

WILTSHIRE

Local Dental Committee

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Chairman: Philippa Riseley-Prichard

Secretary: Judith Denning

Minutes the Meeting on Monday 27 April 2020 Treasurer: Nish Patel

7pm Via Zoom

Present: Philippa Riseley-Prichard, Judith Denning, Nish Patel, Pratik Patel, Matt Clover, Robin Mills, Alastair Heatherington, Andrew Halmer, Keith George, Keith Garber, Alison Pink, George Montgomery, Mehdi Alizadeh.

Apologies-none

1. **Minutes of the last meeting**- were accepted with corrections.
2. **Matters arising**- P R-P stated that it was good to have Jo Lawton attend the previous meeting, now have a good working relationship with the LAT. Most of the matters arising have been deferred due to COVID-19 pandemic. One result of pandemic is that role of MCN's and communications will be a lot better in future. AGM minutes will be presented at the next meeting.

3. LDC Levy Changes.

Historically the levy that was charged to all dentists with a performer number in the area, there was a fixed and voluntary levy, which was collected on a regional basis. Wiltshire was joined with Gloucestershire, the money was paid centrally to Gloucestershire LDC who then forwarded the payment onto Wiltshire, the whole process is very complex. NP confirmed that last year's arrears had now been forwarded by Gloucestershire LDC .

Due to the formation of the STP's, the collection method of the LDC levy is to be changed, local dental committee have the option to collect the levy as a single local dental committee or as part of an STP. Wiltshire LDC will be part of a very large STP extending to Gloucestershire, Bath and part of Avon, making allocation of funds very complex. The Committee has there decided to collect the levy as a single LDC, we then have control and can set our own budget based on what we need.

The Overall levy – set amount to be collected for the LDC, i.e. £30 000 collected which is apportioned across all GDS contracts. An apportionment is made against performers' gross pay for providers' information.

LDCs will have the ability to change the % (or other method of collection) in year to suit budget forecasts. Practices with big NHS contracts will pay more but the committee felt this was fair.

The LDC have set a budget based on last year's income and expenditure ie Levy and expenses this was set at £30 000.

NP updated the LDC on state of finances with approximately £60000 in bank account, P R-P proposed that we increase our donation to BDA Benevolent Fund this year to £20000 (normally £5000), the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a huge increase in applications for help to the Ben Fund. The committee unanimously agreed to increase the donation this year to £20 000 with £5000 donations going to the 2 other charities, British Dental Guild and the Dentists Health Support Trust. NP to action.

4. Updating database

JBD proposed creation of a database of Dentists within Wiltshire, the current list of email contacts has been created from people attending the CPD Events. The current Coronavirus pandemic has exposed the need for good communications to all dentists in the area NHS and private and certainly in initially the LDC was not in touch with a large number of local GDP's. Long term the current details need to be held securely with better access and updatability. MC recommended google doc or similar web-based system.

GDC have offered to forward emails to all registrants in postcode areas on behalf of the LDC's. Committee agreed this would be a good idea. RM to provide JBD with map of postcodes for Wiltshire.

JBD will write letter to be sent out by GDC to all GDC registrant dentist in area.

JBD to update re database at next meeting.

5. Update on courses.

Course held in March on the new periodontal guidelines went down very well there was very good feedback from the participants. The AGM attached to the event took 15 minutes and also went down very well.

NP to chase speaker regarding his fee.

Jo Russell was due to be speaking on the 30th of April which has been cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic and rearranged for the 9th of September, but this too may have to be rescheduled due to social distancing.

6. COVID-19 Update

Philippa Riseley-Prichard updated the meeting regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and the local response, she stated she had never thought that the executive subcommittee would be needed but it has been invaluable in the current situation she thanked Judith Denning, Matt Clover, Nish Patel and Pratik Patel for all their work I am particularly Pratik for his work on the website.

P R-P updated the committee on her work with the local steering group committee. the committee itself is broken down into different subgroups, she sat on the groups tasked with PPE and SOP. There were afternoon daily meetings to update everybody, these meetings still occur three times a week. Updating on the new UC Hubs coming online.

P R-P felt that in the current situation dentists, LDC's and the LAT needed to work together rather than be confrontational which was counter-productive. Felt the South-West was actually the best organised region and the one furthest ahead with the setting up of the urgent care hubs. She then asked members of the committee to ask questions about things that had not been covered to date and that they were concerned about.

Andrew Hamer post the question that he was concerned about the situation regarding the PPE when the surgery is eventually re-open his main concerns were regarding cost and access to the kit and whether there would be any help with this? P R-P unsure what will happen reiterated that people should have the appropriate PPE there will be further guidelines NHS England won't be asked to do anything that is on safe however the situation is changing and will change more as the science becomes available but feels that in near future we won't be seeing the same level of patients or carrying out the same amount of work.

Andrew Halmer- Contract performance is an issue as the contracts simply cannot be performed in the current circumstances.

MC- the current situation may assist in the contract negotiations that have been ongoing for the last 2 years, felt it may provide the best opportunity we have had to shape the new contract.

P R-P reiterated that there are a lot of unknowns

K Garber- Felt that the current circumstances may lead to positive changes in recruitment of dentists for NHS practices.

Alison Pink provided an update with regard to how working in the urgent care centres is happening. She noted that the majority of the work being carried out was extractions that they had seen some fractured incisors mainly in children, any aerosol generating procedures are being carried out under a rubber dam and the hubs have specialist oral surgery support should they need it.

Volunteer dentists being recruited to work in the hubs are being provided with honorary contracts and this is working quite well and not taking too long.

The Committee thanked Alison and her team for their hard work.

George Montgomery informed the committee that he and his foundation dentist are due to have training to work at the Nightingale hospital this week and he will update us at the next meeting.

7. Correspondence Received

none

8. A.O.B.

Robin Mills is having a weekly catch up with the CCG safeguarding health group he is a member of. There are also many safeguarding updates which he has tried to filter as he felt LDC members were probably swamped at present. Although CCGs do not commission dentistry, he feels it is a breakthrough for a dentist to not only a member of a CCG group but now has been supplied with a new merged CCG nhs.net email address in addition to his RUH one.

This weekly COVID19 period catch up is two way. In addition to receiving information he has been sharing Urgent Dental Care Hub developments with them too which appear to have been well received and appreciated and should help both children and vulnerable adults. Robin reported that:

1. The web link for guiding us through statutory procedures such as MASH referrals is here:
<https://www.proceduresonline.com/swcpp/>
LSBCs have been replaced by 3 Safeguarding partners. These are the Police, Local Councils and CCGs.
2. The safeguarding workload and reporting is sadly up due to the Covid-19
3. There is some useful information for the carers of children here:
https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2020-04/covid19_advice_for_parents_when_child_unwell_or_injured_poster.pdf

Philippa Riseley-Prichard propose that we have another meeting via zoom in about three weeks.

Meeting Closed at 8.20pm