

reminded of the possible PCT views on this .Opportunity was taken of looking at other possible educational events and a possible timetable was agreed as:

Peer Review	June	(Clive,Ceri and Ruth)
Coopervision	September	(Mark)
Laser Surgery	Autumn	(David G)

3/12 Chairman's Report

Clive referred to **Child Protection** and reported that he had undertaken the self assessment and found it straight forward. Reference was made to the responsibilities of optometrists to report any concerns to the appropriate POCT Child Protection Officer b. In this respect it was noted that although the arrangements in East Lancashire had been circulated the name of the officer covering BwD needed to be publicised and Ruth would take this up .

IG Toolkit: Clive had tried to complete this but it was difficult and there remained a debate as to whether optometrists were required to complete it .Clive had met with the PCT and provided a list of the areas covered by QinO and the PCT were looking at. Ruth added that she would let Clive have details about the NHS account.

Reference was made to the recent **joint meeting** with other Local Representative Committees at the LMC from which it appeared that each Committee was developing its own links with the new Clusters and NHS Lancashire. In this respect arrangements were being made to meet Jim Gardner at NHS Lancashire to discuss optometry.The value of continued attendance at this meeting was questioned.

NHS White Paper. Continuing from the last discussion Clive reported that the Lancashire optical transformation Board would cover the whole of the existing Lancashire area and was the first step in establishing a local professional networking body .In so far as the GP commissioning “clusters” were concerned it was anticipated that E L and BwD would one grouping and this would be discussed with Dr Gardner to ascertain the communication channel. It was also thought that the National Commissioning Board would hold contracts . Clive added that he was also hoping to meet with the chair of the Health and Well being Board in Blackburn.In terms of the future configuration of LOCs it was still unclear

whether to develop a Lancashire wide LOC with sub groups aligned to the GP clusters but this debate would continue on the LOC Liaison forum.

Clive reported on a workshop being held by **Action for Blind People** on 22/23 February.

Attention was drawn to the latest **LOCSU Hot Brief** and in view of its importance to all contractors it was agreed to post copies to all rather than simply email to the limited list.

Reference was made to the debate in the LOC forum website on **Cross Boundary Referrals** and it was agreed that once we have set up the LOC website we should include details of the referral pathways so that locums could access the information. Hopefully details of local schemes and pathways would be included in general information “booklets” provided to locums but the LOC website could act as a general ‘aide memoire’ to support this.

There was no choice for details of optometric practices to be excluded from the **NHS Choices** website but there remained a frustration that patients could post anonymous comments thereby without opportunity for a directed response.

In general questions reference was made to the discussion at the Northern Optical Society meeting on the poor uptake of **Diabetic Screening** in East Lancashire but it was unlikely that we will see a change unless via the new GP commissioning.

4/12 Treasurer’s Report

Mark circulated his statement of accounts .He highlighted that there was a deficit of income over expenditure in the accounting period due to mereting costs but these would be levelled out in future reports. Overall the accounts were ‘healthy’ and members were reminded of the need to consider expenditure schemes which would benefit all constituents.

Members were reminded of the cut off date for submission of claims for the year ending 31 January but ,in doing so, Mark thanked members for meeting deadlines. Attention was also drawn to the introduction of a new claim form.

5/12 Website

Ceri presented the draft of the new website contents and format and sought members comments.

The draft was reviewed and several slight changes suggested and Ceri agreed to email a copy to members for final review before the new website went 'live'. It was acknowledged that the site would be continuously kept under review and Ceri reminded everyone of the importance of ensuring that the contents was updated and newsworthy items submitted. In this respect it was agreed that responsibility for determining/editing items should not rest solely with Ceri. It was also suggested that Ceri should be remunerated for time spent and it was agreed that this should be aligned to the meeting attendance rate of £80/hour. Ceri and Mark should liaise regarding expenditure if required.

Once the site was launched all responsibilities should be transferred from Derek.

6/12 HES Spectacle Voucher Dispensing and Repair

Stuart outlined the background to the arrangements with the Hospital Trust and the recent changes imposed which have led to uncertainty and correspondence in an endeavour to address the problems. It appeared that the Trust was now maintaining that changes to previous prescription was 'advice' and not an instruction requiring a payment. Stuart outlined the actions he had taken by dispensing one pair of spectacles in order to address this and thereby putting the onus back on the Trust. However this caused confusion amongst patients who had been expecting two pairs.

It was agreed that the position was highly unsatisfactory and Stuart agreed to review the contents of his email exchanges with then Trust in order to draft a letter to Contractors explaining the position. The letter could include the name of the officer contact at the Trust so that optometrists know the contact point.

It was also noted that Vijay had said that he would provide written definitive confirmation of the Trust's position and Clive agreed to remind him so that the LOC letter reflected the situation. Clive would also raise at the PCT Liaison meeting for it to take up.

7/12 Eye Examination in Schools

The Chairman had previously declared an interest in this item.

It was reported, by way of background, that the Headmaster of a school had approached a Contractor as to the possibility of setting up a service in the school premises . In response the Contractors had explained the GOS requirements for an all inclusive service and the need to avoid any question of improper approach to patients who already attended a local practice .

The PCT was considering the matter with the possibility of developing an enhanced service as a pilot scheme although it was unclear how this would fit in with GOS regulatory requirements . It was noted that safeguards were being considered including chaperone arrangements to comply with child protection issues. It was also clarified that children (patients) requiring special education needs would be referred into the service by the school only in situations where they were not currently attending an optometrist for eye care .

Members noted the position.

8/12 Reports from Sub Groups

Cataract Direct Referral Scheme: David Cleasby reported that Ruth was leading the Group which was currently looking at relaunching the service and introducing simplified paperwork(based on Central Lancashire). No date had yet been determined .

Reports of other meetings had been circulated prior to the meeting. These were received.

9/12 LOCSU

Details of correspondence from LOCSU were reported.

10/12 AGM

It was agreed that the AGM should again be held at the Dunkenhalgh on 1 May 2012 and that due notice would be sent out by LaSCA to all Contractors and Performers on the lists of the EL and BwD PCTs as per the constitution.

It was suggested that we should invite Mr Vijaykumar to give a presentation and that a CET point be applied for .

11/12 Equipment Grants

The Chairman reported that the EL PCT had written out inviting applications for a grant towards equipment .A fund of £170k had been set aside but this covered all contractor groups. It was not clear if BwD had a similar scheme .

12/12 Date and Time of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held at Ewood on Thursday 19 April at 6.30pm