

BEHLOC AGM MINUTES

30th June 2015

at Stephens House, East End Road, London N3 3QE

1. Attendance

Iran Aziz, Michelle Barry, Ambia Begum, Nusrat Begum, David Burns, Talia Chernick, Adrienne Dalcher, K Das, S Dattani, Danielle Ellis, Rebecca Ellis, Sara El-Zein, Simon Gavzey, Salma Giga, Ammaad Haider, Punit Haria, David Hunter, Attia Khan, Sue Leighter, Neha Mehta, Pranitha Naidu, Moaz Nanjuwany, Carolyn Norman, Anup Popat, Richard Quail, Prakash Rughani, Susan Scaffardi, Bhavin Shah, Bhavni Shah, Bijal Shah, Sheena Shah, Shreni Shah, Isobel Tarshis, Kusoom Vadgama, [Charles Greenwood]

2. Apologies

David Baker, Hugh Breakspear, Parita Shah

3. Minutes

The minutes were proposed by Moaz Nanjuwany, seconded by Danielle Ellis, and approved unanimously.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report (Sue Leighter)

The Chairman's Report is re-produced below:

Over the last year the NHS has been unsettled with the need to create efficiencies and the uncertainty over the election. The LOC has found that a number of its contacts have moved on and this has made our task more difficult. LOC members have continued to attend meetings at the CCGs on a regular basis.

Your Chair has met regularly with Barnet CCG with regard to our existing Cataract Direct Referral and Glaucoma Referral Refinement services and the LOC is currently waiting for the revised specifications and NHS Contract to be ratified by the CCG. Unfortunately a number of staffing changes have created delays in the process which we have been unable to avoid and the contract has not yet been issued. Meanwhile the schemes are carrying on, but we are unable to add new practices to them. A number of changes are being made and you will have received a copy of the updated referral process with your AGM pack.

Our discussions with both Enfield and Haringey CCGs to discuss pathways have not yet led to any new optometry based services, but we are hopeful that the current red eye service may soon be extended. We have found LOCSU to be very helpful as an aid to our discussions. We hope that over the coming year we will be able to build good working relationships with the CCGs and our members will continue to attend meetings in order to promote our services. We will continue to disseminate information from the LOC Support Unit (LOCSU) and the Optical Confederation. Members of the committee continue to attend multi-disciplinary meetings arranged by the London Visual Impairment Forum and are forming useful contacts with other local organisations.

We have hosted further practice visits for MPs this year, which has given us the opportunity to highlight our clinical skills and explain how we can improve the patient journey through services such as Minor Eye Conditions.

LOCSU have continued to host meetings of the London LOCs. JCL Consulting continues to meet with the LAT on behalf of all the LOCs. This ensures that we present a united front and these meetings are ongoing. The London Eye Health Network Chair, David Parkins, has also been active in promoting eye health in London and the LEHN report has now

been published. David has now been appointed chair of the Clinical Council for Eye Health Commissioning (CCEHC) which we hope will increase the profile of optometry with commissioners.

We would like to continue to try to educate local GPs as to the skills we all have and the services we can provide for their patients. If you have a good relationship with your local GPs and would like to be involved in talking to their practice please let us know. We have a presentation that can be used. LOC members have also been giving presentation to local falls groups.

We would be pleased to hear from any one with suggestions for further Enhanced Services for which they feel there is a need in our area and for which we could produce a business case. Suggestions made so far are Low Vision, Learning Disabilities and Children's Eye Care.

Do not forget that part of our role is to support local contractors and performers with regard to GOS and please contact us if you have any queries about any Contract issues and we will be happy to support you or to give you advice. The new system for Contract Assurance has not yet been rolled out across the whole of London, but it is possible that Contractors will be asked to undertake a self assessment process in the next twelve months. Based on the Quality in Optometry template, it is easy to complete and our advice is still that contractors who have not already done so pre-empt any request by using the website to update existing policies to take into account the changes within the NHS and create those that they do not yet have in place, as the window for providing the response will be quite narrow.

The LOC can only survive with support from local practitioners so if anyone feels that they would like to be involved with the LOC we welcome new members. We particularly need practitioners based in Enfield and Haringey. LOC members are reimbursed for any time spent on committee business and it is a good opportunity to use your skills to benefit your colleagues. Even if you do not have the time to join the committee we are always interested in having people who are prepared to attend the occasional meeting or be part of a 'task and finish' group.

JCL Consulting continues to provide our administration and Charles Greenwood's vast experience of Optics is very useful to us. He represents the committee at a number of external meetings and this has enabled committee members to use their time more effectively.

Please ensure that you check your mail boxes regularly to ensure that e-mails from the LOC are not going into your Junk or Spam mail boxes as we regularly send out important notices via e-mail.

Finally I would like to thank all the members of the committee for all their hard work over the last year.

Thank you all very much.

Acceptance of the Chair's report was proposed by David Burns, seconded by Moaz Nanjuwany, and approved unanimously.

6. Treasurer's Report (Adrienne Dalcher)

The Treasurer's report is re-produced below. *Accounts were circulated at the meeting and have been placed on the secure section of the website.*

Total income for the year was £45309.17

Total Expenditure for the year was £43857.74

Thus a small surplus of £ 1451.43

The surplus compounds with that received over the last few years as can be seen in the comparison figures and consequently, we now hold £64,134.57 in the accounts.

About half of this surplus is due to a conference on dyslexia several years ago which was attended by teachers and

other special interest groups. The LOC would like to utilise some of these funds for a Dry Eye Event and we need to keep a fighting fund to be able to bid for services.

Sight test numbers for the past 12 months have not been made available, hence the accuracy of the receipts cannot be checked. However I believe the CCGs are now all paying the same levy of 1%, unlike last year and Haringey members in particular should have noticed a drop in their contribution.

The LOCSU contribution has dropped to 0.4% in April 2014 (previously 0.5%). From April of this year onwards I have agreed to pay this based on current payments received, in place of the previous arrangement which was based on the previous year's receipts or sight test numbers divided into 12 equal instalments. To make up the difference in the change-over paying LOCSU is being paid an extra one off payment of £796.91

BEHLOC holds accounts with Santander and HSBC. The Santander account is an old passbook account, which no longer accrues a higher rate of interest than the HSBC deposit account, therefore I propose closing it and bringing all the funds into the HSBC account which is far simpler to manage.

It is proposed maintaining the levy at 1% of NHS sight test receipts for 2015/16 and keeping the rates paid at the current level of £40 per hour.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Bobby Das, seconded by Moaz Nanjuwany, and approved unanimously.

7. Local Community Services

Sue Leighter reported that frequent changes to staff had led to lots of delays to the re-vamped cataract and glaucoma schemes in Barnet. She was hoping that they should be launched in the next few weeks. Contracts would be direct with the CCG via the NHS Standard Contract. There is an increase in the fee although it will entail slightly more work. Sue pointed attendees towards information in their AGM packs about the schemes and explained the RMS system. Patients seen by practices not providing the service will be triaged to those that are. There had been a few issues with forms not containing medical history which was needed. She also pointed out that the ophthalmologist manned advice line was very useful.

The LOC had tried hard to engage with Enfield and Haringey CCGs but with less success. Sue remained hopeful that David Parkins' strategy and the re-launch of the Barnet schemes might help to persuade them. The LOC is always happy to look at potential schemes but needs and costs effectiveness must be considered.

David Burns queried the use of the term screening in paperwork. There was some discussion and it was agreed that it should be termed "assessment service".

There was a query about forms to be used. It was confirmed that there will be new ones but they are drafts at the moment as a few glitches need sorting out. It was queried if the outcome of the assessment needs to be communicated to the original optometrists and it was confirmed that it did.

There was some general discussion of the RMS and the various "community services" and how they operated.

Issues around the Enfield and Edmonton Eye Service sending GOS Voucher requests to optometrists was discussed. This was not legal and the service has been made aware as have the CCG and NHS England. Information had been circulated via the LOC's email list and once the LOC has more information, this will be circulated as well.

9. AOB

Moaz Nanjuwany informed the meeting that the Association of Independent Optometrists was holding a conference in October in Nottingham.

Adrienne Dalcher asked everyone providing domiciliary services in Haringey to let the LOC know so that the information could be publicised.

David Burns flagged up the recent AOP leaflet on the GOS and asked for views. Sue Leighter felt that if inappropriate things were seen through GOS then it would be difficult to get these commissioned in Community Services.

He also queried if Barnet contractors had all received GOS fees recently. It appeared that there were no general problems. He told the meeting he had had a query from a Year 12 student looking for work experience. If anyone could offer this, they should contact him.

There were some queries around getting nhs.net accounts. Currently the route was to get these through the CCGs. Anyone interested should email the LOC in the first instance.

Simon Gavzey stated that he understood that historically if a practice charged less than a GOS fee for a private patient then this is all that should be paid on the GOS. Sue Leighter clarified that this was in fact for vouchers and had never been so for sight tests.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next AGM would be around the same time of year in 2016.