LOC Minutes 12/12/2024

In attendance

Divya Sudera (Chair) DS

Peter Hampson (Secretary) PH

Louise Sarjeant (Treasurer/Vice Chair) LS

Wasim Sarwar (CPD Officer) WS

Inderpal Bansal IB Jaspinderpal Bansal JB

Apologies – Anisha Chowlia, David Wright

Chair’s Business – DS

At the regional NOC we reviewed a small segment of the new model LOC constitution and provided substantial feedback. We fed back that more time should have been allocated to this. Most discussions we had were similar to the regional committee topics. The next NOC will be held 18th-19th May.

Attended the Black Country Provider Collaborative meeting with WS and Shamina Asif. The Black Country is identified as one of the most deprived areas, both economically and electronically. They are looking at a holistic approach to healthcare rather than just specialties. Key health issues being targeted: asthma, diabetes, depression, hypertension, and obesity.

The Primary Care Collaborative are recruiting for a transformation team in line with the new NHS ten-year plan. Charles and DS to attend. Need to determine our roles and take the right messages. Will coordinate with others prior to attendance.

Secretary’s Business – PH

Government will work within existing NHS structures, no mass reorganisation planned. No additional funds available. There is a reluctance to move services from secondary to primary care. Ideally services nationally commissioned, but with ICBs unlikely. Labour has proposed three key areas: primary to community care, analogue to digital transformation, and sickness prevention. Stressed importance of optometry in early disease detection, particularly for conditions like glaucoma, which often go undiagnosed until advanced stages without regular sight tests.

Recent reports suggest DRS is rolling out OCT. Missed opportunity to use OCT network in optometry practices.

EeRS - PH

Business as usual, BMEC still deflecting cases. The NHS transformation team is looking at doing discovery work in the region, focussing on discharge reports and what information is required/useful – eg diagnosis, management, need for re-referral. IB courtesy to copy optoms into GP reports.

Local Workforce Development – WS

New Medica cancelled recent event due to a lack of patients and staff shortages. Will look to reschedule in the spring. Due WFD meeting in January. LS received all up-to-date payments for the region now. May need to look at increasing funding for courses or upscaling CPD events.

Primary Eyecare Services -WS

BMEC love Cinapsis, want all referrals via that pathway rather than Opera as easier to triage. Explained a different service/platform. Looking at integration options, main aim is to avoid administrative burden.

Due to have 111 referrals triaged by a telemedicine hub next year. Communications will be sent out shortly. New cataract module due, there will be a CPD event on Wednesday evening. It incorporates the cataract questionnaire, with shared decision making and patient choice a priority.

Discussions about SPOA in the region. Meeting next week with LOC Chairs and LOCSU. PH if SPOAs happen, should serve only as a contact point for referrals only and should be transparent. They should not perform any decision making.

CPD Officer – WS

CPD event in 2025 at WBA again pending final confirmation. The event will have a later start and earlier finish, as previous events.

AGM 20th Feb 2025. Can to peer review, will offer to New Medica first.

Treasurers Business – LS

Reserves holding steady.

AOB

Nil

Date of Next Meeting

LOC meeting - Thursday 10th April 2025 – virtual

AGM 20th February 2025 – in person