

KENT & MEDWAY LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE: 14TH MARCH 2017

MAIN POINTS OF DISCUSSION

Local Eye Health Network (LEHN)

Homeless Initiative Meeting: The Administrative Secretary reported on a meeting regarding the LEHN Homeless Initiative which has the backing of NHS England - England South (South East). It was agreed that the LOC would be happy to circulate any relevant information to members and undertake a mapping exercise for the LEHN.

Learning Disabilities Initiative Meeting: It was reported that, at this meeting, a cross-border pilot was discussed with funding potentially being shared across the CCGs. Participating practices would be paid for an extended appointment (approximately 40 minutes) possibly split over two days. It was observed that it would only need 10% of the practices to get involved to ensure a good coverage across the area and it was suggested that accreditation would include the WOPEC LD Course.

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)

East Kent: The Administrative Secretary reported that the LOC had received information regarding an expansion of the GPwSI Scheme from the East Kent CCGs. The new proposal appeared to suggest some community optometry involvement and so the proposal would be looked at in detail.

North Kent: The Administrative Secretary reported that practices participating in the North Kent Eye Service should soon be able to see external patients for the Repeat IOP appointments. The Practice Group are also keen to introduce MECS 2 (or similar) as soon as possible. It was agreed that it is essential for robust pathways to be put in place before MECS 2 is rolled out.

West Kent: Nothing to report.

Any Other Business

CET: The Treasurer reported that there is to be a CET event at the Post-Graduate Centre, Maidstone Hospital on 6th April. It was agreed that the details would be circulated to all Kent & Medway members and CET points would be applied for.

It was reported that College of Optometrists' guidance states that when a practice sees a MECS patient it should, after completion of the MECS appointment(s), direct the patient back to their existing optical practice for their ongoing eyecare needs.

Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next Kent & Medway LOC meeting will be held on Tuesday 9th May 2017 at the Tudor Park Marriott Hotel. It was agreed that the AGM would be held on the same date. It was confirmed that a Consultant from Moorfields, Darent Valley Hospital would be happy to do the Kent & Medway LOC AGM Lecture.

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