

KENT & MEDWAY LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE: 12TH SEPTEMBER 2017

MAIN POINTS OF DISCUSSION

NHS England – England South (South East)

Local Eye Health Network (LEHN) – Learning Disabilities Initiative: It was reported that, unfortunately, the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) seem reluctant to commission a Learning Disabilities Service. It was observed that, in the absence of such a scheme, many patients are being referred in to the HES and that the suggested fee per patient in a community service would be less than the cost of an HES appointment. In view of the CCGs' reluctance, an application has now been sent to NHS England (NHSE) requesting either an adjustment to GOS or for a directive to be sent to the CCGs to supply funding. A discussion followed and it was observed that some local LD organisations do not understand the adjustments required within an optical practice to accommodate some LD patients. It was suggested that, if practices receive a request for such a visit which they cannot accommodate, they can direct people to the SeeAbility website which lists practices with the required facilities/equipment.

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)

East Kent: It was reported that the CCGs hope to introduce a two-year MECS pilot and that the responses to a recent LOC survey had been positive. It was then reported that there are plans to expand the OpenEyes system in East Kent. The system is currently used for post-op cataract patients but they are keen to use it for MECS in the future.

North Kent: The Administrative Secretary reported that, with MECS 1 and the Repeat IOP service established, The Practice Group (TPG) is now looking to introduce MECS 2 and Stable Glaucoma Monitoring. It was confirmed that optometrist participating in MECS 2 do not have to be Independent Prescribers and that the PEKM Directors would be considering whether any formal qualifications would be required. It was suggested and agreed that a MECS CET Event should be run (possibly to include a peer review, lecture and skills workshop) in the near future.

West Kent: There has been very little engagement from the CCG and it was agreed that the LOC would have to keep chasing.

Primary Eyecare (Kent & Medway) Ltd

The Administrative Secretary reported that deflection rates for MECS in North Kent are improving and that PEKM would be undertaking practice visits and training where necessary. Each MECS practice will be receiving a deflection rate report shortly. TPG have asked if MECS could be moved over to an electronic system as the CCGs are requesting more data than is presently collated. The Administrative Secretary confirmed that he had raised the recent triage/referral queries with TPG and these, apparently, had been down to a 'glitch' which has now been resolved. He had also asked for clarification regarding referral letter waiting times and he agreed to circulate this information.

Any Other Business

It was confirmed that this year's NOC will take place on Thursday 9th November 2017 at Chesford Grange, Kenilworth.

The Committee were advised that Tim Bowden, DO, Contractor and former LOC Committee member, had died in July. It was also noted that Mike Port had passed away.

Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next Kent & Medway LOC meeting will be held on Tuesday 7th November at the Tudor Park Marriott Hotel.

All optical professionals are welcome to attend the Kent & Medway LOC meetings provided they practice in one of the areas covered by the LOC.