

Minutes of The Cambridgeshire Local Optometric Committee which took place at The George Huntingdon on Thursday 24th January 2008

Present: W. Newsom(WN), K. French (KF), G.Kirk (GK), D. Harrison(DF), D. Hardiman –McCartney(DHM), R.McLaughlin(RM),V. Rosamond (VR), L.Hodgson(LR), G.Macalister(GM), C.Edwards(CE), S.Urquhart(SU).

Apologies: A.Lask(AL), R.Whitehead (RW).

Minutes of the last meeting: These were previously circulated and approved by the committee. WN suggested that Jeremy Wallman should be invited to attend a future meeting , as he has a remit from the PCT to communicate with Optometrists. Rupal Lovell-Patel will also be attending meetings as she is the Clinical Governance Facilitator as well as representing Anglia Ruskin University. All agreed that the change of venue to The George is fine.

LOC Support Unit: There is to be a meeting arranged by the LOC support unit on the 4th February and 3 committee members will attend.

LH has been in contact with Patricia O’Sullivan at the AOP regarding payment of fees to individuals. This is mainly based on common sense. She made some suggestions which are based on information from 100 LOCs. When people go to meetings the rate paid is equivalent to a locum daily rate, which can be from £190 to £350 per day. The hourly rate for meetings seemed to vary from £26.00 to £80.00 . (Cams. LOC currently use the figure of £40.00 per hr and £250 per day).Some LOCs employ a secretary , the rate for this varies from £6.50 per hr. to £26,000p.a. It was decided that this should be discussed again at the AGM .

PCT and Clinical Governance Update: At the last meeting of the Cambs. Clinical Governance meeting Rupal Lovell-Patel was introduced as the Optometry Clinical Governance Facilitator. This role has replaced that of Optometric Adviser. Rupal will be attending the next LOC meeting and works for the PCT on a Friday. She will be liaising with the CG Facilitator in Bedfordshire, as the majority of Bedfordshire optometrists participate in CG. So, hopefully we can learn from this and apply this in Cambs. It was decided to revisit some of the items listed on the recent infection control audit, possibly in the form of a meeting for all Optometrists.

Cambs. PCT have approached WN to see if there are any ways of saving money using Optometrists. Glaucoma screening in the community may not be a cheaper option.

Shared Care Schemes:

Diabetes: Clinisys is almost ready and will be going live in Huntingdon in the 1st week of February and Peterborough shortly afterwards. Initially the system will be slow,as when the system started in Cheshire the speed of sending the images is rather slow. Clinisys are working to improve this and are aware of the importance of speeding things up. Jeremy Wallman has said that the fee will increase to £25.00 and there will be unlimited software licences.WN is doing the secondary grading and the letters generated by the system seem to be a bit mixed up, at the present time.

Glaucoma: N. Coley and J.Wade are accredited to the Glaucoma scheme in Fenland, however there is a delay from Fenland PCT in moving forward with this, which may be cost related.

Cataracts: RM is working 2 days per week in Addenbrookes, and is working on arranging an annual update meeting for the Cataract scheme.

Low Vision: There is to be a low vision meeting next week. Camsight is running the low vision network with Kevin McNally.

One Day Conference: CE distributed copies of the analysis of the conference questionnaire. 67% replied. Suggestions were made to have a quiz next time, or an interactive presentation. The Contact Lens lecture received the most criticism.

Chairman's Report: WN said that the committee should work towards distributing the Cambridgeshire referral form to all practices in Cambridgeshire. The Peterborough referral form is a slightly different format and has been distributed to Peterborough practices. This was done when the infection control audit was sent out. It was suggested that the Cambs.letter should be distributed on a CD –Rom with various other items. These items include: M. Hingorani's talk on the post-op cataract protocol; R.Bourne's points on 5 ways to assess the optic disc; A.Poulson's categorization of Retinal Detachment. DHM and RM have volunteered to put these items onto disc and will look into the possibility of producing different discs with versions which will suit varying types of computers and software.

G.P.s are debating the issue of direct referral for Optometrists, next week. There is no funding for such a scheme, but one could be set up in Cambs, along similar lines to the scheme currently running in Suffolk.

Treasurer's Report: LH reported that the balance of the account at the end of Dec.2007 was £14,343.09. There is around £3000 due from DOCET for the conference. There will be a full report on this at the next meeting.

Any Other Business: AL is concerned about payment for doing Triage in optometry practices. This is something the committee needs to look at.