

Sandwell Local Dental Committee

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Minutes of a meeting of Sandwell Local Dental Committee held on Thursday 12th February 2015, in Meeting Room 4, Lyng Health Centre.

Present

Owain Rees (Chairman), David Cooper (Secretary) and Tariq Mahmood.

Apologies

Lin Yen Chen, Carl Horton, Shubnum Rabaab and Phil Tangri.

This was a very poorly attended meeting and was not quorate so agenda items were necessarily curtailed.

Minutes

These had been circulated. They were accepted and signed by the Chairman.

Treasurer's Report

Tariq Mahmood reported that there was now a regular income coming into the account. The current balance was £6500 with another payment of £7500 due. There was also a reserve account containing £10000.

In the light of this, it was proposed that £6000 should be paid to the British Dental Guild and £2000 to the Dentists' Health Support Trust in order to compensate for recent years when no payments had been possible.

GDPC Report

David Cooper gave a GDPC report which is attached to these minutes.

GDPC elections were imminent and Sandwell was now included in a constituency with Birmingham, Solihull and the rest of the Black Country. DC's opponents in the election were all based in Birmingham. Owain Rees was to contact all Sandwell GDPs urging them to vote for DC in the hope that there would be some Black Country representation.

LDC Elections

Nominations for the LDC elections would close next week and the new Committee would be constituted at the next meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday April 16th at the same time and venue.

This was the last meeting of the current triennium and the last with John Milne as Chair. He informed the meeting that he had been appointed as the National Dental Advisor to CQC.

Alternative Contract Reform

A letter had been written to the architects of ACR thanking them for their input and assuring them that GDPC had taken note of their views. This was a matter of courtesy and was not meant to engender further debate.

Maternity & Sickness Pay 'Efficiency Saving'

Members had been asked in December to vote online on this issue and voting had been heavily in favour of the least worst offer where the smallest number of dentists would be affected by the change in the reduction of the payment ceiling.

NHS England want to use the body NHS Employers as an intermediary at next year's pay negotiations. GDPC does not agree with any so called efficiency savings and effectively lets these measures be imposed whilst suggesting the least harmful option of those put forward as in the case of Maternity and Sickness pay. The question was asked as to whether GDPC should behave more aggressively.

Contract Reform Prototypes

Discussion on these was still ongoing. There will be a direct financial disadvantage for participating practices if some key issues are not resolved. Lapsed patients when they drop off the national list will take their capitation funding with them. There needs to be some transitional protection in place as this could be a recipe for losing money.

Interest in the Prototypes has come from both pilot and non pilot practices. Corporates might be the only ones who can shoulder the financial risks and this could lead to a distortion of data when the process comes to be evaluated. Small practices could ultimately be forced out of the NHS.

NHS England

GDPC had finally been granted a meeting with David Geddes, Head of Primary Care. In the North Midlands there had been questionnaires, which included questions about clinical activity, sent to all GDPs with a contract of more than 10,000 UDAs. The Area Team was suggesting a limit of 5-6,000.

NHS Commissioning Guides - John Milne had written to the Deputy CDO to confirm our disquiet over this process which was due to be rolled out in April with unacceptable haste. GDPC could not lend its name to the Working Group conclusions or the haste at which the Commissioning Guides were being introduced.

Satisfactory Completion for FTs

Malcolm Smith from COPDEND gave a presentation on this initiative. The reasons for its introduction included patient safety and protection of funding. FTs would be subject to reviews at 6-8 weeks, 6 months and 10 months into their tenure.

The Committee felt that this was all well and good, but non UK graduates were still able to practice in the NHS without undergoing FT.

Contractor Loss Exercise

Funding had been made available for clinical staff to look into issues such as 'gaming' in order to save money, and a figure of £100m to be saved had been mentioned. The initial investigations were to be into split courses of treatment.

There will be GDPC elections before the next meeting and the Birmingham and Black Country is one of the contested constituencies with four candidates for the two available vacancies.

I would be most grateful for your vote so that I can continue to put your views forward, to keep you informed of national developments and to ensure that Black Country Dentists are represented at national level.

David Cooper (GDPC Rep)