

Dudley Local Dental Committee

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Minutes of a meeting of Dudley Local Dental Committee held on Monday 1st February 2016, at the Queens, Belbroughton.
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Present

Sue Stevens (Chair), David Cooper (Secretary), Annette Southall (Treasurer), Balbir Bhandal, Naven Pillay, Stephen Rees, Anjum Sheikh, Eddie Crouch and Mike Dixon.

Apologies

Jennifer Cooke, Parminder Sunnar and Lucy Thompson.

Minutes

These had been circulated. They were accepted by the meeting.

Matters Arising

The newly appointed CDO, Sara Hurley, would be visiting this area from 5th to 7th April. LDC Executive members will attend a dinner with her on the evening of the 5th.

The proposed amendment to the constitution regarding non-attendance at meetings by members was found to be already in place. The member in question who had not attended for over a year had been contacted by email and invited to rejoin the Committee. No reply had been received, so his name had been removed from the list of Committee members.

Treasurer's Report

Annette Southall gave a report and submitted audited accounts for the year to 30th September 2015.

There was a healthy surplus although the cash flow had been a little unstable due to the variation in the intervals between payments from the master account administered by the Birmingham LDC Treasurer.

There was a reserve of £24,000 with £10,000 of that held in a deposit account.

A cheque for £2,000 sent to the British Dental Guild had not been cashed and was now out of time. It was agreed that the Guild should be contacted so that this amount could be resent or paid via electronic transfer.

Capita were taking over the administration of the Statutory Levy and the question was re-emerging as to whether this should continue to be a percentage or revert to a fixed amount. The Committee felt that a percentage was fairer and more easily collected.

LDC Chairs/AT Meetings

Minutes of these meetings, attended by Sue Stevens, had been circulated to members.

The skill deficit in minor oral surgery had been discussed. The new referral form was now in use. It seemed that the majority of inappropriate referrals were coming from a small minority of practitioners. It was likely that money would be made available - but not new money- for clinical assistantships within secondary care. This was not felt to be the ideal location for this type of training but HE England (ie the Deanery) wanted to keep the funding within its sight.

Efficiency savings of £5.8m were required from Dentistry within our area. This would come from such things as clawback, increased patient charge revenue, rebased contracts, lost seniority payments and unused maternity and sickness payments.

Of the two prototypes proposed for Dudley, only one had signed up as yet.

Following a whistle-blowing incident, the guidelines regarding washable or re-coverable keyboards had been stressed.

£600,000 of recurrent funding had become available for Orthodontics following the closure of a PDS contract and this was open for tender.

There had been no problems with patients being able to access services over the Christmas period. The flexible approach will continue, although next year practices will be asked to give longer notice of their individual arrangements.

It is the Provider's responsibility to keep NHS Choices up to date.

GDPC Report

Eddie Crouch gave a report on the recent GDPC meeting at which David Cooper had also been present. A written report from our GDPC reps was tabled at the meeting.

At the next GDPC there will be a more detailed discussion as to whether 100% capitation is worth arguing for in the future.

The new CDO gave presentation followed by a long question and answer session. She was very candid and does come across as a well needed breath of fresh air. Dentistry will never have more than 3% of the total NHS budget and the funding that had been made to be used in Dentistry was much less than she had expected.

She was critical of the new Commissioning Guides but pointed out that she had no personal input into commissioning. She hoped that contracts would roll on in the future and agreed that breach notices should not be attached to contracts in perpetuity. She also criticised the conversion of PDS+ contracts back to UDAs where the UDA valuation of 51% of the contract value sometimes would only correlate to £14-15 per UDA.

From April, practitioners would be expected to record DMF values on FP17s. Software providers had been aware of this for six months but BDA had only been informed just before Christmas. GDPC was very sceptical of the motives for this new requirement and suggested that it could not be done effectively without necessary training. The cynical view was that this was being introduced as a means to reduce some future capitation levels.

The offer from DH of a guaranteed 1% pay uplift if GDPC were to bypass the DDRB report had now been withdrawn as being out of time. DDRB will now advise and a pay lift, if any, will ensue.

Only 29 practices had signed up to the prototypes and it looked as if there may only be eventually 80 practices onboard and not the 100 that DH required.

The concept of '24 Hour Retirement' in the NHS was under threat due to the system being abused by high level NHS managers. The implications for dentistry were important.

Bill Moyes still continues at GDC but had been given a rough ride by Lord Hunt in Parliament.

Orthodontics

Mike Dixon reported that he had taken over from Mark Hammond and was working one day a week in Stourbridge. He was open for referrals and had no waiting list.

LDC Website

SS underlined that one of the functions of the LDC was to communicate with its constituents and with other professional bodies. She proposed that Dudley LDC should have its own website and as our finances were healthy, this might be the time to set this in motion. It was agreed that the designer of Birmingham LDC's website should be approached for further details of how to set this up.

Date of Next Meeting

Monday 11th April at 6.30pm at a venue to be decided.