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20.2.19 WMLDC meeting, 6.30pm

Birmingham Dental Hospital chair Eddie Crouch

Present: Eddie Crouch, Vijay Soudra, Dave Cooper, Suresh Kumar, Dave Cottam, Amit Jutla(?), Affy Illias, ? Bhandal, William Sidhu, Sue Stevens, Clare Banks, Phil Caswell, Phil Davenport, Amrik Bhandal, Nick Gibb.

Local issues were raised around the table:

There is a new interview panel for potential and existing foundation trainers. 50/50 dentist/ lay. Several panellists were present at this meeting. Some confusion as to the procedures to be followed, timings, venue. This appears to be an initiative from the new postgraduate dean. There is some uncertainty about the direction of travel of HEE now. PAG attendance- Area team now send a letter to dentists to ask if they want an LDC rep as an observer for their case. At the last meeting, 2 Dudley dentists requested a rep from Birmingham, Vijay Sudra did this. Some DPA practice inspections have found dentists without a recent DBS. They have been prevented from seeing patients with immediate effect and given a breach notice. BDA are challenging breaches as it falls under CQC rather than a contractual issue. Generally a noticeable hardening of attitude from AT re breach notices. However providers are reminded it is their responsibility to do checks on their performers. Concerns were raised about the unacceptable delay for none UK dentists to get Performer numbers, possibly 7-8 months which is causing issues for dentists, patients and practices.

Orthodontic procurement

The lots are now visible and some restructuring has been applied, with movement of contracts. Coventry fears a reduction in provision. South region are ahead of Midlands in the process and it has not run smoothly. Accepted bids have generally been those made by bidding companies at UOA values reduced by 15-20%. However the successful bidders do not always have suitable premises arranged to take over treatments. There seems to be an uneven distribution of lots in N Staffs.

Matthew Hill from the GDC had cancelled his attendance at this committee meeting, but rebooked for the next one on 8th May.

Regional Liason Group

A national BDA group which receives reports from local groups such as WMLDC, which feeds and informs discussion. Dave Cottam stressed the importance of the information flow via this route. NHSE are represented, possibly by Carol Rees or David Geddes.

The next agenda includes recruitment and retention issues, PAG/PLDP, and Performer list problems.

GDPC

Still working on contract reform, little recent progress. 25-50 wave 4 prototypes to start soon, uptake has not been as good as hoped by DoH. Still a huge gap between the current model and what BDA think is acceptable and workable. Even some new prototypes are failing to reach their targets, and will be rebased. Roll out is scheduled for 2020, however this may be only a few more practices. Keeping the UDA system will be an option for individual practices.

BDA have submitted evidence to DDRB, however they are not taking oral evidence until 1.4.19 and are due to report in May, so any uplift will be late as this year.

Clawback rose about 10% last year, difficulty recruiting exacerbates this. Flexible commissioning is being explored with NHSE, where 5-10% of contract value is being used to commission other services from practices with clawback, such as health education in schools.

Figures show about 1m people having difficulty with access to an NHS dentist.

LDC conference.

Vijay is the chair of conference and it will be held in Birmingham on 6-7th June. His desire is to move away from speakers and include as many motions for discussion as possible. LDCs are encouraged to put these forward- guidance on the website, under chairman's blog. Speakers include Paul Bachelor and Steve Tidman.

Feedback from Officials Day (30th Nov)

Following the workshop on the new LDC constitution, the final version will be ready soon. LDCs are encouraged to adopt this, as it clarifies the

roles of the LDC, membership and removes the restriction mandating postal ballot.

Levy collection- still in negotiation with BSA as there seems to be a high fee proposed for no guarantee of satisfactory outcome.

Next AT/ LDC chairs meeting- several have 26th Feb as a proposed date in their diaries, however there has been no confirmation or papers. Venue unknown, possibly Wildwood.