

NORFOLK & WAVENEY LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES 8 JANUARY 2025

A meeting of the Norfolk & Waveney Local Optical Committee held on-line via Zoom was called to order by Deborah Daplyn (Joint-Chair) at 19:30 on 8th January 2025

PRESENT: Ed Adkins, Hannah Castley, Charlotte Berryman Elizabeth Bunn, Deborah Daplyn, Ali Ganiwalla, Michelle Horn, Roger Lee, Niall O'Brien, Dan Rosser, Linda Vernon-Wood, Peter Hutchinson (Administrator)

APOLOGIES FOR ABESENCE: Julien Nelson, Ian Sinha,

OBSERVERS: Fionnuala Kidd – LOCSU Eastern Area Optical Lead; Representative, Wasim Sarwar PES Representative

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

NEW DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

Contents

1) PES Report:

- a) **OHT Monitoring module:** NNUH and JPUH are adding new patients to the new OHT monitoring module on OPERA. The new Lead ophthalmologist at JPUH is keen to use this and asking for additional training. Vision Express Lowestoft no longer engaging with PES so their patients have been referred back to original hospital service. Boots Norwich and Dipple & Conway are no longer showing as participating in OHT Monitoring. PES has emailed and called Boots but no reply; Dipple & Conway issue resolved – computer glitch. PES is creating a new list of all participating practices and hopes to see the number has increased following the launch of the new OHT module and the on-line webinar. As NNUH and JPUH add new patients it is important that there is sufficient capacity to meet the demand. NWLOC is asked to support the drive to recruit new practices to the scheme. It was noted that some of the JPUH patients recently uploaded to the new module are labelled as NNUH patients and do not have any information about the diagnosis or provide a target IOP; it was explained that these are old patient records from Optomanager, all new patients will be correctly attributed the JPUH and have all the relevant referral data.
- b) **Contract Meeting with NWICB** – there was a verbal agreement for NHS 111 referrals to be sent to PES Hub for onward referral to CUES participating practices – no written confirmation to date.
- c) **Comment** was made - a patient referred from PES turned out to be a contact lens wearer with a corneal ulcer but this was not made clear by the telemed service when requesting an appointment. Contact lens wearers are normally sent back to the original contact lens prescriber or to hospital but occasionally have to be seen at a CUES clinic for expediency.

2) Minutes from Committee Meeting 13th November 2024 - were approved and adopted.

- ##### 3) Action Log:
- Completed items moved from active list and some new ones added – see Action Log
- a) ICB contacted by NNUH about the Glaucoma Suspect Monitoring Scheme contract to ensure the continuance of the service in light of the fact that the ICB is commissioning low risk glaucoma cases to New Medica. NWICB apparently unaware of the scheme and its contract so it is being investigated by the Head of the System Clinical Transformation programme. It was agreed that the patients referred from NNUH to the scheme can be stratified into three groups: Low risk glaucoma suspects; glaucoma suspects with suspicious signs and low risk diagnosed and treated glaucoma

patients. The last group is not suitable for the Glaucoma Suspect Monitoring Scheme and should be referred to New Medica. Once commissioning of the service has been confirmed a contract variation can be considered that includes low risk, on treatment, OHT and glaucoma patients suitable to be seen in the community.

4) Referral Guidelines Document: Comments:

- a) **JPUH** accept direct email hes@jpaget.nhs.uk referrals copy to GP
- b) **NNUH** – delete 'Phone' heading. **Form** – Forms, Lists & Downloads links
- c) **Spire** – Private ONLY – remove from table
- d) **New Medica** – delete 'PRIVATE' & 'Phone' heading.
- e) **Format** V1 but include the content of V2 less the Conditions Treated – replaced with website link.

5) Paediatric Sub-Committee – no further meetings but the contract is being scrutinised by NNUH who has asked NWICB if it needs to be contracted directly rather than as a sub-contract from NNUH. A decision is awaited from WNICB.

6) Glaucoma OSCE & Foreign Body workshop will start registration at 6:00p.m. followed by clinical start at 6:30 p.m. on Monday 10th February at the NNUH Eye Clinic. WOPEC needs to be contacted to upload the information to their dashboard and create the required paperwork and advertising. Dan Rosser will be the Glaucoma OSCE Lead assessor with several committee members assisting in various capacities. 'Patients' will need to be identified and invited for the Glaucoma OSCE but none are needed for the foreign body workshop as dummy eyes are used for the practical. Essex LOC has recommended Hayley Moore, a Lead Assessor for the Foreign Body workshop who can provide assistant assessors. Three candidates sit in with an assessor to watch a demonstration with Q&A followed by a practical session removing foreign bodies from a false eye; a procedure taking about one hour. Nine candidates will be assessed over a three hour period in each of two rooms i.e. 18 candidates for the evening. The expressions of interest: 11 Glaucoma; 23 Foreign Body. These courses will only be provided free of charge (NWICB funded) to those optometrists that participate in the NHS Glaucoma and CUES community services, other candidates will be accepted but will have to pay a fee. It was decided to charge participants a £50 fee on booking a place which will be refunded if they attend.

7) Education & CPD.

- a) **A CPD day/ afternoon** – evening has been discussed with Dereham Football Club who is willing to provide a room but cannot supply food for £600. Waiting for another quote for a conference room from Best Western George Hotel, Norwich with tea, coffee and sandwiches. The session will be run 2:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.; allowing for a peer review, workshops and lectures totalling about 6 CPD points. Stuart Wellings confident he can provide the teaching either in person or on-line; LOCSU can provide Peer Review. A survey of potential clients showed independent optometrists are OK with the format but locums and those working for multiples may find difficulty arranging time off on a weekday which may limit the numbers attending. Date set for AGM and CPD day 18th June. Decided to source outside caterer for Dereham Football Club. Planning to be pushed forward so the event can be advertised ASAP to take advantage of the start of the CPD year. Consider approaching Spa Medica and/or others to contribute to CPD and sponsor the event.
- b) **PDP Statement – CPD session £400** - an email received advertising on line sessions - decided not to proceed.

8) Financial Report

- a) Copies of the bank statements as at 8th January 2025 have been sent to committee members.
- b) All accounts are running smoothly.
- c) Asst. Treasure confirmed she was able to log-in to the bank accounts.
- d) Saving Account interest total £326 since April 2024
- e) Budget Meeting 12th March 2025 to begin at 7:15 p.m. - agreed

9) LOCSU Report & update –

- a) Treasurers training day 13th February at Friends House, London
- b) LOCSU Comms. On-line Forum 21 & 22 January 2025
- c) National Optometric Conference, 18th & 19th May 2025 at Hilton Metropole Hotel, NEC Birmingham.
- d) The new draft Constitution will be made available to LOCs in advance of their AGMs to enable discussions about the adoption of the updated wording. In answer to a question about scrutinising

LOC accounts, the new constitution will not require an audit by an accountant but will include “softer” terminology to describe the person suited to examine the accounts.

- e) It was suggested NWLOC should showcase the reintroduction of the Glaucoma Suspect Monitoring Scheme in the area if current negotiations are successful.
- f) NWLOC AGM date will be uploaded to LOCSU calendar.

10) Web Manager Report: previously circulated report:

- a) Total Website Registered Members: 217 (+25 registered but NOT activated)
- b) The site is running well with about the same sort of traffic as in previous months.
- c) LOCSU still discussing methods for addressing LOC administrator roles and will come to a conclusion by the end of the financial year. AI and other digital solutions are being considered.

11) Practice Address update: practice moved to – Scrivens, 209 Plumstead Rd, Norwich NR1 4AB. Roger Lee no longer responsible for practice visits. The checks are now performed on-line, Roger will contact those responsible.

12) Correspondence: all previously circulated

13) A.O.B.

- a) A locum queried if it takes longer for a referral to be actioned if it goes to the Referral Centre rather than direct. The Referral Centre offers the patient choice and acts very promptly.
- b) A GRR referral was quoted as 55 week wait for action. NNUH quoted as wait time being approximately 8 weeks.
- c) JPUH is very slow providing cataract-post op. follow-up appointments and is advising patients to see Community optometrist for a sight test. PES will be asked to urge JPUH to sign up to the Post-op Cataract scheme to obviate this problem.

14) Meeting Closed: 9:30 pm

15) Committee Meeting Dates 2025: Zoom meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of alternate months: 8 January: 12 March: 14 May: 5 June: AGM 18th June: 9 July: 10 September; 12 November