

## NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

Chair: Roma Malik

### **Bi-Monthly Meeting**

Nottinghamshire Local Optical Committee

Bi-Monthly Meeting

Tuesday 28th November 2023

Virtual Meeting – via Zoom

Present:       Indy Atwal       **Treasurer**  
                  Mo Aslam  
                  Tony Harvey  
                  Sameen Qayyum  
                  Ravi Chawda  
                  Priya Chopra

In Attendance:	Sam Stretton	<b>Administrator</b>
	Andy Byrne	LOCSU
	Karan Morjaria	Newmedica
	Steve Hunkin	CHEC
	Greg Wharton	SpaMedica
	Tarnia Venning-Rhodes	SpaMedica
	Janisha Seaman	

Indy Atwal welcomed everyone to the meeting and a round of introductions took place.

#### **2. Apologies for Absence**

Roma Malik and David Cartwright

#### **3. Minutes of previous meeting – 19th September 2023 - Matter arising**

No matters raised.

#### **4 Sustainability Presentation – Tony Harvey**

Tony Harvey is Nottinghamshire LOC's lead on Sustainability. It was also noted that LOCSU have appointed lead on their board.

Tony advised that there is currently a lot of momentum within the optical profession in relation to Sustainability and there had been two major events recently hosted by ABDO and Opticians Magazine.

LOC's can lead the way on Sustainability in optical practices by a) identifying current sustainability schemes in the area and sharing the learning b) encourage practices to do undertake the self-assessment and share results c) choose a focus to get behind for a bigger impact. It was felt that by having one or two champion practices on board sharing good practice, this may encourage others to get on board also.

Tony gave an example of good practice in relation to recycling of old frames and lenses. Optical practices can collect broken and donated glasses and send them to Lions Club International for recycling. There the glasses are sorted to determine those that are usable or unusable. Usable are then distributed to optical missions around the world. Lions then help minimise landfill waste by supporting precious metal reclamation and scarp plastic processing for damaged glasses that are unusable.

Tony put the following recommendations to the committee and asked if this is something that the LOC wanted to do and commit to:

- Promoting Sustainability in Nottinghamshire practices
- Decide how they communicate to practices (share news updates, have a campaign, have a logo etc.)
- Decide what they communicate to practices (email, registrants)
- Have a 'Green' policy
- Seek advice / support from other LOC's and LOCSU
- Set a budget to support the work they plan to undertake

All those present agreed that sustainability is something that the LOC should be supporting as it affects everyone!

Indy Atwal advised that further discussion would need to take place in relation to a budget and how much would be needed.

Indy went on to say that his practice has been certified as 'carbon neutral' following himself and a staff member attending a course at Nottingham Trent University. Indy said that he was happy to meet with Tony and anyone else outside of tonight's meeting to go through the process his practice went through to get certified.

Steven Hunkin advised that in his role as Governor for Sherwood Forest Hospitals Trust, he is aware of a framework that that NHS are making available as part of their 2040 net-carbon zero target. Business will be able to pick bits out of the framework to suit them. Steve advised that this would be useful for optical practices. Steve offered to help and support the LOC with this, which he would do separately and away from his role at CHEC.

Tony was grateful for the feedback received at tonight's meeting and also the offers of help from both Indy and Steve.

## **5. Ophthalmology Delivery Group Update (ODG)**

In Roma Malik's absence, Mo Aslam advised that currently there is no update to provide on the Eye Casualty tender that was submitted several months ago. This was discussed at the last ODG meeting and a decision was expected soon.

Mo also touched on EeRS and advised that since July 2023 the LOC have engaged with practices around this. Practices received a newsletter and were also asked to complete an on-line readiness survey. To date 72 out of 93 practices in Nottinghamshire have completed the survey.

## **6. National Optical Conference (NOC) Feedback – Mo Aslam & Sameen Qayyum**

Mo Aslam attended the NOC and advised that it was brilliant and well worth the two days he was there. It was very informative and the workshops he attended were really enjoyable.

'The Power of Collaboration in Primary Care' and had a variety of people on the panel and this included a community pharmacist from Thames Valley and Michael Wright from Nottinghamshire LMC. Discussions included how the representative committees can work together and collaborate / engage effectively with the ICB and also looking at the primary care workforce as a whole and how to tackle local capacity pressures. Mo advised that Gloucestershire are leading the way with this and seem to have got everything right with primary and secondary care engaging with each other. Mo wondered if it might be possible for Andy's contact in Gloucestershire to present their model to our ICB.

'Promoting Advanced Eyecare Services' looked at different delivery models.

Sameen Qayyum attended a workshop that discussed 'AI' and how this would be implemented into future services and the workshop summarised this really well.

Sameen advised that the main theme she took from the NOC was 'collaboration' and the importance of everyone working together across all professions to deliver the best care for patients.

Andy Byrne advised that when the LOCSU team pulled all the presentations together prior to the event, it was obvious that everyone was going down the collaboration route.

Andy went on to say that a national service spec for MECS is currently being worked on by LOCSU and it is hoped that this will be finalised in April 2024.

Steve Hunkin advised that CHEC are currently going through an engagement plan with PCN's and GP's around primary care services and what can be delivered in the community to take pressure off secondary care. Discussions are also taking place with the ICB about this.

Those present discussed LOC, LMC and LPC collaborations as each one delivers services that impact the other. Steve advised that this is something that CHEC are looking into, so they can understand where the frustrations are and would like to help in getting everyone talking and pulling together.

Mo advised that the LOC has regular meetings with the chairs of the LMC, LDC and LPC to ensure primary care is well represented at board level. PODs meetings have been happening for some time now and Roma Malik attends these.

## **7. Any Other Business**

### **Paediatric Ophthalmology Part 2 CPD Event**

Sameen Qayyum is Nottinghamshire LOC's CPD Lead. Sameen arranged her first CPD event on 21st November 2023 and this was well attended and received. Lots of positive feedback was received following the event. Sameen advised that a recording of the event has been uploaded on the LOC website.

Indy Atwal attended the event and advised that he found it to be really useful, informative and very well put together. On behalf of the committee he thanked Sameen for her hard work on arranging this.

### **SpaMedica Presentation**

Greg Wharton from SpaMedica gave a presentation to those present. He delivered a presentation about the company and waiting time figures.

### **Date and times of future meetings:**

Bi-monthly Meeting – Tuesday 16th January 2024 at 7pm

Bi-monthly Meeting – Tuesday 12th March 2024 at 7pm

AGM – Tuesday 7th May 2024 at 7pm