Dudley Local Dental Committee

Chairman	Secretary
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Minutes of a meeting of Dudley Local Dental Committee held on Monday 23rd January 2017, at the Queens, Belbroughton.

Present

Sue Stevens (Chair),David Cooper (Secretary), Annette Southall (Treasurer), Balbir Bhandal, Jennifer Cooke, Ari Kapnisis, Naven Pillay, Stephen Rees, Anjum Sheikh, Joanne Thompson, Lucy Thompson and Mike Dixon.

Apologies

Sheena Patel and Adrian Williams.

This meeting had been designated as the AGM. The election of officers for the next biennium was deferred until later in the meeting.

Minutes

These had been circulated and were accepted by the meeting.

Matters Arising

The link to Alcohol Awareness Training had now been included on the LDC website.

Chair’s Annual Report

Sue Stevens gave her annual Chair’s report.
She said that the role of the LDC was to act as a conduit between the AT and its constituents, facilitating information in both directions.

It was encouraging to see a range of age groups making up the LDC and the setting up of the website had made information much more accessible.

A Peer Review scheme was in its early stages. Take up had not been very good at this stage but the initiative was another encouraging development.

Prototype contracts were continuing but were far from the finished article. Anecdotally, there were serious problems with maintaining access and losing money to clawback.
A Dudley practitioner had given a presentation at LDC Officials’ Day which had been very positive. He was, however, based in an affluent area and the prototype may be more difficult to deliver in a more deprived area.

Capita continued to struggle in delivering on the Performers’ List with increasing delays in adding practitioners to the list.

GDC seemed to be embarking on a charm offensive with Fitness to Practise still the most expensive aspect of its activity.

Treasurer’s Report

Annette Southall reported that levy payments had been erratic but there had been a surplus of £2597-28 on the previous year. However, no Guild payments had been made for two years.
The Committee agreed that Guild payments should be brought up to date by this time next year by paying £1000 every two months if the balance allowed.
Another levy payment was expected in February.

The Committee thanked Annette for her continued hard work on the accounts.

Election Of Officers

Chairman	Sue Stevens re-elected unopposed.
Vice-Chair	Ari Kapnisis and Jennifer Cooke were nominated and after a vote, Ari Kapnisis was elected.
Secretary	David Cooper re-elected unopposed.
Treasurer	Annette Southall re-elected unopposed.

West Midlands LDCs Meeting Report

SS and DC had attended the most recent meeting.

Members had reported that patients were having problems in contacting the Dental Hospital and that there were difficulties getting referrals accepted.

A new MCN for urgent care was being set up.

There was increasing dissatisfaction with the effectiveness of GDPC.

LDC Chairs/AT Meeting Report

SS had attended this meeting.

'Clock stops' had been engineered to ensure that the 52 week waits for Orthodontic treatment were not exceeded. Mike Dixon commented that disunity in referral criteria across the regions was a major problem. This was a national issue with no obvious solution although raising the bar for these criteria could reduce waiting lists.

There was an issue with NHS Choices information being out of date when it came to point ing patients towards unscheduled care.

Stephen Rees had attended the event in December regarding Referral Management. Two companies had given presentations of their systems and what they hoped they could achieve, mostly in the fields of Orthodontics and Oral Surgery. It all sounded very impressive, but the proof would emerge when the systems started running and how they could cope with problems. All practices would obviously need to be computerised to run these systems.
SS had submitted several questions in advance of this meeting but had received no replies.
The need for LDC input into the development of future systems was emphasised by the Committee.

Attendance at MCN Meetings

There were now six MCNs. LDCs did have some input but this was patchy. Should we, as a Committee, ensure that all of these meetings were attended by members who could then report back to the LDC?
The general mood was that MCN meetings were little more than talking shops which achieved not very much. It was decided to include MCNs as future agenda items so that members who had attended could feed back any pertinent information.

SS would ask B'ham LDC Chair, Phil Davenport, if we could be made privy to his reports on MCN meetings and DC would post MCN minutes on the LDC website.

Date of Next Meeting

Monday April 10th at 6.30pm at the same venue