

Minutes of the Meeting held Wednesday 11th January 2012

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

Present:

Antony Mazeika
Ian Shaw
Jane Barker
Jane Quinn
Phil Jones
Michael Jackson
Alan Bowen
Mike Broadhurst
Sally Ferguson
Rizwan Iqbal
Matthew Nelder
Edwin Shield
Teresa Broadhurst

Philip Harper
Simon Kay
Tom Mackley
Val Hughes
Vic Cottam
Mike Moon
Marian Gray
Paul Hutchence
Sarah Bentley
Mike Ryan
Colin Tonner
Neil Pearson

1 Apologies for Absence were received from

Ruth Cuthbert

2 Any Other Business not on the Agenda

SF – NWLLC website

SK – BMI Post Op Cataract Scheme – MB explained that a change of management had resulted in the halting of the scheme.

Statutory Levy report – members request percentage

PJ – To pass on details of Glaucoma Referral Refinement Scheme to MB.

ACTIONS

MB to circulate %
of deduction taken
from each practice

Minutes of the Meeting held Wednesday 11th January 2012

3 Approve the Minutes of the last meeting

All committee members agreed the minutes to be a true record - Approved and signed.

4 Matters arising from the last meeting

PH leaves the room declaring a conflict of interest as a complaint raised at September's meeting was discussed. MB advised that since the last meeting this matter had now gone to the GOC. Some members of the committee raised the question of whether this was still a LOC matter as the GOC was now involved. The issue of 'whistle blowing' was discussed. All agreed that incompetence should be reported but never discussed with a patient and it was pointed out that, in this case, the matter was made somewhat worse as the information coming from hospital staff was likely to be perceived by the public as more 'professional' than an optometrist's opinion. It was agreed, after further discussion that VC and MB would draft an email and send it out to the whole area including the individual concerned. ES asks if anyone else has had any problems with any other hospital/community optometrists. All - no.

5 Treasurers Report

5.1 **Balance** - IS - Confidential part of Minutes

5.2 **Statutory Levy Report** - MB reported that a request had been made from the Lancashire Optical Society meeting (9th January) for £300 to support a meeting. The committee were in agreement for this support. The Statutory Levy was now up and running and several refunds had been made to those practices that were doing under 150 tests per annum. No monies had been paid to LOCSU as yet and MG asks how much is to be paid. IS replied £42K and the suggestion was made to pay £21K now and wait until more is requested. IS proposed paying 1 yr at the yearend which is 28/02/12. All agreed.

Minutes of the Meeting held Wednesday 11th January 2012

6. Optometric Advisor Report

Delivered by MB

6.1 Glaucoma Discharge Scheme Blackpool/North Lancs

Still no decisions been made. A meeting was to be held next week with Ges Naylor to discuss this scheme. Community sites for pachymetry were to be discussed. JQ asks what will happen on 1st April. MB replies the referrals may be back in hospitals. VC advises there is a new Glaucoma Lead and there would be more news next week.

6.2 GRR Blackpool/North Lancs

North of North Lancs pilot was now running, Blackpool was awaiting results of pilot scheme. Natalie Davidson at NHS North Lancs had advised that they had only had 6 claims and there appeared to be a problem with payment/LASCA reporting. MB advised all that any payment problems should be directed to him.

6.3 Eye Casualty Discharge Scheme

No activity – ongoing

VC asks-“If the LOC were to fund the training would the scheme get up and running?” MB agrees to ask the question

MB to put forward the suggestion of the LOC paying for training for this scheme

6.4 MECS Central Lancs

Still waiting for contract to be awarded but the PCT's are working all hours to get the new organisation in place – Blackpool are in lock down from 9am-4pm.

6.5 GDS, MECS, LVA, OHT north of North Lancs

GDS - No change in activity in this area.

MECS – Up and running and working well – MJ reported that he was now seeing GP referrals which was great.

LVA – Again the service was running well with some minor issues over equipment e.g. bulbs/switches failing. MB reported that the system works well in his area and is within budget.

OHT – MB reports that this has never happened and is not likely now in North of North Lancs.

Minutes of the Meeting held Wednesday 11th January 2012

MB advised the committee that all PCT contracts are potentially at risk due to the changes/cost cutting taking place.

6.6 Visual Screening in a domiciliary setting

The view of the AOP remains that a means of testing visual fields, which produces recordable results (for example the Damato Campimeter) in addition to confrontation targets, should be routinely available for all patients, although this may be manual or electronic. Nothing further to report.

6.7 Future reports

MB advised all of the First Choice Eye Care audit and explains how the information gathered is invaluable to prove the saving made to the PCT. He also explained what a valuable tool it would prove to be to send out to GP's explaining the benefits and showing the hard evidence of patients being kept out of hospital.

7. IGT

MB reported that it seemed some PCT's were insisting IGT was completed. The AOP however, has stated that optoms do not need to comply unless they hold a NHS net account. MB advised all to not get involved unless completely necessary.

8. NOC

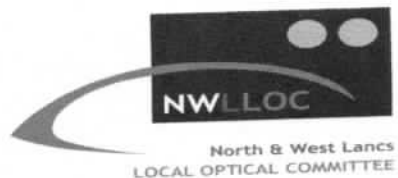
Date for this conference – 18th/19th October 2012 – Members are asked to put this date in their diary and to advise MB if they wish to attend.

9. Dates of Future Meetings

AGM 28/03/12 – 18:00hrs start

MB asked if he should try to get a speaker for this meeting and Chris Hemmerdinger was suggested. All were in agreement.

North & West Lancs Local Optical Committee



Minutes of the Meeting held Wednesday 11th January 2012

10. Any Other Business

MB raises the issue of the NHS website which allows patients to write comments directly onto the site and the implications are discussed. VC advised that he had spoken to someone from the East Lancs area and the comments will be 'moderated' by trained staff.

SF asks if someone could be paid to manage the NWLLOC website as the information was out of date. MB agrees to contact LOCSU to see if a template could be acquired. SB informs that she has a contact that could be approached to do this project.

MB to contact LOCSU and report back to committee

MB brings up the subject of the poor service/food currently being provided by the Swallow Trafalgar and asks if a location change would be appropriate. All agree that some alternative venues should be researched although the AGM would remain at the Swallow.

JG to research venues/cost implications.

The meeting closes at 8.05pm

Signed:

Vic Cottam Chair

Date:

9/5/12