

Dear Colleagues

So, another year passes and I wanted to update you on what the LOC has been involved with in 2018.

We met four times during 2018 including the AGM, which some of you attended. It was great to see more new faces there.

As far as Hertfordshire CCGs go:

In East and North Herts, CHEC is still running a glaucoma repeat readings service. This uses local optometrists to repeat IOP measurements and fields before referral into hospital. It appears that the uptake from optometry practices has been slow, and there is some drop off in some areas so the service is still very small. There was talk to extend it at some point but this appears to be on hold. Please email us if you are working in this area and would like to be included.

Herts Valley CCG has just also commissioned CHEC for an ophthalmology service which includes a referral triage step. They are requesting that all ophthalmology referrals (except urgent and 2WW) now go through CHEC instead of the GP. There is also an opportunity to provide some MECS services and glaucoma referral refinement through CHEC. If you practice in this area and are not signed up for the portal or other services, please email us.

I was recently at a meeting run by the STP group (Sustainability and Transformation Plans), which puts both Hertfordshire CCGs and West Essex CCG together and this group should ultimately control the commissioning of extended services. It is not clear when this will start to happen but they are already talking about Optometrists taking over services in the area. Being teamed with Essex is ideal as they already have some services up and running (MECS, GRR etc) and are able to prove the success of these schemes locally.

We are still getting reports that our local hospitals are struggling with their A&E provision and also hearing that Moorfields are getting too many referrals from us. Please refer locally first (if the department is open) to prevent these patients being refused access at Moorfields and sent back. Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow is very short of ophthalmology cover at present so may send patients to other units.

The direct cataract referral pathway into Moorfields@Potters Bar is still running well and accredited Optometrists close to the Luton and Dunstable hospital, Moorfields@Bedford and Addenbrookes can also directly refer their cataract patients into their clinic if set up. Please make sure you attend the annual re-accreditation meetings as this is a good chance for us to hear how we are doing and to put forward any suggestions to improve the service and obviously to keep your accreditation.

Our CET evenings continue to be very popular and well attended. We have now secured a larger room to allow for the increased numbers wishing to attend. Our next event is on Monday 4th March and the flyer will come out soon with details. If you think of any topics you would like covered, please contact us. We are always looking for speakers and sponsors, so again, if you have any ideas, please let us know.

This year, it appears the issues with Capita and payments are mostly resolved. If you are still experiencing problems, please let us know.

We are now allowing for a third of the LOC seats to be up for election each year. Please see the email with this report and fill in the form if you wish to stand for election. If you would prefer not to stand, please still come and support us at the AGM.

I am pleased to report that no complaints were received by NHS England for this area during the year. On the reverse of this letter you will find the financial statement of the LOC.

The AGM will be at 8.00pm on Monday 25th March 2019. All Hertfordshire contractors and performers are entitled to attend and vote on resolutions.

Best wishes

Wendy d'E Vallancey

Any queries/ questions about this newsletter or any LOC matters please email on hertsloc@gmail.com

Please also see our website www.loc-net.org.uk/hertfordshire