

Dudley Local Dental Committee

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Minutes of a meeting of Dudley Local Dental Committee held on Monday 10th October 2016, at the Queens, Belbroughton.

Present

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

Apologies

Ari Kapnisis.

Minutes

These had been circulated and were accepted by the meeting.

Matters Arising

Sue Stevens had attended a meeting of the Urgent and Emergency Care Network Primary Care Programme in July. This body was being run by a CCG and the meeting consisted of discussions in small breakout groups. The main themes that came out of these discussions was that prevention was better than cure, there was a need for consistency across the professions and that the patient needed to know how to access the services. All fairly obvious points and SS was rather unimpressed by the whole affair.

Levy Payments

David Cooper reported that there had been a major delay in the payments of levies to all of the LDCs in our region. This had been due to a change of Treasurer who was administering the account and a lack of communication between him and the LDCs. The delay had meant that some LDCs' funds had been completely depleted. Annette Southall reported that she had just recently received a cheque for upwards of £14,000 but was not sure how many months were covered by this payment. DC and SS would seek clarification at the forthcoming West Midlands LDCs meeting.

LDC Chairs/AT Meeting

SS had attended the most recent meeting. These gatherings were becoming fairly large affairs with the addition of Arden, Hereford and Worcester to the group. Mike Buckle was chairing these meetings in the continued absence of Tracy Harvey. The main points discussed were as follows;

The new DPAs were Afy Ilyas, Adam Morby and Raj Dhami.

There was a five-year strategy for NHS commissioning but this was a merely a guide for the commissioners.

It was decided to set up an Orthodontic Reference Group and SS would attend as an 'urban' GDP representative.

PDS+ contracts were to end at the end of March 2017. Contract holders had until the end of the year to decide whether they wished to convert them to GDS or let them go out to tender. Balbir Bhandal remarked that no negotiation was possible, it was either accept 51% of the contract value or not.

There was a policy from NHS England to cover dentists and their staff regarding needlestick injuries, but in some areas this didn't seem to be working as charges were still being made. Mary Tomson and Nuola Woodman would chase this up.

NHSE thought that the year end process administered by COMPASS had gone well!! LDC Chairs begged to differ.

Contracts delivering less than 96% would be liable to clawback but contract holders should make robust enquiries if they felt that the figures were inaccurate.

There was an intent to procure level 2 services in primary care for minor oral surgery.

There was now a policy on incorporation which would be applied uniformly. Four out of five applications had now been approved.

LDC Elections

As Returning Officer, DC reported on the election process. There were five vacancies and five nominations had been received. Therefore there was no need for an election and all five nominees would become members of the Committee.

DC would inform all constituents of this outcome. Executive Officers of the LDC would be elected at the next meeting, which would be the AGM.

Any Other Business

Diane Boros, from the Public Health department of Dudley Borough Council, was offering drug and alcohol awareness training. Having had some email communication with her, SS suggested that there was no need for a presentation to be made at an LDC meeting but details of this training could be made available via the LDC website.

SS had attended a meeting of the previously mentioned Orthodontic Reference Group. There had been a discussion on referral management systems. There exists a process for 'clock stopping' which seems to be a way of sidestepping financial penalties and manipulating waiting lists so as not to fall foul of the 52 week limit. There was talk of Trusts being heavily fined if this limit was exceeded.

There was to be an overview of current primary care Orthodontic contracts. Very small contracts would be urged to convert to UDAs from UOAs.

SS suggested that at the next meeting, the Committee should consider electing a Vice-Chair with a view to that individual eventually taking over as Chair and that members should think this over before then. Stephen Rees suggested that a younger member taking up this post would be ideal for continuity.

DC had circulated a report from Eddie Crouch on the recent GDPC meeting. He urged members to study this report which was yet again fairly depressing.

Date of Next Meeting

Monday January 23rd at the same time and venue.