

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the East Lancashire Areas Local Optometric Committee held on 10 May 2011

PRESENT: LOC members and 23 constituents

WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the AGM.

MANAGEMENT OF HYPERTENSION : MR A VIJAYKUMAR

The Chairman introduced Mr Vijaykumar , Consultant Ophthalmologist, East Lancashire Health Trust.

Mr Vijaykumar opened his presentation with a reminder that the management of glaucoma was an evolving process and at the end of the day he expected that optometrists would adopt the simple principle of doing the very best for their patients. He referred to the “ Myth of 21 “and outlined the initial presentation of glaucoma and the management including modifying intraocular pressures. In this respect he explained how the figure of 21 had been set albeit that further studies indicated that this figure was no longer the ‘rule’. He reminded the meeting of the importance of the NICE guidelines and highlighted the general referral criteria into secondary care .The main pointers being disc assessment ,evidence base and risk assessments .He went on to outline a recent occupational health studyand invited Optometrists to visit his Department to observe practices should they so wish (Secretary: 01254 734000)

Opportunity was also taken of reminding the meeting that the East Lancashire Glaucoma Refinement Scheme was due to go “ live “ on 1 July and further details would be circulated by the PCT .

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mike Broadhurst, Ruth Cuthbert and Val Pellowe

MINUTES OF AGM HELD ON 25 MAY 2010

The minutes were agreed

MATTERS ARISING

Communication: The Chairman reminded the meeting that the Committee remained anxious to obtain email addresses of Constituents in order to improve communications.

Service Developments: The meeting was reminded of the existence of a pathway for macular degeneration and that the service for wet AMD was going to be re-launched shortly.In the meantime there was an invitation to go to the WET AMD Clinic at Blackburn if anyone was interested. Miss Aburgreen was also to give a presentation at the Oaks,Burnley on 29 June .

CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman circulated copies of his Annual Report on activities of the Committee in what had been a busy year.

Liaison and discussions with the respective PCTs and Hospital Trust had continued ,at times frustratingly, but there was a definite desire to see services move into the community setting .This had led to the Committee concentrating on developing enhanced services primarily glaucoma and cataracts.

During discussions it was apparent that the PCTs wished to introduce contract compliance measures and the chairman emphasised the importance of reviewing practice procedures in line with the Clinical Governance toolkit as promoted by the profession . PCTs had accepted the toolkit as a standard but it remained clear that the emphasis on governance would continue. It was also expected that a programme of practice visits would be introduced but with forthcoming changes to PCTs it was unclear as to whether these visits would be sustained . The PCTs had also discussed Information Governance and whilst this may be a requirement under enhanced services it was not a contractual requirement under gos regulations.

At the time of the Report it was unclear as to what was happening in regards to the White Paper on the review of the NHS. What was apparent was that PCTs were to be abolished in favour of Clinical Commissioning Groups with a larger ,perhaps Lancashire wide overarching structure to manage contracts .This in turn may require a review of the LOC . Discussions had been held at PCT level in regard to the shape of things to come and joint forum with other LOCs established to continue to ensure that the profession had a firm voice in any emerging structure. On a local basis the emphasis was on fostering links with the local GP bodies to ensure that all opportunities of developing enhanced optometric services were maximised .

In conclusion the Chairman thanked all the members of the Committee and constituents who had assisted him during the last year. He stressed the importance of continuing to have the support of everyone in what would undoubtedly be interesting times ahead and a vibrant LOC was an essential prerequisite to a successful year. He wished to particularly thank those members who had recently retired from office and ,at the same time , reminded constituents that the LOC was their Committee and if anyone had interest in getting involved or attending meetings then they would be welcomed.

In response to questions the Chairman referred to his discussions with the PCTs on governance issues and also confirmed that he had sought the advice of LOCSU in regard to the contractual position .He also referred to guidance in “ Hot Briefs” and again reminded the meeting that copies were sent by email to those optometrists who had provided addresses.

TREASURERs REPORT

The Treasurer circulated details of the Audited Accounts and Budgets for 2011/12.

The meeting was reminded that the levy of 1.23% was based on all NHS fees earned and it was not proposed to increase levies during the next financial year. He explained the various items of expenditure and confirmed that costs remained in budget. He did not anticipate any additional expenditure headings next year but should there be unforeseen costs these could be met from balances.

The Chairman took the opportunity of thanking Derek Pellowe for all the work he had done in managing the accounts, his financial advice and for keeping healthy balances. Derek was stepping down as Treasurer but would continue to advise and support the Committee during the new Treasurers lead in period.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received

That the Audited Accounts for the year ended 31 January 2011 be received and approved.

That the proposed budget for 2011/12 be adopted

That KM Chartered Accountants be appointed as Auditors

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

The following Officers were appointed:

Chairman Clive Duerden

Vice Chairman Stuart Ingleby

Treasurer Mark Jkinson

Secretary David Noblett

CLOSING REMARKS

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and conveyed his best wishes for a successful year ahead. He also reminded everyone that they were most welcome to attend LOC meetings details of which were available from the Secretary.