**Heart of West Midlands Regional Optical Committee 16/03/2023**

Present

Charles Barlow (CB) Dudley/Solihull LOC

Debbie Graham (DG) Birmingham LOC

Ian Hadfield (IH) Birmingham LOC

Sam Hague (SH) Wolverhampton LOC

Peter Hampson (PH) Sandwell LOC

Aisha Jeewa (AJ) Walsall LOC

Spencer Parkes (SP) Solihull LOC

Peter Rockett (PR) Wolverhampton LOC

Nizz Sabir (NS) LOCSU

Louise Sarjeant (LS) Sandwell LOC/Minutes

Paul Sidhu (PS) Dudley LOC

Divya Sudera (DS) Sandwell LOC/CPD Officer

**Apologies –** Dan Spencer, Wasim Sarwar, Joanne Tutt.

Peter Bainbridge sends his apologies, he will no longer be attending having stepped down as chair of Sandwell LOC, and would like to extend his thanks and best wishes to the committee.

**Conflicts of Interest** – no changes

**Minutes of the previous meeting** – approved

**Matters arising** – nil

**Diabetic Retinopathy Screening**

PH letter not sent out as content not confirmed. AJ patients having difficulty rearranging appointments. DG main issues patients being encouraged to have STs with screening. Send email to contractors/performers and IHI to remind subcontractors of their responsibilities and duties. IH complained about action by screener via public health and IHI took it very seriously and put training in place.

**EeRS**

CB application for funding submitted on behalf of region, invoice sent and acknowledged. Early adopters trialling June-August, if successful Black Country likely to be Dec-Jan. Email today sent out today, wanting to send information to all optometrists. Will discuss next week at LOC forum next week prior to circulating. PH currently directing people to full DSPT toolkit rather than QiO version, which is easier. NHS email addresses not straightforward to acquire. If NHSmail due to be back up, need another option for if EeRS goes down.

CB drawn up implementation plan, with LOCSU input can create framework for support for grant. Do we need a specific EeRS meeting to discuss communicating with colleagues? NS due NHS collaboration meeting for LOC representatives. May be best to wait for pilots. PR need to find most effective way to implement budget. NS money for practice level support, support staff etc so may need more than expected. CB may use LOC officers or contractors. AJ any advanced preparation? NS practices may “buddy-up”, could map practices that haven’t got infrastructure, need to agree tariff beforehand.

CB asked for list of practices from NHS. DG need to make sure regularly updated. NS also private practices? PH what is the remit for LOCs to help private practices given funding? CB asked on MOU.

CB will schedule EeRS meeting via email as necessary.

SP should we standardise the LOC fees across the region so equitable across the region? NS could create spreadsheet of fees across the region.

**Local workforce development**

CB sent out emails on spending. Several haven’t claimed grants yet, one deferred, one changed course. Next week will circulate draft of next offer to go out. Spoken to Coventry to confirm reserved places, and have some available soon.

AJ do they need to have hospital placement letter before getting on the course? CB Aston have said they accepted students if from our cohort, so want to know placement is in place.

**HWMOC Confederation**

CB all LOCs ratified. Need to open not-for-profit bank account. Confirmed name as HOWM Confederation. Need a finance officer.

**Primary Eyecare Services** (report from WS)

Bsol

* ICB looking at proposal to increase pre-op cataract fee from £19 to £30.
* ICB planning some practice visits for CUES/EOS (not GOS). Scheduled for 26th April, Wasim will be there and has notified LOC chairs. Not known which practices yet, LOC and ROC welcome to provide suggestions, likely a few in Solihull and around Birmingham.

Black Country

* Raised issue with ICB about delayed wet AMD referrals, (so on behalf of LOCs, but PES applicable). Daniel from ICB said BMEC have confirmed with their quality team that there are current staffing issues causing delays to service provision. They have provided reassurances that the waiting times can be managed and the quality team are monitoring this, and we will get updates with any key information.
* ICB looking to increase Walsall post-op cat fee to £43 in line with everywhere else.
* RHH looking at an SLA so they can run post-op cataract themselves
* Not heard from RWT about extending their contract to Walsall CCG patients yet
* There is a BC ophthalmology meeting today, others may have updates from that.

IH practice visit dates actually 24th March – same day as glaucoma forum.

PR at meeting today commissioner expressed intention to roll out post op cataract and GERS across area, talk about community glaucoma care.

CB attending contract meeting with BC commissioner, talked about extending PES contract to 2024.

**Midlands Eyecare Transformation Network**

CB little to report, presentation by CR on managed clinical networks, trying to get published.

**LEHN**

NS recruited some LEHN chairs for other areas, may use locally, if not will recruit. PH important to have local representation. NS meeting next week, could write a letter to Rebecca Woods from forum/HWMOC.

**AOB**

NS email from Aston Uni about providing enhanced services in area and also any live dry eye pathways locally? DG Aston only available for certain weeks of the year, so can’t provide urgent service. CB could speak to IH about local knowledge.

SP should we develop local dry eye pathway. NS LOCSU have dry eye pathway, but biggest issue is glaucoma. PH supervisor has to be in the room at the same time for CUES. PS difficult to get funding for dry eye patients. DG in Birmingham sodium hyaluronate drops have to be initiated by consultants for repeat prescriptions.

**Date of Next Meeting –** 6:30pm on Thursday 22nd June 2023

**Action Points**

PH – DRS letter to practices

CB – Ask Treasurer’s to share LOC fees across the region.