

# **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE**

Chair: Roma Malik

## **Bi-Monthly Meeting**

Nottinghamshire Local Optical Committee  
Bi-Monthly Meeting  
Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023  
Virtual Meeting – via Zoom

<b>Present:</b>	Roma Malik	<b>Chair</b>
	Indy Atwal	<b>Treasurer</b>
	David Cartwright	
	Mo Aslam	
	Adam Holliday	
	Tony Harvey	

<b>In Attendance:</b>	Sam Stretton	<b>Administrator</b>
	Nizz Sabir	<b>LOCSU</b>
	Andy Byrne	<b>LOCSU</b>
	Trevor Hunter	<b>SeeAbility</b>
	John Yeomans	

Roma Malik welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Nizz Sabir announced that he would be stepping away from his LOCSU role and that Andy Byrne would now be the new LOCSU contact for Nottinghamshire.

Andy advised that he joined LOCSU a few weeks ago and is not an Optometrist. Due to this his job title is that of an Advancement Lead and has been recruited to bring a different skill set to the LOCSU team. Previously he was involved with the National Care Eye Transformation project. He also has operational experience whilst working in several Trusts, across several specialties and working in eye care strategy. Andy is very passionate about primary care and what it can do for patients.

A round of introductions then took place so Andy could familiarise himself with everyone.

## **2. Apologies for Absence**

Sameen Qayyum and Janisha Seaman

**3. Minutes of previous meeting – 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023**  
**- Matter arising**

**Visualise On-line Training**

David Cartwright advised that 209 people have now completed the training. Despite the low uptake, this has been well received and Michael Conroy is continuing to promote to this.

**Paediatric Part 2 CPD Event**

David Cartwright also advised that the second part of the CPD event is planned for September 2023. As CPD Lead for the LOC, Sameen Qayyum will be organising this.

**Low Vision – Hands on Events**

Michael Conroy from MySight Notts is planning to hold some further events in regard to supporting people with low vision. Six sessions have already been held with a mixed audience and feedback was very positive. Tony Harvey advised that he had attended and found it be very good and would recommend everyone to attend.

**Training Funds**

Funds are still available to support Optometrists with further competency training. It was agreed that a reminder email would be circulated about this. Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians can access this funding.

**4. Officer Posts – Chair & Treasurer**

Sam Stretton advised that in-line with the Constitution, the Chair and Treasure posts were voted on following the AGM in May 2023. Sam was pleased to advise that due to the amazing work and commitment shown by both Roma and Indy not only on behalf of the committee, but all the wider optical community the committee voted unanimously in favour of them continuing as Chair and Treasurer.

**5. Community Provider Overview**

Unfortunately Health Harmonie (HH) sent apologies and would not be presenting at tonight's meeting due to a diary clash with Andrew Jackman being on annual leave. The LOC had planned to invite EMMS Healthcare Limited (EMMS) to the September meeting to talk about the Woodthorpe Post Cataract service, but with HH not being able to attend, EMMS invitation was bought forward and Adam Holliday agreed to attend.

Adam started off by advising that he also works for EMMS who are a community provider seeing the Nottingham City area patients with HH seeing patients in the County area.

He went on to say that recently there has been some issues with cataract patients being discharged from the Woodthorpe hospital with any follow-up arrangements being in place. The ICB have now commissioned a 'Post Cataract' service for patients being discharged from there. Although the Woodthorpe falls on the edge of the City boundary, it captures patients from both the City and County. Therefore both EMMS and HH will be delivery a post cataract pathway. Patients will be directed to the community providers based on which GP they are registered with. EMMS will be opening up delivery of the service to all practices in Nottinghamshire.

Adam thinks that EMMS and HH models will be slightly different.

Patient that are discharged to EMMS, will be given choice as to which practice they are seen at. Obviously this will depend on which practices are providing this service. On behalf of EMMS, the LOC circulated an expression of interest in providing the service email a few months ago and more recently a service specification and how to sign up email. EMMS have received a little bit of interest from practices, with about a handful wishing to sign up and deliver. Going on past experience, the numbers engaging initially are small with more wishing to come on board at a later stage.

Adam finished off by saying he was open to questions.

Roma Malik – will HH open this up to practices as EMMS has done?

Adam – EMMS is not aware of HH business model and therefore he was unable to comment.

Roma – how many practices would EMMS like to be involved?

Adam – EMMS could deliver the service without opening this up to other practices. However EMMS wanted to give patients choice as to where they would like to be seen and also give practices the opportunity to deliver the service and see patients.

Nizz Sabir – what is the duration of the post cataract contract and is this the same for both EMMS and HH?

Adam – the contracts have been added / included within the community providers existing contracts and are not separate ones. Both contracts expire in 2024.

Nizz – what fee is being paid to practices to see patients?

Adam - £ 28.00 per patient

Nizz – how is choice being offered for example, if a patient was referred by practice A would they be offered their post cataract follow-up with the same practice or choice of another practice?

Adam – choice will definitely be offered.

David Cartwright – is there any encouragement for them to go back to the practice that referred them initially or would they not be able to if the practice hadn't signed up?

Adam – patients could go back, but if the practice isn't signed up they would not receive the fee.

Roma – is any training being offered to practices that sign up?

Adam – as part of the signing up process, EMMS is expecting practitioners to have undergone some form of post cataract training. Unfortunately no funding for training has been provided by the ICB. EMMS will provide support and advice if required.

Andy Byrne – given that Woodthorpe is a private hospital, are patients being seen NHS patients?

Adam – only NHS patients are being discharged and will be seen.

Nizz – how are EMMS safeguarding the GOS?

Adam – patient are going to be seen just for a post cataract follow-up. However if the patients opts to have a sight test at the same time, this is permissible. Patients can go to practice A for the post cataract follow-up and then go to practice B for a sight test as this is their choice. Patients will be advised that if they have a GOS sight test at Practice A, they cannot then go to practice B for another one.

Tony Harvey – if a patient has their post cataract follow-up and also a sight test at the same practice, can the practice claim the GOS also?

Adam – yes they can as the fee only covers the post cataract and doesn't include a sight test.

Andy – suggested that the finer detail in the contract between EMMS and the ICB is checked to ensure that the post cataract follow-up doesn't include a sight test at the same time and covered by the one fee. This has happened in other areas of the country.

Adam – this is not the case with EMMS's contract.

Andy – is reporting data required and if so, how is this going to be collected and returned to the Woodthorpe?

Adam – this will all be captured by the IT platform being used and automatically sent to the Woodthorpe. This makes the admin burden on the practices minimal.

A discussion then took place around GOS and ensuring that patients are given choice as to where to go for their sight tests. Mo Aslam suggested that patients being discharged from the Woodthorpe are given clear information on what happens next i.e. you will be contacted by either EMMS or HH to arrange a post cataract operative follow-up and this is not a sight test. Adam advised that a letter has been crafted to this effect and is very similar to the one given to patients when they are discharged from NUH. Adam is happy to share the letter with the committee and will send this over to Roma and Sam to circulate.

Roma thanked EMMS for opening this up and giving all practices the chance to sign up and deliver the service.

## **6. Central Optical Fund / Eye Care Trust**

David Cartwright gave a presentation to those present around the work that Eye Health UK undertakes.

Eye Health UK and Central Optical Fund have joined forces to create an 'eye health partnership'. Together the organisations have the unique ability to promote optics and reduce health inequalities whilst keeping the best interests of the whole profession at heart. Neither the charity nor the Central Fund receive any public or guaranteed funding. Every penny spent promoting, supporting and developing optics has to be fundraised and they achieve a great deal on limited resources. Their main source of funding is currently commercial partnerships – which can restrict generic benefits, whilst donations to the Central Optical Fund have diminished over the last decade. As an equitable way of funding a programme of independent eye health promotions that deliver public benefit and support the profession, they asking every LOC to make a voluntary donation to the Eye Health Partnership created by EHUK & COF and have suggested a donation of £1,000.00. They do appreciate times are tough but even a small contribution would make a big difference.

Roma Malik asked Indy Atwal to look at the LOC finances and see if funds are available to support Eye Health UK and make the suggested donation of £1,000.00.

Sam Stretton asked David if he could provide information as and when it became available for National Eye Health week, so she would circulate this via the LOC distribution list.

## **7. Ophthalmology Delivery Group Update**

Several items relating to the ODG were covered under matters arising.

David Cartwright advised that there are currently a lot of discussion around when contracts will come up again. Unfortunately there is no definitive view on this at the moment.

The ODG have recently been awarded £ 625,00.00 relating to a bid that was submitted for a WetAMD screening programme. Further details are to be confirmed. David feels this is a major opportunity for optical practices to be involved in the delivery.

NUH have also put out to tender a contract for an Eye Casualty Community Follow-Up Service. The deadline for submission was 25<sup>th</sup> June. Roma advised that there is no update to provide on this at the moment.

Nottinghamshire will be a late adopter of EeRS - around October 2023 if not later. Over the next few weeks the LOC will be circulating a newsletter which David is putting together with lots of information for practices.

## **8. Any Other Business**

### **Low Vision Pathways Group**

Sameen Qayyum was unable to attend tonight's meeting, but has provided Roma Malik with an update to share in her absence.

MySight have subcontracted an agreement to Health Harmonie (in the process of putting this together).

Lots of discussion around having more ECLOs in Nottinghamshire - work in process, at present only two ECLOs in Nottinghamshire: NUH and in Newark

MySight will be emailing a leaflet to upload on the LOC website which will be helpful for eye care professionals.

### **Safeguarding Communication**

The LOC is aware that a communication on safeguarding has been circulated that requires information to be returned. Enquiries are being made as to who sent this / why / if this relates to the GOS or NHS Standard contract holders.

### **SeeAbility**

Trevor Hunter advised that they had received a letter from a primary care nurse in Nottinghamshire asking if SeeAbility could do a presentation on the 'learning disabilities and autism pathway' and if they can refer into this in Nottinghamshire. Trevor has advised that there is currently not a pathway in Nottinghamshire and suggested that they look on the SeeAbility website to see if there is any practices in Nottinghamshire who are happy to see patients.

Trevor felt it was important to bring this to the attention of the LOC and also wanted to advise that the pathway is soon to go live in East London. He felt that with the support of both the LOC and also LOCSU, this would encourage the ICB to look into implementing the pathway in Nottinghamshire.

Roma asked Trevor if he could provide the LOC with information to share with practices around tailoring care to meet the needs of this service group and also upload on the LOC website. It was also deemed a good idea if the LOC could hold the names of practices on their website.

Roma also asked Trevor if he could put together a presentation for the ODG to help them understand the pathway and the benefits this would have for patients.

**Date and times of future meetings:**

Bi-monthly Meeting – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7pm

Bi-monthly Meeting – Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023 at 7pm

Bi-monthly Meeting – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7pm

Bi-monthly Meeting – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7pm

AGM – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7pm