

North & West Lancs Local Optical Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held Wednesday 13 January 2010



APPROVED & SIGNED
22 SEPT 2010

Swallow Trafalgar Hotel Samlesbury Preston PR5 0UL
(Junction 32 of the M6/M55)

Present

Vic Cottam (Chair)	Paul Hutchence
Ian Shaw (Treasurer)	Neil Pearson
Antony Mazeika	Phil Kirk
Mike Ryan	Ruth Cuthbert
Phil Jones	Sally Ferguson
Marian Gray	Sarah Bentley
Jane Quinn	Simon Kay
Matthew Nelder	Teresa Broadhurst
Mike Broadhurst	Tom Mackley
Mike Moon	Val Hughes
Jane Barker	Alan Bowen

ACTION

1 Apologies for absence were received from:

Angela Moss

2 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Approved.

3 Matters Arising

3.1 GOS1 forms

MB to action

MB has produced an A4 flyer and will distribute to LOC Committee members.

3.2 Performer and Contractor Status of Members

MB checked with attendees their Performer/Contractor status and is now in possession of a valid list. VC confirmed that the status makes no difference to being a Committee Member. MB added that only Contractors can vote to have a Contractor on the Committee, only Performers can vote to have a Performer on the Committee.

3.3 4 week Post Op Cataract Scheme BVH

MB confirmed that the paperwork sent out to patients to advise them about the service included instructions to bring in old spectacles.

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4 Treasurer's Report

- 4.1 **Balance** – confidential part of Minutes
- 4.2 **Statutory and Voluntary Levies** – confidential part of Minutes
- 4.3 **Other Expenses/Costs**

Schools Optometry Scheme – NHS Central Lancashire

£30,000 set aside (£1,000 per school). MB reported that there were some more costs to come in, the greatest expense being the blackout blinds which cost around £5,000. Some promotional event costs yet to come. 15 or so CRBs, costing around £20-30 each. Not expecting many ongoing costs. Would be nice to have a lens trolley and extension cables. The PCT approached 30 schools initially and around 24 joined the scheme. Should any optician wish to approach a school, they should co-ordinate it through MB.

5 LOCSU

IS to action

VC reported that having attended the NOC, he felt LOCSU had 'got its act together' and that the work they were doing as well as future projects were enhancing schemes.

MB referred members to the Agenda attachment which looked at the costs involved and discussion followed. For 2010, the annual subscription would be £21,147.20. Committee members were asked whether or not to pay the annual subscription out of the money it had, knowing that contractors would need to contribute eventually. LOCSU accounts are available for LOCSU members.

VC made the following proposal: Vote to support LOCSU and pay the annual subscription of £21,147.20 with immediate effect for a 12 month period, subject to annual review as to whether to continue to support them.

It was unanimously agreed.
None against.
No abstentions.

6 Liaison Group Meetings – Reports

6.1 LOC/PCT Liaison Meetings

MB reported that the LOC/PCT Liaison Meetings were now scheduled for 2010 and meeting notes are disseminated and up to date. He reminded members that meetings were quarterly, around 2 hours long and members were welcome to attend.

6.2 NOC Conference

VC presented the notes of the NOC Conference. As an addition, he reported on item No 7 John Levett's presentation on Validation. JL had confirmed that validation will happen, but that there was no further information as to when, the costs involved or how it would be set up. A Road Show was currently touring the UK and MB and PH are to attend the Manchester event 10 February.

MB/PH to attend Road Show and report back to Committee Members.

7 Optometric Advisor Reports

7.1 Diabetic Retinal Screening Service

MB and IS reported on the Diabetes Vision Group meeting they attended 13 January at NHS Central Lancashire. Key points to note:

- 19,000 patients and increasing throughout North West
- training and validation are part of the screening process
- the PCT has requested that the LOC support and fund the Optometric Lead
- camera audit taking place
- software was an ongoing cost which has become too expensive for the scheme
- 6 'educational' meetings per year
- no information/audit that the screening works/has saved sight

Deferred until further information is forthcoming.

7.2 Glaucoma Discharge Scheme Blackpool

MB reported that the BVH was keen to find work around the NICE guidelines and that he has put through various proposals to them. Awaiting decisions.

7.3 MECS Central Lancashire

MB reported that First Choice Eye Care has put a bid in for MECS at Preston Royal Hospital. Ramsay Fulwood Hall Hospital keen to get involved – they have an excellent track record and IT support is in place.

7.4 GDS, MECS, LVA North Lancs (Lancaster and Morecambe)

GDS: MB presented brief update. The PCT are keen to move forward, but not necessarily with optometrists.

MECS: No movement.

LVA: Funding has been approved and now moving ahead. Accreditation meeting set for 23 February – open to all regions. MB to notify all through usual channels.

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7.5 Low Vision Strategy Group

MB has been asked to attend their meetings.

7.6 Bolton AMD Service Improvement Leaders (BASIL) Symposium

MB presented the AMD report attachment. There was no further discussion.

8 Dates of Future Meetings

Wednesday 31 March 2010 AGM Swallow Hotel confirmed

Further dates to be arranged at AGM.

9 Any Other Business

9.1 Attendance at LOC Meetings

MB to action

MB to write to members who have not attended for 3 meetings or more having not sent in their apologies.

9.2 Offer of Committee Help

MB to action

MB has received an offer of support from Neil Heyes. Committee agreed that MB should write to Mr Heyes and invite him to the AGM.

9.3 NVision NW

MB attended the launch of NVision (previously Blackpool Fylde and Wyre Society for the Blind) and asked Committee if they would like to support them either by paying for a table at the Black and White Ball or 'buy a brick for £10'. Committee agreed to purchase 50 bricks at £10.00 each from 'North West Opticians'.

9.4 Vision4Children

SK reported on a new charity being set up by Arvind Chandna, Alder Hey Hospital, eye hospital for children. He asked members to visit their website and invited them to attend their next meeting 8 March 2010 at Swallow Hotel for a presentation by Mr Chandna. 7pm buffet, 7.45pm lecture, non members may pay at the door.

www.vision4children.org.uk
www.eyelearn.org.uk

9.5 Repeat requests for prescriptions

MB to look into it.

MR raised the issue that he has repeatedly been asked for prescriptions by Ramsay Fulwood Hall Hospital even though the

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information has been sent through.

9.6 Letter from Central Fund requesting contributions

SB commented she'd received a letter from Central Fund asking for money. RC explained that Central Fund's income has been reduced and that they were looking for ways to increase support. It was confirmed that it was down to individuals to contribute or not.

9.7 Optical Benevolent Fund

IS invited members to look at the website. He explained that the fund was for all optometrists who fell into financial difficulties. A link is available on the AoP website.

www.opticalbenfund.com

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Signed:

Vic Cottam
Chair

Date: _____