

LOC Meeting Minutes 3rd February 2020

Attendees:

1. Panos Nicolaou (Chairman) PN
2. Sam Schweiki (Vice Chair) SS
3. Mike Hawkins (Treasurer) MH
4. Fazlin Jetha (Acting Secretary) FJ
5. Zohra Salim (Acting Communications Officer) ZS
6. Shafquet Mohammed (Liaison Officer) SM
7. Kanti Fatania
8. Vesna Drazic
9. Brian Johnson
10. Bozena Trylska
11. Praful Shah
12. David Hall
13. Anna Buxton (CGPL PEC) AB

Apologies:

1. Sheena Patel
2. Salvatore Camillieri
3. Daska Barnett
4. Jayshree Varsani
5. Alexandra Lyons

Chairman's Report

PN opened the meeting welcoming everyone and introducing our guest AB from Primary Eyecare Limited.

PN brought the recent letter from Ophthalmologist, Gordon Hay (Head of services at A&E at Moorfield Eye Hospital), to the committee's attention. PN pointed out that the letter had been disseminated to Optometrists across the London area and contained recommendations regarding Referrals made by Optometrists into A&E. PN pointed out that this letter, although well intentioned, had been sent out without any consultation with Optometrists, Opticians or our representative bodies. PN stated that he had been in contact with LOCSU and NHS England regarding the lack of consultation and also that it's well intentioned dissemination by representatives of NHS England appeared to suggest that it is in fact endorsed by NHS England which PN pointed out to the committee that it was not.

A number of Optometrists spoke of inappropriate phone calls directly to them or to their colleagues from the Ophthalmologist in question where they were effectively reprimanded by the Ophthalmologist. PN assured the committee that he would inform LOCSU and Primary Eyecare Ltd and that a formal response to the letter from the committee has merit. However, the committee ran out of time in discussing the matter and discussion will continue on a formal response to the letter from the committee at the next meeting.

PN also brought to the committee's attention his recent meeting at Woodbridge Street, where LOCSU hosted an event for all the Chairs of all the London LOC's, where the new NHS vision for London was outlined. The only chair who was not able to attend this meeting was the chair from Hillingdon LOC. PN informed the committee that after several hours of discussion and break out groups with the Chairs of all the other London LOC's a decision was reached to form a London Forum of LOC's where the Chairs would meet on a basis to be agreed to discuss matters that affect Optometry delivery in London and respond as a single voice to all other stakeholders. By stakeholders PN means NHS England, LOCSU, GP's, Acute Trusts, other Private Healthcare Providers, etc. The next meeting of the forum is to be held on the 3rd March after which PN will report back to the committee the terms under which the London Forum of Chairs will operate.

Primary Eyecare Ltd

Anna Buxton (Anna.buxton@primaryeyecare.co.uk)

Is the London Clinical Governance and Performance Lead of Primary Eyecare Limited. PN explained the background of Primary Eyecare Ltd's formation and how it started from a single LOC Primary Eyecare Company and has since grown with contracts for services won by other LOC's having been novated over to it with the support of LOCSU. Anna advised that Irinder had moved on because of other work commitments and that she will be working with Sana, who has also been appointed as a second CGPL alongside her in London. The Q3 activity report was discussed and will be circulated by our Liaison Officer SM. A summary of the report is that there was an increase in activity in March, but since then a total of 60-80 MECs appointments across the service. Referrals were 50-50 between GP vs Self-Referral. Not many referrals came from Secondary Care (1 in the last 9 months).

There are now 20 accredited Optical Practices in London with 17 practices signed up to provide the service in our Tri-Borough.

From the cases seen, 80-84% were managed in Primary Care, 7% needed urgent referral, 10% needed GP referral.

AB pointed out that the service needs to be utilised more fully, hence the introduction of a single point of access via an Ophthalmology Triage Service, for routine referrals from Primary Care and GP's. Merton & Wandsworth have initiated this. It is envisaged that this 'Hub' model will be rolled out in Central London soon, hopefully diverting activity into our local enhanced services.

This SPoA service consists of a triage team based in Manchester, who are an experienced group of Optometrists, with the clinical oversight of an Ophthalmologist, all under Primary Eyecare Ltd. which has contracted with our local CCG to provide the service utilising Optomanager which will provide the IT.

Discussion was also had about the NHS's intention to launch ERS (Electronic Referral Service).

Primary Eyecare Ltd would like Optometrists to refer all routine referrals through the Optomanager IT system to the Triage Hub and would like the committee's involvement and support of this initiative. The committee will discuss and disseminate correspondence on this matter following the next LOC meeting, to be held on the 16th March.

During discussions, the potential for Health Education England to pay for the costs of obtaining the Prof. Cert. in Glaucoma if applied for was mentioned.

A general discussion was had about current GOS provision, the benefits and the shortcomings.

Treasurer's Report:

The committee ran out of time and so called an additional meeting on the 16th March ahead of the AGM to conclude its business including the Treasurer's report.

Vice Chair / CET Report

SS reminded everyone of the upcoming CET event on the 10th Feb., to be held at the WEH on Monday at 18:45, titled Binocular Vision. Event is for both OOs and DOs. 1 CET point in BV accredited.

New appointments

FJ was appointed to the role of Acting Secretary until the AGM. A temporary tariff of £37.50 an hour was imposed by PN for her services without a full discussion and vote as the meeting had run out of time.

Zohra Salim was appointed to the new role of Acting Communications Officer until the AGM. A temporary tariff of £37.50 an hour was imposed by PN for her services without a full discussion and vote as the meeting had run out of time.

AOB

Nil

Next LOC meeting:

16th March 2020

Agenda to include:

1. Discussion on the future direction of the committee & where to focus our energies.

2. Review of the Secretary Role and Communications Officer Roles, ahead of the AGM.
3. Ahead of AGM Daily out of office rate - increase.
4. Ahead of AGM - Committee Remuneration (if decided upon tonight will form the basis of 20/21 Budget presentation at AGM 2020)
5. Future of the committee website changes, to incorporate LOCSU information and Primary Eyecare Ltd. information.
6. Presentation / demonstration from Kirsty of NHS England, regarding the PCSE Online submissions.

AGM

27th April 2020.