

# Sandwell Local Dental Committee

**Chairman**

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**Secretary**

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**Minutes of a meeting of Sandwell Local Dental Committee held on Thursday 25th February 2016, in Meeting Room 3, Lyng Health Centre.**

**Present**

Owain Rees (Chairman), David Cooper (Secretary), Suresh Kumar (Vice-Chair), Tariq Mahmood (Treasurer), Rav Kumar, San Qamar, Phil Tangri, Amardeep Mahal and Vaidehi Parekh.

**Apologies**

Gurjit Moore, Shubnum Rabaab and Phil Davenport.

**Minutes**

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

**Matters Arising**

The newly appointed CDOI was to visit the region on 5th-7th April. There was to be an evening meal at the Hotel Du Vin in Birmingham where executive officers of the LDCs could meet with her. Owain Rees and David Cooper would be representing Sandwell LDC. It was suggested that OR and DC should ask her for her views regarding PDS+ contracts and their ridiculously low UDA values after conversion.

Minor Oral Surgery - DC would circulate the GDP referral guidelines published by Wolverhampton and Walsall hospitals to all Sandwell practices for information only.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Tariq Mahmood reported that finances were now in a healthy position. End of year accounts would be available at the next meeting when the donations to the Guild and the Dentists' Health Support Trust could be finalised.

After several years of honoraria being paid to members at less than guild rate, it was decided that these should now be raised to the current official guild rate.

### **GDPG Report**

DC had attended the recent GDPG meeting and reports had been circulated to all Sandwell practices.

The main event of the meeting had been presentation from the new CDO followed by a long question and answer session. She was very candid and does come across as a well needed breath of fresh air. Dentistry will never have more than 3% of the total NHS budget and the funding that had been made to be used in Dentistry was much less than she had expected.

She was critical of the new Commissioning Guides but pointed out that she had no personal input into commissioning. She hoped that contracts would roll on in the future and agreed that breach notices should not be attached to contracts in perpetuity. She also criticised the conversion of PDS+ contracts back to UDAs where the UDA valuation of 51% of the contract value sometimes would only correlate to £14-15 per UDA.

From April, practitioners would be expected to record DMF values on FP17s. Software providers had been aware of this for six months but BDA had only been informed just before Christmas. GDPG was very sceptical of the motives for this new requirement and suggested that it could not be done effectively without necessary training. The cynical view was that this was being introduced as a means to reduce some future capitation levels.

The offer from DH of a guaranteed 1% pay uplift if GDPG were to bypass the DDRB report had now been withdrawn as being out of time. DDRB will now advise and a pay lift, if any, will ensue.

Only 29 practices had signed up to the prototypes and it looked as if there may only be eventually 80 practices onboard and not the 100 that DH required.

The concept of '24 Hour Retirement' in the NHS was under threat due to the system being abused by high level NHS managers. The implications for dentistry were important.

Bill Moyes still continues at GDC but had been given a rough ride by Lord Hunt in Parliament.

### **LDC Chairs/AT Meeting**

OR had attended the most recent meeting.

Minor Oral Surgery was still chaotic. The new referral forms were now operational and anti-coagulant guidelines had been issued.

The area as a whole was required save £5.8m from Dentistry for which the total current cost was £107m. 50% of this saving would be from clawback with the remainder covered by increased PCR, rebased contracts, lost seniority payments and unused maternity and paternity payments.

In Orthodontics, £600k had been made available from a closed contract in Dudley and a further £160k was available for tender.

There were six prototypes planned in the area but as yet only one practice had signed up.

There were now guidelines for the use of washable or disposable computer keyboard covers.

### **LDC Website**

DC had made enquiries regarding a website for the LDC. A quote had been obtained from the IT operative who had set up websites for Birmingham and Dudley LDCs. It was decided that DC should go ahead and commission the site which then should be operational within two to three weeks.

### **Any Other Business**

LDC Conference would be held over two days in June in Manchester. OR encouraged members to submit motions for debate at Conference.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 21st April at a venue to be confirmed.