

Minutes of the meeting of the Cambridgeshire Local Optometric Committee which took place at The Black Bull Hotel, Godmanchester on Thursday 8th March 2007.

Present: C.Hurst (chairman), D. Harrison, D.Ireland, C.Edwards, A.Lask, C.Hely, L.Hodgson, V.Rosamond, S.Urquhart.

Apologies: W. Newsom, J.Wade.

Minutes of the previous meeting: having previously been circulated were approved by the meeting.

Matters Arising: There were none at this time.

Clinical Governance: As discussed at the last meeting, the proposed clinical governance meeting will now go ahead on Thurs. 26th April, and will be funded by the committee. Geoff Roberson has agreed to come and talk about the new AOP/College Toolkit for Clinical Governance. The Infection Control Audit will also, hopefully, be launched at this meeting. The details will be finalised at the next Clinical Governance meeting on the 15th March.

Hinchingbrooke Glaucoma Scheme: There are no changes to report.

Diabetes: David Ireland went to visit the Cheshire and Merseyside scheme with Alison Hammond. They went to visit the practice of Lyndon Taylor, which is the only practice currently using Clinisys software. He has a Canon Camera, and has no problems accessing the software, there have been problems with a practice using a Topcon Camera. Patient confidentiality is still a problem with the system, although they access information using name + date of birth-not a number. They are hoping to have 33 practices using the software. There is a better back-up system, as all practices have had BT broadband and identical monitors paid for by the PCT. David felt that the visit was encouraging and that the Clinisys system will be able to work.

The Cheshire optometrists are paid £17 for photography and £8 for grading the images, which is a considerable difference to our existing fee of £20. D. Ireland has approached K.Hayton and C. Hely about increasing the fee to the same level as that in Cheshire. They are both supportive of this, however there is currently a £53m deficit within Cambs. PCT. However the committee felt that this is such an important matter that there should be a countywide meeting of all the Optometrists involved in the scheme to discuss this, and the current position of the screening scheme. This meeting should probably be in April/May.

Chairman's Report: The Chairman attended the AOP Roadshow at Anglia Ruskin University, where the establishment of the LOC support unit was discussed. This unit will provide training for LOCs, to give a greater knowledge of the local NHS and how to commission services locally and who to contact. In order to provide this service the AOP will need to have 0.5% statutory levy from each LOC. This means that in Cambridgeshire we will need to increase the levy to 1.5%-this will be discussed at the next AGM. The committee then voted to approve the setting up of the LOC support unit-there was unanimous agreement for this. The chairman will go to the special NOC on 15th March to give our approval.

Treasurer's Report: The balance at the end of February was £16,412.31p

One-Day Conference: C.Edwards has arranged speakers for the day, together with a display from Zeiss and a DVD from Optometry giving sight. The leaflets advertising the day will be sent out in May. A.Lask was asked to make contact with the person who provided the Public Address system at the last one-day conference.

Programme: A. Lask has been contacted by G. Macallister, who is willing to give a talk on 'flashes and floaters' the committee felt that this is a topic everyone is very familiar with, so decided not to go ahead at this time. A. Lask has also been contacted by W. Newsom, as Rupert Bourne is keen to hold an afternoon meeting to give a talk on 'angle-closure'. The committee felt that afternoon meetings are not convenient for

the majority of Optometrists and an evening meeting would be better-perhaps as one of the meetings at the Bupa Lea, possibly in September. Alison will go back to Wendy with this suggestion.

Any Other Business: The Peterborough Ophthalmologists have decided they would prefer a slightly different referral form to that which has been devised by Addenbrookes and Hinchingsbrooke. The feeling of the committee was that there should be 2 referral forms, one for Peterborough and the other for Cambridgeshire.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 19th April at The Black Bull. A meal will be served from 7pm.