

Sandwell Local Dental Committee

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Minutes of a meeting of Sandwell Local Dental Committee held on Thursday 25th September 2014, in Meeting Room 4, Lyng Health Centre.

Present

Owain Rees (Chairman), David Cooper (Secretary), Suresh Kumar (Vice Chair), Tariq Mahmood (Treasurer), Lin Yen Chen, San Qamar, Sukhdev Singh, Shamilla Thumbé.

Apologies

Shubnum Abaab.

Minutes

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

SDS Report

Kate Cullotty was not present but Owain Rees suggested that there may be a problem with Oral Surgery waiting lists. He asked members to let him know if they were encountering problems.

Sheridan McDonald had produced a document concerning Acceptance Criteria for Paediatric Dentistry. She had asked if she could attend a future meeting to present these proposals.

Managed Clinical Networks

Committee members had been attending various meetings of MCNs.

Shamilla Thumbe had attended a Paediatric meeting where the aforementioned acceptance criteria had been discussed.

Tariq Mahmood had attended a recent Orthodontic meeting and OR had been to the Oral Surgery meeting where there had been no advancement to the tiering exercise.

Sukhdev Singh had attended the Restorative MCN meeting where the Inlay/Onlay guidelines had been presented and discussed. A Periodontal pilot in the North West region was apparently going well. There had also been discussion around inappropriate referrals. Dental Hospital Consultants seemed to have little answer as to why so many referred patients were being returned to practitioners for treatment. There was an offer for GDPs to be able to treat their own patients at the DH whilst being overseen. Referrals were also being accepted for RCTs to be carried out by undergraduates.

Area Team Update

Most GDPs had received letters informing them that they had been flagged up as outliers for a variety of reasons including not ticking the 'best practice' box, under use of fluoride varnish and low prescription of radiographs.

It was decided that the LDC should write to the AT questioning the validity of statistics that allowed a majority to become 'outliers'. This was surely a contradiction in terms. It also seemed that no allowance was being made for clinical decisions actually made by clinicians rather than by non-clinicians looking at spreadsheets of statistics.

Levies

David Cooper had contacted all practices to warn them of the forthcoming levy deduction which would be for five months. This deduction had now been made and was still in the holding account but would shortly be transferred to the LDC account. Mistakes had been made by the AT in administering the deductions and it was still unclear what was due to each LDC. Sandwell's account was now close to a zero balance but there could be an interim payment made from the holding account to alleviate this situation.

GDPC/BDA/GDC Updates

BDA had announced that FD salaries would not now be cut and that all graduates this year had been assigned an FD place.

Tracy Harvey had confirmed that no breach notices would be issued this year for under delivery of UDAs.

BDA was still carrying the threat of judicial review against the consultation process carried out by GDC which had resulted in a proposed 64% rise in ARF. Fitness to Practise cases had risen exponentially and GDC was attempting to cover its costs by significantly increasing the ARF.

There had been a call for a special LDC Conference to discuss this issue. There was a need for 20 LDCs to make this request before a Conference could be called and it was unanimously agreed that, if necessary, Sandwell should be one of those 20.

AGM/Future Meeting Venues

It was decided that until the financial situation was clearer, the plans to rotate meeting venues at local restaurants should be postponed.

Any Other Business

There was some discussion on the Alternative Contract Reform proposals originating in North Yorkshire. Consensus was that these were highly convoluted and were counter productive in wishing to maintain the UDA and by undermining the work of GDPC. This could result in a divided profession which would be welcomed by DoH when it came to future negotiations.

This issue would be fully discussed at the October GDPC meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday November 27th at the same venue.