

Dudley Local Dental Committee

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Minutes of a meeting of Dudley Local Dental Committee held on Monday 10th April 2017, at the Queens, Belbroughton.

Present

Sue Stevens (Chair), David Cooper (Secretary), Annette Southall (Treasurer), Ari Kapnisis (Vice Chair), Balbir Bhandal, Jennifer Cooke, Sheena Patel, Stephen Rees and Anjum Sheikh.

Apologies

Naven Pillay, Jo Thompson, Lucy Thompson and Mike Dixon.

Minutes

These had been circulated and were accepted by the meeting.

Peer Review

Peer Review meetings had now been completed. Sue Stevens had facilitated a group in Dudley and David Cooper one in Sandwell. Subjects for audit had been antimicrobial prescribing and fluoride varnish application. Feedback had been very positive and it was

hoped that more money would be made available for the scheme to be extended for the coming financial year.

West Midlands LDCs Meeting

SS had produced a written report of this meeting which had been held in February.

The distribution of the Statutory Levy to individual LDCs had been discussed and a meeting of LDC Treasurers had been called. Annette Southall had attended that meeting and reported that levies were being calculated proportionately from figures relating to the time when they had first been paid as a lump sum to all six LDCs. The Treasurers had argued that this was unacceptable due to the lack of accountability and certainty as to whether the figures were correct. The AT would be asked to provide an up to date spreadsheet so that the amounts could be calculated accurately. Future payments to individual LDCs would be made electronically at quarterly intervals and a further Treasurers' meeting had been arranged for May.

In the light of these anticipated regular payments, it was agreed that Dudley LDC should donate £1,000 to the Guild per month until it was up to date with its payments.

SS would contact the local Healthwatch, a patients' organisation, to let it know what the LDC was and what it could do.

LDCs had concerns around the poor accountability of the AT and the difficulties encountered in trying to contact individual officers. Eddie Crouch and Phil Davenport from Birmingham LDC had met with the head of Primary Care, Richard Yeabsley, to outline these concerns. The response took the form of an apology but the basic problem was a lack of manpower and a 50% rate of sick leave. The AT seemed to be admitting that it couldn't cope.

LDC Chairs/AT Meeting

A full report of this meeting had been circulated and posted on the LDC website.

The AT had issued a letter urging GPs to update their NHS Choices profile. They had asked the LDCs to be co-signatories to this letter. That request had been denied as NHS Choices details were not a contractual obligation and it was not the LDCs role to ask for such information.

The Urgent Care MCN had now met twice, but Balbir Bhandal commented that it was still to decide what constituted an 'emergency' and what was a reasonable distance for a patient to travel for such care.

Two Prototype practices had reverted to UDAs.

No AT funding would be available for interpretation services. There was a service called 'Language Line' to which it was suggested LDCs could subscribe. However it was felt that this would be unnecessary unless a specific need for such a service was flagged up by local practitioners.

The proposed Referral Management System will allow NHSE to monitor secondary care more closely.

Orthodontic Commissioning/PDS Contracts

There had been applicants in Dudley and Sandwell for the spot purchasing available. Ten contracts had been awarded over six sites. Complaints had been made about the lack of adequate time for the tendering process to be completed.

CDPH Mary Tomson had carried out an Orthodontic needs assessment combining epidemiological data with the Stephens formula in order to achieve a more accurate result. There was still no indication as to how much work was being done in Secondary care, however.

Diabetes Leaflet Event

SS had attended this event, the aim of which was to get the professions working together in the care of diabetic patients. There had been a presentation from Diabetes UK about its work and aims.

GDPC Update

There had been no recent GDPC meeting. The next was scheduled for May.

LDC Conference

This will be held in June at the NEC and SS and DC will be attending.

Any Other Business

Stephen Rees reported that GDPs were receiving requests asking them to produce dental fitness certificates for children due to undergo cardiac surgery. A standardisation of criteria should be available and this should come from the cardiac clinics.

Date of Next Meeting

Monday 3rd July at the same time and venue.