

Avon LOC  
Committee Meeting  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022  
1845 for 1900 hrs

Record by:

Carolyn Hudd

Approved by:

**Attendees:**

Jennifer Ogidi, Amy Hughes, Mark Humphrey-Ali, Andrew Pinn, Amar Shah, Carolyn Hudd, Lynne Fernandes, Mona Thacker, Andrew Edwards, Alvaro Borgess (LOCSU Lead)

**Apologies:**

John Hopcroft

**Changes to Conflicts of Interest**

Amar Shah – No longer Optical Lead, LOCSU. Now joined a board for a special school’s trust.

**Minutes of the last meeting:**

Previous minutes of February 7<sup>th</sup> 2022 approved

**Previous Actions**

LOC Member	Action	Progress
<b>Actions from 04/04/22</b>		
Amy Hughes	To arrange cross-committee meeting - CUES	Took place on 26 <sup>th</sup> April
Clare Bailey	To provide a summary of the new pilot scheme for circulating amongst the LOC members before April 8th	Of sorts
Steve Eaton	To provide video demonstration of software to interested parties	Amar returned video as too intense
Amy Hughes/Carolyn Hudd	Arrange meeting to discuss migration of the website to new LOCSU platform	Meeting on June 9 <sup>th</sup> with LOCSU to cover queries
Amy Hughes	To liaise with SpaMedica re referrals	See PES Update in Minutes

**Matters Arising**

- Fee to be paid for the venue (Bailbrook House) RUH Hospital Trust Glaucoma and Medical Retina CPD event. £250 to be paid by Avon LOC and Wiltshire LOC by 07 June 2022. Vote taken and agreed by committee.
- Any urgent matters should be directed via Whatsapp to Amar or Carolyn. Emails are not monitored on phones and therefore items could be missed.

## **Election of Officers:**

Chair:

Amar made it clear he would like to spread the workload more effectively and if anyone wanted to step up he would step aside. He also suggested sending Carolyn as a representative to more meetings to feedback to the committee. Alvaro spoke of paying committee members properly so they feel their time is worth it. After many offers from the committee, it was decided that with more support Amar will remain as Chair.

Proposed by Amy Hughes, Seconded by Andrew Edwards, All in favour

Vice Chair:

Mark Humphrey-Ali. Proposed by Amar Shah, Seconded by Andrew Pinn, All in Favour

Treasurer:

Andrew Pinn. Proposed by Lynne Fernandes, Seconded by Jenny Ogidi. All in favour

Bath Lead:

Andrew Edwards. Proposed by Amar Shah, Seconded by Andrew Pinn. All in Favour

Secretary:

Avon LOC does not have to vote the lay secretary on to the committee as the role is not a member of the committee instead being a paid consultant. But in good faith a vote was held.

Carolyn Hudd – Amy Hughes proposed, seconded by Lynne Fernandes. All in favour

### **1. LOC**

**1.1** Chair stepping back – As discussed during the election of Officers, Amar would like more action taken by other committee members. Alvaro suggested using the LOCSU needs analysis as a way of creating more of an even spread of tasks.

**1.2** LOCSU Needs Analysis – This exercise is on a self-assessment basis. Each committee member will receive a link to a smart survey. The results are then collated and the committee gather to discuss the aims, effectiveness and responsibilities going forward.

**ACTION: Alvaro to send the link to Carolyn to circulate among the committee.**

**1.3** LOCSU/PES Effectiveness – This topic is ongoing. Alvaro offered an apology and vowed to offer good support going forwards. Since becoming regional LOCSU lead, there has been a steep learning curve but he has achieved a good knowledge base now. Richard Whittington (CEO LOCSU) has left and a replacement is being sort.

Payments from PES are now much improved and working effectively.

## **2. NHSE SW Update**

The GOS contract is moving from national contract to local contract. The delegation of the GOS contract for BNSSG will take a hybrid form in approximately July. The contract is beginning the migration from NHS England SW (nationally) to the new ICB (locally). Initially, many of the admin tasks will continue to be carried out by NHSE SW and gradually be handed over to the ICS. During this time period there may be increased QiO checks and payment verification checks. It is hoped that commissioning may become a little easier when it moves down to ICS level.

Jenny Bowker is the point of contact at the ICB and has invited the Chair to meet Shane Devlin (CEO ICB) as part of his induction. A date is to be confirmed but they are keen to meet with the primary care committees at the early stages and involve from the beginning in their primary care strategies.

The campaign to instate LEHN chair or Optometry Lead has resulted in some progress and an Ophthalmology Lead being appointed. Elizabeth Wilkinson (med-ret/diabetic specialist). She is an ophthalmologist from Devon and has a good understanding of wider eyecare issues but it's yet to be seen how much she understands GOS and what is done in primary care. Alvaro is pushing for a primary eyecare position to be instated. The South West Eyecare Transformation Program is frustrating Alvaro due to its turn towards secondary care. The structure is like a board structure; each one of the ICS's will have a clinical lead and someone to represent the ICS and will feedback their information to the ICB. That ICS lead tends to be the chair of the eyecare delivery board. The eyecare board is one John attends every month. That is very heavily secondary care lead but John can stand our ground there (Thursday every other month). That will have a chair of the meeting and that representative is appointed at the ICS level. There is also another person appointed which tends to be a consultant ophthalmologist.

## **3. BNSSG**

### **3.1** Bristol Glaucoma and post-cat services

This is agreed on a pan BNSSG basis. There were 12 initial expressions of interest. We await for further updates. Carolyn has been chased by an interested

party to say they haven't heard anything. Amar has chased this back to the relevant parties at the hospital. We now await the eye hospital to move into the next role out of the service.

Lynne queried the process of Harmony (cloud storage). Amar is aware there is a delay in the hospitals adopting Harmony. They have devised a hybrid solution so they don't have to put it on the all the hospital IT systems because for this data, as a pilot, the information only needs to be received at the hospital and not sent out to community and there is mostly one person monitoring that (Jen, Glaucoma team). At the stage that the hospital needs to share information back out, there needs to be additional IT solutions put in place but these will be the responsibility of the hospital.

### **3.2 ICS Update**

No new news at the moment. Shane Devlin continues to build the board. Some roles remain to be filled and this is a work in progress.

### **3.3 BNSSG Future Services Update**

No Update. Much of the future services are likely to develop as a result of the effectiveness of the Topcon project.

## **4. BANES Update**

Ewan Macmillan, BSW is proposing a minimum data set for glaucoma referrals and wants specific requirements as part of a specific glaucoma referral. However, this is not funded. This has been discussed at a regional meeting and Consultant, Duncan Ledbetter strongly opposed this due to the lack of funding and likelihood of ruining goodwill. However, this was ignored and Ewan has kept pushing with BSW CCG.

A meeting is taking place on June 9<sup>th</sup> with Alvaro (LOCSU) and Colin Gault (Chair, Wiltshire LOC) to put a stop to it.

Andrew Pinn confirms the referrals can only be rejected back to the GP. The community optometrists must stand their ground as this is not a service being paid for.

## **5. PES**

Amy has a meeting to discuss the tone of the BSW triage referral bounce backs. Please send through any examples.

Amar thanked Amy for the fee uplift with CUES and acknowledgement of the quality of service. Nice change is whether you can choose telemed or Face to face. Patients at the hospital really respect it.

The IP pathway is so close to getting the FP10 pads for IP optometrists. Very keen to get this in place as it's something the community has never had access to. Numbers may not be very high but it's a big step forwards in fully using the skills the community has. Comms will be sent out shortly and initially be for in-house prescriptions and this will move towards getting practice directors and IP Optoms together to work out a coordinated maximisation in using this.

The call waiting system for the PES CUES hub went live again last week. This should have a very positive effect. Patients can now be sure they have got through and it is handling patient volumes very well.

All SpaMedica referrals that they received from accredited practices from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 should come back out through Opera. Those first discharges are expected to land back in practice about now as the waiting times are approximately 6 weeks.

The draft of the service level agreement for the Emerson's Green project has now been received. Amy is making some minor changes/queries before handing to PES contract manager and then it will be a case of setting up Opera and showing them how to get their patients on to the system.

Amar requested that once that's live, PES hold a webinar event for SpaMedica, update for New Medica and for Emerson's Green to show that post-op element of these are all live and the ease of use of Opera.

Amy is attempting to schedule one in June as a reengagement event in CUES.

## 6. **AOB**

There are two CPD events occurring in June. One is in conjunction with Bath Hospital Trusts and Avon and Wiltshire LOCs at Bailbrook House on 21 June 2022. This will be on Glaucoma and Medical Retina for 6 points. And will be available to any one referring into the RUH. The other is a 3 point CPD event being held by Newmedica on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at Aztec West. The topic will be Macular OCT interpretation.

### 6.1 Central Optical Fund

Amar proposes the LOC joins for a pound partly because if the BNSSG Glaucoma service takes off, obtaining some funding for some of the advanced qualifications that may be required or some funding if the FP10 project takes off would be desirable.

Andrew Pinn requests Charles Barlow attends the next LOC meeting for more detail.

All were in favour to join for a pound.

**ACTION: Carolyn to invite to next meeting.**

## 6.2 Emerson's Green – Neil Foster query from AGM – Patient vulnerability

Neil had a query regarding patient vulnerability and Emersons Green charging a patient for an IOL as a toric IOL when they were referred in from the NHS. Amar felt this can't be taken further unless there has been a formal complaint but that if any of the committee is having discussions with Emersons Green they could bring this up.

Once the Emersons Green contract is near to signing, perhaps Andrew Pinn, as cataract lead, could suggest a CPD event to encourage your service and ask about Neil's query at the same time to see if it was a one off for some clarity.

Andrew Pinn advised at the AGM that he should support his patient if he wishes but really that patient would need to raise a complaint if they felt that they had been unfairly or poorly treated.

**(Work in progress action: Raise appropriately with Emerson Green)**

## 6.3 LOC policy on advertising for PES and LOCSU.

Amy asked for clarification on the LOC policy of advertising for LOCSU and PES roles, due to recent inconsistencies. A PES role was advertised to the mailing list in September 2021, a recent LOCSU role was only circulated amongst the committee and a very recent PES role was not circulated at all.

Amar asked Carolyn not to send out most recent job advert as it is on a par with the hospital adverts in that it requests an Optom (either full time or equivalent) for a day and in so doing taking them out of practice. This means that you maybe poaching Optoms from the contractors that pay the LOC's levy.

Amy's understanding was that PES and LOCSU were exempt from the rules of job advertising. Because LOCSU and PES are working for the committee and those people are required to run those services then we are required to share them.

PES had to share the role with only PES registered Optoms, so has asked the committee consider whether that's fair that only PES registered Optoms are going to have the opportunity to apply for that role. Amy requested the LOC think about the implications if someone works for a hospital part time or for

whatever reason isn't on Opera and they haven't been made aware of it, whether that person could ask difficult questions. Part of it is consistent policy that we can rely on.

Amar reiterated that the decision not to send the LOCSU advert to the wider mailing list was due to the availability for people to see it advertised elsewhere through LOCSU and FODO updates. He felt that the post for LOCSU was only relevant to the committee as LOC experience was required and therefore, unless someone had come from outside the area, it would not be relevant to the wider field. Amy stated PES does not afford the same privileges and other LOC's around the country are happy to send out these adverts. The committee need to be prepared to be questioned as to why only PES registered Optoms have knowledge of new roles.

Amar noted the difficulties in advertising roles that potentially take contractors Optoms away from them.

A vote was taken whether to advertise a PES/LOCSU role: Majority agreed to send out via mailing list. Any other jobs will go on the new website.

- Alvaro discussed the deadline to discuss the Opticians Act review (18<sup>th</sup> July 2022). To submit the views of the committee with support from LOCSU, a doodle poll could be sent out to gauge when the committee would be available to discuss.

**ACTION: Carolyn to arrange doodle poll**

- Fees were discussed. Previously set at a £80 an hour. This was reduced by half during the pandemic. Following discussion it was agreed to raise the level back to £80 in reflection of inflation and increased activity. LOC meetings are also flat fees (was £45 an hour and are now £80). Amy proposed this, Amar seconded and all were in favour (To commence as of 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022)
- ACTION: Andrew Pinn to propose what would be fair to Carolyn's fee for attending a meeting to be discussed outside the meeting.

Honorariums will continue at the same rate and include Carolyn, Lay Secretary.



**Actions**

LOC Member	Action
<b>Actions as of 06/6/22</b>	
Andrew Pinn	Pay Bailbrook House contribution to 6pt CPD event 21 June 2022
Alavaro Borges/Carolyn	Send LOCSU Needs analysis survey link to Carolyn to circulate to the committee
Carolyn Hudd	Invite Charles Barlow, Central Optical Fund to next LOC meeting
Carolyn Hudd	Arrange Doodle Poll to cement a date to discuss the changes to The Opticians Act
Committee	Committee member payments to be returned to £80 per hour and for attendance of an LOC meeting. Andrew to discuss Carolyn's meeting fee.

**Date of Next Meeting : 8th August 2022**