**Heart of West Midlands Regional Optical Committee 25/04/2024**

Present

Charles Barlow (CB) Dudley LOC

Debbie Graham (DG) Birmingham LOC

Ian Hadfield (IH) Birmingham LOC

Peter Hampson (PH) Sandwell LOC

Aisha Jeewa (AJ) Walsall LOC

Sofia Fazal (SF) Wolverhampton LOC

Spencer Parkes (SP) Solihull LOC

Peter Rockett (PR) Wolverhampton LOC

Louise Sarjeant (LS) Sandwell LOC/Minutes

Wasim Sarwar (WS) PES Clinical Lead

Paul Sidhu (PS) Dudley LOC

Divya Sudera (DS) Sandwell LOC

**Presentation from Waheed Illahi – Head of Optometry Services at BMEC**

Aim to promote optometry in a secondary care setting, have optoms doing core optometry including refractions for complex corneas, but also in advanced CL clinics, eye casualty, medical retina, VR, uveitis and going out to special schools.

Seeing more complex glaucoma cases has enhanced the role of optometry and reduced waiting times.

Hospital optometrists interact with each other at the hospital optometrists conference. There is a Midlands optometry hospital group which is supportive, and discusses challenges and situations. There are limited connections with local hospitals.

Discussed what interactions we want from each other. Suggestions including value of seeing how primary and secondary care optometry differ in a friendly setting, possibly via an IP forum initially.

May be able to organise IP placements, not until October at the earliest.

**Outcomes**

Top aims – IP placements, friendly engagement/dialogue, peer reviews/IP peer reviews

Invite WI to future HWMOC meetings/WFD meetings.

**Apologies –** Joanne Tutt, Dan Spencer

**Conflicts of Interest** – no changes

**Minutes of the previous meeting** – approved.

**Matters arising**

Review sending DRS survey to practices – discussed, will send out updated version.

CB to speak to AB about getting DRS data – no data available

CB to investigate admin support - completed

CB/IH to forward cataract contract to AOP – problem resolved

**EeRS**

IH BSol launched wave 1 two weeks ago, review next week, no apparent problems, 14 practices live. Wave 2 will launch another 46 practices next week, then everyone else after that. Currently Health Harmony only, and only routine. All other pathways are the same as before. SP difficulties with UHB sites due to IT issues.

CB Walsall Manor live, Wolverhampton 8th May, BMEC/Sandwell 21st May. Some delays with RHH and Walsall. Hopefully 11th June cross border place referrals in place.

CB hard to reach practices, send post, will then have to knock on doors. Will need to share comms across region. Hoping for a CPD event in BC.

CB Cinapsis have pop-up re diabetic referral, to see if referral already in place. PS phoned the number and it wasn’t helpful. IH not agreed upon.

**Local Workforce Development**

DS proposal from SF re OCT workshop. FB workshop @ Optegra, discussed charges.

CB thanks to PS for creating a CPD page on regional page and the portal for WFD applications is permanently on there. Action – can LOCs link to that page.

DS forming an IP group, can add Waheeda? WS writing IP peer review for PES.

**Confederation**

Consider confederation following LOCSU guidance publication.

**Primary Eyecare Services**

WS advice to delay ISP cataract ops sidelined. SP not received official correspondence, will email them.

WS post-op cataract in RHH launch mid-May. Post op cataract launch event 15th May. RHH created a cataract video for patients. Received approval for CUES video. More practice visits in Wolverhampton and Walsall.

Aiming to get more LOC engagement to talk about local issues.

GERS – Slow in BSol. Black Country talking about spec, not imminent. Walsall post-op cat still waiting. PES CPD in 4 weeks about post-op cat services. Not clinical, more service delivery. CUES peer review in Wolverhampton 22nd May.

CB new commissioner in Black Country important they understand local needs.

WS Opera updates due.

**LEHN**

DS no progress.

**AOB**

AJ good local engagement with EeRS. AGM at Bescot Stadium. Asked by Local Health and Wellbeing officer to promote CUES.

CB - National LOC forum discussing PPV. Share if any issues.

CB BMEC forum – only optom present. Will suggest we get primary care representation on working groups.

**Date of Next Meeting –** 6:30pm on Thursday 12th September 2024

**Action Points**

CB to update DRS survey to send to practices.

CB to follow up on DRS failsafe phone number

Wishlist for WI

AJ, DS, WS – as region’s IP optoms to chat with WI to form friendly group.

LOCs to link to regional CPD page.