



Association of West Midlands Local Dental Committees

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held by Zoom videoconference on Wednesday 19th August 2020.

Members Present: Adam Morby, Eddie Crouch, Phil Caswell, Clare Banks, Vijay Sudra, Dave Cooper, Abid Hussain, Afy Ilyas, Ravi Solanki, Rob Tobin, Anjum Shaikh, Simon Harrison

1. **Welcome, Introduction and Apologies for absence:**

Apologies had been received from Bas Bhandal, Vijay Sudra, Peter Thornley Amit Jutla, Dave Cottam and Rav Kumar

2. **Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were recorded as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

3. **Action Points** arising from the previous meeting were:

1. Discussion with Nuala Woodman was had around flexible commissioning as a proposal for the concern with lack of MOS service in Wolverhampton. It was viewed that this would not be a way forward at this point in time and other measures were being taken by NHSE to address the concern.
2. Patient information required to raise awareness of constraints in practice at present and not to expect normal services – NHSE has a website for dissemination of this and would be circulating documents to providers.
3. Mr. Crouch gave an update on the meeting with Trish Thompson, who had been complimentary of how the LDCs had been supportive going into the pandemic. Questions that were asked were directed to Rebecca Woods for answering and she had also attended the Birmingham LDC recently.
4. Treasurer, Abid Hussain reported that until statements were received it was not possible to tell if funds had been received from the five outstanding LDCs (South Staffordshire, Coventry, Shropshire, Sandwell and Walsall). As of 16th June balance on account was £1,302.79.

4. Local Issues

Sandwell, Wolverhampton and Walsall LDC – a telephone conversation had taken place with Tracy Harvey around the lack of response from CCGs to antibody testing program being made available to dentists and their staff.

It was reported that similar situations had arisen around the region with a slow adoption to arrange.

Rob Tobin reported that Solihull LDC members and their staff were receiving antibody testing.

Birmingham LDC - a meeting was held on the 28th July 2020 and Rebecca Woods, Head of primary Care (GP, Pharmacy, Optometry and Dental) previously based in South Staffs was present. Nuala Woodman is her deputy. NHSE was looking for a similar approach across all STP areas but she did not have access to funding streams yet due to COVID but are conducting a scoping exercise for the priorities of the LDN. Jason Wong would be stepping down in September as LDN chair, an interim appointment may be necessary in the first instance and possibly two LDN Chairs would cover the West Midlands region.

The development of a Dental Transformation Board from October would take place and will be collecting baseline data on capacity across primary, secondary and CDS services. This board will also have stakeholder representation. NHSE was trying to get back to normal with the roles in the Area Team and were concentrating on the end of year work. Nuala Woodman had been contacted by a number of associates who had not been appropriately paid. They were also considering using Rego for referrals to UDCs.

Thomas Dietrich from BDH reported antibody testing of over 1500 people, 45% dentists, 35% nurses, 8% hygienist and therapists and 6% reception staff. Of these 16% had tested positive compared with 6% in the local population. A second questionnaire to all the people they tested to identify teams and analyse for any links in data. Further funding was being sought to assess how these antibody levels offer immunity with time.

Meeting with Kevin Fairbrother and Ben Cochrane from BDH attended by Mr. Crouch, Sudra, Morby and Cottam. They have approximately 30% activity across the school, but some departments only had 10% activity. They were currently seeing 30 patients a day in the urgent dental centre and the Childrens Hospital was offering support with child GA's. They were having difficulties in getting staff back from redeployment along with integral changes required within the hospital. The two week referral for head and neck cancer was still working well.

They DH were looking for ideas from primary care to how to deliver services that they are struggling to deliver in secondary care.

North Staffs LDC – Ms. Banks reported that 75% of practices were available to do AGPs and fit testing was available through the LDC for NHS practices. Surplus NHS PPE stocks had been distributed across the area.

South Staffordshire LDC – Mr. Caswell confirmed the receipt of PPE and that there were similar issues with lack of antibody testing as in other areas. Discussion of a move to set a deadline for practices in early October to aim for availability of AGP provision.

Commissioners had asked all practices in the area if they were able to offer emergency slots to take the pressure off the CDS seeing the irregular attenders to get people out of pain.

Dudley LDC – Mr. Shaikh advised that there were no issues to report.

Arden and Hereford LDC – all practices are delivering AGPs as there has not been a referral into the UDC hub for over two weeks. The problems are with Oral Surgery as only one clinician is delivering the service at present.

Shropshire LDC – Mr. Patel was only aware of one practice that was refusing to do resumption of face to face services but after discussion with the LDC and fit testing organized, this was resolved.

Wolverhampton LDC – Mr. Ilyas reported no issues other than those already mentioned by Mr. Cooper relating to the lack of antibody testing.

Mr. Ilyas commented that having a date to resume AGPs in practice was not feasible with a lack of honorary contracts and test kits for fit testers when there was not a constant supply of one particular manufacturer of FFP3 masks for practices.

It was hoped that there would be an Oral Surgeon in post in Wolverhampton in September with an agreement between CDS and Secondary Care.

Solihull LDC – Mr. Tobin reported that there were no issues in Solihull to report at present. Mr. Tobin wanted to confirm his support for the comments made by Mr. Ilyas with regards to not endorsing any dates for resumption of AGPs.

Worcesterhire LDC – Mr. Solanki offered his support to comments made previously, against the suggestion of a date for AGP resumption in practice. No other issues were to report

5. **Recent Meetings**

i. **BDH / LDC**

The meeting with Ben Cochrane and Kevin Fairbrother had been mentioned earlier in the evening.

6. **Update from GDPC / BDA**

The last meeting was Friday 14th August 2020. Leah Farrell had stepped down from GDPC and the Exec of GDPC since the LDC Conference, the vacancy on Exec was filled by Mark Green. A sixth CDO letter was eagerly awaited which was suspected to contain advice on the fallow time issues. SDCEP were also researching fallow times and guidance was expected imminently. There was a despondency expressed by colleagues as there had been no movement or instruction from DoH on the financial remuneration for practices in Q3 and Q4.

John Milne reported that the number of members of staff reporting to the GDC (blue on blue) was greatly increased at the moment with regard to non-adherence to the SOP. It was reinforced that the NHSE SOP should be followed and not strayed away from.

Orthodontic discussions were ongoing and at the moment NHSE are trying to mirror what is expected of GDS providers. The BOS have done audits to assess where the delays in provision are and these seem to revolve around the social distancing requirements and timings of appointments in practice rather than AGPs.

DDRB – a letter was sent to ask if the Welsh guidance could be followed where there has been an uplift of 3% as the RPI figures were used. It is suspected the England will choose to use CPI and therefore uplift figures will be lower.

The BDA hack had resulted in the website being closed down and totally re written. There are some extensive investigations by lawyers and cyber analysts underway to assess what was taken and early reports suggest that not as much information has been taken as was first thought, but what was taken related more to staff and staff payroll. This has not been fully verified yet and it is advised that all members keep a close eye on accounts.

7. **Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Hussain that there was nothing further to add that had not already been mentioned earlier.

8. **Any other business**

It was clarified that the abatement only applied in the period of time until the 7th June 2020 and not after that period of time. The abatement would only apply again if there was a local lockdown and a practice went back into the same position as it was in from April 2020 through to 7th June 2020.

A question was also raised for clarification on clawback and how might UDAs be carried forward. If a practice had between 96-100% then as negotiations stand at the moment that activity may be required in the contract year 21/22. Over delivery may only be paid in those practices where they were already identified in the Starting Well programme but other over delivery will be most likely lost.

Representation of colleagues by LDCs at PAG appears to have been lost. This needs to be raised nationally.

Dental Assurance issues that were put on hold have also recently been re activated.

9. **Date of next meeting** – Wednesday 14th October 2020 was set as the next date for a meeting.

Action Points for next meeting

1. Antibody Testing and availability from CCGs in The Black Country
2. Date for AGP resumption in dental practices