

Minutes of The Cambridgeshire Local Optometric Committee , which took place at The Black Bull Godmanchester on 25th September 2007.

Present : W. Newsom, A.Lask, V.Rosamond, L.Hodgson, C.Edwards, S.Urquhart, G.Macalister.

Apologies: D.Harrison, G.Kirk.

Minutes of last meeting: Change a phrase in Matters Arising that the dinner will be paid at the expense of the members.

Matters Arising: Places have been confirmed for those members attending the LOC training on Friday 26th October.

Anglia Ruskin University will be running a Low Vision Clinic.This will be run in conjunction with Camsight and a flier will be distributed in the near future.

There has been a problem sending money to the LOC support unit in the manner requested by the AOP. The treasurer is looking into this.

PCT+ Clinical Governance Update:

Following the recent meeting of the Clinical Governance Optometry Group ,it was felt that the message of the importance of Clinical Governance needs to be communicated to all optometrists in the area. One way of doing this is to send out a list of the basic 'Standards for better Health' –which comes from the AOP + College Toolkit. This could then be sent with a questionnaire to ascertain which standards are already covered in practice. There is a need to fund Clinical Governance from the LOC Budget.

There has been an update to the Cambridgeshire referral form and this is to be found on the Cambs. PCT website.

Shared Care Schemes:

Diabetes:At the recent meeting to discuss the diabetic scheme,there was a noticeable lack of representation from the Peterborough practices.

The main problems were found to be:

Huntingdon –overloaded with patients referred from GP practices,

Peterborough-contract difficulties + difficulties that the software presents,particularly in a large practice.

Cambs. –contract difficulties.

The offer was made that if the fee did not increase people would be free to pull out of the scheme. C.Hurst decided to withdraw from the scheme. All the others were resigned to the reduced fee as it stands.

A.Lask is to take over from D. Ireland as the diabetic co-ordinator for the LOC, and will attend the regular diabetic meetings as from 05/11/2007.

Glaucoma: In Peterborough the EPR is imminent. In Huntingdon there is to be no move to Phase II as Rupert Bourne wants the HRT to be in the community. The cost of these is around £25K. Mr. Bourne is trying to negotiate a higher fee for the Glaucoma scheme with the PCT. J.Wade and N.Coley are to join the Glaucoma scheme.

Cataracts: There is still no scheduled audit for the Addenbrookes scheme. There is no update on the possibility of combined cataract accreditation across the County.

One-Day Conference: 64 people have applied to attend so far. Committee members have been assigned various tasks to ensure the smooth-running of the day. Docet funding has been approved.

Chairman's Report: There is a need for new members on the committee. Karen French will be joining as from the next meeting. There is also a need for a combined cataract accreditation scheme. Hinchingsbrooke currently has 75% direct referral for cataracts. Peterborough still has exclusion criteria for their scheme, so is not a truly direct referral scheme. To date there has been no re-accreditation for those directly referring into Addenbrookes.

Treasurer's Report: There is £13,365.45 in the main account and £9,000 in the savings account. The levy to the LOC support unit will be paid every 3 months. There is a need to plan a budget so that we can move forwards with the funds and make the best use of the money.

The treasurer has checked with the AOP and meals can not be paid for out of the funds. With regard to visiting lecturers, it is fine to pay for food for them. Lecturers for evening meetings can be paid from £25.00 up to £125.00.

Programme: Rupert Bourne is speaking in September on 'Acute Angle Closure Glaucoma'. G.Lennox is speaking in February on 'Ocular Aspects of Movements'. Declan Flanagan will be speaking in March, hopefully at a meeting at The Bupa Lea.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 20th November. It is proposed to alternate meetings between Tuesdays and Thursdays and to hold these every 2 months. So the following meeting will be Thursday 24th January 2008.