

Avon LOC

Committee Meeting

Monday 7th June

1845 for 1900 hrs

Record by:

Carolyn Hudd

Approved by:

Attendees:

Ed Bickerstaffe, Andrew Edwards, Lynne Fernandes, John Hopcroft, Amy Hughes, Mark Humphrey-Ali, Andrew Pinn, Amar Shah, Gordon Batham, Jennifer Ogidi, Meera Patel, Mona Thacker, Carolyn Hudd

Apologies:

None

Resignations:

Gareth Whatley announced to the Chair & Secretary that due to the commitment of his university work he wished to resign from the committee. He is happy to help with the handover of social media accounts and the new website and will liaise with the relevant committee members. The Avon LOC committee members thank him for his contribution and efforts in maintaining development during his term and wish him the best of luck with his future plans.

Changes to Conflicts of Interest

Andrew Edwards – Working with Johnson & Johnson as a consultant for their new Multifocal Lens.

Ed Bickerstaffe - working for BSW CCG now, not Wiltshire.

****All other conflicts of interest remain the same and as previously stated in historic minutes****

Minutes of the last meeting:

Proposed by Amy, seconded and approved by Amar

Ongoing Actions from previous meeting

Andrew Edwards still awaiting answers re BaNES ICP.

Amar chasing NHSE plans for COVID winter booster is ongoing.

LOC

1.1 Election of Officers

- 1.1.1 Chair – Amar Shah – Proposed by Amy, Seconded By Andrew Edwards, Unanimous vote of agreement by the committee.
- 1.1.2 Secretary - Due to increasing commitments, Amy Hughes stepped down as LOC Secretary. The committee have appreciated her hard work and dedication to progress and thanked her for her ongoing efforts. Amar proposed Carolyn Hudd, layperson, be selected to fulfil the role and gave the committee further information as to how this could help the committee. Amy Hughes seconded the proposal and the committee voted unanimously to select Carolyn Hudd as Secretary, initially on a provisional basis to ensure the dynamics work.
- 1.1.3 Treasurer – Andrew Pinn was happy to continue in this role. Amar proposed Andrew, Andrew Edwards seconded and the committee agreed unanimously.
- 1.1.4 Vice-Chair – Mark Humphrey-Ali is happy to continue in this role. Amar therefore proposed Mark, Amy seconded and the committee agreed unanimously.

Amy added a note for the future that the Vice-Chair's role could be used as leapfrog to Chair. This would aid smooth transition between Chairs as the Vice-Chair would have similar knowledge as the exiting Chair.

1.2 Website

The development of the new website still continues. Gareth will now pass all instructions through to Amy and Carolyn for future development.

1.3 AGM

A discussion took place regarding the successfulness of the AGM. John Hopcroft felt the CET went ok, but the dual invitation did confuse people and felt the platforms should be kept the same in the future. Amy and Amar explained there was a communication error initially that meant the dual platform invitation but that lessons had been learned from that and it was unfortunate for this occasion. In general, it was felt that the AGM and its length was a success and there were more

attendees due to it being online. It was decided to keep the AGM online going forward.

John also felt it would be a good platform to introduce listening forums in different areas. This would help shape the LOCs activities accordingly the needs and wants of the profession. Meetings could be kept informal and relaxed to encourage ideas. **Amar agreed he will look at some dates for members to explore this.**

2 NHSE SW Update

2.1 COVID-19 Vaccine Plan

The area is has been invited for vaccination but if an invitation hasn't been received, primary care workers can book via the gov.uk website..

2.2 ERS/Referral Solutions

The area is currently split.

BNSSG CCG is taking a new approach with Topcon Harmony. This is to focus on a hospital led glaucoma pathway. Contracts were due to be signed in April but are still yet to be completed as there has been no consultation with the community over payments/pathways and there is currently no payment option within the software.

BSW CCG is going forward with Opera on ERS once the contracts are signed, but maybe later than others in SW. Amar is lading on behalf of LOCSU as England lead for E&RS

2.3 NHSE Update

Meetings are still being attended and topics discussed, however, as yet, there has been no major action. Amar will persevere.

John Hopcroft raised concerns BNSSG still do not have an LEHN in post. He has formally registered his interest at being selected for this role but a discussion needs to be had. Amar will take this forward but stated expressions of interest can only happen once NHSE & Amar have formalised the role.

2.4 Connectivity Webinar – Mark Humphrey-Ali

A document was circulated itemising how different hospitals and units use different technology for sharing information. NHS Mail/Opera is primarily the source of confidential communication aside from a few Apps developed by doctors.

2.5 LOC role in PAGs/PLDPs guidance

This role on the committee is currently being served by Lynne Fernandes who sits on the Southwest board. She will confirm whether Gloucester, Dorset and Wiltshire are also being covered on this panel.

2.6 Mental Health – Guidance and Funding

The NHS has recognised the COVID-19 crisis has had an impact on mental health. A bid has been submitted of £341,000 to offer support to primary care workers in the wake of the pressure they were, and continue to be, put under. Mark and Lynne attended a meeting concerning the type of needs, production of materials and signposting of services required. The final bid for this will be circulated with these minutes.

3. BNSSG

3.1 Bristol Glaucoma & Post-cat services

There has been no progress or update on this since coming out of the pandemic.
Ongoing

3.2 ICS

Amar met with key CCG executive, Julia Ross, to discuss how to move forward with ICS'. Joined up thinking is key to understanding the issues the LOC/Optomety can help with. There are currently two projects linked to this. The Eyecare transformation project and work around Frailty.

Gordon suggested functioning dementia patients would be a good cause for the work around frailty.

3.3 BNSSG Future Services

As above – coupled with Topcon Harmony and Glaucoma pathways. No further information yet.

3.4 Local Prescribing Formulary point of contact

Unclear, internet connection - Anna Durbin Interface Pharmacist, enquired if there were newsletters available or contacts for changing prescriptions. Amar's Chair email is currently the main contact, but it was suggested that Lynne & Jenni (as IP Optoms) could field queries as appropriate.

4. BaNES

4.1 Update

Andrew Edwards expressed concern over the number of Cataract Pathway Referrals made and the number of patients completing the treatment. Many referrals are bounced back for rewriting. SDH held a pilot study, asking 100 patients to fill out a questionnaire before continuing with their treatment. Mostly, it was discovered that by filling out the questionnaire, the patients were actually put off having the treatment for a condition that would be affecting their lives and there was no mention of legality for driving.

4.3 CUES

CUES in BaNES continues to be busy.

4.4 Triage Service

The triage service continues. A meeting with Lauraine at the CCG will be held 1st July. BaNES facing colleagues invited to attend.

5. PES Update

CUES has been very successful and the intention is to continue this, however, funding is the big the issue. Amy is hoping for another 3 month extension whilst talks are held to find the money to continue. Amy feels the CCG would want the hospital trusts to pay but having three trusts in the area would delay the process to account for agreements between them.

5.1 Opera

Opera will not show invoices beyond April. Amy advised to feed all issues back through the blue bubble option. This will direct the problem to the correct team and be resolved more quickly. Andrew Edwards reported that Wiltshire CCG have not paid any invoices since January. Amy asked Andrew to report it.

Bath practices want to join CUES but suspension of registration continues for longer than planned. Hopefully this will be reinstated week beginning 14 June 2021 and was delayed due to the release of two other schemes nationally.

Amy asked members to reinforce the message to local GPs that CUES is an urgent service for new symptoms not existing. She is also raising this with Lauraine at CCG.

5.2 Post-Op – Newmedica and SpaMedica

No updates available this time. SpaMedica only pay twice and month, so be aware of when invoices are submitted.

6. AOB

- CCG are returning referrals incorrectly. More communications need to be sent to BaNES to set out clear instructions (specifically to Monmouth, Keynsham, Westfield & Radstock). Ed also requested comms are sent out to ask that referrals are made clear when it is a 'COPY to GP'. Some referrals have been returned because the GP and the Optometrist have submitted what appear to be separate referrals.
- Newmedica have agreed to investigate post –op referral letters suggesting using Specsavers. Lynne had several examples where she had lost patients due to this problem.
- The Circle Bath – Gordon Batham - The Circle Bath has been purchased by the RUH. The lead executive is leaving and will not be replaced. New connections will need to be developed.
- Andrew Pinn – There is a technical error when paying electronically for the voluntary levy. PCSE online has now made it clearer what the payments are going towards. This is affecting the amount of funds collected. Amar will raise this with LOCSU.

Table of Ongoing/Actions

LOC Member	Action
Andrew Edwards	Liaise with BaNES re ICP
Amar Shah	Continue to Liaise with NHSE re COVID winter booster
Gareth Whatley	Handover website and social media to Amy and Carolyn
Amar Shah	Look at dates for exploring listening forums
BaNES Facing members	Attend CCG meeting with Lauraine Jones, Wilts CCG on 01/07/21
Amar Shah	Speak to LOCSU re Voluntary Levy to Central Optical Fund

Date of the next LOC Committee Meeting

Monday August 9th 2021