

Sandwell Local Dental Committee

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Minutes of a meeting of Sandwell Local Dental Committee held on Monday 15th October 2018, at Kebub Restaurant, West Bromwich.

Present

Suresh Kumar (Chairman), David Cooper (Secretary), Tariq Mahmood (Treasurer), Rav Kumar (Vice-Chair), Gurjit Moore, Shubnum Rabaab and Eddie Crouch (GDPC Rep).

Apologies

Ateef Azam, Pamela Kainth and Phil Tangri.

Minutes

These had been circulated and were accepted by the meeting.

LDC Chairs/AT Meeting

There had not been a meeting over the summer. The next one was scheduled for November 6th.

West Midlands LDCs Meeting Report

Eddie Crouch gave a verbal report of this meeting.

Shropshire and Staffordshire LDCs seemed to have LPNs that were more active than ours. They had also been using the REGO referral system for longer and were becoming aware of its capabilities for collecting data and information about the referrers. Time spent on the computer using the service was also monitored so there was an element of 'Big Brother' about the process. Since REGO's inception there had been a reduction in oral surgery referrals to the Dental Hospital.

Also in Shropshire and Staffordshire there was extra commissioning of 30,000 UDAs at around £24 each.

Orthodontic procurement will start in spring 2019. Stakeholders' events had been held already. In some areas it seemed that 70% of the contracts would be awarded to providers with multiple sites.

The Dental Hospital was to build a new two-theatre GA facility with a centralised post-graduate training centre. All of this year's graduates had found FD places.

Birmingham LDC now had three trained PASS mentors and were able to offer support to colleagues. The LDC would be able to fund three mentoring sessions and other LDCs might like to utilise that service.

Providers had been reminded that they must declare the full 43.9% of net pensionable earnings.

In future, LDC levies could be collected on an individual LDC basis. At a cost of around £500 per LDC this would also enable a more detailed performers' list to become available. Individual LDCs would also be able to set their own levy.

GDPG Meeting Report

A report on this meeting from Eddie Crouch had been circulated.

NHSE seemed to be attempting to speed up the contract reform process. There were now 50 new prototype practices. It was expected that capitation rates would be more variable and include weighting for sex, age and deprivation. The roll-out was aimed for April 2020 and providers may be able to decide which model of contract to enter, or even to stay with UDAs. The Capitation/Registration period would be three years.

The delay in the 2% contract uplift until October had the effect of reducing it to 1% over the year. GDPG found this unacceptable and the ATs were also unhappy with the difficulty in administering a staged award. BDA are pressing for the full 2% to be awarded across the board.

Paper claims would be phased out from April 2019.

GDC was moving some services to offices in Snow Hill, Birmingham. However, many staff were unwilling to relocate from London and had accepted redundancy. There will be a GDC Council meeting in Birmingham on January 30th next year.

Any Other Business

BDA had taken legal advice on what LDCs could spend their levy income but felt that there were flaws in the opinion. Birmingham LDC had received a more favourable opinion from another barrister.

The model LDC constitution was to be re-vamped and modernised. This would be an item for discussion at the forthcoming LDC Officials' Day.

LDC Conference next year will be held in Birmingham and chaired by Vijay Sudra with the dinner in the Town Hall.

NHSE had asked for a meeting with BDA, a day of discussion around recruitment and retention and 'Flexible Commissioning'. This means to explore a way of financially rewarding non-UDA activity and will also be on the agenda for the forthcoming Chairs' meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

Monday 28th January