

Morgannwg Local Dental Committee

General Meeting of GDPs, 12th April, 2011.

Chairman's Report

I took over the chairmanship of Morgannwg Local Dental Committee in May 2009 and since then the committee has helped forge good cross disciplinary and cross service links with colleagues in CDS and the hospital service, and as a profession we are well on our way to developing a shared care approach to treatment of patients which will be highly effective, allowing general dental practitioners to use the services of specialists, CDS and HDS far more efficiently.

The new ABMU HB has recognised this effort and is proving very supportive, having created the post of Assistant Medical Director for Dentistry, now held by Karl Bishop and using this focus to create a number of high powered committees designed to support and develop dentistry in ABMU and affording LDC representation at the highest level at all times.

An orthodontic managed clinical network has been formed and financed by the Health Board under the chairmanship of Professor Jeremy Knox and this group is designed to allow a consultant led group of clinicians the opportunity to present to the health board the true state of orthodontics at the chair side so that practical decisions can be made by the Board on the back of sound and accurate information provided by clinicians.

This group is to be copied in both an oral surgery managed clinical network and a restorative dentistry managed clinical network demonstrating the Health Board's desire to create considered pathways to facilitate the acquisition of up to date information from general dental practitioners through the LDC and managed clinical networks in order to improve the commissioning process.

A problem which has been recognised by all is the inconsistency in policy which the retention of the three localities of Bridgend, Swansea and Neath Port Talbot can cause and therefore to overcome this possibility the creation of a lead for dentistry sited in a lead locality will create an uniform policy and the remaining localities will manage the provision of a central dictum without variation. The LDC has then only to give advice to one policy maker not a triumvirate and this change will be affected in the very near future.

The next eighteen to twenty four months is going to see all of the above continue to develop into a stable beneficial system of commissioning and provision and the LDC via its designated statutory body status is playing a huge role in forming the dental service which we all work in .

So now more than ever you need to make clear your thoughts and concerns to the committee so that we can incorporate the wishes of those that we represent into our responses to the Health Board and The Welsh Assembly Government.

David Westcott

Chairman, Morgannwg Local Dental Committee