

Dental Information Portal

Following our request for ideas in relation to the information that might be contained in the proposed portal, Tony Fodor gave a detailed response which I have reproduced below. We intend this to be used as a discussion pointer for the meeting.

1. All those documents and policies that we are supposed to have stored away in our practice, including GDC guidelines, IRMER stuff; Health and Safety stuff, Freedom of info stuff etc. etc. could be listed on this site. It could be almost a library of clinical governance and officialdom documents.
2. Specialities of our respective Oral surgery consultants - as Rhian has been asking lately to highlight which hospital consultant specialises in Oral Med referrals.
3. A directory of anyone we might like to contact including respective officers of the LHB and also our Dental authorities: DPA contact details; Karl Bishop's email - and that of all our consultants. Such a broadening of communication pathways could be very constructive.
4. We could have a blackboard on the site, which when appropriate GDPs or stakeholders could make input to a proposal, very much like the OOH leaflet triggered a response recently. (NB> It must be conceded that not all suggestions can be accommodated, but it is very strong for people to feel that they have been consulted on a matter of change, also understanding the pressures and priorities that are driving the change)
5. It was very good recently that the whole of the LDC could input on a topic (leaflet!) and everyone seemed encouraged by that dynamic. For the emails of, certainly all the LDC members to be listed and possibly all GDPs and referral centres to be listed would make this a very useful and much used resource.
6. Some of the WGDG and WDC reports (others too) are very interesting for any GDP to read in terms of knowing what issues are behind the scenes and being considered.
7. Contact details for joining the OOH rota, Access sessions and Domiciliary provision list should be readily available on this portal and also the criteria for joining.
8. Orthodontic and other referral centres should all be made to publish their current waiting list times (they routinely, over the years seem to stop doing this after a while).
9. Results of any LHB audits and any open invitations for GDPs to join some initiative that the LHB is running in that few months.
10. Anonymised cautionary tales of colleagues in the area who have ended up in front of disciplinary hearing. These would be a bit like the GDC cautionary tales, but more trivial and perhaps more relevant to the corner-cutting GDP on our patch, than the heavy stuff?
11. Copies of referral documents for the respective referral centres, which can be readily downloaded and printed off.
12. A list of the laboratories that GDPs in the area use may be a useful directory for reference, especially if a positive comment from a user GDP can be attached.
13. Associate positions open and Associates available, could also be a very useful communication avenue.
14. Equipment available could also be posted for sale?
15. A 'Feedback to the LHB' wall could be of interest in terms of encouraging good rapport and removing obstacles to achieving this. Misunderstandings and perceived injustice could be undone - the result would be more trust and better working cooperation between GDPs and the LHB.

16. A page for Nurses would also be of some benefit, not least to encourage them to attend whatever the LHB is paying on for them.

17. Forms and information relating to claiming for CPD expenses and Travel.

18. Information about the Superannuation and a 'Noddy's Guide' to calculating this from your payment statement each month - to check your principal is getting it right. An associate recently expressed frustration that their principal seemed not to have their interests at heart, but they did not know how to check their superannuation was correct.

19. Any specialist or colleague accepting referrals, could pin his details on a page to that effect - like a Yellow Pages for dental referrals - especially private ones, which may not be as obvious as the NHS. If you misplace the initial letter stating that a person is accepting referrals, how would you find them again?

20. Good ideas for getting cheap equipment and supplies, like cheap Protaper equivalent endo files from China, etc. could also be available from this portal.

21. Small groups of dentists eg. golf team or trip; skiing or even just sharing a lift to a course, could be useful.

22. The accessibility of the LDC meeting, its officers and its assistance in terms of representation could also be spelled out. This may well enhance the engagement of more GDPs with their LDC.

23. The kind of appeal that Dave was making last night, which was very positive, asking for comments from other LDC members for him to take forward, could also be rolled out to a much larger number of GDPs in terms of him getting ideas and feedback.

24. On that point, the portal could be readily used in the interests of the profession to gain feedback with questionnaires and such like - as the LDC has done before, when it was appropriate.

25. Links to other dental information places would be very useful too. I recall the great difficulty of trying to find the CDO's website, on which could be found certain documents. If you didn't know how to access his site, a Google search would not find these documents ... I never understood why.

26. At one time the CDO was planning to put the WDC minutes on the web - other meetings including the annual conference of LDC reps, may also be available, if people only knew the link to access them.