

Minutes for the Meeting on Monday 10 January 2022

7.15pm Via Zoom

Secretary: Judith Denning

1. **Apologies**-Andrew Halmer, Lucy Mc Carthur

2. **Present:-** Philippa Risley-Prichard, Matt Clover, Judith Denning, Nish Patel, Keith. Garber, Keith George, George Montgomery, Mehdi Alizadeh, Alistair Hetherington, Sue Edwards, Mark Maharaj, Pratik Patel, Matt Jerreat (MCN Chair),

3. **Updates from NHS England/LDN)**

Matt Jerreat updated the LDC, the LDN is exploring different options to approve to improve communication, he informed the committee about the meeting being held on 27 January regarding function of the LDN and MCN's and the LDC undertook to circulate details of the meeting to the mailing list. The new chair of the paediatric MCN is Sarah Dewhurst. The LDN has also appointed a programme manager and three dental managers so they now have a lot more support which should improve communication with LDC's. With regard to the dental reform programme the COVID vaccination programme has interfered with progress, however this should restart and results should be seen later in the year. They are still commissioning additional slots for urgent care. They are optimistic that flexible commissioning will improve the situation in some areas. They are hoping to improve communications by use of the futures platform which is considered a way forward to engage with dentists. Philippa Riseley- Pritchard thanked him for his input

4. **Minutes of the last meeting.-**

Were accepted with corrections.

5. **MCN-Update**

Restorative MCN- no update meeting was cancelled.

Urgent Care MCN-Philippa Riseley-Prichard attended, no major progress has been made, P R- P is championing cause of GDP's regarding UDA's and contracts. There will be a LDN Dental Network Information evening held on 27/01/2022 to inform and support the dental teams and provide information on the dental reform programme.

Wiltshire LDC is engaging well with the MCN's

6. **Courses**

It was decided to defer face to face courses until it is appropriate to hold face to face meetings. Suggestions for later in the year area:

Rob Middlefell – CQC -changes in the system, Date 29 June 2022 The Bear Devizes 6pm. For 6.30 start.

Jo Russell on a topic to be decided.

7. Finance and Dental Charity Donations

Finances are in a good position.

£5000 donations have been made to the 3 dental charities:- The Dental Guild, BDA Benevolent Fund and Dental Health Trust.

Further donations to be made when finances are clearer. Nish Patel to contact BDA regarding further information on performer numbers, as local NHS Commissioning will not release the numbers.

8. Correspondence Received

None

9. LDC Officials Day- Fri 26 November

See attached report.

10. A.O.B.

Committee the committee discussed the recent news article on Swindon News Online put forward by Healthwatch Wiltshire regarding lack of access to NHS dentistry. The committee felt that it should respond on behalf of Local GDP's, explaining the difficulties experienced by the profession at this time and the limitations of the contract under which NHS dentists work. The committee decided that Healthwatch Swindon and Wiltshire should be invited to the next meeting.

The committee discussed the new 85% target, generally it was felt that the profession was demoralised and felt that the target would be impossible to achieve in the current environment. It has always been difficult to achieve targets but at present this was even worse than before. Philippa Riseley -Pritchard concurred and said it was very difficult to achieve contract targets especially if you did not want to compromise patient care.

Mark Maharaj informed committee that he had in the past carried out additional urgent care sessions under the new NHS flexible commissioning contracts, he arranged to see and treat patients in pain on a sessional basis, however he said the system was very chaotic he had to chase payment for the work, in the end the contract was cancelled. Philippa Riseley -Pritchard felt that patients seen for urgent care need to have a definitive resolution of their problem rather than a temporary solution which just resulted in them being seen again a few days or weeks later. However the terms of the commissioning need to be worthwhile.

The committee decided it needed more information and up to date data on what the situation is, in Swindon and Wiltshire. Matt Clover suggested sending out questionnaires on morale, recruitment challenges and workforce issues to the local dentists before the meeting. Nish Patel and Matt Clover are going to approach the British Dental Association to see if they can assist in the gathering of the information. Judith Denning and Philippa Riseley -Pritchard will respond to the Healthwatch newsarticle and also invite them to the next meeting.

Next meeting- Monday 21 March 2022

Monday 23 May 2022

Wednesday 29 June AGM & Course

Meeting closed at 20.30