Avon LOC Chair report 2022-2023

This year has been one of the ICB- the integrated care board. In Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) this board is now fully formed as an LOC we have been involved in discussions with our equivalents at the Local Medical, Pharmacy and Dental Committees – to form a collaboration of primary care. This is on going and has been a lot of work but exciting to be part of the wider discussions around how local money will be spent for the first time.

From April 1st 2023 the GOS contract was “delegated” to the ICB’s, meaning that it is no longer held at a national level, instead, we are still in the early days of what this means but have been a lot more involved in the discussions around this and this will be on going.

The big news this year has been the roll out across the whole of BNSSG of post cataract care for patients treated at Bristol Eye Hospital (BEH) and a simplification of the post op cataract check for practices, with a small fee increase. This brings the fee in line with the other providers, who in BNSSG will eventually need to move to a similar post op scheme, to make payment easier for the ICB. We have also been successful in piloting a data gathering scheme for BEH’ stable and suspect glaucoma patients, this is open to further practices in the BNSSG area and so please see our emails if you’d like to take part. The software used for this is one that BEH want to champion and will hopefully lead to more schemes and more joined up working.

Across the river in Bath the CUES service continues but we have not had any progress on other schemes as yet, despite trying. We have however, held a number of successful face to face CPD events in Bath and are hoping this is a sign of things to come for both areas.

Please do reach out if there are any questions or queries about our work, but we will continue to strive to improve patient care for you all. Thanks to all my committee for all their work and support – especially this past year to John and Carolyn for helping to attend the multiple meetings with the ICB.

As an aside, we welcome any feedback on the new website – which should be live and accessible via all platforms now.

Thanks for your time and looking forward to seeing more of you in person over the next year.