

***Minutes for the Dudley LOC Committee Meeting held at 6.30p.m. on Tuesday 14th March 2023***

**Held as a Zoom Meeting**

**Committee in Attendance**

Shamina Asif (Chair) Paul Sidhu (Secretary), Mark Tuffin (Treasurer), Charles Barlow, Shazad Mahmood, Ameerah Riaz Ahmed, Qadar Baz, Kay Reeves, Rosie Birha, Nicky Ferguson, Sonia Tyrell, Sunit Jolly, Gurdeep Dosanjh, David Wright

There was a presentation at the beginning of the meeting from David Cartwright (Optometrist) about Eye Health Awareness Week and the Central Optical Fund followed by a Question & Answer session.

**1. Apologies**

Sheena Mangat, Hussnan Ejaz, Amir Afzal

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no changes to Declarations of Interest.

**3. Minutes of the previous Meeting**

The minutes were proposed by SA and seconded by KR as a correct record of the meeting.

**4. Matters arising**

NF to draft a request for optometrist wishing to apply for the work bank at Russells Hall, PS will then distribute.

ACTION: NF/PS

**5. Correspondence**

PS has distributed LOCSU updates and wanted to remind the Committee that these are confidential.

**6. Primary Eyecare Company Update**

**6.1 Cues Update**

Covered in CB’s Report included later in the minutes

**7. NHS Updates**

PS circulated the PPV email. CB updated the Committee on the latest with regard to levy payments relating to domiciliary providers.

**8. Chair's Business**

**8.1 Extended Primary Care Services**

**Shamina’ Report**

Development of bank Optometrists RHH

1. Claire has been in touch with SA regarding the recruitment of bank Optometrists for RHH. She had requested the email addresses of the Optometrists that work in paediatric care, CL’S and corneal clinics, which SA has given from Manor Hospital. SA asked NF if they had to be HES Optoms or whether they could be community Optometrists, NF said anyone. After discussion it was decided that an email would be sent out to all on our list asking for expressions of interest to give others an opportunity to apply.
2. PCN meeting update. Sheena had kindly arranged a meeting with the PCN lead in Dudley, she has written a presentation but unfortunately couldn’t attend. It was on the 15th March, and CB and SA asked if anyone would like to present but did realise it was short notice. CB to present.
3. Ophthalmology black country update: meeting unfortunately got rescheduled again to the 4th April 2023.
4. Dr. Ananta Dave the Chief Medical officer came to Moores Opticians and so did John Barry watching sight tests and seeing a variety of patients. SA explained how there was no additional payment for cyclo, and dilation, how CUES operated and HLOP. She will be sharing this at her meetings and this was also advertised in OT. John Barry enquired about electronic test charts. The visit was overall positive!
5. Ophthalmology away day 15/02/2023 attended by Nizz Sabir, CB and SA. CB and NS did a presentation on Optometry First and workforce development and we also had great discussions around URC, medical retina and glaucoma. Key points – going forward there will be payment by results, so maybe more subcontracting for us. URC were discussing inappropriate referrals and how if the px is out of area this is automatically being rejected. There were also issues around FnF being sent to BMEC and New Cross and not RHH as they do not have a VR consultant and the same applies to macula holes and epiretinal membranes. CB suggested that we need something officially from RHH before we send an email out. NF to confirm.
6. As a result of the ophthalmology meeting – we have managed to arrange a meeting with Jack to see if we can subcontract out post cat assessments. 29th March 2023.
7. Workforce development – CB to update but looking at paediatric workshop and FB workshop
8. Eers meeting – CB to update
9. ICB meeting – no real action as of yet a lot of discussions around high volume low complex cases.
10. Cannock open day hub – this is an extension of Wolvs cat unit, can refer px’s from Dudley to here. In terms of payments for post cat assessments – WS is having a discussion around this with Nicky contracts manager.
11. HLOP meeting cancelled – waiting for Wendy to reschedule.

SA asked if any Committee members were available to give an LOC presentation (prepared by Sheena Mangat) at an online PCN meeting tomorrow at 2.30pm. CB is able to attend. Contact SA if interested.

**9. Charles Barlow**

**9.1 EeRS update – see below**

**9.2 HWMROC (including Confederation) – see below**

CB Report to Dudley LOC 14th March 2023

**6. PES update**

PES have appointed Richard Everitt as a Service Development Director. Richard joins from NHS England where he was the Senior programme Lead for Optometry. The role is to support the ongoing development of current PES services and working with colleagues and stakeholders to support the commissioning of new services. The community triage service is proving very successful and being adopted in an increasing number of areas and the Optometry First pilot results from Bassetlaw are being published shortly and will show how successful community services are at reducing demand and waiting lists in secondary care.

**6.1 CUES Contract Report**

Contract meetings have taken place between the contract mangers at the ICB and Primary Eyecare Services (PES). The ICB is still waiting for a commissioner to come into post before new services can commence. They may change the C from Covid to Community. There has been an increase in CUES activity – this affects the ICB budgets. CUES subcontractor performance remains excellent. The ICB have agreed to roll the contract over for another year to 23/24. Recently new managers have agreed to look into new region wide contracts with PES for Cataract Post Op and Glaucoma Enhanced Referrals.

**8.2 Black Country ICS Ophthalmology Clinical Network Group**

Consultant John Barry is leading the workstream. Project initiation documents have now been developed with feedback from the LOCs which include:

• Role out of Cataract Post OP across the whole region   
• Cataract High Volume Low Complexity pathways – setting up of new hubs in Dudley and Cannock. Discussions with PES around a post op service just from RHH have advanced.   
• Glaucoma – GERS roll out across the ICB and trialling stable glaucoma management in the community   
• Medical Retina – Hubs and services that can use community OCTs The Network has only just started to engage with ICB commissioners, which is why progress is so slow. Discussions with individual Trusts have also taken place about the potential to have a local contract to carry out work on their behalf.   
  
**Russells Hall Eye Department presentation**

CB & Nizz Sabir (LOCSU lead) presented at the Russells Hall Opthalmology day on a them of shared care

**Midlands LOC Regional Forum**

Next Meeting 21st March – meeting delayed due to timeslots being taken up by EeRS discussions.

**9.1 EeRS**

The Midlands EeRS procurement award has gone to Monmedical the providers of the Cinapsis platform. Their only other site is Cambridgeshire and CB has reached out to the lOC for feedback.

The demo to the system can be found at: https://vimeo.com/cinapsis/eersmidlands The password to enter is: Cinapsis\_Demo\_Feb23

The Midlands implementation timeline is:   
Pilot one will Go live June 2023,   
Pilot two will go live July 2023   
Pilot three will go live August 2023.

A decision whether to proceed across the whole region will be made in August 2023 dependant on pilot success. If the region proceeds, early adopters will roll out fully in December 2023, second stage adopters (this includes the Black Country) will go live in January 2024.

Work is ongoing with digital requirements for the Trusts and the Black Country ICB has provided some digital funding to support this and this is being worked on next.

NHSE has met with LOCs recently and have offered funding to LOCs to support the role out across each ICS.

Dudley LOC have accepted the funding on behalf of the Black Country. The funding amounts to £91,000 across the Black Country to support 160 practices.

LOCs are expected to provide support to include:   
• virtual and face to face engagement and support events with optical practices to focus on increasing the uptake and support for EeRS Service roll out with optometry practices   
• support the implementation of the EeRS across the ICB   
• support working with ICB colleagues to increase the use of referrals via EeRS;   
• enhance the optical practice and optometrist skills and confidence to refer via EeRS;   
• Support optometry practices to complete the Information Governance (IG) requirements including the DSPT toolkit;   
• Support optometry practices to complete any other associated mandatory training requirements for EeRS   
• ensure the optometry practices complete any check lists and mandatory returns (if required) for Clinical Safety;   
• Promote the sign up to nhs.net and e-GOS The full document can be found at Appendix 2. I propose a region wide LOC meeting to discuss achieving this in the next two months once more is known about the Cinapsis platform.

**9.2 HWMROC (including confederation)**

There has been no meeting since the last LOC meeting the next meeting is this Thursday is anyone would like to attend.

**12. Birmingham, Black Country & Solihull Workforce Development Project**

The total funds allocated for grants so far is £25,200, subject to everybody completing their course.

The workforce committee have also made significant progress with securing placements for IPs in 2023 and going forwards.

Further grants will be made in the new year for other courses starting in 2023.

PEER Discussions – the first two have taken place further are to follow shortly.

Planned for the future are: Workshops, for Paediatrics, FBs, Low vision (inc D.O.s) and dry eye.

Training events for GAT (Inc D.O.s) Volk and Binocular Vision Co-learning events Courses for CLOs to pay for additional courses to qualify for CUES are under consideration.

Our application for a further £50,000 of NHS HEE funds for the BBCS region was successful.

**16 AOB. Midlands Eyecare Transformation Network Meeting**

2nd February

Excellent session including a presentation on Managed Clinical Networks for Glaucoma and Medical retina in Staffordshire. The MCNs comprised of Optometry and Consultant Leads and wider members, that had access to educational events, hospital sessions, peer support and funding for higher qualifications. An excellent idea for us locally and we should ensure recipients of funding grants help us with this.

**10. Hospital Liaison Business**

As the Committee is aware, there is now some money available for recruitment for Bank Optometrist.

NF commented on the amount of referrals into the hospital Paediatric Clinic that are unnecessary as they may have been better referred to a more competent/experienced Optometric colleague. PS informed the Committee that the AOP have issued some new guidance on this issue but he has not had chance to read and report back on it fully as yet.

**11. Secretary’s Business**

11.1 **AGM** - A date for the AGM was discussed and it was arranged for 20th June. RB to source a speaker and CPD for the event. Topics suggested were Referral and Record Keeping.

ACTION: RB

11.2 **LOC Needs Analysis –** CB suggested that PS puts this into the Business Plan for the forthcoming year. PS to ask Nizz for the template to get the ball rolling and distribute.

ACTION: PS

**12. CPD Officer's Business**

RB requested some Committee feedback on arranging a day where there would be a talk in the morning with practical workshops in the afternoon. Topics under consideration are:

Paediatric Refraction

Myopia Management

Dry Eye Assessment

RB has two confirmed speakers and two confirmed sponsors for the CET day – date to be confirmed.

**13. Treasurer’s Business**

MT reported an approximate balance of £32K. CB has invoiced other LOCs for some of the Workforce Development meeting costs most of which has been received. February and March contribution to LOCSU still outstanding.

13.1 **PAYE –** MT has completed a form from LOCSU asking how Committee members are paid and expressed an interest on behalf of Dudley LOC that we would be interested in using the LOCSU PAYE services.

13.2 **NOC Payments** – A query was raised about how much we pay our delegates for attending – MT did reply to PS confirming that we pay £400 per day.

CB suggested that the Committee has an annual agenda item to discuss /review expenses and fees paid, possibly the first meeting after the AGM. PS to add to agenda.

ACTION: PS

PS suggested that any payment due in the new tax year commencing 6th April 2023 are held back until we have confirmation on the PAYE system being introduced. The committee agreed to this.

**14. Authorisation to act and email conversations**

The motion from previous meetings was put to the committee (*the committee give continued permission and authority for officers to deal with and make decisions on matters that arise that need urgent attention. When this occurs, wherever possible a discussion by email with the Committee should take place before a decision is made. Whenever possible and reasonable officers should bring all matters that require decisions to the next committee meeting, and decisions will only be made outside meetings where waiting is not a realistic option.)*

Agreed unanimously

**15. Authorisation to act on ROC**

The motion from previous meetings was put to the committee (*The committee to agree to Charles Barlow and Paul Sidhu continuing to represent the LOC at HWMROC, with permission for them to use their judgement when deciding if individual decisions made there amount to minor decisions or major decisions. For decisions they consider minor they are authorised to act on the LOCs behalf. For all decisions they consider major they must seek to have those ratified by the LOC, and they must make this clear to the ROC.)*

Agreed unanimously

**16. A.O.B.**

**Workforce Development Project** – CB reported that £25K has been paid out in grants and further applications are expected for the next round over the course of the next 6 weeks. Also considerable progress has been made in obtaining IP placements. Workshops and training events are also planned.

MT attended the last Workforce Development meeting where support for DO’s was also discussed.

CB reported that instead of the original £50K that was applied for £150K has been granted in total over 3 years.

SA is organising a charity CPD event on 26th March via Optom Academy with a £5 donation. One CPD point available for both OO and DO. It was agreed to promote this via social media.

Gurdeep drew the committee’s attention to the fact that the levy had not been decreased for several years, and with funding for workforce development there may be an opportunity to reduce the levy. It was agreed that this will be discussed either at the AGM or the meeting after.

**17. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 23rd May 2023 – 6.30pm via Zoom. The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

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| Action | Action by |
| NF to draft a request for optometrist wishing to apply for the work bank at Russells Hall, PS will then distribute. | NF/PS |
| RB to source a speaker and CPD for the AGM | RB |
| PS to get approach Nizz for help getting the LOC needs analysis started | PS |
| PS to include a standing agenda item at the first meeting after the AGM to discuss LOC renumeration | PS |