

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

Chair: Roma Malik

Bi-Monthly Meeting

Nottinghamshire Local Optical Committee

Bi-Monthly Meeting

Tuesday 16th January 2024

Virtual Meeting – via Zoom

Present: Roma Malik
Indy Atwal
Mo Aslam
Tony Harvey
Sameen Qayyum
Priya Chopra

Chair
Treasurer

In Attendance: Sam Stretton
Andy Byrne
John Duffy
Sunny Boyal
Andy Roylance

Carolyn Fox

Karan Morjaria
Kevin Nunan
Tarnia Venning-Rhodes
Steve Hunkin

Administrator
LOCSU

Nottingham &
Nottinghamshire ICB
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Nottinghamshire ICB
Newmedica
SpaMedica
SpaMedica
CHEC

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

2. **Apologies for Absence**

David Cartwright and Janisha Seaman

3. **Minutes of previous meeting – 28th November 2023** **- Matter arising**

No matters raised.

**4. Nottingham & Nottinghamshire ICB/ICS Update
(ICB – Integrated Care Board / ICS – Integrated Care System / ODG –
Ophthalmology Delivery Group)**

Andy Roylance thanked the LOC for inviting him to tonight's meeting. Andy is the primary care manager in the planned care team at Nottingham & Nottinghamshire ICB.

Ophthalmology is one of the key work streams for both the ICS and ICB. Both work closely together to achieve the best outcomes within the capacity available.

The ODG has been running now for three years and replaced the Eye Health Strategy Board.

The ODG is hosted by Mrs Katya Tambe who is the Clinical Lead. The ODG is attended by other stakeholders including Commissioners, local NHS Trusts, Community Providers, LOC, local Authorities and Quality Teams

Both national and local initiatives are discussed at these meetings, along with pathway updates from both the local NHS Trusts, Community providers and other providers.

There are also four Work Stream Groups that sit under the ODG and play a vital part, they are: Pathways, Training & Education, Prevention & Awareness and Sight Loss Support.

The ICB was created in July 2022 and at that point, the commissioning groups in place at the time along with Bassetlaw CCG, Doncaster and Bassetlaw hospital as well as NHS Trusts in Nottinghamshire, came together and now sit under the ICS. Work has been undertaken to align commissioning policies as these varied between Nottinghamshire and Bassetlaw. Andy is going to share this with the LOC for wider circulation so everyone is aware and has the most up to date information.

From April 2023, the contracting function and management responsibility for community Optometry contracts moved from NHS England to the ICB.

Andy advised that the ICS are currently in a difficult financial position. This is due to an increase in staffing, price increases and inflation which is affecting everyone at the moment. The ICB have been asked to put together a recovery plan to ensure financial balance. All new spends are currently on hold and spending currently has to be justified to the ICS. Spending on cataracts has increased significantly and is regularly under the spotlight.

To help relieve pressures on the Trusts, the ICB have introduced pathways where patients care is transferred to the community providers, for example: post-operative cataract follow-up and stable glaucoma follow-up. There is also ongoing review of community provision in regard to Health Harmonie, EMMS and Primary Eyecare in Bassetlaw.

The ICB are currently working with NUH around their Eye Casualty follow-up project and also with Sherwood Forest around their one-stop cataract project.

The ICB are also working on projects such as: EeRS, a WetAMD pathway, training & education and direct referrals for cataract surgery.

Andy touched on EeRS and advised that a project manager has been appointed and that Nottinghamshire will 'go-live' as part of wave three, but at the moment no date has been confirmed. He also touched on training in relation to sight loss and also that the ICB had been awarded 6 funded Optometrist training places including placements, which both Trusts are happy to support and provide.

Roma advised that expressions of interest in the training and placements had now closed and that she and Mo Aslam would be looking at these later in the week.

Finally Andy spoke about direct referrals for cataract surgery. Despite the ICB raising this several times previously, referrals are still being sent directly and not via the pathway that is in place. He asked that everyone respect what has been put in place and use the pathway. This not only ensures that patients are offered free and informed choice of provider, but also that they are clinically suitable for surgery. This also avoids patients turning up to appointments and then being turned away due to suitability.

5. AMD Pathway Update

Carolyn Fox thanked the LOC for inviting her to tonight's meeting. Carolyn is the Ophthalmology Transformation Programme Manager for the AMD Pathway.

Across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire there is a programme of work to transform the pathway of care for patients with suspect Wet Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD). This has been made possible after a successful bid was submitted for funding to NHS England.

Currently patients who present in Optometry and present with symptoms of Wet AMD are referred to secondary care for an OCT and confirmed diagnosis. As more and more Optometry Practices now have OCT machines available, the new AMD pathway is looking to utilise Optometry to undertake the initial OCT. Alongside the introduction of the new EeRS Cinapsis system, this can be sent digitally via a single point of access to secondary care thus avoiding the need for the patient to attend hospital for diagnosis.

There will be a need for Optometry practices to sign up to deliver this pathway and there will be reimbursement via a contracting mechanism which is being explored. The new pathway is aimed to be implemented in the late spring/early summer of 2024.

Carolyn advised that the pathway would be trialled / tested in Bassetlaw due to them already having a contracting mechanism in place by way of the Optometry First via Primary Eyecare Services. This will enable the ICB to elevate the service, look at KPI/bench marking data, quality of the service and then make any necessary changes prior to roll out across Nottinghamshire.

7. Any Other Business

Children's Eye Care Service

Tony Harvey has raised this previously as it came to his attention via ABDO. A trial children's eye care services has been in place for the past four to five years where a multidisciplinary team have gone into special schools to perform sight tests, dispensing spectacles, undertake repairs and issues replacements when required. SeeAbility has also been involved in this. The trial has now come to an end and NHS England want to roll this service out, however there is an issue around funding in relation to a new voucher to cover complex lenses, small frames and dispensing. There is also an

issue in the final rollout as to whether or not a Dispensing Opticians would be part of the multidisciplinary team. It is Tony's understanding that the service will be offered to all special schools from April 2024. He also understands that early in 2024 there will be a national commissioned standard and service standard produced by NHS England.

Tony asked if anyone knew of anybody in Nottinghamshire that was involved or participating in this, so the LOC could make them aware of this as it is such a great cause. Andy advised that he has contacts in the contracting team at the ICB and if he could be provided with more information, he would be happy to take this back to them and ask if they could provide an update.

Introduction to EeRS Virtual Event

Sameen Qayyum advised that the event scheduled for 1st February booked up very quickly and unfortunately not everyone wishing to book on was able to do so. Sameen is now in the process of arranging an additional event and details will be circulated once a date has been confirmed.

Date and times of future meetings:

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