

East Lancashire local Optical Committee Minutes of Meeting held on 21 June 2016

Present	Clive Duerden(Chairman)	David Gould
	Zunaid Ally	Daisy Green
	James Bontoft	Stuart Ingleby
	Vicky Chiu	Mark Jkinson
		Ceri Smith – Jaynes

In Attendance : Ruth Cuthbert ,Optometric Adviser

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Aftab Ahmed ,David Cleasby and Nynisha Patel
It was noted and agreed that Nynisha's absence was due to reasonable cause but hoped that she would attend the next meeting to comply with the Committee's Constitution.

16/18 Declarations Of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

16/19 Minutes of Meeting held on 16 April 2016

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 April 2016 were agreed as a correct record subject to the correction of the spelling of Vicky Chiu in Apologies for Absence

16/20 Chairman's Report

Clive referred to the presentation by Mr Shankar at the AGM and commented that he had not expected a large audience and had aimed his presentation to those constituents who had previously expressed interest in the higher level GRR scheme .There may be a further session on this at a later date . Nonetheless Mr Shankar had been well received.
He reported that the second round of the Independent Prescribing scheme had been announced and that to date ,four expressions of interest had been received. In discussion it was noted that the course included learning of the range of medicines within clinical guidelines most of which would not be relevant in practice .However James commented on the importance of understanding clinical conditions and relevant prescribing.
Clive reported that he was meeting Donna Parker in July and hoped to raise with her future commissioning opportunities including provision for children with learning difficulties which had been previously highlighted by orthoptists. Other matters he hoped to raise were outstanding payments prior to the introduction of the IES scheme; the CCGs position in regard to Higher Level GRR; IP and budgets; and, the different arrangements for written orders to pharmacies across the CCGs. It was hoped that Stuart would be able to attend but there may need to be a meeting with the Blackburn with Darwen CCG along similar lines . It was timely to seek to develop regular liaison with both CCGs.

AGREED : Clive to raise with Donna: Continue discussion on Higher Level Referral Refinement; Consider meeting with BwD CCG.

Reference was made to the possible development of Mentoring arrangements with the aim of not only supporting constituents ,particularly new optometrists ,but also in offering

advice and guidance on areas such as the IES arrangements. Members discussed the issue in terms of appraisal and peer support and were reminded that the LOC did not have structures in place to provide this. It was noted that LOCSU could offer a training course and support could be available through the AOP. Members were asked to give further thought as to whether this could be progressed as a LOC service but that we would need to identify suitable Mentors to take it forward.

AGREED: Action by all members

Clive also referred to discussions taking place in regard to Healthier Lancashire and was disappointed to report that although there had been publicity on this, no references had been made to optometry. It was suggested that opportunity could be given to highlighting optometry during the forthcoming National Eye Week. Ruth reported on an initiative proposed by pharmacists who wanted to promote eye care and it was agreed that we should support the Local Eye Health network in taking this forward.

AGREED: Daisy to report back after the next LEHN meeting.

Clive reminded the meeting that although officers were appointed at the AGM, these were short term arrangements and we need to be looking to confirm arrangements from September/October –ish. Members were asked to give thought to the Chairmanship and Vice Chair (bearing in mind the tradition to have the appointments from different CCG areas). The Secretary could be appointed following the decision on the aforementioned.

16/21 Treasurer's Report

Mark reported on the income and expenditure since the last meeting and that there was a surplus of approximately £4k in this period. Details of the current bank balances were also presented.

Specific reference was made to Primary Eyecare Lancashire (PEL) and members reminded that the loan made to them remained outstanding. A question was raised as to whether expenses of Board Members could be paid by LOC and re-charged to PEL under agreed management arrangements but it was felt that PEL should remain responsible albeit the option could be revisited if required. Discussion was held on the previous agreement that LOC would meet training and accreditation costs for optometrists partaking in the Integrated Eyecare Services (IES). Although it was agreed reasonable to have met the costs of the initial training requirements it was felt that PEL should now meet the costs for new entrants albeit that LOC could advise on and organise educational events including OSCEs but to re-charge PEL.

AGREED: Mark to write to PEL in regard to the recovery of the loan and to future training and accreditation arrangements.

Mark referred to the request from LOCSU to raise their voluntary contribution to 0.5% and reminded the meeting that this had been agreed at the AGM along with a general uplift of the statutory levy to restore balances following the high expenditure during 2015/16.

AGREED: that the statutory levy be increased to 1.4% of sight test fees to include the uplift in contribution to LOCSU. Mark to inform the payment agency accordingly.

Ruth took the opportunity of highlighting the Central Optical Fund and gave a brief history of its working. She reminded members that the LOC had decided several years ago that it could not continue to contribute to the Fund without a mandate from the AGM but that individual constituents could make donations if they so wished. However, she reported that the Central Lancashire LOC had agreed to donate a monthly flat fee to the Fund and

enquired whether it was timely for the Committee to reconsider its position. Mark was mindful of the pressure on the budget and recent decision to increase the Levy and

suggested it may be prudent to wait until the end of the year to assess our financial situation.

AGREED: to consider a donation to the Central Fund at the end of the financial year and report to the AGM

Mark also referred to the pension arrangements for LOC members who technically were classed as 'employees'. He reported that he had sought advice from the Accountants and would report back.

16/22 Report of AGM

Members discussed the arrangements for the recent AGM and felt that overall it had been a successful event. Mr Shankar's presentation was well received and provided insight on the possible introduction of the higher level GRR scheme. The format of having a speaker presentation prior to the meeting had helped to achieve a good attendance and the circulation of the Chairman's report in advance had enabled more time to discuss issues and problems affecting constituents including a good debate on the IES.

16/23 IES and Future Commissioning

Mark reported on his attendance at an event organised by NHS England in London to look at future commissioning opportunities and commented that it appeared that the LOC and respective CCGs/Hospital Trust had already introduced many of the services referred to at the conference. There was also a lot of interest expressed in what had been achieved locally.

The LOC would continue to try and get more practices involved in the IES scheme.

In this respect a query had been received as to whether LVA scheme could be extended to include provision for domiciliary visits. It was noted that at present there was no provision for this but it would be taken up with the Trust

AGREED : Mark would raise at his forthcoming meeting ;he would also raise a query on GOS 18s.

James reported on a meeting to discuss the higher level GRR held the previous evening and that the draft proposals were to be updated to reflect the points made. Further discussions would need to be held to clarify and agree requirements including the status of participating optometrists and equipment requirements. In order to progress it was felt that we should identify practices who wished to participate in monitoring of stable glaucoma patients either in hospital or premises as 'out reach clinics' and had the necessary equipment to do so. Details of patient numbers and payment were yet to be determined

AGREED: Mark would draft a questionnaire for circulation; the updated draft be sent to Dharmesh for comment.

In so far as the future was concerned the Committee would continue to look at opportunities for developing pathways for further services, in conjunction with LOCSU support, for presentation to the CCGs for consideration.

16/24 Education and Training

Clive reported that Nynisha had given him an update of the future programme. The LVA workshop was confirmed as was Dr Barnard to talk on integrated services and paediatric contact lens fitting . It was agreed that LOC would meet the reasonable expenses of Dr Barnard including his accommodation costs. It was understood that we would not be the CET provider for these events . A response was awaited from ELHT in regard to the OSCE session.

AGREED : Nynisha to confirm dates and arrangements so that the events could be publicised and venue arranged for the respective presentations .Nynisha to progress the OSCE

16/24 Website

Ceri reported that information on IES had been removed from the website at the request of ELHT in view of the commercially sensitive nature of the information. However it was felt that we should be able to use the website to highlight process and procedures and to act as an information source.

It was added that if out of area optometrists were asked to provide services the patient should be referred to the GP.

AGREED: Mark to liaise with Ceri in regard to the extent of information which could be disclosed and to confirm procedures for registration with Webstar ,accreditation standards and other information to enable Contractors to partake in the scheme.

16/25

Report of Optometric Adviser

Ruth gave a brief report on matters under consideration by the Eye Health Network including the development of a pathway for Children's Vision.

Updates were also given on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment which unfortunately was delayed; confirmation that no further information was available in regard to Diabetic Eye Screening; no information was available as to when Post Payment Verification visits were to be resumed; and, a reminder that Quality in Optometry confirmation returns would be sought later in the year.

A query was raised in regard in regard to NICE and College guidance in relation to IOPs . It was felt that the College advice that all patients should be referred irrespective of age if they had had pressures above the appropriate level.

16/26 Date and Time of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting be held on 16 August 2016