

West Midlands Association of LDC's Report to RLG

Friday 21st August 2020

Primary Care

West Midlands returns for declarations of preparedness for delivery of AGPs was approximately 89% for practices by the end of July.

UDCs across the region are beginning to see a decline in referrals however, there has been a rise in referrals to CDS sites of non regular attending patients triaged by 111.

Area Teams have asked for volunteer practices with spare capacity to see irregular attending patients that are triaged through 111 to help relieve the burden on the CDS in order that the CDS has capacity to see patients that are COVID-19 positive.

Localised outbreak management planning has been developed along with standardised incident reporting SOPs and FAQs that have been distributed to all practices.

Secondary Care

Birmingham Dental Hospital (BDH) is planning to give access to approx 800 patients a week by September across all specialities and is only running at 30% capacity at the moment. This varies from department to department with some only at 10% activity whilst others are at 50%. The hospital has had great difficulty in re-capturing its staff after redeployment during the initial phase of the pandemic. This has led to great disruption in resumption of clinics.

The Children's Hospital has been supporting BDH for the provision of GA with paediatrics.

BDH has approached the West Midlands Association of LDCs to look to setup collaborative working to foster a symbiosis that will benefit all. This may involve dental teams from primary care going into BDH to help, care being delivered in primary care or Consultants being available to give advice on specific patient management or provision of webinars to aid GDPs with patient management regimes for patients that may be on longer waiting lists.

The Urgent Dental Clinic run by BDH is currently seeing around 30 patients a day

Rego may be used for referrals to the UDCs as this would free up capacity in the BDH where it is currently managed but no time scale had been set on this.

Antibody Testing

The funding and delivery of fit testing has been passed to the CCG and assurances were given that antibody testing for dental teams would have been conducted by the end of July. This has only appeared to have happened in one LDC area (Solihull) of the West Midlands.

Flu vaccination of dental teams may now be possibly linked to be completed at the same time as antibody testing.

COVDENT study at BDH has tested over 1500 people, 45% were dentists, 35% nurses, 8% hygienists and therapists and 6% were reception staff. Of these, 16% tested positive compared to 6% in the local population showing a significant number of positive tests. A second questionnaire was to be circulated on identify locations and try and follow up on how this high positive result may be linked in some manner. Of those tested 6% (approx 100 individuals) were also non dental ie family members. Funding

is being sought to follow up for how long these antibodies stay within the individuals immune system over 3, 6 and 12 months.

Fit Testing

140 volunteers had put names forward to be trained as fit testers with the Area Team and following selection reduced to 90 candidates. However, as with many other areas the Honorary Contract conditions has resulted in individuals withdrawing.

LDN Chair West Midlands

Following the appointment of Jason Wong to Deputy CDO he will be stepping down in his capacity as Interim LDN Chair of the West Midlands from September. An advert will be being placed for a new LDN Chair (0.2 WTE across the 11 STPs) but until this occurs another interim appointment may be made. It may be that due to the geographical size of the area two LDN Chair roles are advertised and a third regional overarching LDN Chair be appointed.

Area Team

A Dental Transformation Project – Operational Model, Clinical Leadership and Workforce Workstream is being formed there are no terms of reference, agendas or goals yet defined.

The Area Team is trying to get back to normal modes of operation and are concentrating on the end of year work at present. They had also received contact from many associates with concerns over pay.

Following a date (5th October 2020) being set in London, by which time practices should be able to deliver AGPs, Area Teams in the Midlands are now wanting to follow suit. Whilst it was appreciated that not all practices are at the same point of recovery, practices responded well to a defined date for delivery of non-AGP and the Area Team assume having this date will spur some practices on. It has been highlighted that whilst fit testing arrangements are lacking in deployment with issues around the Honorary Contract it would be unfair to expect this from practices.

PPE

PPE donations have continued from the Logistics Cell in the North of the West Midlands region. This is surplus stock that has been distributed to GDPs in North and South Staffordshire.

PAG

Concern has been raised in the area around it being made known to colleagues going through PAG that support and representation can be sort from LDCs.

Adam Morby
Chair West Midlands Association of LDCs.