

Minutes of the Meeting Held On Tuesday 17 October 2006 at Regent House, Heaton Lane, Stockport

PRESENT:

Dr A Ghafoor – Vice - Chairman
Dr R S Gill – Honorary Secretary and Treasurer
Mr P Stevens – Executive Officer
Dr H Azmy
Dr G Carter
Dr C Crook
Dr G Parker
Dr A Patel
Dr R Patel
Dr R Seabrook

The Chairman thanked Paul Gill from Servier Laboratories for their kind sponsorship of the meeting

1. Apologies For Absence

1.1. Received from Drs David Gilbert and David Bostock

2. Matters Arising

- 2.1. Mr Stevens advised the committee that as a result of the continued refusal of 3 practices to pay their Voluntary Levy the Executive Committee had taken some particularly difficult decisions across the past month to cut costs. In addition to the one session per week of GP time saved from April 2006, the Committee had taken the decision to close the LMC Office and effectively serve redundancy notice on Mrs Cording. In addition, Mr Stevens' hours have also been reduced. Annual cost savings are projected to be approx £20,000.
- 2.2. Mr Stevens advised that the LMC Office would close at the end of November. Thereafter, it would operate virtually with a PO Box address and a "pay as you go" mobile phone to receive incoming calls. Correspondence to practices will primarily be transmitted via email and information cascaded via email and website.
- 2.3. The Committee expressed their discontent regarding the 3 outstanding practices and it was agreed that one last attempt would be made to contact the practices to bring them back on board. Should no response be received the Committee were advised that the outstanding amounts would probably need to be written off. Should this happen, the LMC reserves, established over many years would probably be almost completely eroded and the practices who had failed to pay their levy would need to be formally identified to all Stockport practices via the LMC Annual Report.

- 2.4. The Committee also expressed their deep disappointment for the need to make Val redundant but accepted that having made the decision to close the office, the Executive Committee had no alternative.
- 2.5. The Committee expressed their sincere thanks for the hard work and contribution that Val had made to the LMC during her 9 years of employment.

3. Minor Surgery

- 3.1. The Committee reviewed the PCT letter proposing the clarifications to the Minor Surgery *Excisions* debate.
- 3.2. The committee proposed a minor amendment to the 2nd Paragraph of the letter removing *"There are no limits to the amount of procedures carried out. However, we would ask that"* so that the paragraph would state *"Additional services are funded within the contract. Practices who no longer feel able to provide additional and enhanced minor surgery services, should inform the PCT so that we can provide alternative arrangements"*
- 3.3. The committee felt it was inappropriate for there to be no upper limit on service provision, since as with all aspects of NHS service provision when demand exceeds available supply a waiting list forms.
- 3.4. The committee also suggested that the 3rd Paragraph became:
Additional Services include clinically appropriate:
 1. Cryotherapy
 2. Cautery to skin tags
 3. All curettage
- 3.5. The committee felt it was appropriate that there was a consistent policy towards "cosmetic" indications. Therefore, if cosmetic indications are excluded from the Directed Enhanced Service it was appropriate for cosmetic indications to be removed from the additional service provision of minor surgery.
- 3.6. The committee also confirmed there was a need to agree the process for payment of current outstanding claims.
- 3.7. Mr Stevens agreed to discuss the comments with Stockport PCT.

4. LMC Representatives

- 4.1. Dr Nij Hussain agreed to attend the Association of Greater Manchester LMCs Amber List Drugs Discussion Group. It is understood that this meeting will take place quarterly. Mr Stevens agreed to forward relevant papers to Dr Hussain.

- 4.2. A representative is still required to attend the monthly STAMP (prescribing) meeting at the PCT.
- 4.3. Dr Ghafoor expressed an interest in representing the LMC at the Pandemic Flu Planning Meetings if they could be held on a day other than Thursday. Mr Stevens stated that he would make this request at the next meeting planned for 2nd November 2006.

5. PBC Update

- 5.1. Dr Gill advised the Committee that PBC performance to date in Stockport was encouraging, with activity statistics beginning to reflect the hard work of practices across Stockport.
- 5.2. Committee members whilst pleased to hear the progress of PBC expressed their extreme dissatisfaction to the freezing of Prescribing Incentive Scheme monies. The committee was particularly disappointed in the manner in which the announcement was and considered it contrary to the spirit of partnership working which PBC had attempted to engender.
- 5.3. The committee urged the LMC Executive Committee to voice its dissatisfaction in this respect.
- 5.4. Dr Gill also commented that he had been informed that private sector Healthcare Providers were at an advanced stage of securing premises in Stockport / South Manchester.
- 5.5. Dr Gill reiterated the need for Stockport GPs to create a strong independent Primary Care Structure of their own.

6. Premises Update

- 6.1. The committee was advised that the decision as to whether any of the first 5 premises developments went ahead had been deferred until December.
- 6.2. The committee again agreed that the future delivery of General Practice was being hamstrung by the lack of long term investment in Primary Care infrastructure.

7. Any Other Business

- 7.1. The committee reviewed a proposed Local Enhanced Service to cover patients at the Bamford Grange Care Home.
- 7.2. After debate the committee agreed to the specification but expressed concerns regarding the number of sessions funded and the implications to the contract holders QoF and PBC particularly prescribing performance.

- 7.3. In addition the LMC requested that the arrangement be replicated for other establishments of a similar nature across Stockport.
- 7.4. Mr Stevens agreed to take forward these concerns with the PCT.
- 7.5. Mr Stevens advised that he had received a request from a practice for Stockport wide agreement on CKD exception reporting where treatment was either not required or not considered beneficial. The committee suggested that the LMC make representation to the PCT Medical Advisor in this respect.

8. Date Of Next Meeting

- 8.1. This will be held on Tuesday 21st November at 7.30 pm at Pinewood House, Stepping Hill.
- 8.2. A hot buffet supper will be available from 7.00 pm.