It is hoped that the leaflet will be circulated by the end of December 2021.

The issue of capacity at practices was also discussed and colleagues in Derbyshire also had concerns around this, as some may be inundated more than others and may not have enough appointments to cope. Thus turning parents / guardians and children away. The need to support children with their eyecare remains a priority and Richard Rawlinson is not aware of any areas in the country where practices have been swamped.

Those present then discussed the packages that are currently available on the internet which would give the parent / guardian the option of either visiting a practice or undertaking a visual acuity test at home. Sameen Qayyum asked if there was any data to support online screening. David advised that at the moment this was not available.

Woodthorpe Hospital

Adam Holliday has previously raised concerns with both the hospital and the CCG about this, but nothing has changed.

Adam now therefore suggests that the LOC send a letter to all community practices and practitioners saying that contractually they are not required to do this or report back to secondary care. It would also be pointed out that post-operative cataracts assessments do not fall under the GOS contract. However, if practices and practitioners wanted to do this, that was their choice.

Richard Rawlinson went on to say that this issues is on many LOC agendas in many areas. Given this, LOCSU would like to see a formal cataract pathway put in place so community optometry gets paid a fee to undertake assessments and provide appropriate data to fulfil secondary care requirements.

4. & 5. ICS Eye Health Update & Training Update / CET Accreditation

Cataract Pathways Update

Roma Malik advised that progress had been made but it was a little slow and this was down to some disagreement with how the pre-op triage should be implemented in the pathway i.e. telephone triage, who would conduct it etc. An email has been sent to Jane Thornley at the CCG about funding, but nothing has been confirmed on this yet. A draft pathway document is due to be circulated to the pathways group by Andy Roylance at the CCG in the coming weeks and Roma has asked for this to be shared with the LOC also. Those present discuss this pathway and it was felt that if a pathway was commissioned and a realistic fee was paid, community optometry would be more than happy to provide both pre-operative and post-operative assessments.

Roma suggested about sharing and making the CCG aware of the LOCSU pathways which are working well in other areas and what they should be commissioning. It was agreed that she would share the pathway with Andy Roylance so it could be discussed at the next meeting.

Training Update / CET Accreditation

The Local Eye Health Network have agreed to run some CET virtual training events. David Cartwright advised that the plan was to run two events 1st) Referral and 2nd) Cataract Pathway. Imran Jawaid from NUH has agreed to talk at the events.

David has spoken to the Notts and Derby Optical Society who are happy to work with the LOC and support Sam Stretton in getting CET accreditation for the events, as Sam has not undertaken this process previously.

Adam Holliday asked if the events would look at the quality and appropriateness of referrals and also pointed out that referrals are in the confines of the GOS contract. David advised that in the brief given to secondary care about referrals, the GOS contract needed to be considered and what can be undertaken in the confines of that.

Adam also asked how the effectiveness of the training would be captured. David felt sure that a matrix was available somewhere that could be used to capture this.

Those present discussed referrals both historically and currently and it was felt that clear written guidance from secondary care would be advantageous and would aid Optometrists when actioning referrals.

Sameen Qayyum asked if there were any plans to feedback to Optometrists on their referrals. David advised that there were currently no plans to do this until the electronic referral system was up and running.

David Cartwright offered his apologies and left the meeting at this stage.

Tony Harvey asked Richard Rawlinson if any progress had been made in regard to funding for Dispensing Opticians. Unfortunately Richard advised that the answer was no, but he would raise this as this was something outside of his remit of work. Adam asked Tony if he got the impression that Dispensing Opticians were struggling to get their CET. Tony advised this was not the case, but it was felt by this professional group that there was some injustice in regarding to funding of CET event, with most being aimed at Optometrists.

6. Any Other Business

SSE Summit

Tony Harvey advised that a Sustainability in Optical Practices Webinar had been arranged by ABDO Clinical Committee for 4th October 2021. The SEE Summit will raise awareness of how eye care practitioners, optical practices and manufacturers can work in a more sustainable way and inspire and enable them to do so. Nick Bridge, the Foreign Secretary's Special Representative for Climate Change will be the key note speaker. Following discussion it was agreed that Nottinghamshire LOC would circulate the invitation and also publish it on the website.

LOCSU

Richard Rawlinson advised that LOCSU had recruited some new optical leads. Given this and with Richard covering quite a few LOC areas, Nizz Sabir would become the lead for the East Midlands region and therefore the new lead / contact for Nottinghamshire LOC. Tonight would therefore be Richard's last meeting.

On behalf of the committee, Adam Holliday thanked Richard for all of his support and help over the past few years and wished him well for the future.

PPE

Andrew Spybey advised that at the start of the pandemic the LOC were provided with some PPE. This was offered out to all practices who might have needing it,

unfortunately there were no takers. As there was not enough to share out equally amongst the practices, it was decided that it would be kept in storage at his practice. With practices purchasing their own supply, this is now surplus to requirement and Andrew asked the committee what they would like to do with this. Following discussion it was agreed that this would be offered to a local charity.

eReferral System Update

Adam Holliday asked Richard Rawlinson if there was any update available. Both Adam and Richard declared an interest in this. Richard did advise however that a number of areas have selected their providers. In the Midlands region, the procurement process has been delayed until at least the end of the year. They are looking at longer term funding of this and the ICS are aware.

Date and times of future meetings:

Bi-Monthly Meeting – Tuesday 23rd November 2021 at 7.00pm
Bi-Monthly Meeting – Tuesday 25th January 2022 at 7.00pm
Bi-Monthly Meeting – Tuesday 22nd March 2022 at 7.00pm
AGM – Tuesday 10th May 2022 at 7.00pm