

CORNWALL & ISLES OF SCILLY LOCAL DENTAL COMMITTEE

Meeting of the LDC on Monday 18th January 2021, 19:30
held remotely through Zoom
Minutes

1. Apologies- None
2. Matters arising not otherwise included in this agenda

To be covered in any other business

3. Chairs report- Jenna Murgatroyd

Where are we today: National Lockdown 3 started January 5th and will continue until Government can start lifting restrictions. National alert level 5 Coronavirus meaning the NHS is becoming overwhelmed. Dental practices remain open where possible and NHS contracts have been reinstated to their previous format of target driven delivery at 45% of UDAs and 70% for UOAs until 31st March 2021. The LDC fought against this in meetings with the Area Team and by writing to MP's to detail the challenges faced by most practices to achieve this. Currently there is no sign that NHSE will rescind this objective and the LDC are trying to support practices in achieving these targets and in maintaining evidence to support any unattainable UDAs/UOAs. UDCH's remain open.

Since last meeting:

- PHE guidance on fallow times update
- Update to CDO SOP's Transition to recovery document on 27th October
- Cornwall in Covid-19 risk tier 1 then 2, 3 then full lockdown
- New contract offers to practices able to offer urgent care to non-regular patients
- Rollout of Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs) in NHS primary care
- Offer for reimbursement of PPE costs from NHSE
- Reimposition of target driven dentistry (notification on 22nd Dec 2020 to start 1st Jan 2021)
- Vaccination programme for dental teams
- House of Commons debate on effect of Covid-19 on dental services held 14th Jan 2021
- We have sent template document for practices to record extenuating circumstances

Area Team: Still attending meetings with the AT and LDN chairs every 2 weeks, seems to be less focus on urgent care and more on information sharing sessions which is really helpful.

Meeting held between Regional LDC Chairs with Peter Wilson who is Medical Director (Commissioning) NHS England and Improvement and is trying to reorganise/stabilise/streamline primary care structures in the South West. We raised concerns that dentistry is run completely differently to other primary care services, but he and the Area Team remained adamant that they wanted to work together with dental teams to find a better way of working.

Urgent care project group: Meeting approx. every 2 weeks. Urgent care remains high on agenda, 22 practices in the South West took up the opportunity for the additional urgent care contract.

Westminster Forums Conference: Useful for ministers if they attended as it did explain the state of NHS dentistry well but no suggestions on how dentistry should look or what we can change to better the nations oral health. Overall, I didn't feel it achieved its aims of showing what dentistry should look like in the future but it did show to a certain extent what has not worked pre-covid.

PPE Portal: PPE is available free of charge to all NHS practices through this portal and there is a pathway for comments that I can feed into. Some issues with fit of FFP3 masks reported.

Fit-testing: 11 NHS kits available for Cornwall, only 4 distributed so far. Guidance changed on disinfection of the hoods and nebulisers so practices may require 2 kits. Fit-testing courses available through HEE and NHS dental staff can access this training for free. Those requiring refresher courses are also welcome to book onto these courses. I do not believe that there is now any obligation to sign honorary contracts to provide fit-testing for other practices. Fit test kits to be offered to those who attend courses for fit testing.

LDC changes: October handover notification sent from Andy and I, but role handover started in June. I am happy to continue for now as we had said 6 months for potential rolling chair if required. Committee in agreement for continuation.

4. Feedback from MPs letter and debate

No further meetings held but letter sent to all Cornish MPs last week (156 signatures) has so far received 2 responses (out of 6). Letter also sent to BDA and Area Team. House of Commons debate on the 14th January was a whitewash of support for abolishing the Q4 targets but Jo Churchill (Minister for Health) didn't appear to listen to what she was being told. This is a shame particularly as she has appeared receptive at all previous dental events. When further responses received to update through communication on LDC Whatsapp group.

5. LDN meeting report

Health Education England are in the process of providing training in care homes to support teams in improving oral care.

Concerns that South West referral forms are not easily accessible following information collated from GDPs, to ensure these are available through LDC website.

Healthwatch report December 2020-

Negative responses across different aspects including access to dental care, cost, information from practices and differences between NHS and private dentistry provision. In Cornwall a focus on lack of access to urgent care and poor communication from practices. Report to be sent to LDCs once completed.

Graham Adlard (Clinical Chair, South West Dental LDN) and Tessa Fielding (Programme Manager, NHS E&I) would like to have more local involvement in LDC meetings and encourage invites to attend these. Also would like to ensure all LDC committees have members attending all MCNs.

CQC changes-

No return to fixed time inspections, will focus on 1-2hr phone call reviews and follow up with on site inspections if concerns are raised. Aim to complete 1500 phone call consultations before April 2021.

Research being completed looking into linking primary, secondary care and community. Long term research project.

Waiting list times for paediatric GA lists are being collated to enable GDPs to inform patients and make decisions on referrals.

Specialist training has been delayed due to impact of covid.

6. LDC officials day report

Report was sent out following conference, useful day and a lot of information, committee have proof read report and no queries raised.

7. Treasurers report-

£66,174.69 in the current account and £24,329.83 in the deposit account.

The balance of the joint account with Devon is £361.50.

8. Any other business-

Communication:

Successful use of Whatsapp group for communication since start of pandemic, to aim to continue to use this to send out information alongside emails. To update our website with new information also and ensure easy means of communication with committee by local dental teams.

LDC CPD online:

To send enquiry via Whatsapp group to gauge interest in running an online study club with case presentations. Plan for first study group in April.

Looking after your team initiative:

As reported in last NHS bulletin, coaching sessions available for team leaders. Some information covered through PASS scheme.

Healthwatch:

South West Oral Health online survey. Launched 19th October 2020. Not particularly helpful for patients or dental teams. Patients cannot access the helpline number to get on the waiting list.

Brexit:

So far little impact noted on supply of products but to keep under review.

9. Date of next meeting- Tuesday 13th April 2021 at 19:30.

Meeting started at 19:30 and ended at 22:00.