**Heart of West Midlands Regional Optical Committee 13/01/2022**

Present

Peter Bainbridge (PB) Chair/Sandwell

Charles Barlow (CB) Dudley/Solihull

Debbie Graham (DG) Birmingham LOC

Ian Hadfield (IH) Birmingham LOC

Peter Hampson (PH) Sandwell

Aisha Jeewa (AJ) Walsall

Spencer Parkes (SP) Solihull

Richard Rawlinson (RR) LOCSU

Peter Rockett (PR) Wolverhampton

Louise Sarjeant (LS) Sandwell/Minutes

Wasim Sarwar (WS) PES Clinical Lead

Paul Sidhu (PS) Dudley

Divya Sudera (DS) Sandwell/CET Officer

Joanne Tutt (JT) Walsall/CET Officer

**Apologies –** Sam Hague, Dan Sanders

**Conflicts of Interest** – DG no longer have a role with PES, attending as BLOC. PH now a LOCSU board member. RR no longer interim, now Operations Director for PES. WS now Clinical Lead for PES.

**Minutes of last meeting –** DG noticed a typo “taking” should be “talking”.

**Matters arising** – nil

**Primary Eyecare Services**

CB thanks to DG and SM for their work as CGPLs. WS comms about PES restructuring and lists people in charge, may have gone to performers not LOCs, RR should have gone to both. WS my role is now more clinical, contract and service element now done by dedicated contracts manager and new data analyst.

WS Wolverhampton have restarted post-op cataract scheme. BMEC post op cataract back on the agenda. SM & PR did a lot of work for Wolverhampton, so framework exists, hopefully end of Feb/Mar. DS any accreditation events? WS only need refresher talk not further accreditation. Aim to get GERS rolled out. DG important to include LOCs in talks. RR all conversations with regard to contracts, LOC, clinical lead and LOCSU must be informed.

PH post cataract is core competency so no need for training. Concerned with post op cataract scheme given the new workforce matrix published on outpatient transformation eye health hub. Also recommended changes from the College and Royal College saying routine post op cataract follow up not needed, will this derail the scheme?

PB emailed College about the document, they said only 3-7% patients need a medical follow up as opposed to a patient initiated follow up. Are these known prior to op? PH details not forthcoming from Royal College. PB if we don’t know who the patients are, then post op important. PH priority for outpatient transformation to monitor metric of patients being discharged. Need to be aware of risk of decommissioning services. CB metric is possibly follow up by hospital. If scheme is outside of hospital setting then may not count. PH depends how it’s commissioned. NHS cataract tariffs out for consultation, unclear if post op follow up has been unbundled.

AJ do you have to do post op cataract training for each hospital? PH not necessary in first place, so one should suffice. WS tried to oppose accreditation event, only WOPEC accreditation necessary. No mention of decommissioning of post op cataract. DS risk of missing CMOs as patients unsure of symptoms.

PH they would keep complex patients in hospital. CB if patient leaves hospital with/without seeing us, needs to be a mechanism for dealing with complications if present and referring patient back into secondary care.

PB Ian Humphrey’s letter suggests new services, 1) £5 to send refraction results, 2) NHS to pay for sight tests of private patients. PH those are recommendations from the paper, not new services.

AJ when will Opera be updated to bypass telemedicine? WS soon.

SP session last week about service changes, was it recorded? WS no, just a Q&A.

CB (from Shamina) can you see past episodes on Opera? WS no.

AJ is Spa Medica post-op on Opera? WS yes, but only if sent in via Opera pre-op.

**EeRS**

CB primary care group disbanded, so now only receive same info as everyone else via emails from NHS England.

SP meeting this week. Want a clinical safety officer who will take responsibility for optometry. IH they think each LOC should have a clinical safety officer. Just need a secure confidential referral system through a safe NHS route. Need a permanent long term solution, not two years of funding. PH Midlands scheme sits outside of funding. It may be that EeRS is not the long term solution but rather ERS (choose and book) replacement may be the future.

**Local workforce development**

PB still chasing money. They will resubmit our bid. DS could we not be successful this time? PB they suggested it was a formality rather than it being re-judged. CB framework has come out. PH DOs due to be added. CB consider using WFD to work on other skills outside core competency eg vaccinations.

**Confederation**

CB feedback last time concerning finance and levy, tidied up – all agree. PB can take this document to LOCs to vote on.

**Midlands GOS Stakeholder Forum**

No meeting

**Midlands Eyecare Transformation Network**

CB push for bilateral cataract ops. Priorities this year are integrating services and glaucoma pathways. They like hubs, but priority is to work with us. Presentation from East Midlands on injection clinics in GP surgeries, not enough staff currently.

SP attended provider meeting and most trusts didn’t want to do bilateral cataract ops, private providers more keen.

**LEHN**

CB thought went to LEHN meeting, but actually pharmacy, optometry and dentistry professional network meeting. ICSs expecting a delegation agreement between them and NHS England to clarify points about managing contracts. PH not sure if official yet, delegation of powers, not devolution of funding. CB clarifies who is responsible for maintaining the registrant lists and contract management, if GOS could be managed at a regional level rather than ICB level, where the local representative committees fit in and where LEHN sits. There are clinical leaders for pharmacy and dentistry and can expect regional optometry leads. RR some regions have started recruiting these roles. CB need to ensure job applications are shared across the profession.

(CB no LEHN news)

**AOB**

DG email received about covid 19 staff absence tracker, to include optometry. Should report absences and ability to deliver services. PH can’t mandate it.

DG changes to PPE regulations, from 2nd April it’s the responsibility of employers to provide PPE to staff and people attending premises on behalf of employer. RR PPE access extended to 2023. HSE puts burden on practice to make sure everyone safe. If NHS funded PPE, not an issue.

SP PES/payments seem to have frozen again. WS issue with BSol. July- Nov invoices submitted today, problem should be being resolved. PR we were paid for April/May this week, so likely many outstanding. SP timescale for future payments? WS will be more regular.

PR post op cataract went live yesterday, disappointing turnout for evening event. Concern about how to ensure people watch the training video. Consider how to resolve.

AJ can Walsall optoms do Wolverhampton post-op cataract? WS for New Cross only Wolverhampton CCG GPs eligible for post-op cataract. AJ difficult as lots of Walsall patients get referred to New Cross with Walsall GP. WS hospital will only discharge patients if the scheme is applicable, eg Wolverhampton CCG GP. PR hopefully the scheme will seed to other areas. CB Dudley keen to do the same.

CB PR received email regarding primary care group with GPs across the country. Formalising the alliance. Intention to invite dentists and pharmacists to the primary care collaborative. Not seen terms of reference.

SP emergency meeting before Christmas about BMEC deflecting CUES patients back out? WS no response from BMEC.

CB met with consultant from Russells Hall who is leading ophthalmology across the Black Country, given terms of reference which aren’t suitable (very ophthalmology oriented), but hopefully this will be an eye care working group for the Black Country.

CB Dudley LOC meeting on Monday, we’re having our joint CET event with Sandwell in Autumn.

AJ BMEC lost patient data. WS IT incident, system back up was running but chances of 100% data recovery are slim.

WS Opera telemedicine, no formal bypass yet. DG I use telemedicine for symptoms and then core assessment for examination.

CB ICS launch put back from 1st April to 1st July.

**Date of Next Meeting – 6:30pm on Thursday 12th May 2022** (hosted by Walsall unless virtual)

**Action Points**

CB to finalise confederation document and send out.