**Heart of West Midlands Regional Optical Committee 12/09/2024**

Present

Charles Barlow (CB) Dudley LOC

Debbie Graham (DG) Birmingham LOC

Ian Hadfield (IH) Birmingham LOC

Peter Hampson (PH) Sandwell LOC

Marium Hayat (MH) Wolverhampton LOC

Aisha Jeewa (AJ) Walsall LOC

Spencer Parkes (SP) Solihull LOC

Peter Rockett (PR) Wolverhampton LOC

Louise Sarjeant (LS) Sandwell LOC/Minutes

Paul Sidhu (PS) Dudley LOC

Dan Sanders (DPS) Solihull LOC

Divya Sudera (DS) Sandwell LOC

**Apologies –** Wasim Sarwar

**Conflicts of Interest** – no changes

**Minutes of the previous meeting** – approved.

**Matters arising** –

Actions

1) Wishlist for Waheeda – Nothing yet. DS going to event in Nov, will talk to BMEC IP optoms then. Invite WI semi-regularly.

2) LOCs link to regional CPD page? Mostly yes, Birmingham to update their page in October.

**Diabetic screening survey**

Received 16 responses compared to 14 last year. Main points – patients aren’t happy with limited number and location of sites, still issues with “poaching” patients. Need to find out about commissioning and KPIs. Should IHI fund training for managing diabetic patients in practice – we have duty to refer to medical practitioner, not screening service.

Invite IHI to next meeting to ask about progress of service, see if they have info we can share with contractors and performers. Ask LOCSU to help look for quality report.

**EeRS**

Awaiting cross-border permissions to be granted. Some practices having problems with referrals as can’t allocate GP practice to patients as coding may have changed – escalated problem with Cinapsis.

1000 EeRS referrals in August in Black Country. Glaucoma 25-30% referrals, apart from Wolverhampton, where it’s 3% due to GERS. Need approval from LOCs to share data with PES/WS to work to show effectivity of service. Had permission from BCICB to share EeRS info with LOCs.

Need to update referral guidance on LOC websites – can use EeRS funding to update. Sent comms to GP about why they can’t refuse referrals, with ICB backing, as many reasons why patients can’t be referred via Cinapsis.

**Local Workforce Development**

140 applications in total, 57 grants claimed. Due grand rounds in October. DS good feedback from paediatric dispensing workshops today – CB awaiting attendance levels. FB workshops scheduled for January. SF working on Zeiss OCT workshop. AJ paediatric workshop at BMEC in October, will need a waiting list.

PR glaucoma event in November in Wolverhampton for those wanting to join GERS.

**Primary Eyecare Services**

New service spec submitted to the board. Discussions regarding pre-cataract service and mandatory dilation. Discussion with BSol and tariff. Maybe wet AMD referral pathway from GOS into modified CUES.

LOC Chairs going to Manchester for PES meeting in October.

**Midlands Primary Care Leadership Event**

AJ went to an ICB event to discuss opportunities and challenges, with all primary care representatives present. Discussed need for LEHN in West Midlands. There was a lack of awareness from commissioners about what we do and some unaware of commissioned services. There is no optometry representative on the Primary Care Collaborative Board. Pharmacists are unaware of what we can do and unaware about what optoms can prescribe. Issues with digital solutions and lack of FP10s.

There was talk about a national chief optometrist. PH need to be cautious about such a post and their intentions. Concern that LOCSU weren’t invited and not all LOCs/Chairs were aware of event. If important meetings happening, the necessary representatives should be there, and attendees should be briefed in advance.

Shamina spoke to someone on the primary care collaborative, and has since had an offer of a place for a representative at the BCPCC. ICB funded, one meeting a month, awaiting job description. Will decide who attends later.

**AOB**

AJ attended independent living hubs – discussed eye tests, CUES and left leaflets.

PH wrote to regional team about PPV issues via OFNC. They have replied but not really answered questions, OFNC will offer to have discussion with regional team.

CB LOCSU suggested LOCs contact LMCs regarding local “work to rule”. LMCs been told not to discuss it with any other representative committees.

Regional NOC on Tuesday 19th November.

Invite LOCSU advancement lead to future HWMOC meetings? On an ad hoc basis.

**Date of Next Meeting –** 6:30pm on Thursday 9th January 2025

**Action Points**

Invite IHI to next meeting to ask about progress of service, see if they have info we can share with contractors and performers. Ask LOCSU to help look for DRS quality report.

Diabetic CPD

Report from Chairs attending PES meeting.

Update EeRS referral guidance on websites.