

Minutes of LOC meeting Tuesday 17th November 2019 at St Aldate Chambers

Present: Sue Arnold, Alvaro Borges, Amy Clarke, Clare Griffin, Nigel Harris, Kerry Irvine, Ian Shapcott, Adrian Street, Ankur Trivedi.

1. Apologies

No apologies had been received.

2. Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no new declarations of conflicts of interest.

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last committee meeting were approved.

4. Matters Arising

Alvaro suggested a list of action points at the end of the minutes, Adrian to implement.

Alvaro reported that Graham Mennie didn't seem sure about the LOC inclusion in PCNs and suggested adding this to the agenda for the Strategy Day.

Ankur noted that the CCG web-site was showing 14 PCNs in Gloucestershire and thought the LOC should identify which practices fall into which PCN and ask the relevant practices for some help to build relationships on behalf of the LOC. Alvaro agreed, it was important to try and avoid the LOC and community practices missing out and Ankur felt this might help to get local practices engaging with each other.

Adrian would attempt to identify the PCN areas before the Strategy Day. ⁱ⁾

Kerry asked if there was any information from LOCSU but no one had heard anything.

Alvaro reported he had spoken to Andy at Cirencester Specsavers but hadn't been able to arrange to meet. Other practices in the town were not involved with the PEG schemes as they generally ran on locum Optometrists. Alvaro would keep working on improving the situation. ⁱⁱ⁾

Kerry suggested a CET or revalidation event in the area might be helpful, Ankur agreed a Peer Discussion session might help.

Clare suggested a meeting to explain eGOS to all practice staff. Alvaro would contact PCSE to see if a visit would be possible ⁱⁱⁱ⁾

Alvaro reported that the number of people being referred to the Hydroxychloroquine clinic was much higher than had been anticipated by the CCG but it was agreed the current advice on the LOC web-site was appropriate.

Alvaro had sent an invitation to the CET event to Newmedica and the Trust. Sue reported that 89 people had booked including at least one of the ECLOs.

It was noted that Optometrist requests for secondary care experience was difficult for the Trust to manage due to work pressures. It was suggested other providers might be able to help.

Alvaro asked if any local practices had domiciliary equipment as a contractor would be required to allow provision of eye examinations for homeless people. Clare asked if Vision Care for the Homeless could act as a contractor? Adrian would be interested in supporting the initiative but didn't currently have a domiciliary contract. Alvaro would confirm if one was necessary ^{iv)}

Sue also offered to contact the Eye Therapy Trust to see if they might be able to help fund some equipment ^{v)}

Ian requested short biographies for the web-site ^{vi)}

Alvaro had discussed the changes to the Wet AMD referral service at the CPG meeting and the issue was to be discussed with the Trust. It was agreed the longer response was not appropriate as there was a risk of sight loss. Alvaro would continue to follow up. ^{vii)}

Ankur reported that HealthE (the replacement for Optomanager) was working in Manchester. All referrals were being sent directly and Ankur felt this might impact negatively on the Central Booking Office.

Also, some GP practices were still not keen on receiving referrals via NHS e-mail. Alvaro stated that NHSE were working on this and Zoe would be notifying him when anything changed.

5. Treasurer's Report

COMMITTEE	£57533.20
LOCSU	£1433.41
VOLUNTARY	£6612.70
CET	£303.40

Sue suggested the committee fund was getting too large and it might be appropriate to reduce the levy. It was agreed finance would be discussed at the Strategy Day.

6. PES Update

Ankur reported that the contract review meeting was on Monday 25th November and he would distribute the dashboard information. ^{viii)}

Andy and Nitin were concerned about a lack of information on some ECF referrals, especially field plots not being included. Ankur would go through some referrals with Andy to identify some evidence to feedback to relevant practitioners. ^{ix)}

It had been suggested that ECF could lead to a virtual review, if enough information could be provided a consultant could decide if treatment was not appropriate. Dharmesh had pointed out that under NICE Guidelines face to face discussion was required. Ankur felt it wasn't appropriate for Community Optometrists to be making this decision and also felt making a retinal photograph compulsory wouldn't be appropriate though field plots should be. Kerry felt this could be picked up at a reaccreditation event.

MECS was still on the back burner, LOCSU had run a commissioner event that Zoe had attended. Ankur was standing firm on not introducing a full MECS scheme without an uplift in the fee, which was agreed.

Issues around appointment availability and booking patients would be discussed at the Strategy Day.

7. CET

Sue reported that Dan Williams had contact Insight Gloucestershire directly to complain that no one from the organisation could attend the CET evening. Sue had written to Insight to explain that the communication was nothing to do with the LOC.

Alvaro mentioned that the Sight Council wanted to attend CPG meetings to represent people with Low Vision. Someone was attending the CET meeting and Alvaro would put them in touch with Dan Williams. ^{x)}

Tetbury Hospital had agreed to include Dispensing Opticians in future CET events, though the number of people who could attend their events was limited by the space that was available.

Carl from Newmedica was also happy to help with DO CET, Nigel suggested that anterior eye or triage would be appropriate subjects.

8. NOC Update

PCNs had already been discussed.

Ankur said some interesting ideas on future Enhanced Services had been considered, for example Optometrists could possibly process Visual Impairment registrations.

Alvaro had attended a discussion on LOCSU support along the lines of the Needs Analysis that had been completed. LOCSU staff wanted to gauge how helpful LOCs found LOCSU.

LOCSU had also changed their role, no longer involved in setting up local contracts and had updated the job titles from Clinical Lead to Optical Lead.

Some concerns had been raised regarding transparency in LOCSU accounts and the relationship with PES. Ankur said that there was a push to make PES more geographically represented.

Kerry asked for information on PCNs and how LOC should interact with them from LOCSU.

NHSE were commissioning a service for Optometrists to visit special schools. Detailed reporting would be important if the pilots were successful as other services could then be nationally commissioned.

9. Strategy Day

It was agreed to arrive from 9:00am to start at 9:30 and finish at 4:30.

Alvaro would send items for discussion to Adrian who would arrange an agenda. ^{xi)}

10. Virtual Clinics

As had been mentioned earlier, Virtual Clinics are going to be possible via a secure web-portal. The Trust and CCG were keen on the service and Newmedica already offer virtual clinics for certain ear conditions.

Ankur reported that PES and LOCSU were investigating a model using an ophthalmologist virtual clinic for stable glaucoma and OHT monitoring and a similar pilot scheme was already being run in the Trust for dermatology.

11. Enhanced Services – Learning Disabilities

LOCSU was developing an enhanced service for those with Learning Disabilities not necessarily in special schools. Zoe from the CCG was interested in the service, though it wasn't clear if accreditation would be required. Alvaro wanted to know if people would be interested in providing a service?

It was agreed there was a need but it was difficult to quantify, Kerry asked if LOCSU could provide any supporting data and Nigel wondered if the PCNs would be an appropriate route for a service like this.

Ankur would check to see if accreditation was available. ^{xii)}

Alvaro would contact LOCSU to see if there was any information on similar services elsewhere. ^{xiii)}

12. Central Optical Fund

Alvaro had heard about this at the NOC but didn't have much information. Sue confirmed Gloucestershire LOC do not currently pay into the fund. Ankur thought it was the precursor for LOCSU.

It was not clear what the Fund currently did, the latest news on their web-site was from 2016. Ankur felt the subject had been discussed at a previous committee meeting, Adrian would check through the minutes. ^{xiv)}

13. Any Other Business

Alvaro wondered if the LOC should support a local vision related charity?

Ian had received a complimentary e-mail from another LOC regarding the web-site and had requested how it was done. Ian had replied that it had developed over time with some input from a paid administrator in the past. There had been some issues recently but the web-site was currently working well.

However, Ian felt a refresh was probably required especially as PEG information would need to be incorporated. The current web developer had quoted £1500 to £2000.

While there was a template available from LOCSU it was agreed it would be better to pay an expert.

Ian would get statistics and quotes hopefully in time for the Strategy Day ^{xv)}

Ian also had a query about the enquiries@glosloc e-mail address, e-mails couldn't currently be answered from this address and the original incoming e-mail address needed to be added to replies. It was agreed this was acceptable and nothing should automatically be included.

14. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 14th January 2020.

Action Points

- I. Adrian would attempt to identify the PCN areas before the Strategy Day
- II. Alvaro would keep working on improving the situation in the Cirencester area
- III. Alvaro would contact PCSE to see if a visit to explain eGOS would be possible
- IV. Alvaro would confirm if a domiciliary contract was necessary to provide eye examinations for the homeless
- V. Sue to contact the Eye Therapy Trust to see if they might be able to help fund some equipment for the homeless scheme
- VI. Everyone to provide short biographies for the web-site
- VII. Alvaro would continue to follow up changes to Wet AMD referral response
- VIII. Ankur distribute dashboard information from local schemes
- IX. Ankur would try to get evidence of insufficient information on ECF referrals to feedback to relevant practitioners
- X. Alvaro would put the Sight Council in touch with Dan Williams
- XI. Alvaro would send items for discussion at the Strategy Day to Adrian who would arrange an agenda.
- XII. Ankur would check to see if accreditation was available for a learning disabilities enhanced service
- XIII. Alvaro would contact LOCSU to see if there was any information on similar learning disabilities enhanced services elsewhere
- XIV. Adrian would check through the minutes for discussion on COF
- XV. Ian would get statistics and quotes for the web-site hopefully in time for the Strategy Day