

SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2012

The financial year 2011/12 has been a period of transition for the LMC, dictated by the Health & Social Care Act, forthcoming LMC elections, decisions about the role of LMC Executive officers and conflicts of interest with regard to the commissioning agenda. Therefore, there has not been any long term impact on financial planning for the LMC as yet.

As Accountable Finance Officer (AFO), I can again commend to you the healthy state of the LMC's cash flow and note that the end of year financial balance for 2012 remains in a comfortable position, with little change from 2011. As always, this is largely due to the hard work of Margaret Wicks, LMC Manager, driving down expenses and looking for the best financial deals for the future of the LMC office. I would like to thank her for all her hard work.

STATUTORY LEVY

RECEIPTS

This reflects a true total income received by the LMC from the levy paying members in Sheffield.

I congratulate the LMC Secretariat for all their efforts in encouraging new membership from sessional doctors and also doctors in Sheffield for their enduring support of the LMC.

PAYMENTS

The main points of note are:

Rent and services

A full rent review did not occur in December 2011 and, as a result, the rent has remained at the 2011 level during 2012.

Administrative staff salaries

The increase has resulted from:

- A cost of living increase for eligible staff (but no incremental increases);
- Payment for some of the holidays due (above the statutory minimum) that were not taken;
- The commencement of contributions to a member of staff's pension fund, in line with current contracts of employment.

Officers fees

There have been no increases to salary to reflect the increase in workload. The small reduction reflects the fact that James Parsons left the LMC Executive in August 2011 and has not been replaced. In view of the increased workload there will inevitably be a financial impact on the LMC Executive officers' fees at some point.

Repairs and renewals

These have remained static as no major repairs or redecoration was required during 2011/12.

Printing, stationery and postage

The increase is mainly attributable to the purchase of a laptop and associated software for use by the LMC Manager.

VOLUNTARY LEVY

RECEIPTS

I congratulate the Sheffield levy paying GPs for 100% payment of their voluntary levy.

PAYMENTS

GP Defence Fund

The voluntary levy is largely collected to contribute to the GP Defence Fund, which assists the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) in legal challenges to government policy and helps to fund the GPC Secretariat. This is by far the largest expense and has risen, as anticipated, as a result of the contribution rate increasing to 5.75p per patient and there being no in-year refund.

Furniture

As in the past, the voluntary levy has funded one-off payments for upgrading the office and in 2011/12 this included purchasing new furniture for the LMC's filing room.

2012/13 FINANCIAL YEAR

Significant concerns remain about the ever increasing workload, financial pressures, the impact of the Health & Social Care Act and on-going involvement of the LMC in clinical commissioning.

IT Review

There have not been any costs associated with the IT review, other than the purchase of a laptop / associated software, due to the LMC Secretariat postponing implementation whilst undertaking a wider workload / staffing review.

Telephone System Review

This has been completed by the LMC Secretariat and a new telephone system has been installed, with associated costs occurring during the 2012/13 financial year.

LMC Executive Workload

As stated previously, the LMC Executive remains in a state of transition, reflecting on the increased workload, the loss of James Parsons and the fact that Tim Moorhead has now taken up his position as CCG Chair, resulting in a reduction in his LMC commitments.

As you will be aware, elections are now underway to appoint a new committee to commence in December 2012. As a result, we are undertaking a review of how workload and funding can be adjusted to reflect the increasing pressure on the LMC Executive, in particular with the commissioning agenda. This will include exploring suggestions such as committee members shadowing Executive Officers and taking on larger roles, as well as continued work to encourage levy paying GPs to join the new LMC.

It is anticipated that this will incur an increased cost and therefore an anticipated rise in the levy which, as I stated last year, has not increased since October 2006.

As ever I would be happy to answer any questions.

Dr D A SAVAGE
Accountable Finance Officer