

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

Chair: Roma Malik

Bi-Monthly Meeting

Nottinghamshire Local Optical Committee
Bi-Monthly Meeting
Tuesday 21st March 2023
Virtual Meeting – via Zoom

Present:

Roma Malik
Indy Atwal
David Cartwright
Mo Aslam
Sameen Qayyum
Priya Chopra
Tony Harvey

Chair

Treasurer

In Attendance:

Sam Stretton
John Duffy
John Yeomans
Sundeep Boyal

Administrator

EMMS Healthcare Limited

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

2. Apologies for Absence

Trevor Hunter and Janisha Seaman

**3. Minutes of previous meeting – 24th January 2023
- Matter arising**

No matters arising.

4. EMMS Healthcare Limited

Roma Malik advised that at the bi-monthly meeting in November a discussion took place around training funds for Optometrist, which allows them to obtain further qualifications. However once qualified, there is no opportunity to be involved in delivering services as these are delivered by the community providers. As the ICB will not be commissioning future services with individual practices, the LOC felt now was a good time to invite the providers to a meeting.

This would then allow them to provide not only an update on how services are running in the area, but also for them to advise how Optometrists and local practices can get involved in delivering services.

John Duffy shared his presentation on screen which included an overview of EMMS Healthcare Limited, the current community services they provide in the Nottingham area and also the number of patients they have seen over the past two years. John also talked through each service they provide.

David Cartwright envisages that over the next 12-18 months the ICB will join together the current commissioning areas of Nottingham, Nottinghamshire and Bassetlaw with all services under one contract and covering all areas. As the LOC represents practices across the county, it was important for the LOC to push for practices / practitioners to be involved in delivering services under any community contract. David went on to say that there is a keenness out there for diagnostic hubs to be formed, rather than put services out in the community. The new head of Ophthalmology Louise Wickham is in favour of a virtual model using technology. David commended EMMS Healthcare Limited on their service delivery. He also expressed his concern for them should they apply for any new contract and especially around risk if they had not engaged with practices / practitioners about local delivery. John agreed there is a risk and that EMMS had managed this type of risk over the last decade. John went on to say that when EMMS was established the intention was always to use community practices / practitioners as their workforce which it does currently. Prior to COVID 19 services were delivered from many practices, but since then practices have looked at their own business models and withdrawn from delivery for one reason or another and their desire to work with EMMS has changed.

David asked John if EMMS Healthcare Limited are planning ahead for any new contract and does he feel that EMMS needs to start engaging with practices in readiness. John felt that engaging and on boarding practices at this stage was tricky to do and practices may not wish to commit until a contract was actually in place.

Sameen Qayyum picked up on John's comment in his presentation about the low number of post cataract patients being discharged by NUH into the community for post operation assessment. Sameen advised that non-complicated patients are being outsourced to CHEC, with complicated patients remaining at NUH.

John advised that EMMS Healthcare Limited would be more than happy to hear from anyone wishing to be involved in delivering services. John was also happy for his presentation slides to be made available on the LOC website.

Roma and everyone thanked John for attending and found his presentation very interesting and informative.

5. Ophthalmology Delivery Group Update (ODG)

Currently there is no update to provide from the ODG as the last meeting was cancelled and is yet to be re-scheduled.

Agenda items 6 and 7 (Visualise Training & National Eye Health Week) were covered under this item also.

David Cartwright advised that information on the Visualise training package had been circulated far and wide.

To date 110 candidates had signed up and completed the course. Sameen Qayyum advised that she had attended a meeting several weeks ago and at that stage the number stood at 55, so 110 now was very good.

David went on to say that some GP practice managers had undertaken the course and that community pharmacies are also being offered the opportunity to be involved. Information has also been sent out to care homes.

David asked if everyone could continue to promote the package and encourage people to take a look at it. Some hands on courses are being arranged and David hopes to have the dates of these in the next week or so from Michael Conroy at MySight Nottinghamshire.

These courses will be held at MySight Nottinghamshire and will give those attending the opportunity to not only have a refresher on performing a low vision assessment, but also training on the correct use of magnifiers both manual and electronic.

Michael Conroy is also planning to undertake work with large employers around low vision i.e. Boots, bus companies, the Council and John Lewis to name but a few.

David is still progressing the Paediatric CPD event, but is waiting to hear back on dates from Imran Jawaid consultant ophthalmologist. An orthoptist is now on board and happy to help with this. Both Mo Aslam and Sameen agreed to chase this up with Imran when they see him.

David declared an interest in National Eye Health week which is due to take place in September 2023. It was felt that Nottinghamshire LOC should do something for this and that MySight Nottinghamshire are always happy to help, as would be the council and the local NHS communications team. Roma asked Sam to circulate an email to the committee seeking expressions of interest in undertaking work on this and those interested could then meet up to take this forward.

David confirmed that funds had been secured again for training. This money can be used to not only fund optometrists and dispensing opticians, but for orthoptists and allied health professionals also.

8. Any Other Business

Electronic Referral System (EeRS)

The company that has been awarded the contract to provide this are currently in discussion with the NHS around the implementation. David Cartwright advised that the idea is to implement this across Derbyshire, Shropshire and Staffordshire first and take learning from this. Nottinghamshire has always said that it would be one of the slightly later areas for implementation and it is anticipated that this would be towards the end of 2023. David stressed that at the moment no work needs to be undertaken on EeRS by the LOC.

Nottinghamshire and Bassetlaw LOCs have secured funding to implement this in practices and someone will be employed to undertake this work. A job description is currently being put together and will be shared with LOCs.

Mo Aslam asked Roma Malik if practices are aware of EeRS and what is actually involved.

Roma advised that a letter was sent to all practices advising that the contract to deliver this had been awarded to METN, but that was all. Mo suggested a more detailed communication be sent advising what it is, how it works and what it means for practices and what they will be required to do. It was agreed that a more detailed communication will be sent.

Date and times of future meetings:

AGM - Tuesday 9th May 2023 at 7.00pm