Minutes of a meeting of Sandwell Local Dental Committee held on Thursday 24th September 2015, in Meeting Room 3, Lyng Health Centre.

Present

Owain Rees (Chairman), David Cooper (Secretary), Suresh Kumar (Vice-Chair), Rav Kumar, Gurjit Moore, Eddie Crouch and Phil Davenport.

Apologies

Tariq Mahmood, Phil Tangri and Kate Cullotty.

It was decided that in future, all Sandwell GDPs should be invited to LDC meetings.

Walsall LDC was arranging ‘Core CPD Days’ in conjunction with their local hospital and it was agreed that Sandwell LDC should do something similar. It was left to Owain Rees and Gurjit Moore to make the relevant contacts.

Minutes

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

Eddie Crouch reported that the Dental Activity Review Programme which was looking into the level of 28 day recalls had found no evidence of fraudulent activity. The £1m invested in this initiative did not now seem to be money well spent. Those practices who had been invited to self-audit were not required to send the results of their audit to the BSA, nor was there any truth in the implication that no payments should be authorised in the absence of an examination.

LDC Chairs/AT Meetings

There had been three such meetings, one of which was called as an emergency, since the last LDC meeting.

At the first meeting, where David Cooper had substituted for OR, it had been confirmed that the AT were to look into all contracts with more than 10,000 UDAs and that nhs.net accounts would soon be available to all Providers.

The second, emergency, meeting had been called after a letter had been sent to all contract holders asking them to confirm what minor oral surgery services they were able to provide. The letter was signed by Mike Murphy (Chair OS MCN), Janet Clarke (Chair LPN) and Tracy Harvey. This letter drew an angry response from the Chair of GDPC which pointed out the possibility of Providers committing themselves to procedures outside their competency and that terms such as ‘level 1’ and ‘level 2’ were not part of the contract as it stood. After the meeting of LDC Chairs with the signatories, the letter with the requests it contained was immediately withdrawn.

At the third meeting, Howard Finnegan was introduced as being tasked with the development of an Oral Surgery Action Plan. He had produced a document but did not make it available to the meeting and gave no indication of the actions considered nor the timescale involved.

All complaints received by NHS England would now be put to PAG and would be filtered by its core members. DC had been to some recent PAG meetings but was no longer a member, merely an LDC observer, even though he had gone through the training process for members. He promised to raise the issue of PAG membership at GDPC.

All PDS contracts were being reviewed.

Pilot practices returning to UDAs were to be helped with the transition.

Commissioning guides were to be published at the end of September.

Long term consistent under achievers of UDA targets would be having their contract values reduced accordingly.

Oral Surgery
EC reported that in Solihull some Oral Surgery has been sub-contracted into primary care without consultation with MCN or LPN.

**Any Other Business**

EC gave an update on some recent developments.

The Prototypes have been delayed and will now be introduced in stages. Arguments were still going on around remuneration and QOFs would not be used in the first year.

GDC have finally paid most of the legal costs owed to BDA. BDA is to meet with the Health Minister and its lack of confidence in GDC will be on the agenda.

All DFTs will have a training place this year.

DDRB - Pay will be targeted in the health sector this year, which could mean we get nothing at all.

The new CDO may speak at LDC Officials’ Day.

**Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday November 26th at same time and venue.