

## AVON LOC MEETING MINUTES

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024

1830 hrs- 2100 hrs

The Venue for the next LOC meeting will be as follows and include a sandwich buffet dinner:

*Bocabar, Finzels Reach, Bristol.*

### Attendees

Mark Humphrey-Ali, Andrew Edwards, Andrew Pinn, Amy Hughes, Carolyn Hudd, Amar Shah, Mona Thacker, John Hopcroft, Lynne Fernandes, Alvaro Borges

### Apologies

None

Action Log review:

LOC Member	Action	Outcome
Actions as of 04/12/23		
JH	JH to set up training on SharePoint	John to arrange for Thursday evening

### Agenda

Item	Topic	Notes	Decision ?
	Welcome		No
	Apologies, Minutes, Declarations -	Minutes were approved from December Meeting – There were no new declarations of interest	No
	Review of actions log	Latest update on actions above	Yes
	Update on Enhanced Imaging Service – BEH	John is now having weekly meetings with BEH and other regular meetings with the ICB.  The new service is at the point of being agreed and is currently with BEH for their approval. A draft copy of the contract has also been given to the ICB to be signed off at the next PCOG meeting once BEH have reviewed it. All looks set to go ahead. April 2024 is still the estimated launch date. All practices will be able to participate if they wish and there will be a 'no rejection' policy where by the patient responsibility will always lie with the hospital once a referral is made. If the imaging isn't of a clear enough standard to make a diagnosis, PES will be	No

		<p>approached and the practitioner will be informed there images were not sufficient and therefore won't fall into the pathway for payment.</p> <p>The neuro-service is less clear. Simon Epps attended to give a lecture at the New Service Event and John met with him after to determine what he would like to see as part of the service from a neuro perspective. This seemed significantly different from the macular pathway (£30 OCT Disc, OCT macular, retinal photo macular and some info that is mandatory on the referral form). For the neuro referral Simon would want OCT Disc, OCT Macular, Retinal-photo disc and macular and visual fields. John has stated this is significantly different to the macular pathway and therefore the original fee does not feel appropriate. So this may stall for more discussion. The committee agreed that this difference should be flagged and the LOC need to be clear about not doing extra images for free because it could become the expected norm. This could hold up the module build if a final decision is not made. Lisa agreed she could build the module based on latest requirements but hide it until all details including fee are agreed. There was some discussion that there needs to be some flexibility so that trusts do not force imaging upon us in the future as other trusts are requesting imaging for referrals. John had suggested a £60 fee for this increased requirement.</p> <p>Amy reminded the committee that the neuro part of the service is a very minimal amount of the service amounting to approximately &lt;0.5 patients per practice. It is very important though to be mindful that we do not want to set a base fee they will always refer back to. First steps will be showing the managers they are making a saving on macular face-to-face referrals. This will hopefully encourage BEH/ICB to see how the service could help reduce costs and therefore negotiate a better fee for neuro.</p> <p>John will take the mandate from the committee on fee to go back to BEH and if no agreement is made then to park that pathway for now..</p>	
	<p><b>BEH New Service Post Launch Event</b></p>	<p>Reports from the event are that it was a very successful, well attended evening. Thanks and praise went to Amy for her part in the evening and John for his hard work. There was good engagement particularly the volume of questions afterwards. BEH have expressed interest in collaborating with</p>	

		the LOC twice a year to run a CPD event. This was agreed by the committee with a suggestion that September and February would be good months to run events taking into consideration avoiding the AGM.	
	<b>AGM</b>	It was agreed the AGM will be held on Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2024. Amar has agreed to lead the organisation. Mona, Mark and Lynne have offered help finding sponsors and giving support. It was agreed the committee will provide a CPD event on Medical Retina and a speaker confirmed whilst the meeting took place.	YES
<p><b>ACTION:</b></p> <p><b>Amar to investigate venues for the AGM taking place on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 (including Science Park Emersons Green, Engineer's House and BAWA).</b></p> <p><b>Mona and Lynne to find sponsors.</b></p>			
	<b>AOB</b>	<b>BNSSG People Programme Board</b> has requested the LOC attend to help influence ICB strategic planning for the workforce and population. More information of when the board meet is required but Mona is interested in attending and the LOC should attend to decide if it is a progressive group that can improve optometry in the community and a justified way of spending LOC money.	
<p><b>ACTION: John to find out more information on frequency and location of meetings. Mona to attend if this is convenient.</b></p>			
		<b>QiO</b> – Only 4 practices in the Southwest did not complete in time. It is unclear if any of those practices fall into Avon LOC area but the committee should need to be aware in case of further questions or support that may be needed.	
		<b>Flashers and Floaters Query</b> - The LOC received a query as to whether they can be seen under GOS or sent straight to BEH. The answer is not clear although Andrew Pinn spoke of NHSE communicated that they should not be seen under GOS. If the patient complains their vision has changed then you could carry out a full sight test which could be claimed. The AOP has a document on it but blurs the lines. It was summarised that GOS shouldn't be used for F&F where that is the primary presenting reason. These should follow the local emergency pathway.	
		<b>Educational Funding</b> – Mona queried if the LOC are willing to pay fees for professionals to continue their further education. The committee confirmed the position is that education can be supported in conjunction with services where funding has been secured from outside source. LOC funds are	

		collected by levy and cannot be distributed fairly amongst the community for training directly. Some discussion was held on HEE and if evolution of the new macula pathway could include a Prof cert requirement in the future.	
		<b>London Marathon</b> – Amy is running the London marathon for the charity Seeability (PES’ partner charity). The LOC agreed they would support the cause and raise some awareness for her.	
		<b>Referral Copy Letter-</b> It was announced at the recent join event that BEH are no longer sending out letters to Optometry practices following a complaint. This seems to be protocol more recently adopted and with no consultation with the LOC. It has originally been explained as due to data protection concerns (if a patient has moved practices for example). BEH indicated this was happening nationally in other areas. The LOC are seeking clarification form BEH if this is only for follow ups or also new referrals. John raised this with the Southwest regional forum and Alvaro will liaise with LOCSU for further clarification. John will also take it up with FODO when we have more information.	
<b>ACTION:</b> <b>John to seek further advice from FODO</b> <b>Alvaro to seek further guidance from LOCSU</b>			
		BNSSG have selected a <b>Wellbeing provider</b> to support the regions health care professionals. A representative will be invited to the next LOC meeting and AGM.	
<b>ACTION:</b> <b>John/Carolyn to arrange presentation by provider at the next LOC meeting.</b>			
	Four Pillars – Strategic Plan	<p>The LOC reviewed the strategic plan discussed in August 2023. There are 3 main categories of focus which are services, engagement and representation. During the discussion it was decided the LOC need another category called ‘Development’ and this would include headings workforce, committee, community, wellbeing and succession.</p> <p>The main category ‘Engagement’ should be renamed ‘Relationships’ and include headings ICB, LDC,LPC,LMC, ECLC, PCC, PCOG</p> <p>The main category ‘Representation’ should also include students</p>	

		Under the category 'Values' – 'Good governance' should include mention of PES and the model constitution.	
<b>ACTION:</b> <b>John to update flowchart and redistribute</b> <b>Committee to bring their top 3 items they think the committee should be focusing on to the next LOC meeting</b>			

**Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 25 March 2024