

NORFOLK & WAVENEY LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES 10 NOVEMBER 2021

A meeting of the Norfolk & Waveney Local Optical Committee held on-line via Zoom was called to order by Roger Lee (Chair) at 19:30 on 10th November 2021

PRESENT: Ed Adkins, Charlotte Barber, Elizabeth Bunn, Michelle Horn, Roger Lee, Julien Nelson, Niall O'Brien, Dan Rosser, Ian Sinha, Linda Vernon-Wood, Peter Hutchinson (Administrator)

APOLOGIES FOR ABESENCE: Deborah Daplyn, Kate Fenn,

OBSERVERS: Wasim Sarwar PES; Julia Maiden – LOCSU Eastern Area Optical Lead

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

Guest Presentation	Action
<p>1. Roger Lee introduced Julia Maiden, the new LOCSU Optical Lead for Norfolk, and Suffolk, who went on to explain her background as an Optometrist based in Greater Manchester, currently working for ASDA Opticians with previous experience of working in the independent sector.</p> <p>She completed the Leadership Skills course for Optical Professionals in 2018 and since then has developed her leadership skills through the Greater Manchester Health and Social Care primary care provider board structure. She is currently the Chair of Ashton Leigh and Wigan LOC, a post she has held since 2014. Her past roles in Primary Care have provided her with considerable experience in negotiating with commissioners and trusts for enhanced services.</p> <p>Julia Maiden will be the primary point of contact for NWLOC with LOCSU although the structure within LOCSU has changed recently. The Optical Leads work as a team, calling on each other's specialist expertise to provide appropriate support when required.</p> <p>Roger Lee asked which areas Julia covers in her Optical Lead role to which she replied she is responsible for Norfolk & Waveney; Suffolk; Shropshire and Staffordshire. Roger Lee went on to explain that the NWLOC area has a very different population and optometrist demographic to Manchester and similar urban areas which brings its own difficulties in providing eyecare. Julia Maiden said as the head office lead for the Asda extended services team she is very aware of these issues.</p> <p>a. NOTE: NOC 2022 will be a face to face meeting held around April and this will be preceded in late 2021 and early 2022 with remote learning CET sessions from WOPEC – more information will be sent from LOCSU.</p> <p>b. Post-Operative cataract examination proposals from NHS England were discussed and it was agreed that the £5 fee being offered for data entry is totally inadequate. Julia Maiden suggested data entry only could work (for an improved fee) - following a GOS sight test - if performed by admin staff and then, if problems arose post-operatively, the patient could be seen under CUES or MECS for a higher fee than under the present post-op cataract scheme. By considering local issues it may be possible to design a two tier post cataract scheme using telemedicine to determine if there are no problems post-op a GOS sight test is performed or when problems are reported a MECS/CUES examination follows. This suggestion would fit with the NHS Futures proposals for Optometry First where optometrists decide what procedures are appropriate for each patient rather than being constrained by</p>	

<p>the GOS sight test. This approach could be an encouragement for practices to be involved in CUES/MECS etc. with the increased flexibility and fees. Ed Adkins asked if Dry Eye conditions will be included in CUES going forward. Julia Maiden said Dry Eye conditions specifically were not dropped from CUES but 'Minor Conditions' in general which includes dry-eye were directed towards 'Self-care'. Patients given self-care advice that fails to resolve the condition should be able to access CUES but this change needs to be agreed with the local contract commissioners first.</p>	
<p>Committee Meeting Contents</p>	
<p>1. PES Report: Wasim Sarwar (Interim CGPL for NWLOC) – said he had previously circulated the PES CUES report for September and asked if there were any questions relating to the content.</p> <p>a. PES restructuring: two new Clinical leads have been appointed who are Wendy Craven and Lisa Gibson. Wasim Sarwar said his role title has changed to Service Lead from CGPL and he, along with other service Leads will work as a team covering the Midlands and East Anglia. The method for managing the workload has yet to be decided but it is likely that there will not be a single person responsible for any given LOC. It is anticipated that urgent queries will be answered promptly by any team member but Wasim Sarwar will be accessible on specific days each week. The situation is fluid at present but more clarity will be provided in the coming weeks.</p> <p>b. Wasim Sarwar, Julia Maiden & Deborah Daplyn have worked closely to provide the Norfolk & Waveney ICS (CCG) with MECS data from 2019-20 to show that extending to a five day window for seeing CUES patients does not increase the risk to the patient. If this is accepted by CCG CUES will be updated to include some of the benefits of the MECS contract and OPERA will be updated to reflect the new parameters.</p> <p>c. There have been some problems uploading glaucoma data to OPERA but these have been resolved with the help of Dan Rosser and NNUH staff. JUPH staff has been given training in the use of OPERA for glaucoma monitoring data uploads.</p> <p>d. A practice in Beccles has complained that they are receiving all the local GRR referrals while other practices in the area are refusing to see them. Wasim Sarwar will speak to Deborah Daplyn to see if this problem can be resolved.</p> <p>e. Niall O'Brien asked Wasim Sarwar if the Cecil Amey group of practices has pulled out of CUES? Efforts were made to retain the Amey group in CUES but without success and they have withdrawn from the service due to a lack of capacity and inappropriate referrals coming directly from GPs. which caused reception staff to suffer unacceptable abuse. Linda Vernon-Wood stated Wigram & Ware practices in Kings Lynn and Dersingham have had to withdraw from CUES due to an optometrist being on extended leave of absence and are currently referring Their CUES referrals to Hunstanton Eyecare. Also it was noted that Parker Opticians in Downham Market has withdrawn from CUES. Julien Nelson said his practice in Hunstanton is one optometrist short and is the only CUES practice accepting patients in the west of the county, this despite Specsavers Hunstanton being an accredited practice. Wasim Sarwar agreed to contact Specsavers Hunstanton to give them the support they need to see CUES patients.</p> <p>f. Niall O'Brien stated that the HUB will call a practice on a Saturday for CUES appointment only to be told that there is no Optometrist attending. Despite this the HUB will call the same practice again, sometimes repeatedly, for CUES appointments. Wasim Sarwar agreed that this was inappropriate and he will contact the HUB to see if a system can be updated to prevent this happening in the future. Wasim Sarwar said he will run a 'Drop-in' session for all CUES registered practices, possibly in the early part of 2022 to confirm the changes being discussed now.</p> <p>g. Wasim Sarwar said the ICS (CCG) has deferred the renegotiation of service fees etc. until April 2022 but he is hopeful that the increased fee structure will</p>	<p><i>Wasim Sarwar</i></p> <p><i>Wasim Sarwar</i></p>

<p>be accepted and this together with the extended timeframe for seeing CUES patients will encourage practices to re-engage with extended services contracts.</p>	
<p>2. The minutes of the meeting on 8th September 2021 were approved and signed.</p>	
<p>3. Action Points from the Minutes: 8th September 2021 -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Health & Wellbeing programme: progress has been delayed to early 2022 due to NHS England being unhappy with the cost of the associated website development which is now being re-negotiated. A part-time position for the Optometry Health & Wellbeing Coordinator, (NHS East) will be advertised shortly at a salary of £50- 60k pro-rata. b. ICS IT solutions – Niall O'Brien had a discussion with NHS Digital about current IT procedures but has heard nothing since. c. Michelle Horn volunteered for glaucoma scheme discussion but has heard nothing d. Ed Adkins said he had volunteered for Cataract scheme discussions but was given two days' notice of the ICS (CCG) meeting and could not attend. It was agreed he will be notified earlier for the next meeting. 	
<p>4. Cues Contract & Fees – the general feeling of the meeting is that capacity is a problem for most practices and this will get worse with the recent withdrawal of practices from CUES. West Norfolk is badly affected with a large area having no CUES provision. Dan Rosser reported that ICS (CCG) is very aware of the situation and has been taking advice from all angles. GP practices are in favour of continuing CUES but it is not inconceivable that West Norfolk CCG will have to pull out of the scheme entirely due to a shortage of participating optical practices.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ed Adkins noted that the CUES practice list from PES is out of date – it still includes practices that have withdrawn from the scheme. Also he feels that a complete list should be available to download for practice reference rather than having to enter a patient's postcode to search for the nearest practice. Peter Hutchinson agreed to contact Wasim Sarwar about this request. 	<p><i>Peter Hutchinson</i></p>
<p>5. Education and CET Roger Lee thanked Elizabeth Bunn for arranging the recent CET events and those who acted as facilitators. Elizabeth Bunn said the feedback from those who attended the meetings was very favourable but the numbers attending were very low. She attributed the low attendance to the fact that the event came at the end of the CET cycle when most practitioners have attained all the CET points needed and a similar programme at the beginning of the next cycle will be more popular. Michelle Horn made the point that face to face meetings attract practitioners as much for the social interactions as for the learning and CET. In the future a mixture of remote learning sessions combined with two annual full day face to face meetings will prove to be more popular. The GOC is changing to CPD (Continued Professional Development) in 2022. The details of this scheme are not fully understood but it is understood it will included the need to qualify in four competencies. Also half-hour talks will not have to be given by GOC accredited speakers/providers which will improve flexibility for the organisers to ask local consultants etc. to speak and gain CPD points. The individual optometrist/dispenser will have to claim points for each meeting rather than be credited with them automatically.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Schedule of CPD events in 2022 Elizabeth Bunn said she is happy to continue organise remote learning but will need more help with face to face meetings. Roger Lee proposed arranging a meeting with Elizabeth Bunn and Michelle horn to put together a programme of events for 2022. 	<p><i>Roger Lee</i></p>
<p>6. Narrow Angle Glaucoma referral – proposed changes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Royal College of Ophthalmologists (RCOphth) has produced a new draft 	

clinical guideline on the management of Angle-Closure Glaucoma. The consultation documents outline key recommendations and good practice points for implementation, current practice and why there is scope for change, and the process used to develop this guideline. [Executive summary document](#).

Dan Rosser stated concerns over the likely effects of the proposed changes to referral criteria have been expressed by the AOP and the College is considering its response. The two main findings are that fewer narrow angle patients referred go on to develop angle closure glaucoma than was previously understood and of those patients that do develop the condition modern treatments are much more effective at preserving sight than in the past. The document has resulted from a robust review of historical data but the recommendations take no heed of the workings of GOS and 'on-the-ground' patient management. The consultation period has expired; possibly changes will be implemented as a result of comments made by interested parties and organisations. The point was made that the report contains no reference to symptoms which undoubtedly will need to be included in any future guidance which will involve changes to the current referral procedures. Optometrists will require firm referral guidance criteria from the College of Optometrists based on Van Herrik angle assessments, IOP, symptoms and other factors mentioned in the report. **Dan Rosser** said he will share with NWLOC the College of Optometrists response to the report as soon as it is made available to him.

Dan Rosser

- b. A discussion followed on more general referral criteria changes, particularly telephone consultations for post-cataract patients and annual GOS examinations of family relatives of glaucoma patients that are asymptomatic. **Roger Lee** pointed out that the lack of post-op cataract examinations results in optometrists having to make urgent referrals without the benefit of a post-cataract examination fee. Questions arose as to whether this is appropriate in light of anecdotal evidence of pathology being diagnosed later than is ideal for the patient's best outcome. Capacity issues in community optometry practices are contributing to these delays. **Dan Rosser** pointed out that it is easy for the hospital trusts to produce figures demonstrating lack of capacity and treatment backlogs but the same is not true for community optometry practices which results in their issues being less well understood.

7. **LOC Self-Assessment Plan** – discussion deferred to the next meeting. **Roger Lee** to forward to members the last Self-Assessment Review document to consider for comment and discussion in January 2022.

Roger Lee

*All LOC
Committee
members*

8. **Finance Report** **Linda Vernon-Wood** referred to the accounts document she had circulated earlier. She apologised that the report is not totally accurate as she has been locked out of PCSE and cannot access the payment figures. She has sent an image of the bank statement in order to reflect the actual current account balance - £59,135.82.

- a. She explained that PCSE consider she has two accounts and this has resulted in her being locked out each time an enforced password change is required. It was agreed the PCSE NWLOC account shall be linked to her personal email address to log in so she can see the account and receive notifications of password change.
- b. All Committee members are asked to submit expenses claims (April 2021 rates) now for 6 month analysis to be completed.

Norfolk & Waveney LOC Financial report to 10/11/21		
	Year to date	Budget Y/E 4/4/22
Income		
Levy Collections		
LOC+LOCSU+Central Fund	£ 24,304.35	£ 55,000.00
Other	£ 0.00	
	£	£
Total Income	26,680.62	55,000.00
Expenditure - Committee Costs		
Honoraria	£ 2,353.00	£ 4,632.00
Admin fees	£ 2,069.86	£ 5,440.00
Admin travel	£ 0.00	£ 45.00
		£
Members fees	£ 7,351.26	17,310.00
Members travel	£ 0.00	£ 540.00
Meeting Rooms	£ 143.88	£ 467.00
Website	£ 120.00	£ 60.00
Office costs	£ 250.00	£ 575.00
Training & NOC	£ 640.00	£ 2,400.00
AGM & Misc.	£ 0.00	£ 145.00

*All LOC
Committee
members*

<p>9. Web Manager Report <i>Peter Hutchinson</i> referred to the report for Website usage 01 September 2021 to 31 October 2021 circulated earlier.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Total Website Registered Members has increased by 10 to 137 of which 8 are new to NWLOC. b. 19 members have registered for an account but failed to activate it but all are to be included for mailings as they have agreed to the GDPR questions on application making a total of 156. c. 256 members were registered with the previous website leaving 100 members who have not responded to the earlier message about their non-inclusion in future mailings. It was agreed that <i>Peter Hutchinson</i> shall draft a final email message to be sent to all non-registered member's email addresses informing them that they will be removed from future mailing lists unless they register with the website before 31st December 202. d. The amalgamation of the www.norfolkwaveneycloc.org domain with the www.LOC-online.co.uk domain resulted in some loss of functionality for a time but this appears to have been resolved. <i>Roger Lee</i> and <i>Julien Nelson</i> said they had recently experienced problems accessing documents to download – <i>Peter Hutchinson</i> will investigate and resolve. e. Ed Adkins said he is now able to send emails specifically to contractors on MailChimp. 	<i>Peter Hutchinson</i>
<p>10. Committee Meeting dates 2022 <i>Peter Hutchinson</i> announced he has assumed 2022 committee meetings will held on Zoom on these dates: 12 January: 9 March: 11 May: AGM TBA June; 13 July: 14 September; 9 November. – agreed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Roger Lee</i> suggested the AGM shall be a face to face meeting and the sub-committee considering forthcoming educational events will try to include at least one full day face to face training session. 	
<p>11. Practice List Update: No updates noted</p>	
<p>12. Correspondence: <i>Ed Adkins</i> said he has had a conversation with Dept. of Health regarding the pilot study for funding second pairs of spectacles for children in the Norwich and Breckland area. The second pair will be sent to the school for use when the child has forgotten or lost the primary pair. <i>Julien Nelson</i> asked who will cover the GOS 4 fee on the second pair to which <i>Ed Adkins</i> said he will try to clarify funding when he next speaks to DoH.</p>	
<p>13. A.O.B.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Royal College of Ophthalmologists Membership – <i>Dan Rosser</i> said there is a proposal for membership to be extended to 'Associate Members' of other professions, including optometrists. He will feed back any further information as it is made available. 	<i>Dan Rosser</i>
<p>14. Meeting Closed: 21:38</p>	
<p>15. Committee Meeting Dates 2022: Zoom meetings will continue to be held on the second Wednesday of alternate months: 12 January: 9 March: 11 May: AGM TBA June; 13 July: 14 September; 9 November.</p>	
<p>16. Meeting closed 21:42 hrs</p>	