LOC Minutes 10/10/2024

In attendance

Divya Sudera (Chair) DS

Peter Hampson (Secretary) PH

Louise Sarjeant (Treasurer/Vice Chair) LS

Wasim Sarwar (CPD Officer) WS

Inderpal Bansal IB Jaspinderpal Bansal JB

Anisha Chowlia AC Majid Jawaid MJ

Saima Naroo SN Paul Sidhu PS

David Wright DW Abrar Zaman AZ

Apologies – nil

Conflicts of Interest – No changes.

Minutes of previous meeting –IB proposed, SN seconded

Matters arising – nil

Chair’s Business – DS

Some teething issues with EeRS and BMEC – delays in triage, rejections advised to send patient to “local” hospital. Lead ophth not available currently and others less helpful. Keep me informed of any issues. PH hospitals aware patient choice exists when suits them.

AZ BMEC rejecting AMD referrals if distortion present with normal VA, saying patient should have OCT prior to referral. PS hospitals assume we’ve all got OCTs now. DS can’t mandate OCT, HES will need to pay if they want referral refinement. PH NICE says AMD treatment between VAs of 6/12 to 6/96, but had cases where HES have said they would have treated if outside that range. PH is there an ICB clinical safety officer? WS ICB quality team.

DS NHS England organised meeting with little notice for optometry, pharmacy, dentistry and GPs across the Midlands. Attended by Shamina and Aisha. Lots of people weren’t invited that should have been including BLOC. LEHN chairs from other areas present. Looking to get optometry colleague onto BC Primary Care Collaborative - where the LEHN chair should be, but we currently need to decide who will attend. The role needs to carry everyone’s voice, not just their own. End of Nov meeting to work out what they want and who will be best in the role. Maybe Shamina initially for a year or two and then rotate or find the right person initially.

WS Ophthalmology ICS network meetings participation is low so may and have subgroups instead. Presented cataract data as consultants saying lots of ineligible referrals, actually only 12% patients had VA 6/9 or better, and they all had notes re. glare/anisometropia. BMEC has 4/52 waiting times but never tell us. Waiting times due to be published on primary care website, but onus on hospitals to update data. “Find my hospital” will show wait times.

Local Workforce Development – DS

Grants still being issued, received more money from ICB. Had paediatrics workshop at ABDO, and due paediatric day at BMEC next week. Due another FB workshop and “ophthalmology workshop” (formerly “grand rounds”) with New Medica.

WS BLOC looking at low uptake of referral refinement scheme. 69 respondents so far, may use WFD money for glaucoma/Goldman refresher training.

DS need to encourage practices to do CUES, maybe a whole talk for those who don’t do CUES, make it more simpel? WS in future may have online platform to host recorded talks and more talks for triage/front of house staff.

Secretary’s Business - PH

LOCSU regional conference 19th November. WS and DS can attend, SN and LS might. LOCSU have released updated constitution, intending to be discussed at NOC.

Primary Eyecare Services -WS

Due to present CUES video at Black Country Summit. Filmed at an independent practice and patient CUES journey. Will go in ICB bulletin and will share with hospitals, GPs and practice managers. Help to increase awareness of CUES for patients and healthcare staff.

DS if delay to payment forms on Opera, can delay payments to the whole area. Need to be completed within two months. Failsafe team due to make template to send for if patient fails to engage. New website will show what services available in local area.

CPD Officer – WS

CPD day at WBA ground went well, good feedback. Sponsors really happy. Pencilled in same venue for next year, 15th Sept 2025.

Treasurers Business – LS

Reserves holding steady. Awaiting sponsorship payments for CPD event, will share costs with Dudley once received.

AOB

PH meeting with ICB as OFNC about budgeting in the region. Due to explain national trends in GOS activity.

Discussion about AGM date. Before next meeting come up with ideas for AGM. WS can do PES talk/peer review.

Date of Next Meeting

LOC meeting - Thursday 12th December 2024 – in person

AGM 20th February 2025 TBC