

Minutes the Meeting on Monday 9 November 2020

7.15pm Via Zoom

Present: Philippa Riseley-Prichard, Judith Denning, Matt Clover, Nish Patel, Pratik Patel, Robin Mills, Alastair Heatherington, Keith George, George Montgomery, Mehdi Alizadeh, Andrew Halmer, Keith Garber, Alison Pink
Jo Lawton(Primary Care Contracts Manager, BaNES, Gloucestershire, Swindon and Wiltshire)
Graham Adlard(Chair LDN) Julie Brown(Healthwatch Wiltshire)

Philippa Riseley-Prichard welcomed everyone to the LDC meeting introduced the guests Jo Lawton, Graham Adlard and Julie Brown. In the current environment it is important that we all worked together, communicated and exchanged ideas and raised any concerns.

1. Apologies

none

2. Update COVID 19 –A Pink

In line with PHE guidance the CDS has reduced post AGP follow times which has increased capacity, surgeries are being used more effectively for AGP's and non-AGP's.

The Hubs have ceased telephone triage, patients are now triaged by reception. They are seeing more pts face to face however demand is greater than their capacity in the last 4-5 weeks generally they have had 400-500 more patients contacting them with problems in excess of their capacity. The number did reduce last week probably due to the 2nd lockdown.

Alison Pink said there were less referrals to the hubs from general dental practitioners, hubs are mainly now looking after the urgent care unregistered patients.

Special care provision has now picked up there is a huge waiting list for patient care and however with the second lockdown a number of appointments were being cancelled as vulnerable patients were choosing to shield again.

Special care assessments and general anaesthetics were back up and running however because many of the patients cannot self-isolate and they were entering the amber and blue pathways into hospitals which limits the number of patients that can be seen.

Ventilation engineers have assessed the ventilation is at the different site run by the community dental service the ventilation varies depending on each surgery all the different they have been advised on how to improve and ventilations and in some instances are having extractor fans fitted or made more efficient. Generally, they are managing to maximise ventilation especially by just opening windows and follow times tend to be between 25 and 15 minutes.

There followed a short discussion between Alison and members of the LDC regarding different aspects of care, one item highlighted was that they are continuing to receive referrals for complex extractions these now should be referred to the hospital or Care UK centres rather than the community dental service. Jo Lawton said that she would write a letter to all general dental

practitioners to update them that all complex extraction should now be referred to Care UK centres or hospital not the CDS. In addition, general dental practitioners will be informed that practices with no capacity for new patients or requiring 2nd opinion do not direct patients to the CDS. Philippa Riseley-Prichard thanked A Pink for her update and all her hard work.

3. Healthwatch Wiltshire

Philippa Riseley-Prichard welcomed Julie Brown chair of HealthWatch Wiltshire and explained to her the role and make-up of the LDC. Julie who introduced herself and explained the role of HealthWatch. Every county has a Healthwatch their role is to monitor and get local feedback on health and social care provision in that area. They then liaise with the relevant bodies. The main concern with regard to dentistry is difficulties in accessing the NHS dental services, this is mainly raised by patients who have no registered dentist or Dental Practice. They don't tend to receive negative feedback regarding quality of care, the main concern is access. HealthWatch Wiltshire also raised a particular concern for this Wiltshire regarding military families who have been relocated from Germany and other areas of UK and who are finding it incredibly difficult to access NHS care both before and after COVID that this is a particular issue as these people move around a lot and sometimes as a result of difficulty in access do not see a dentist for many years.

4. Update Jo Lawton NHS Commissioner

Lawton updated the LDC, at the moment the highest priority in NHS Commissioning's agenda is in the provision of urgent care and they were looking at ways to support urgent care to get through the current COVID pandemic and to meet current unmet needs.

The PPE portal is now up and running and she emphasised that it was important for dentists and practices to register for the portal, not all practices within Wiltshire had registered for the free PPE available for Dentists through the portal.

The expectation is still that contracts should be delivering a minimum of 20% of contracted activity and they were starting to look at the data of what practices were doing, there is a huge variety with some working really normally and others doing the barest minimum.

Would be liaising with contractors regarding under delivery as they understand that some practices had challenges due to COVID and limitations in their normal working and so as a result did have problems in meeting their contractual obligations.

NHSEI strategy work that had started pre-COVID was picking up pace again, there were clear objectives:

Access

Improve oral health

Training and education

Digital agenda

They would be looking at provision of care models in other areas of England, UK and Europe.

Oral health needs assessment currently underway, initial report due 30 Nov 20, final report Dec 2020

Jo Lawton and P R-P had attended a virtual presentation looking at management of Covid outbreaks within the workplace -there will be a webinar next week on the subject for all GDP's. P R-P encouraged all GDP's to attend webinar.

P R-P did report that when any practice had staff who needed to self-isolate this created issues with capacity. PHE were very helpful with guidance, the relevant contact number would be useful to GDP's LDC will send to GDP's and put on website.

5. Update LDN Chair– Graham Adlard

Graham introduced himself to the meeting and started by explaining the role of the Local Dental Network. The LDN works alongside Public Health England and Health Education England and the local NHS commissioning team to lead commissioning of service from a clinical aspect.

Graham oversees all the clinical networks ensuring that all things are brought to the table to be implemented, at present there are a number of structural changes occurring it is anticipated that local dental committee will have increased input into commissioning, this is the result of the changing relationships over the last 6 to 8 months. Covid brought together a group of individuals who have worked together and been highly effective establishing the Urgent Care Hubs. It has been decided that it would be beneficial to retain the clinical partner input, to enable the dissemination of local ideas throughout the area.

Recent developments have been the go ahead for the Urgent Care MCN.

PPE available for everyone

MCN are clinical lead by clinicians.

Graham, requested that if the LDC became aware of anyone having difficulty delivering 20% contract value to please feedback to LDN where it will be raised with Sara Hurley.

UDA's are what activity is going to be measured by- which triggered a discussion regarding managing contracts and activity and doing the right thing by the patients. There has been lack of clarity from NHSE regarding how contract activity would be measured whether UDA's courses of treatment or compass triage input.

The LDC raised that there are a number of challenges at present managing contracts and activity. Staffing issues due to self-isolating and fit testing problems exist.

6. Minutes of the last meeting.

Accepted with a number of corrections.

7. Restorative MCN-Update

Keith George updated the LDC regarding the latest Restorative MCN meeting. The MCN is chaired by Matt Jarrett and there are representatives from the LDC's and restorative dental specialists.

The MCN is creating a list of recognised Restorative Specialists, in future patients who get prior funding approval can have one course of restorative treatment, this will normally be endodontic. However, they are looking for the name of a Restorative Specialist in Wiltshire, it needs to be the name of the restorative specialist not a dentist with a special interest.

KG did highlight the availability of funding for postgraduate education specifically in restorative dentistry or oral surgery and the final date for applications is the end of November.

Hospitals and specifically Bristol Dental Hospital are restarting complex treatment and GA's however they do have a backlog of 4000 patients however they are still accepting new referrals.
There will also shortly be roadshow presentations on the South West Dental Reform programme.

8. Courses

Due to the large number of CPD events occurring at present, the CPD course for October has been deferred.

A zoom presentation on Ventilation is planned to be offered on 12 November 20, it will explain the different types of ventilation, mitigating factors and how to validate airflow. JBD will email out the details ASAP.

9. Finance

No Update.

10. Correspondence Received

LDC Officials Day Fri 27 Nov 10-4pm, registration closes 15 Nov, up to 3 nominated representatives from LDC. Philippa Risely-Prichard, George Montgomery and Nish Patel will attend as Wiltshire LDC's representatives

Regular updates from Alexandra Cenic BDA re info sent out via Primary Care Bulletin
Primary care Bulletin received.

11. A.O.B.

Matt Clover- raised the issue of ortho activity during COVID, orthodontics appears to be less clear and there is no confirmation of what activity is required and the metrics by which they are required to perform by.

Robin Mills has decided to retire at Christmas he will continue to serve on the LDC until the AGM hopefully by then we can arrange a proper farewell dinner.

Robin is also contributing to the Advancing Dental Care Review some of his papers are being used as evidence including the latest one in the British Dental Journal and another paper in which he predicted what child dental caries would be in the Childs Dental Survey in 2073.

Robin will also be attending the next Safeguarding Health Committee meeting in December however after that the LDC will need to provide another member to represent the LDC after he retires, the Safeguarding Health Committee greatly appreciate the dental input. JBD – this will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Next Meeting - Monday 11 January 2021

Meeting closed at 21.15.