

**East Lancashire Local Optical Committee
Minutes of Meeting held on 16 August 2016**

Present Clive Duerden (Chairman) David Gould
 Aftab Ahmed Daisy Green
 James Bontoft Stuart Ingleby
 Vicky Chiu Mark Jkinson
 David Cleasby Jawad Malik
 Ceri Smith-Jaynes

In attendace : Ruth Cuthbert ,Optometric Adviser

Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Zunaid Ally

Declarations of Interest

Stuart and David Cleasby declared possible interest in regard to diabetic screening .

16/26 Report of Chairman /Vice Chairman

Clive reported that David Barker ,LOCSU,had asked to attend a future meeting to outline his role and meet members. It appears his involvement with LOCSU was consequential to Dharmesh becoming more engaged with Demo Manchester . Clive also added that South Cumbria were looking to increase involvement in discussions relating to Lancashire service development.

He reported on the recent meeting with Donna Parker . Discussions included cataract referrals and possible future developments such as learning difficulties, childrens services and independent prescribing .It was noted that James was being given a supply of prescription pads and 14 optometrists were signed up to do the IP course. The CCG also wanted to meet with the LOC to discuss the Integrated Eyecare Services and other general areas. This raised the general issue of links between PEL, the Acute Trust and the CCG .which may require the LOC to facilitate a meeting.

Stuart reported on his meeting with Blackburn and Darwen. The main emerging issue was the direct referrals to Spa medical and increased use of Beardswood. Although there was no suggestion of significant problems there was a potential overspend in the budget with no apparent explanation albeit patient choice. There had been a general discussion on referral rates and the impact on activity and references to data collection and although Stuart had offered possible reasons he expected the Trust to continue to review.The proposed letter to be sent by the Trust to Contractors regarding referrals was AGREED. Mark also commented that referrals to MECS had exceeded expectation and again explanations were being sought . David Gould commented on the problem of data sharing for out-of-area patients. Clive again reported that there had been no firm interest in the replacement of LOC Officers and reiterated that he would be happy to 'shadow' anyone taking up the Chairmanship . The appointments had to come from within the LOC membership but could include co-opted members. David Cleasby indicated that he could be interested. AGREED : to continue to seek interest and discuss at the next meeting.

16/27 Report of Treasurer

Mark reported that the financial position of LOC ,to date, was relatively healthy. He had received a refund of the loan from PEL and details of the levy income were reported. Following agreement at the AGM he had asked Capita to **increase the Levy to 1.4% with 0.5% being paid to LOCSU to cover the uplift in contributions** and he expected that this would take effect in the following month. Members were also reminded of the need to submit expense claims in a timely manner. Expenditure since the last meeting had been met .

David Cleasby took opportunity of highlighting problems in delayed payments for IES claims and consequential difficulty in reconciling payment with invoices. Agreed :Mark would check with the Acute Trust to make sure there were no problems; James to raise with PEL; and, Clive to speak to Dharmesh to clarify payment mechanism.

16/28 Integrated Eyecare Services

Clive confirmed that the Focus Group meeting arranged by Webstar ,in Manchester was scheduled for 7 September but would confirm .LOC had been allocated a place but it was agreed to see if two member could attend the event.

The proposed development of the higher level GRR seemed to have stalled and would not be progressed further at this time. It was understood that Bradford University were to offer the Glaucoma Diploma course but the closing date was 18 September.

Reference was made to the Occular Hypertensive service and the need to Webstar to have reminded interested participants of its start up. There was also a need to ensure that patients already in the system were accommodated in the arrangements and it was suggested that Gian be asked to provide a portal to bring them into the system. AGREED : Mark and Jawad to enquire.

It was noted that some DOs had expressed desire to provide LVAs and needed to undertake the Safeguarding modules but were unable to do this via DOCET. AGREED; David Gould would enquire whether there was an alternative route. It was also noted that DOs and Trevor Warburton were developing a MECS pathway and some discussions were taking place with ABDO Need to watch the space.

16/29 Report of LEHN

Daisy reported that the main discussion centred on the Child Vision Pathway. The responsibility for the children's school eye screening service rested with LCC but there appeared to be a problem in regard to those children who failed to attend .Enquiry had been made as to whether children who failed school screening could be referred to an optometrist for review and referral to an orthoptist if required. Reference was made to the LOCSU pathway which could be adapted .It was AGREED ;Clive to give Daisy a copy of the Pathway; Daisy to draft t note to Optometrists to ascertain likely interest in providing the service.

At this point it was unclear whether the CCG /LCC would commission a service but nonetheless it was felt that we should seek interest so that Daisy could seek to progress an enhanced service through the LEHN.

Daisy also reported on National Eye Week and Ruth reported that agreement had been reached that the local pharmacies would mount a promotional drive in support of this . It

was intended to issue pharmacies with publicity material and Ruth was actively seeking financial support to this. It was also reported that there was a joint pharmacy/optical event in Manchester on 22 September and it was suggested that something similar could be mounted in Lancashire.

Discussion had also been held on the Strategic Transformation Programme (STP) which was a Lancashire wide exercise looking at the delivery of secondary and primary care services and local authority provision. The aim was to put patients first but the only reference to optometry ,at this point ,related to child eye health .

16/30 Education and Training

Clive reported on the forthcoming educational events and specifically referred to LVA services where it was suggested that all interested parties should get together to talk through the services in order to provide a co-ordinated approach and understanding particularly in regard to the provision of aids. He suggested that participants should include the voluntary sector eg the Accrington and Blackburn services ,Galloways and Action for the Blind. It was AGREED that Vicky would liaise with Nynisha to consider a joint organisational event.

Jawad also referred to the provision of shields and he was currently looking at some samples which may be supplied .There was also a form being developed for any special needs.

16/31 Website

A general discussion was held on the website and members reminded that to ensure information was up to date ,Ceri would need to be kept informed of changes.

Reference was made to recent national publicity regarding an optometrist and it was agreed that the LOC should not be directly involved in the support campaign but could draw attention to the web link.

It was also AGREED that the LOC should meet the domain fee of £24.96 excluding VAT and that Ceri should forward the invoice to Mark for reimbursement.

James added that the PEL website (pelancashire.co.uk)should be 'live' shortly. It was noted that it may need to be clarified whether individual contractors would need to be informed or agreement sought should the website include a list of accredited practices. The Diabetic Society had also asked for a list of MECS accredited practices.

16/32 Correspondence

Details of correspondence were received and noted.

16/33 Date and Time of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting be held on 18 October at 6.30pm