

Enquiry was made as to whether any members had had claims for the minor eye scheme sent back by LaSCA. There appeared to be some confusion regarding claims prior to 30 November and Clive had taken this up with Donna Parker.

Reference was made to the proposed limited company " Primary Eye Care (East Lancashire)" and Clive highlighted the need for a meeting early in the New Year to ensure that the company was active and ready to be formed in time for the new contractual arrangements from April 2014. He suggested a meeting in late January/early February to move forward including an assessment of loan costs .

Clive also reported that Mike Broadhurst had asked to meet with the LOC to give an update on the Local Health Networks .

In general discussion David Cleasby enquired as to whether Contractors awarded Enhanced Services would be required to demonstrate that employed Performers met accredited training standards . Clive felt that this would be clarified in the contract specification but he expected the a similar position as at present. Reference was made to the communication confusions regarding the letter from the Area Team on the Quality in Optometry checklist. Ruth was aware of the issues and mindful that should optometrists not meet the deadline some leeway may have to be appliedbut this was for the Area Team to determine.

32/13 Treasurer's Report

Mark gave an update on the Accounts. Income for the quarter amounted to £9126 and there was a small surplus over expenditure. He reminded members to submit outstanding accounts before year end on 31 January 2014.

Members discussed whether the Committee should open an account which attracted interest but as currently we did not incur bank charges in lieu of interest it was agreed not to change the arrangement .However approval was given to Mark to subscribe to the facility to view and manage the account on line at a cost of £3.50 per month and Mark agreed to discuss this with the Bank in the first instance to see if this fee could be waived in view of our current arrangement.

Attention was also drawn to the loan to Primary Eye Care (East Lancashire)and Mark commented that we may have to set up a separate account to provide for this . It was agreed that we should remain with our existing Bank to facilitate transactions and that we would need further discussion with the Company to identify the extent of any loan and repayment arrangements.

Mark's report was received and approved.

33/13 Report of Conference

Vicky presented her report on matters debated at Conference. It was reassuring to note that other LOCs were in similar positions to ourselves in terms of the uncertainties over commissioning intentions and relations with CCGs. Dharmesh had also spoken about setting up Limited Companies to support the contracting framework. The key note message emerging from Conference was the need to increase the profile of LOCs locally. In this regard members outlined their contacts with local MPs but it was felt that further thought could be given to increasing public awareness and this could be taken forward through CCG campaigns. A presentation had been given by the GP " Health Care Champion " but this was somewhat disappointing as although he was familiar with general practice issues his knowledge of optometry was noticeably limited.

Overall Vicky had enjoyed the Conference and felt that over the year, the profession had made progress particularly in regard to Enhanced Services . Clive added that Stuart had commented that more opportunity needed to be taken on developing relationships with CCGs and seeing positive outcomes to all the time and efforts we were giving .

Vicky was thanked for her report.

34/13 Training and Education

Clive referred to Optometry Today which had highlighted next years programme of roadshows including presentations on peer review and legal issues.

The recent event presented by Essilor and MacuShield had been well received and consideration could be given to repeating this at a future date . The MacuShield presentation had been particularly informative.

Discussion was held on the arrangements for the forthcoming Peer Discussion session and it was hoped that this would be equally successful .

Thanks were expressed to Nynasha for the time and efforts she had put into these.

Consideration was given to future events including the possibility of holding an "Educational Day" with a focus on Enhanced Services. It was agreed to circulate details of the WOPEC codes we held ,namely Cataract, LVAs, Glaucoma and Minor eye Conditions.

In so far as the Minor Eye Condition scheme was concerned Clive agreed to circulate the list of "Top 10" conditions claimed for with a copy to Ruth to remind providers of the need for a clear audit trail.

Clive also agreed to circulate details of the Peer Group facilitator training being provided in Manchester for anyone interested. He also reminded members of the Leadership Training opportunity being advertised by LOCSU and although the closing date had passed there was likely to be further announcements. Training for Treasurers was also available from LOCSU.

35/13 Correspondence

There were no issues arising from circulated correspondence

36/13 Date and Time of Next Meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting be held at Ewood on 25 February 2014 . Mike Broadhurst would be invited to attend

The AGM was also discussed and a provisional date of 6 May 2014 agreed .However this would be dependent on the availability of a speaker and members were asked to consider possible names. One suggestion was Catherine Porter and Clive would approach her .i