**Heart of West Midlands Regional Optical Committee 09/01/2025**

Present

Shamina Asif (SA) Dudley LOC/Walsall LOC

Charles Barlow (CB) Dudley LOC

Peter Hampson (PH) Sandwell LOC

Peter Rockett (PR) Wolverhampton LOC

Louise Sarjeant (LS) Sandwell LOC/Minutes

Paul Sidhu (PS) Dudley LOC

Dan Sanders (DPS) Solihull LOC

Wasim Sarwar (WS) Primary Eyecare Services

Divya Sudera (DS) Sandwell LOC

**Apologies –** Aisha Jeewa, Spencer Parkes

**Presentation from IHI** – Becky Smith & John Grayland

Diabetic screening numbers increased from 66% to 80% attendance. Patients not been screened for three years or more dropped from 20% to 12.3%. New patient portal to book/rearrange appointments. Patients more likely to be booked nearer to home postcode, rather than GP postcode.

OCT at IHI sites started in November 2024. New R2 grading pathway and patients with consecutive R0M0 changed to 2-year recall.

Looking at improving attendance rate for areas of high deprivation and for those of working age. Proportion of DNAs likely to rise as routine patients changed to 2-year recall and targeting persistent non-attenders.

SA – Optical practices better placed to engage with community and encourage attendance. Some patients not had recall letters, can we give them a phone number/leaflet? BS can create leaflet.

PH – How does service compare with Heartlands? BS Heartlands best was over 70%. IHI 66% when started, 80% now.

CB to meeting BS to discuss sharing info with practices and contractors to help improve attendance.

**Conflicts of Interest** – no changes. SA to send conflicts to CB

**Minutes of the previous meeting** – Proposed by PS, seconded by DPS.

**Matters arising** – Diabetic CPD – to be discussed at WFD meeting.

PES event for LOC Chairs – SA – discussed PES performance, what’s happening locally and nationally, SPOAs, data collected, future plans, CPD, triaging and online events. Likely to be an annual event. DS info about engaging with practices not doing CUES and onboarding locums.

**EeRS**

CB sent out report before Christmas, review of use Cinapsis and types of referrals sent. Still some issue with referrals rejected/returned. PS BMEC still rejecting patients as “out of area”. DS shouldn’t if write that patient choice discussed. ICB investigating and monitoring.

DS invited (with Mr Cheung) to talk about BMEC’s EeRS emergency pathway by the primary care commissioning team. Can take any feedback.

SA had interview with NHS England about what hospital/Cinapsis discharge letters should entail. Mentioned condition, action, management. PH helpful for us and patient to have all information, including photos, so we know when to refer a patient back.

CB due to work on EeRS referral guidelines for Black Country. Dudley already has one. PH need to know who’s signing it off, needs oversight, maybe AOP.

WS BMEC want all referrals via Cinapsis, especially emergency as easier to triage – not possible! Still in discussion.

**Local Workforce Development**

PR meeting in two weeks. SA booked Newmedica grand rounds before Christmas but they cancelled it. Will reschedule. DS looking at another FB workshop. SA also looking at Goldman training. IH will raise at WFD meeting.

WS GERS event in Wolverhampton – talked about PACS+ which was useful. Can add to WFD agenda.

**Primary Eyecare Services**

WS updated CUES module due imminently. Have run triage events. New system will allow live triaging and can bypass telemedicine. New 111 service will send patients to telemedicine hub who will then arrange appointments.

Discussions about post op cat fee in Walsall. Pre-cataract questionnaire now built into module, to be delivered by Optom – recommendation from GIRFT. Waiting times on PES website, can link via LOC/ROC website.

**LEHN**

DS meeting with Rebecca Woods to discuss. Will meet with LEHN chair prior to evidence the need. PR can speak to Claire Roberts for advice.

**AOB -**Nil

**Date of Next Meeting –** 6:30pm on Thursday 8th May 2025