

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

Chair: Adam Holliday
Deputy Chair: Roma Malik

Bi-Monthly Meeting

Nottinghamshire Local Optical Committee
Bi-Monthly Meeting
Tuesday 23rd November 2021
Virtual Meeting – via Zoom

Present: Indy Atwal **Treasurer**
Andrew Spybey
David Cartwright
Sameen Qayyum
John Yeomans
Tony Harvey
Mo Aslam

In Attendance: Sam Stretton **Administrator**
Nizz Sabir **Optical Lead LOCSU**

Indy Atwal welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Adam Holliday Chair, Roma Malik Deputy Chair, Ravi Chawda and Janisha Seaman

3. Minutes of previous meeting – 21st September 2021 - Matters arising

Children's Screening

Sameen Qayyum asked if there was any update to provide. David Cartwright advised that the draft leaflet was still with NUH. Mo Aslam suggested emailing Mrs Tambe and Mr Imran Jawaid to chase this up.

Woodthorpe Hospital

Andrew Spybey advised that he was aware of a letter in circulation from the Woodthorpe Hospital, which seems to be inviting a conversation between themselves and practices in regard to complete the post cataract forms. As not all of the committee members had seen the letter, Sam Stretton agreed to try and obtain a copy.

David Cartwright advised that he had raised this issue previously with Andy Roylance at the CCG, who in turn raised this with the Woodthorpe. As of yet nothing has been heard back. David agreed to chase this up with Andy.

Those present agreed that the LOC needs to now engage directly with the Woodthorpe about this on-going issue.

4. Eye Health Delivery Board Update

David Cartwright advised that there was very little update to provide at the moment.

He did confirm that Roma Malik continues to be involved in the pathways discussions and at the moment the cataract pathway is still being looked at.

5. CET

David Cartwright asked if there was any feedback to share from the 'Referrals' CET event held on 9th November and that he would like to open discussions about future training events.

The virtual event on 9th November was well attended and at one stage there were 92 attendees on-line. Numbers attending were a good indication that there is an interest in training and having local Ophthalmologist attend also worked really well.

David is planning a 'Cataracts' event. A provisional date for this being 19th January 2022. Ophthalmologists from both Sherwood Forest and NUH have been asked to present on the process from the point of referral to the point of discharge, including the possibility of showing videos of both cataract and YAG laser surgery.

It is hoped that in March 2022 a 'Low Vision' event will be arranged.

David went on to say that funds had been set aside for training and ideally the LHEN would decide what pathways they would like in the area and then arrange training to support this. As it is yet to be decided how Optometrists will be used in various pathways, David is going to propose that Optometrists are contacted and asked who is interested in undertaking any competencies for example IP, glaucoma etc. Those wishing to access the training funds would then be asked to provide a summary / description on how if they obtained the competency, would they then use this in practice. This was one possible method of allocating the monies if too many applications are received. Another would be that the LEHN would pay a contribution toward the training for example should the training cost £1,500.00 the LEHN would contribute £1,000.00 with the Optometrist also contributing to the cost. This would then potentially allow 20 Optometrists to undertake training. David welcomed any feedback on this any also future CET events.

Indy Atwal asked David to provide more details on the competencies he would be looking for and David advised for example; college competencies medical retina, IP, Professional Glaucoma Certificate / Higher Certificate.

Mo Aslam felt this was a good idea for the professional certificates as this would give the Optometrists a good grounding and knowledge. Mo gave an example of having an OCT in practice, but then you also need to know how to interpret the findings.

Those present discussed the types of training available and David pointed out that placements are still a struggle to secure and he would be speaking to both secondary care and the community providers to see if they could offer places.

Sam Stretton advised that the LOC had received quite a few requests from Dispensing Opticians in the area asking if it would be possible for some training events to be put on for them also. David said he would be more than happy to look into this and welcomed suggestions on topics for such events. Tony Harvey is aware that a lot of Dispensing Opticians are showing interest in OCT at the moment, due to practices/Optometrists delegating this role to them. Mo suggested Myopia management as this would cover both Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians.

Nizz Sabir joined the meeting at this stage.

6. Any Other Business

SSE Summit

Tony Harvey advised that at ABDO there has been a really big push in regard to Sustainability in Optical Practices over the past few months. Sustainability is an ongoing journey for us all.

A Webinar took place on 4th October which was arranged by ABDO Clinical Committee and attended by Nick Bridge, the Foreign Secretary's Special Representative for Climate Change who was the key note speaker. Following the Webinar ABDO created an on-line self-audit for practices to complete. By using this audit tool, practices will make a vital contribution to the long-term future of our planet. Practices can use this to measure where they are right now, and return in a few months' time to see the progress they have made.

Tony would like to know if Nottinghamshire could promote the audit tool across the area and highlight that little changes can make a big impact.

It was agreed by those present that the link to the ABDO on-line self-audit would be circulated via the LOC email distribution list and also uploaded on the LOC website. Tony thanked everyone for agreeing to this.

LOCSU / New Optical Lead

Nizz introduced himself to those present and those present did the same. Nizz asked those present if they could also advise if they had an active role on the LOC.

Nizz explained that LOCSU had recently undergone restructuring and that he would now be Nottinghamshire LOCs Optical Lead. Nizz has worked for LOCSU for some time and would be supporting the LOC around development, not just pathways/commissioning, but also with how the LOC supports the contractors and performers in the area and how LOCSU/Nizz can assist the LOC working better as a team.

Nizz advised that he had just planned to observe at tonight's meetings, but was happy to discuss anything the LOC wished too. He did advise that he would also be attending the Pathways Working Group meeting on Thursday to support Roma Malik and the LOC.

David Cartwright said that he would be interested to hear what is topical at the moment and what other LOCs are doing that Nottinghamshire may not be.

Nizz asked when the LOC last did the LOCSU needs analysis. Sam Stretton advised that this was over 12 months ago.

Nizz asked how the LOC felt about doing some team building, including looking at roles for other committee member so they had accountability and input/output on a regular basis and there is no just one voice for the LOC, which many LOCs seem to have. David said that this would be a good idea and committee members with particular interests could be linked to that area of work etc.

Nizz asked if the LOC felt it was achieving and delivering the right outcomes for the profession locally. Both David and Andrew Spybey felt the answer to this was no, however this was no fault of the LOC and was down to the NHS locally.

A discussion then took place around how and by whom services are provided across the rest of the country. The commissioning model does recommend a single provider due to requirements of the contract i.e. reporting, clinical audit, payment to name but a few.

Training of Optometrists and appropriate funding of community services was also discussed. Holding workshops was also suggested, thus giving Optometrist hands on experience with different techniques.

Date and times of future meetings:

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