

Morgannwg Local Dental Committee

General Meeting of GDPs, 22nd April, 2013.

Secretary's Report

The LDC has met on twelve occasions since the last BGM and there have once again been numerous subcommittee meetings and representatives have attended regular meetings with HB representatives and representatives of the Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea Localities and the Shared Services Partnership at the LDC/LHB Liaison Group (eleven meetings since the last BGM). In addition to this LDC representatives have taken part in a number of commissioning meetings with officials of the ABMU HB, the Localities, HDS and the CDS.

The LDC has once again decided against sending delegates to the Annual Conference of Local Dental Committees and the LDC Officials' Day in both 2011 and 2012 because in part of the costs involved, but also the fact that the agendas at both these meetings were particularly English oriented and through our representation on the GDPC we can be kept up to date with happenings in England.

The LDC has given advice and support to a number of practices on contract issues, and has had representatives on a number of performance panels and has had representatives acting as mentors to colleagues on a number of occasions.

At the LDC meeting in July 2012 our Chair, David Westcott, announced that he would be standing down at the October LDC meeting for personal reasons. Despite concerns among the LDC membership David was adamant that this was the correct decision for him to take and members reluctantly accepted his resignation. He chaired the October meeting at which Rhian Paul was elected chair. Dave's vision during his time as chair of the LDC was to ensure transparency in all decision making at LHB and later HB and Locality levels, fairness in that all contracts and practitioners should be treated equally, and that patients who needed to access specialist services moved through the system easily and with the minimum of delays, and that those who required treatment urgently would be seen and treated as such. Much of this has been achieved, although progress has been slow as is inevitable when dealing with large organisations. We find that now there is a single point of contact for the three localities which makes it easier for LDC officials to make contact with officials and contracts can now over perform, with HB approval, to the extent of 5% of contract value for one year only. Moves are in hand to raise all those contracts with a UDA value of less than £22.50 up to that figure, meaning that these contracts will have to perform less UDAs to reach contract targets. Contract management by the localities is being examined with the view to there being equality across the three localities in terms of contract management. These are just a few of the things that the LDC has been working on to make the life of the contractors and performers easier. Our new chair, Rhian Paul is determined to carry on Dave's

legacy and adding to that we now face, upon completion of the Pilots, a run in to a new contract. This will be closely monitored by the LDC in terms of local issues (for example development of a local oral health action plan) although the monitoring of the broader issues relating to any new contract is a function of the BDA with input from the LDCs. As this is an important time in further development of NHS dentistry the LDC has invited David Thomas, Chief Dental Officer for Wales to address us on the evening of our BGM and we hope that as many colleagues as possible will attend.

There is an ongoing review of Access sessions and Out of Hours Services taking place at the moment. Apparently a number of colleagues have expressed an interest in taking part in the service should it be run from a single surgery, although detail of this is sparse at the moment. There are good arguments for and against a single site and the LDC is monitoring progress carefully. We can discuss this further at the BGM should anyone wish.

Occupational Health services for contractors and their staff are being discussed at the moment. There is considerable confusion around immunisations (Hepatitis B and TB) and needle stick injuries etc., etc, and discussions have started and are ongoing at this time.

The Chair and the Treasurer have covered the rest of the ongoing work of the LDC in their reports and there is no need for me to duplicate things here.

We look forward to seeing colleagues on the evening of 22nd April when hopefully considerable discussion will take place.

Roger Pratley

Secretary, Morgannwg Local Dental Committee