**Wiltsire LOC Committee Meeting**

**13 January 2022**

**1930 hrs**

**Via Zoom**

**Recorded by:**

Carolyn Hudd

**Approved by:**

Attendees: Colin Gault, Martin Bull, Carolyn Hudd, John Leeman, , Jamie Bowden, Neelam Patel, Maddy Hocking, Rob Hopwood, Tom Mogford, Stuart Pell, Alvaro Borges (LOCSU lead), Amy Hughes (PES)

Apologies: Victoria Unsworth

1. **Chairs Welcome**

Colin thanked everyone for attending and informed the committee that Mark Jones had stepped down. He thanked Mark from his service to the committee and wished him luck for the future.

No new conflicts of interest were declared and actions from the previous meeting were left for discussion later in the evening.

1. **Alvaro Borges – New LOCSU regional lead**

After a short introduction, Alvaro gave the following LOCSU news:

* Covid Isolation has been cut to 7 days
* Confirmation the GOS contract will remain a national service albeit transferred to the ICS to manage. The ICS will receive the funds as per the GOS and the service will remain the same. No local differences will occur.
* LOCSU are running a Wopec
* Maculopathy OCT lecture series worth 5 CET points that will provide good support for those working in CUES. Please request a learning code from LOCSU for the course.
* Optometry First – Alvaro will send through a link to a webinar and YouTube feed providing more information about what it is, essentially a more holistic approach to primary care. It is a model that will be trialled in three to five areas ig England and will exhaust all primary care services before referring into secondary care. Rob Hopwood queried capacity issues to this approach. More information will be obtained from the trial to enable proper planning to take place should this be necessary. Alvaro noted that community optometry may need to diversify in the future and assure a future based on enhanced services not just sales.
* LOCSU have also launched a series of six learning sessions for all staff, including DO’s and non-clinical staff for the preparation of the practise when seeing patients with learning disabilities. This set of course is highly recommended and a flyer for this has been attached with the minutes. The suggested preparations to make are to be done out of good will, however, if practise finds it begins to take up too much time, there will be a need to readdress how it can be recompensed.
* The NOC is scheduled to take place in April in Leeds. As a face to face event this may have to be delayed due to Covid but communication will be sent out near the time.
* New LOCSU Needs Analysis forms are available from Alvaro and he encourages the LOC to go through the redesigned format to improve aims and progression. Alvaro can help with any queries.

**ACTION: Colin to go over previous needs analysis with Alvaro.**

LOCSU have offered help with the AGM and can do a presentation to update members.

1. **PES News – Amy Hughes**

Amy covered four main areas of update:

* Pilot change to CUES: Following recent comms, all referrals to CUES can be signposted through the new PES hub on the specifically designated number so apart from usual patient footfall, all patients see under CUES will now be allocated to practise on agreement through PES. PES will carry out the initial triage and even use telemed before sending in a patient taking the admin cost away from practise. This will give PES a unique set of data to analyse and disseminate to relevant bodies e.g. CCGs. The timeline to see a patient will now be 5 days.
* Spamedica: The contract for post-op cataract follow –ups will continue to be updated using Opera. Spamedica will contact a practise requesting a follow-up takes place and this can then be accepted or rejected according to whether the practitioner is accredited to do so. Practises will only see their own patients.
* Restructuring PES: Amy remains the clinical lead for BSW of which will stay in the south (as opposed to the proposed Midlands region). Anna Buxham will be the contracts manager for the south. Amy will confirm other contacts for the region that will be contactable should Amy be unavailable. Emailing me details\*\*\*\*
* CUES: Dependent on the spec agreed, funding has been allocated for another year. Some trusts will change CUES to suit their area.

Queries following Amy’s update:

* Martin Bull – What do we do if a GP sends a patient in under CUES? Send them away to the triage centre? Amy – Make an individual decision according to whether you can and want to see them. CCG are disseminating the triage phone number to GPs imminently so hopefully this will seize to be a concern.
* Maddy Hocking – Should a patient ring the hub if they don’t qualify for CUES? No. the tick box should be filled to indicate the patient does not qualify for CUES so a GP, for example, doesn’t try to put them through and be triaged again.
* Tom Mogford – Are PES being paid a fee for triaging? No, PES has no drive for making a profit out of services. The pilot will continue for three months using PES employees, after which time it may be necessary to claim a small fee i.e. £2-£3 per call.

**ACTION: Amy requested feedback with how the community is finding the hub.**

1. **CCG News**

Colin has been attending Bi-monthly meetings with the CCG. The last one was held at the end of November 2021, during which the cataract conversion rate was discussed for increasing improvements. A pilot was held in August whereby a questionnaire was given by the triage centre to patients referred for cataract appointments. Before the trial began, the conversation rate for BSW was 70%. The national average is approximately 77%. The results of the pilot found that the questionnaire resulted in a 97% conversation rate to operations, significantly lowering the time spent in hospitals for patients that discover they do not want to take the option of surgery.

Post-Cataract surgery follow-ups are now patient initiated and currently being dealt with by Newmedica and SpaMedica.

However, there is now renewed interest from Salisbury District Hospital to develop a community pathway. This was last discussed prior to Covid when a £35 fee was proposed. Two years on and this may not be an acceptable figure. Originally the CCG said the fee was too high, but this fee is now too low for practises. Alavaro spoke of a recovery fund available to all CCGs that maybe able to help top this fee up, perhaps by £5. Alvaro will be available to help with an application should this be required.

Glaucoma referrals is BSW are causing some degree of conflict. Ewan Macmillan is requiring a high set of parameters for referrals free under GOS 18. As discussed by the committee, these requirements do not fall in line with the NICE guidelines. However, they do present an opportunity to use a LOCSU pathway for enhanced case findings and therefore commission a new pathway. This pathway is currently used in the Gloucester region and is charged at a rate of £50 per patient. Alvaro would be available to help in any CCG negotiations for a new pathway. This would highlight a new capacity for a different service that addresses large backlogs and lowers time spent in hospitals.

**Action: Colin to draft a letter to Ewan Macmillan at BSW proposing a new pathway structure. This will be circulated amongst the committee for comment prior to its release.**

**AOB**

The date of the AGM will be Thursday 12th May 2022. Details will be decided later on, according to Covid restrictions. Alvaro Borges will be available to give a LOCSU presentation if required.

**The content of the AGM will be revisited on March 12th via email**

1. **Date of the Next Meeting**

Wednesday 6th April 1930 hrs, Via Zoom

**Actions**

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| **Committee Member** | **Action** |
| Alvaro Borges | Email link to webinar and youtube video on Optometry First |
| Colin Gault/Alvaro Borges | Revisit the LOCSU needs analysis form |
| Committee | Feedback to Amy Hughes, PEC – Effectiveness of the new PES hub |
| Colin Gault | Draft a letter to CCG re Glaucoma referrals and the possibility of commissioning a new pathway |
| Carolyn Hudd | To circulate an email on 12th March confirming contents of the AGM. |