

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

Chair: Adam Holliday
Deputy Chair: Roma Malik

Bi-Monthly Meeting

Nottinghamshire Local Optical Committee
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Tuesday 25th January 2022
Virtual Meeting – via Zoom

Present:	Adam Holliday Roma Malik Andrew Spybey David Bennett David Cartwright Sameen Qayyum John Yeomans Tony Harvey Mo Aslam	Chair Deputy Chair
In Attendance:	Sam Stretton Nizz Sabir Trevor Hunter Janisha Seaman Hannah Light Liz Whitmore	Administrator Optical Lead LOCSU SeeAbility

Roma Malik welcomed everyone to the meeting. Due to a commitment prior to this meeting, Adam Holliday was running late and therefore Roma would be chairing tonight.

2. **Apologies for Absence**

Indy Atwal Treasurer

3. **Minutes of previous meeting – 23rd November 2021 - Matters arising**

Children's Screening

David Cartwright advised that he had now had sight of the draft leaflet, however it does require a few slight changes before it is circulated. Once the changes have been made the plan is to talk to the Integrated Care System, particularly the schools section to see how best to distribute it to the parents of 4-5 year olds.

David doesn't envisage this will cause an influx of children into Optical practices. However there is a plan to let practices know that they may get more requests for children's appointments following distribution of the leaflet.

Woodthorpe Hospital

Roma Malik advised that progress is being made in regard to the on-going issue between Optical practices and the hospital. A commissioned service is being looked into by the CCG and they have arranged a meeting with the hospital to discuss this further. As the community providers, both Health Harmonie and EMMS would be involved in this.

Andrew Spybey said that by involving the community providers only and not individual practices, would be a shame as this takes away patient choice. David Cartwright agreed with this. It was acknowledged whoever that commissioning approach is to deal with one provider.

Cataract Pathway

Roma went on to provide an update on the cataract pathway, which still requires a few amendments. It had been agreed however that an additional 2nd Optometrist appointment for referral refinement would not be introduced for now. Work is going to be undertaken by members of the delivery group to link with other neighbouring systems to learn about the changes they make to assess what works and what does not.

A virtual 'Cataract Referral' training event has been organised for Nottinghamshire Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians for 15th February 2022.

A patient information leaflet is currently given to patients at their outpatient appointment and sometimes by optometrists prior to referral. Members of the delivery group to review the leaflets and consider if current processes enable patients to cancel their o/p appointment if they decide not to have surgery after referral and provision of information. They will also review if patients can be provided with a link to a patient video and it is hoped that the link will be shared at the above event.

There are plans to develop Sherwood Forest Hospitals cataract suite. It is hoped that waiting times will improve by doing so.

Bilateral cataract surgery for patient who are eligible will automatically be listed, but still have the option to opt out. It was agreed that both hospitals would consider this separately and then report back to the Ophthalmology Delivery Group.

It is also hoped that stable diabetic patients would also be referred to Health Harmonie and EMMS for post-operative cataract reviews.

Discussion then took place around patients being seen for first refraction following surgery by either Health Harmonie or EMMS. The patients would be seen by practices who the community providers use and potentially purchase new spectacles from them. This then poses the question, is this right or fair, as it takes away choice and does not encourage the patient back to practice who initiated the referral. It was felt that patients would want to go back to their own practice. There needs to be a way around this so patients continue to have choice.

David Cartwright advised that both Health Harmonie and EMMS will have the community contracts in Nottinghamshire for the foreseeable future after their contacts were recently extended.

Those present agreed that more practices needed to be under the 'umbrella' of the community providers. David Cartwright felt that the LOC needed to include this in discussions with the Ophthalmology Delivery Group and also directly with the community providers themselves.

Funding was also discussed and that GOS should not be claimed under the pathway and those present felt it would be morally wrong to do so.

Both Mo Aslam and Sameen Qayyum asked who was actually seeing the non-complex post-operative follows that NUH and Sherwood Forest were discharging. It was confirmed that both Health Harmonie and EMMS are seeing these patients.

Adam joined the meeting at this stage.

Roma asked Adam if he could shed any light on the conversations that had taken place with the community providers in regard to a post-operative pathway. Roma pointed out the concern about patients not being discharged back to the practices that initiated the cataract referrals and post-operative refraction / dispensing of new spectacles would be done elsewhere as there is no mechanism for the patient to go back to the original practice.

Adam advised with his EMMS hat on, that he had heard nothing more from Andy Roylance other than the original idea. Adam went on to say that the commissioners are very aware of the Woodthorpe issue and were looking at this, but he has heard nothing since. Again with this EMMS hat on, Adam said that when the post-operative pathway was agreed, EMMS would be opening up / giving every practice in their area the opportunity to participate in this and did not just want a small number of practices participating.

Adam asked for it to be noted that he was not here to prompt this, but just to give clarity to the LOC on EMMS intentions.

David Cartwright asked Adam if it was also EMMS intention to do the same with the post-operative cataract patients being discharged from NUH and Sherwood Forest. Adam confirmed this was the case, but only for the area they cover which is Nottingham City. Adam went on to say that EMMS had tried to engage with practices over the community services and to get greater participation, but had little uptake.

Roma agreed to contact Andy Roylance for an update and then share this with the committee.

4. SeeAbility

Roma Malik welcomed Trevor Hunter to the meeting. Trevor has recently been appointed as Eye Care Pathway Co-ordinator at SeeAbility and is due to start at the beginning of March 2022. He is also a contact lens opticians currently working for Boots.

Trevor advised that recently learning disabilities in primary care had been discussed in the House of Lords in regard to the Health and Social Care Act.

In his role at SeeAbility, Trevor will be looking at the LOCSU pathway for patients with learning disabilities and will be engaging with Nottinghamshire LOC on how this can be delivered and addressed in the area. In Nottinghamshire there are currently 3,200 people with moderate and severe learning disabilities. A SeeAbility pilot had been undertaken in London and found 40% of children with special needs have never had a sight test, despite having complex needs. 28% of children are likely to have sight problems with adults 10% likely and also needing spectacles.

David Bennett thanked Trevor for providing an update and asked what the funding model would be. Trevor said that he did not have one as yet. David suggested that any funding model should not be linked to the GOS.

Sameen Qayyum asked Trevor about the WOPEC training available. Trevor advised that there are six lectures which are very good and have been well put together. CET points are also available for this module.

Tony Harvey asked if the pilot in London had included specialist spectacle frames with a fee for these beyond the GOS range. Trevor confirmed that practices taking part could claim the small frame supplement along with the GOS voucher fee. The 60 spectacle frames for the pilot practices to use was agreed by NHS England.

David Cartwright suggested to Trevor that once he was in post, it would be a good to submit a paper to the Integrated Care System for support and also to access funding. David went on to suggest that it would be a good idea if there was anyone on the committee with an interest in learning disabilities to engage with Trevor and SeeAbility to help get this up and running in Nottinghamshire. Trevor welcomed this and would be grateful for any help the LOC could offer.

Nizz Sabir highlighted that schools are specifically funded by NHS England for the National pilot in Greater London, the North West and North East Yorkshire. Nizz is currently working on the adult pathway. He also confirmed that NHS funding is an issue, with some service users paying privately for sight care / spectacles. Nizz offered to help the LOC, Trevor or task group set up to get this progressed with the Integrated Care System.

Trevor thanked the LOC for inviting him to the meeting.

5. Ophthalmology Delivery Group

Roma Malik advised that the group are starting to look at a 'Macular Oedema' pathway and discussion is in the very early stages around OCT surveillance screening. Derby have a well-established pathway for this. The group would also like to get some funding for 1 or 2 OCTs in Nottingham, again this is at the very early stages of discussion.

David Cartwright advised that some of the training funds will be used for the 'Cataract Referral' event being held on 15th February 2022. Consultant Ophthalmologists from both NUH and Sherwood Forest will be presenting. Sam Stretton has circulated the invitation via the LOC distribution list and David asked for those present to also share the event invitation with colleagues. David asked Sam how many had registered so far, Sam confirmed there are currently 54 attendees.

David went on to advise that a recruitment / application pack as also been circulated via the LOC distribution relating to 'Access to Training Funds'. This is for anyone who wishes to obtain further qualifications, which can be anything relating to Optometry. 70% of the cost or a maximum of £1,700.00 will be funded. Training funds have also been secured for 2022/23, however no decision has been made as yet as to what type of training will be funded.

David has spoken to Imran at NUH about placements for IP. Imran has advised that NUH will offer a placement, however in return they would like the Optometrist to work (paid) in A&E for a defined period once qualified.

6. Any Other Business

Primary Eyecare (East Midlands) - PEEM

Andrew Spybey advised that for the past 3-4 years he has been trying to get the Primary Eyecare Services to fully take over PEEM, so that the current four directors can resign. Andrew has been directly to LOCSU and Primary Eyecare Services and is getting nowhere. Andrew would be grateful if Nizz Sabir could look into this as soon as possible so that the directors can resign. Nizz asked Andrew if he could email him about this and he would then facilitate this getting actioned.

Date and times of future meetings:

Bi-Monthly Meeting – Tuesday 22nd March 2022 at 7.00pm
AGM – Tuesday 10th May 2022 at 7.00pm