

Report of WGDPC Meeting 4th April 2014.

The meeting started with a presentation from David Thomas the CDO. This was very similar to the presentation he had given us in our last LDC meeting. He was questioned about why the Welsh uplift was 1.47% and England's is approx 1.6% and it's apparently down to some formula that they use that calculates practice expenses.

Ann Rockey requested help from the WGDPC to retain dental post grad funds for dentists. Apparently the dental funds have been amalgamated with the medical funds and the dental post grad are having to apply for funding from this pot that the medics seem to want to use for themselves. She explained how the dental post grad budget was top sliced and how the medics incorporated their cpd allowance into their salaries 20 years ago. So basically the medics should self fund their cpd but dentists should still get free cpd. The WGDPC and Welsh Council are both going to write the Dean of Post grad and to the minister to help her cause.

HIW jobs – Stuart Geddes has been invited to the meetings about recruitment and organisation of HIW with respect to dental inspections. The staff turnover there is constant. They have had to fight to ensure that dentists will be doing the inspections and concern was raised that they should be GDP's who were still working at the coal face and not retired GDPs. Concern was also raised that 3 dentists had already been employed including Paul Langmaid (who hasn't worked at the coal face for a long time) and about how transparent their appointments have been.

There seems to be gaping holes in the fencing that ring fences the dental budget – seems widespread across Wales that money for dentistry is being spent elsewhere.

LDC levy – There has been a mistake in Eastbourne and the LDC levy may be affected. – Hopefully we'll know if we're affected by the next meeting.

Concern was raised about dentists not having a voice when they feel that they have been badly treated by the LHB or DROs. The consensus was that the LDC's should get involved with these sort of matters and write letters to the LHB to try and resolve such issues. There seems to have been quite a few issues with a particular DRO and Stuart Geddes is going to obtain evidence (there seems to be plenty) and write a letter to Hugh Bennett regarding the rogue comments that have been made about various practices.

It was suggested that the LDC should send a representative to the local Health Professional Forum – It was felt that this was a good committee to have a dental representative on.

QAS – some questions not understood but these were late additions by HIW. Cwm Taff are now coding practices on their QAS answers and it seems that it is quite easy to get an amber light. Concern was raised that this was now being used as a test and would be used against practices.

BDA – will probably increase the cost of the Essential Package from £295 to £365 to address the issues the BDA has had. The Extra and Expert packages will remain the same. The BDA will also stop retrospective help to dentists to try and encourage dentists to become and remain members. Currently you are allowed to join when you have problems the BDA will fight your case then you can stop membership until you next encounter problems.

Anwen Hopkins