

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

Chair: Roma Malik

Bi-Monthly Meeting

Nottinghamshire Local Optical Committee
Bi-Monthly Meeting
Tuesday 24th January 2023
Virtual Meeting – via Zoom

Present: Roma Malik **Chair**
David Cartwright
Mo Aslam

In Attendance: Sam Stretton **Administrator**
Nizz Sabir **LOCSU Lead**
Chaz Uppal **Chair Doncaster & Bassetlaw LOC**
John Yeomans
David Bennett

Roma Malik welcomed everyone to the meeting and a round of introductions took place.

2. Apologies for Absence

Indy Atwal Treasurer, Adam Holliday, Sameen Qayyum and Tony Harvey

3. Minutes of previous meeting – 29th November 2022 **- Matter arising**

No matters arising.

4. Ophthalmology Deliver Group (ODG)

Training Update

David Cartwright advised that over the past 12 months training monies has been allocated to Optometrists wishing to undertake further competency training.

2021-2022 – £ 25,000.00 was allocated and spent.

2022-2023 - £ 15,000.00 was allocated and spent.

2023-2024 another £ 25,000.00 could be available, but confirmation of this has not yet been received. A bid would need to be submitted to the ODG for the funds, which would then be used for further competency training.

Enquiries around further competency training monies have been received from Optometrists, whose applications will be considered along with any other applications received once the monies had been secured.

The LOC would also like to hold another CPD event and work / discussions are taking place around a Paediatric event.

A bid for funding was made to Education England, which was granted and has been used to fund the Visualise project. This is for people with reduced vision and sight loss.

An on-line training package has been designed by Visualise which is Nottinghamshire specific and CET points are available upon completion for Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians. David would be grateful if members of the LOC could share information on the training with people they come across who would benefit from it.

Details on how to access the training has been circulated to all Optometrists and hospitals. David is currently in the process of sharing information about the training with GPs, Pharmacists and Dentists. It has also been shared with care homes.

Some 'hands on' sessions are also being planned and will be held at My Sight Notts. These sessions will include: working up / undertaking a low vision assessment in practice, identifying best low vision aid to use and looking at both manual and electronic aids which are available.

It is also hoped that My Sight Notts will be undertaking training for retailers who provide services, for example: a training session for John Lewis, Boots or NCT around how to recognise customers with visual disabilities and how they can make their services more accessible to them.

David and Michael Conroy from My Sight Notts are currently working up the criteria and plan for the proposed sessions. It is expected that these will start mid-March and continue through April. The sessions will be free to attend.

To encourage uptake and attendance, Nizz Sabir suggested getting CET for the 'hands on' sessions. He went on to say that there is also a WOPEC on-line low vision module available, with CET points awarded on completion. He also suggested linking in other stakeholders to get more traction. If needed, Nizz was happy to support / assist David with the work he is undertaking on this.

5. Co-option onto the Committee

Roma Malik advised on July 1 2022 NHS Bassetlaw CCG which commissioned and funded hospital and community NHS services in the district ceased to exist. Responsibility for commissioning those services transferred to the new Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board (ICB).

With this in mind and to ensure that both Nottinghamshire LOC and Doncaster & Bassetlaw LOC are aware of what is happening in their respective areas, Roma and also David Cartwright proposed that the Chair (Chaz Uppal) of Doncaster & Bassetlaw LOC is co-opted onto our committee.

As not all committee members were at tonight's meeting, Roma would be emailing everyone to ask them to vote on the proposal. The outcome of which will then be shared with everyone and Chaz.

6. LOC Needs Analysis Feedback

Nizz Sabir offered his sincere apologies to the committee for his absence at the meeting that was held on 17th January to discuss the feedback. The report detailing the needs analysis was shared on screen.

Nizz started off by saying 'well done to the committee' as the needs analysis identified that as an LOC you are doing really well and ticking the boxes amazingly well'.

Nizz ran through the report and advised that he had only identified four areas for the LOC to look further at.

1. Committee members having dedicated roles
2. EeRS
3. NECRT Programme
4. Primary Care Networks

These will be discussed in more detail at the planned contact session on Tuesday 28th March 2023.

Roma thanked Nizz for reporting back on the needs analysis.

David Bennett asked if contractors / practitioners in the area can be kept up to date with the local plan regarding EeRS. He advised that he no longer has a GOS contract, but does refer patients into the NHS and that it was vitally important that community optometry private providers are kept up to date on EeRS also. David Cartwright pointed out that despite trying to do, Nottinghamshire LOC does not have email addresses for every practice in the county or know which are GOS or which are private.

David Bennett went on to say that he does continue to receive information from Nottinghamshire LOC which he is grateful for, but was disappointed that he does not receive information directly from LOCSU and would be grateful if Nizz could look into this. Nizz pointed out to David that both LOCSU and LOCs are funded by GOS via the levy and therefore private providers are not funding the work of either and therefore not entitled to the same support and this is the constitution. Nizz advised that this issue has also been raised in other LOC areas by private providers.

7. Any Other Business

Secondary Care – Waiting Time Ophthalmology Specialties

Due to patients asking about waiting times when they are referred, David Bennett asked if it would be possible for the LOC to contact secondary care and ask them to provide waiting list times for ophthalmology clinics and then share this with practices. David Cartwright agreed to raise this at the next Ophthalmology Delivery Group Meeting.

Date and times of future meetings:

Bi-monthly meeting - Tuesday 21st March 2023 at 7.00pm

AGM - Tuesday 9th May 2023 at 7.00pm