

CORNWALL & ISLES OF SCILLY LOCAL DENTAL COMMITTEE

Meeting of the LDC on Tuesday 12th October 2021, 19:30.

Held remotely through Zoom

Minutes

1. Apologies-

Pam Ray, Adam Blake, Sarah Mount.

2. Matters arising not otherwise included in this agenda

None

3. Chair's report- Jenna Murgatroyd What's changed since July?

New contract target of 65% for UDAs and 85% UOAs released at 19:00 on 30th September 2021 to start 1st October for Q3 only. This is reportedly due to a hopeful significant change to the SOP which will be in place by 1st January 2022. I have spoken with the Area Team again about how appalling the contract handling has been and they share my concerns that these are stressful times for dentistry being exaggerated by abysmal communication from NHSE and complete lack of understanding of how our individual contracts must be managed locally. The ongoing mismanagement of course has a negative impact on patient care for a host of reasons.

No new changes to Dental CDO SOP but changes expected soon. Lockdown restrictions were eased for England on 19th July. Restrictions remain in place for dentistry including wearing face-coverings which in my personal experience, most patients are thankful for and feel safe. NHS practice staff must not come to work if there is a positive household contact. I had unsatisfactory answers as to how this was implemented and the letter detailing this requirement changed and backdated.

Friends and Family test has been started again and is a different format to previous questions. It is now 'Overall, how was your experience of our service'.

NHS contracts Complaints return due by the end of October after a break in reporting for 19-20 due to Covid-19.

There is an ongoing consultation looking at whether to extend 'free' PPE to healthcare past March 2022.

LFD's are continuing to be used by NHS practices and Covid vaccine boosters are available for NHS staff. NHS dental teams are also able to access free flu vaccines this year.

What's happening in the Region?

Dental reform workshops – 1st workshop completed 10th June. Working with the OHNA document There were 2 further workshops planned but there was a decision made to postpone any further wider engagement due to so much information being discussed at the first workshop. Momentum hasn't slowed and there are now 3 working groups looking at 'Access', 'Improving Oral Health', 'Workforce'.

There is invited LDC representation on these meetings. There is also a specific working group for Cornwall. I recently attended the first meeting for this group and they are hoping to have a structured meeting with MP's to push for new initiatives. Reports of over 10000 urgent dental care calls each month and thousands on the waiting lists including children which will be the focus to start for access issues.

MCNs are currently being set up in Paediatric dentistry and Urgent care. We have representatives for all 6 MCN's from our LDC.

Oral Surgery MCN has been looking at patient pathways and possible new referral forms for the region.

Oral Cancer Alliance: Meeting in November urgently happening due to high incidence of Oral Cancer in Plymouth.

Mental Health workshop link sent out for November.

4. Ortho MCN report

Regional MCN recently, the new Chair is Jeremy Peak. To summarise:

- Devon are currently trialling a new referral proforma which is expected to be rolled out at some point.
- Continuing talk of the E-referral (which has been going on for years along with the other MCNs) no further progress.
- Ortho waiting lists are on the rise across the region- with the impact of patients turning 18 before assessment and therefore potentially not being seen as qualifying for NHS treatment.
- Issues with GDPs not extracting teeth when asked, extending treatment length
- COVID- related: talk about impact of staff isolation/ patient isolation and cancellations on practice productivity.
- No real update from the Regional MCN- Tessa Fielding is still waiting for NHSE to update her on contract performance expectations for this year- however most practices are now on track to deliver their full contracts. In future the commissioning responsibility will change to a more local level as part of the Integrated Care System.
- Locum Consultant at RCH will be in post until Spring 2022 (currently)

5. Orthodontic consultant update

- Locum consultant Nahush Shah attending, in post until Spring 2022 or possibly longer
- Hospital orthodontic department currently seeing new patient assessments from referrals sent in April 2021. So currently 6 month wait list and hoping to catch up on backlog to return to 18 week wait by spring 2022.
- Advise primary care dentists to not delay referrals and continue to mark as needing secondary care opinion where appropriate.
- Wait list for primary care new patient assessments is much longer and currently 2-3 years.
- Orthognathic clinics are slow to restart and problems continuing from previously with orthognathic surgeries not being prioritized. Treatment times currently 3-6 years.
- If patients approaching 18th birthday can be prioritized so encourage to push referral and let referral management know.

6. CARG update

No updates since last LDC meeting, hope to have an update for next meeting.

7. Restorative MCN report

- Last meeting in July- next meeting next wk
- Upcoming study day- input from individuals or complex cases, planned for new year.
- TMJ working group- trying to put together support package for GDPs and GPs
- H+N cancer- to send out a document this month to help GDPs manage patients post treatment
- Urgent care- extra urgent care sessions. Still 25 practices as hubs, planning to implement more sessions for urgent care.
- Referrals- if tick assess and treat, check rejection letter, as cannot provide much treatment, may advise to refer for assessment only.

8. LDC elections update

Adrian has been contacted to send out ballot forms and commence process of elections. 10 positions available.

9. Treasurers report

Current account £63,180.63

Deposit account £24,331.66

Total £87,512.29

Also, held jointly with Devon £298.50

Trying to close joint account with Devon as individual payments been paid for some time now and no concerns raised.

10. Any other business

PASS- members leaving, to check if needs to be LDC members and look into planning a training day.

Redistributing how dentists access mentoring following GDC hearings- to ask applicants if happy to have details on website for dentists to access contacts or needs to be through LDC/PASS?

LDC officials day- Friday 26th Nov 10:00-16:00 through Zoom.

3 LDC members can attend- VL to send out details to committee.

11. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 25th Jan 2022 at 19:30, to be held through Zoom.

Meeting started at 19:30 and ended 21:45