**Dorset LOC Meeting**

**4th October 2023**

**Merley House, Dorset**

**Attendees**

Jane Bell, Ali Yasen, Ian Underwood, Suzanne Flay, Grace Haine, Chris Quinton, Ashton Galloway, Peter Beverley-Smith, Alix Trott, Carolyn Hudd

**Apologies**

Jo Kain, Alice Buckingham, Chris Newall

**Welcome**

Jane thanked everyone for attending and a brief individual introduction took place. There were no matters arising and the minutes of the last meeting were undetermined.

No one declared any new conflict of interests but new forms were circulated for the records.

**ACTION: Carolyn to email Jo, Alice and Chris annual ‘Declaration of Interests’ form for completion and return asap.**

**New Committee and Officers Election**

Jane welcomed the newest members of the committee Alix, Suzanne Flay and Chris Quinton.

The following committee members were proposed to act as officers:

Chair – Jane Bell was proposed by Ali Yasen, seconded by Ashton Galloway and voted in unopposed.

Treasurer – Ali Yasen was proposed by Grace Haine, seconded by Ian Underwood and voted in unopposed.

Vice-Chair – Suzanne Flay was proposed by Ali Yasen, seconded by Peter Beverley-Smith and voted in unopposed

Lay-secretary – Carolyn Hudd was proposed by Jane Bell, seconded by Ali Yasen and voted in unanimously.

**Chair’s Update**

Jane has been attended the monthly eyecare steering group meetings alongside ICB and hospital managers and chaired by Annette Thomas (Chief Operating Officer for DCH). At the most recent meeting, the main topic of discussion was GERFT (Getting it right first time) and included figures for waiting times and performance. It is clear hospitals are struggling with staffing levels. At the meeting the following points were also discussed:

- There is still no VR consultant at Bournemouth due to long term sickness and inability to be able to find a locum. Recently a new ocular plastic surgeon has been appointed.

-The hub in the Dolphin Centre, Poole, continues to have accessibility issues (due to the lifts still being out of order). Dorset County want to use the other hospital sites and they are meant to be collating a list of equipment that is available at each site to be able to make a plan. In Blandford and Sherbourne specifically.

-Post-Op Cataracts – it was agreed that Optoms would carry out checks in the community through Chec but no meeting has yet to take place to cement the process.

Dorset County were planning to send cataract patients to Optegra but this was rejected at the last minute by Optegra so the patients were offered SpaMedica of which most of them refused due to distances for travel. Grace advised that SpaMedica will collect patients and bring them back and so this should be communicated with the patient. Suggestions at the meeting were that maybe they should move the staff rather than the patients. Grace gave an example of this already in place between Yeovil and Sherbourne. Currently, refractions are still being carried out at the hospital.

-Monitoring of Macular Degeneration – there was not a great appetite for patients to be monitored in the community as the hospital says they are meeting their targets and it would take too long to devise which patients would be suitable for this.

-The ICB have requested meeting about Flashers & Floaters because of all the issues. Owen will be meeting with Chec about this and how the service is or isn’t working. Jane reiterated that specific problems need to be complained about. Advice is for the patient to complain to Chec and the ICB.

- Medisight is going live on 9th October 2023 at DCH – This is at DCH (already at Bournemouth).

**POD Meeting** – Rob Payne (Chair) – This meeting was the last of its kind to take place as it will be expanded to include GPs too and will be called the Primary Care Oversight Group. Previously, there has been a lack of engagement with the LOC. Chris Quinton offered to attend on the LOC’s behalf.

The following topics appropriate to the LOC were as follows:

- ERS – (Electronic Referral System) there is no resource to support this currently. A practice in Somerset have been trialling an ERS and some feedback is due to be given

- Low Vision Service – Sally hoped to recruit two new practices in West and North Dorset for low vision services. The money has been ring fenced and the budget sits within elective care.

-Provision on ophthalmic services in all educational establishments for all young people with learning difficulties up to the age of 25. The plan is to have an established scheme up and running by April 2024 consisting of an Optom and DO working together. Once it is decided who the responsibility will sit with and the consultation process has been completed, the LOC can send out an expression of interest to the community.

More information can be found here: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/engagement-in-school-eye-testing-for-pupils-in-special-schools-in-england/>

- Figures were published expressing the total number of opticians in the ICB areas. A copy is available from Jane.

- A specialised service budget will be available for meeting population health needs so it should be possible to address services for the homeless, trouble with inaccessibility and equality and business support funding.

**Treasurers Report**

The current balance is £26,259.49. The biggest expense to the LOC is the fee paid to LOCSU. Ali proposed clarifying how the LOC spend the budget.

Historically, the Treasurer has been paid £500 honorarium. The Chair is paid a flat rate a month and any other meeting over and above that are paid at £50 per hour

**ACTION: Members will be paid £50 per hour for daytime meetings and other work. Committee members will be paid £40 per face-to-face LOC committee meetings and £20 per virtual committee meetings. The Chair will be paid honorarium 2 day per month to cover the time taken to attend meetings and responding to queries (£750 per month), plus expenses and any other face to face meetings that are attended. The Treasurer will be paid £300 flat rate honorarium per month. Mileage can also be claimed.**

**The levy will be reviewed with an intention to raise the level at the next AGM.**

**CHEC**

Alvaro Borges (LOCSU Lead) previously submitted a freedom of information request. This was never responded to.

Grace asked for statistics at each meeting she attend but never got any answers.

The information required from Chec is as follows:

1. How many participant practices are there per service?
2. What is the number of active locations taking part and what services do they are provide at each location?
3. How many clinics are at each location and on how many days?
4. How many clinics are cancelled or rescheduled due to lack of staff?
5. How many patients are being dilated?
6. What is their geographical area?

**ACTION:**

**Grace to send Jane a list of proposed questions to deliver to Chec alongside LOCSU.**

**Website/Social Media**

The website needs an overhaul. Carolyn has requested a login for the website from LOCSU. Once able to access the site, Carolyn will begin to update the current information.

**ACTION:**

**The committee members will send an updated ‘Bio’ for the ‘About us’ page.**

**Ali to take pictures for website at next face-to face meeting.**

**Grace to ask Sally, ICB, for all the information to check against the website**

**Ali to check all the phone numbers and email addresses for the hospitals.**

The committee discussed increasing a social media presence. Ali noted the need to monitor posts more stringently and review the group rules particularly following a sensitive post recently.

**ACTON:**

**Alix and Chris volunteered to continue monitoring of Facebook as admins and adding updates. Ashton will help to moderate new requests to join. All three members to create a sub-committee for moving forwards.**

Ali suggested sending a regular email to update the community. This was agreed. The committee discussed a move to using Mail Chimp. Carolyn will keep the committee updated with how the transition goes with another committee. Jane agreed to use her practice address to register a potential mailchimp account whilst she sits on the committee.

Ali queried the use of his own home address whilst sending out PAYE. Alvaro suggested using a PO box or virtual office address

**Education**

Grace made a suggestion to use a very successful education day run by ABDO and to aim to deliver it in spring 2024. The day is already fully accredited, is a face-to-face event and could be done injunction with the LOC and would give the LOC access to more DOs. It is worth approximately 12 CPD points. Grace suggested finding a venue and using sponsors. Ali questioned whether using sponsors would appear biased. This would be remedied by using other suppliers/sponsors at other events. Grace will see if a nominal fee would need to be applied. The event would be named ‘Dorset Education Day’.

A discussion then followed concerning the LOC becoming a registered GOC provider to enable the LOC to run their own events. This is at a cost of £45 a year. The committee decided unanimously to renew this membership

**ACTION:**

**Grace to report back with specific details for a final agreement to go ahead.**

**Ali to renew the GOC CPD Provider fee of £45 per year**

**Sub-Committees**

The committee discussed the possibility of specific sub-committees such as low vision, paediatric and social media.

It was decided that the committee will start with the social media sub-committee and build up according to the needs during the year.

**Meetings for the year commencing**

The committee decided to keep costs lower by meeting half the time virtually and the other half face-to-face.

The location of face-to-face meetings was discussed and several suggestions were made such as SpaMedica, Poole, various church halls, pubs and a practice in Wimborne or elsewhere to rotate. Merley House was a good venue but expensive so this needs to be explored. Wimborne was consistently a central point for everyone.

**The following dates were set provisionally:**

**Wednesday January 17th 2024 – Virtual**

**Wednesday April 10th 2024 – Virtual**

**AGM – Wednesday May 8th 2024 – Face-to-Face**

**(Ali discussed using Andy Turnball for a CPD event – all agreed)**

**Tuesday July 2nd 2024 – Face-to-Face**

**Wednesday October 2nd 2024 - Virtual**

**ACTION: Ali to consult with Zabir (Wessex Optical) on use of his practice space for a meeting.**

**Ali to approach Andy Turnball to provide a CPD event for the AGM**

**AOB**

Jane discussed patients buying their own eye drops which has been the case for a long time now. During telemed, there are a lot of patients that cannot afford to buy their own prescriptions so they write to the GP and ask them to prescribe. Ali suggested speaking about this at the next POD and GP group.

This topic will be discussed further at the next meeting after more input.

Suzanne has booked a place on the NOC as the complimentary new member LOCSU offer. Peter Beverley-Smith will be attending also as an optometric advisor for the usual free LOCSU place and Jane will attend in a free space following her previous work with LOCSU.