

CORNWALL & ISLES OF SCILLY LOCAL DENTAL COMMITTEE

Meeting of the LDC on Tuesday 13th April 2021, 19:30.

Held remotely through Zoom

Minutes

1. Apologies- None
2. Matters arising not otherwise included in this agenda
3. Chairs report- Jenna Murgatroyd

Where are we today:

National lockdown restrictions have reduced this week at National alert level 4: close contact personal care (hairdressers etc), pubs (outdoors), shops and gyms are open and households can stay away from home in self catering accommodation. The next big change is currently scheduled for 17th May when restrictions may be further lifted.

Dental practices were given 2 days' notice of contractual arrangements for the first 6 months of 21/22 which sets targets of 60% for UDAs and 80% for UOAs.

What has been happening since last meeting in January:

I do not know of any specific practices who were unable to meet the 45% target for Q4 20/21 but this and the amount for clawback may not become apparent until later in the year when contracts are reconciled. Abatement clawback for March 20-June 20 has started to be taken from contract payments.

There has not been any further update or change to infection control guidance since our last meeting.

LFD's (rapid flow covid tests) are continuing to be used by NHS practices and are now offered for free by pharmacies and schools.

PPE portal has been extended to 31st March 2022 but the deadline for reimbursement of PPE costs has passed.

Covid Vaccination programme going well, many dental teams now having second doses.

MP letter sent in January had replies from 4 out of 6 MPs and a reply from Jo Churchill MP (dentistry minister).

Area Team: Urgent care meetings are now 'Commissioner catch-ups' around once a month.

Cancer toolkit being produced with the Cancer Alliances team. Will be forwarded when ready for publishing for use in Devon and Cornwall. Has information on

referral pathways and advice for dentists on risk reduction and looking after patients in general practice.

4. Tess Fielding & Peter Wilson- Oral Health Needs Assessment, NHSE and Improvement drive discussion

Peter Wilson-

Keen to try to bring together primary, secondary and hospital settings to improve services for patients.

Currently aware of long waiting lists for care in oral surgery and paediatric dental services, looking into the architecture of the services and how they can be improved alongside investigating inequalities across the system.

In the process of recruiting a new LDN chair and new MCN chairs over the next month. Will also be establishing a paediatric MCN.

He would like to look into and understand how primary care can complete more services for patients so that less pressure is put on hospital services.

Tessa Fielding-

Discussion about the Oral Health Needs Assessment research- she feels this is a starting point on which to base evidence for a need for contract reform. An already apparent problem with access to dental care in Cornwall was further identified, and how the waiting list is managed.

Noted that during the use of urgent care hubs access was improved for patients who previously weren't able to see an NHS dentist, and recognizing that since returning out of lockdown there has not been a reduction in need for urgent care within dentistry.

Tessa would like to aim to increase membership of LDCs, encourage involvement in MCNs and LDNs and encourage dentists to the area, particularly younger dentists to work within NHS dentistry.

She recognizes that there are changes needed to UDA contracts to enable services to be bought back into primary care and help to improve inequalities. Would like to see groups of patients managed as a whole rather than individual practices depending on needs and get Cornwall working as a system.

A health scrutiny committee is constructing a report on UDAs commissioned, waiting lists, etc which will be sent to the LDC for feedback with the hope of circulating wider if found to be useful.

There is some regional flexibility within targets for next 6 months, on individual practice basis and can encourage feedback to SW area team.

Non-recurrent UDAs have been withdrawn as very little clawback is anticipated during this year which results in little flexibility to re-distribute UDAs.

5. LDN meeting report- Adam Blake

Peter Wilson presented information, which has been covered in this meeting.

Healthwatch Cornwall report in February 2021, acknowledge that the data is very 1 sided as not able to perform usual data collection so only negative feedback submitted.

6. Restorative MCN report- Fin Bason

Restorative activity in the areas and pressures.

Primary care, secondary care and teaching facilities.

Practices aiming to deliver 45%. Access is a concern, community are concentrating on emergencies. Backlog of special care seems a very daunting task, whilst this is not of “concern” to this MCN I emphasised that this does have a knock on as clinics are struggling to provide care for this cohort that typically struggles to be treated in general practice, potentially sub-optimal care, and high stress for all involved.

Secondary care having to do some remedial dental work on priority groups, for example oncology patients, prior to treatment as this is not always being done in primary care whilst everyone is under such pressure.

Teaching facilities trying to get on with treatments, no figures available yet on numbers of AGP's being done compared to previous years but they are doing treatment.

Standardising forms for secondary care use.

South West Dental reform programme.

This is being submitted 8/2/21, need a comprehensive Oral Needs assessment survey to base the reform programme on.

Delayed due to covid but coming back on line. Looking for equality of care around the country, patients in rural areas should have access to tier 2 or tier 3 advice and care as necessary, the same as patients in large cities.

As an LDC we need to re-highlight where dentists can access the new referral forms on SW NHS England website, that IFR's can be applied for, plus the ability to refer for specialist assessment and treatment planning. Clare Forbes-Haley is in post in Plymouth as the new restorative consultant and can take referrals but we may need to indicate that there are acceptance criteria. It was also highlighted that this service is open to any patient to aid in treatment planning

whether they are NHS or Private as this info is deliberately not captured on the referral form

TMJ management.

TMJ planning a joint project with a subcommittee of the restorative group to team up with oral surgery MCN to look into and create a standardised process how these TMJD patients are assessed and treated as we are all aware of the variation in care depending on how they access the system.

HEE funding for MSc course review of criteria.

Myself and Graham Adlard reviewed this year's cohort of applicants (25) and reviewed/approved requests for part funding as per the criteria.

We have been asked to further review the criteria to try to ensure that those receiving funding will be committed to staying in region and ensuring NHS patients benefit from NHS funded postgraduate training.

MCN study day.

Cancelled last year, planned for October 2021 but HEE have confirmed there are no plans for F2F meetings this year unless absolutely necessary and cannot be completed remotely.

Head and Neck cancer data collection.

Collecting from around ten region and looking at cases adversely affected by covid delays.

Standardisation of secondary care record keeping across SW restorative services.

Presentation of an audit by one of the registrars shows a large variation in the quality and detail of what is recorded at new patient consultations. Basic details done well but variation in other areas (looked at 27 areas of note keeping considered important). Proposing a standardised form to be used after testing and approval, to raise standards and consistency.

Will also help communication with referring dentists, as can be copied and returned after assessment as a base line of the consultation. Could also be available for use in general practice.

IFR Panel Update and threshold criteria.

Some difficulties in incorporating the newly acquired Dorset process' into SW system. Looking to establish a sub-committee to work on creating the tariff structure for tier 2 standardised fees for endo/perio/resto and how to apply a transparent set of criteria that can be disseminated. Possibly involving a patient representative to allow public to understand the process.

PANDO APP:

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/pando/id1211209730>

Very interesting was the discussion of this app that is approved for secure professional communication about patient treatments and advice. Not yet set up for smaller organisations but waiting to see if could be utilised by general practices to communicate patient information.

7. Ortho MCN report- Nicola Barr

The last meeting was before most recent NHS guidance on UDA targets.

Nick Wenger is stepping down from position as consultant orthodontist at RCHT. There are concerns over delay for orthodontic extractions in general practice as patients not yet being seen for routine care in many practices but unsure yet of full impact of this. Also awaiting to see impact of reduced examinations in general practice leading to fewer orthodontic referrals being sent, possible backlog when examinations resume.

Delays for orthognathic surgeries and waiting lists as low on priorities for general anaesthetic lists. IFR cases being submitted for relapse of orthodontic cases as patients couldn't access care during pandemic.

8. Treasurers report

Current account balance- £66,997.03

Deposit account balance- £24,330.42

Total £91,327.45

Devon and Cornwall joint account- £340.50

9. Any other business

- Update on special care services- Practices being asked to re-refer patients sent during 2020, to send out lists of patients for practices to review. NHS is maintaining use of urgent care hubs which means reduced capacity for community care. GA sessions now running at full capacity.
- LDC conference taking place on 12th June, to be attended by Steph Higgins and Jenna Murgatroyd. When motions and agenda received to send to committee for any comments to take to the conference. No motions submitted from CIOS LDC.
- Elections for LDC members will need to take place end of 2021, to discuss and plan at next meeting.
- Friends and Family test- suspended due to COVID19 but plan for it to be resumed from July 2021, for first submission August 2021.

10. Date of next meeting- Tuesday 6th July 2021. To be decided nearer the time whether to continue online meetings or plan F2F.

Meeting started at 19:30 and ended at 21:45.