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Chair's Report to LDC Meeting 20th November 2018

WGDPC Report 16/10/18

Contract reform – Most areas have got close to 10% of practices on contract reform. North Wales have agreed not to claw back if targets are not met but other areas are clawing back.

Concern was raised about practices struggling to meet their new targets and that these practices were having to work longer hours to meet the new targets and others who were struggling were going to be taken off the contract reform program. – This kind of defeats the object of contract reform if you only allow practices for whom it can work for to stay on it!

Discussion was had about the England contract reform – again for some practices it works and others it doesn't. It was agreed that this was also not a model that we wanted to follow – although Welsh practices are now 30% behind English practices financially.

The BDA have put a lot of work into trying to find out how the LHB's spend their dental budgets and how much claw back etc. via FOI requests. The figures don't really add up. Caroline is now going to start at the top and ask Welsh government how much they are giving out. Then find out how much of that is actually going into the dental budget for each LHB – there was a suggestion off Nigel Monahan that the figures requested so far may not reflect the genuine budget allowance from WG and only the LHB's decided dental budget.

D2S - The feeling was that the new aim of targeting 0-3 age groups was a good thing to do, but it was strongly felt that the 5-6yr school fl varnish and brushing in schools should continue and not be phased down.

2.77% pay increase this year. The DDRB only recommended a pay increase of 2% and the 0.77% was for expenses. The BDA London office issued a press release before BDA Wales knew anything saying that this was terrible and amounted to a pay cut. Collette phoned Caroline and was very unimpressed with the press release (that Caroline hadn't seen!) as she and the minister had implemented the DDRB recommendations in full. It was fully agreed around the table that the gripe should have been directed at the DDRB not WG. A letter of apology is to be sent to Collette and BDA Wales are going to try and ensure that any further press releases from the England office that relate to Wales and checked by Wales first.

HIW – 290 out of 494 applications have now been processed and they hope to finish the rest by Xmas. There are some practices refusing to register as they say no PVT.

The issue of loss of personal data seems to be Wales wide – but not only with documents being scanned in and lost, but there was a report of a passport going missing and being returned to the wrong dental practice!

Each LDC is to write to HIW to make a complaint, and as they are aware internally of loss of data they should already have notified the ICO. It was suggested that any letters of complaint were sent recorded delivery....

Everyone is also reminded that the Statement of Purpose should be updated every time new dentist and on a yearly basis for nursing staff changes.

Amalgam changes. – BDA to request and increase in expenses for the changes to compensate for increase time and cost. GDPC have worked some figures out and suggest 0.86% increase. (OR 0.86% decrease in UDA's).

Cwm Taff – There is disquiet in practices in Cwm Taff where the average UDA value is £23.40 ish that the Bridgend practices are on £25 – They have been reassured that the £25 figure only applies to 3 practices in Bridgend that are contract reform practices...!

New dental practice has opened in North Cardiff and has been given a 25% reduction in UDA's – other practices in the area are not impressed!

Likely new name will be Cwm Taff Ogwr UHB.

Hywel Dda - £500K tender in Lampeter was tendered and no one bided.

'Confidential' - An independent dental helpline is being set up to help dentists deal with all kinds of mental health issues. They are looking for volunteers to man the phone system. There will be training held in London on 19/20th January. If anyone wants to volunteer contact Laurenellie1985@aol.com
They are trying to get funding but at present don't know if even expenses will be covered.

Welsh Dental Committee Report 30/10/18

Tom Bysmouth (Chair WGDPC) apologised to Lisa Howells (deputy CDO) for the press release about the 2% pay uplift.

Nigel Monaghan brought up the issue of the Coca Cola lorry and should press releases go out to say about the health issues. It was felt that it may come across as a bit 'bah humbug'. Each LHB can make a press release – Karl Bishop said that ABMU would be making a press release.

The GDC now have 2 named contacts in each LHB where they can refer back to local levels complaints that they have received that are not appropriate for them to deal with e.g. complaints about charges.

The National Oral Health Plan has now expired and there will not be a replacement. Instead WG have produced 'The Oral and dental services response'. The last 2 pages contain the key priorities.

Urgent in hours and out of hours appointments are now a minimum of 20 mins across wales. Some areas have until recently been having 15 min appts. The CDO had suggested using ACORN in these appointments – this has been strongly opposed. But maybe an oral cancer screen could be included.

HIW issues were brought up but more as a comment that there had been issues. There was also concern that it was going to take HIW 5 years to complete the first wave of inspections. Their original contract was for every 3 years but this has now been modified to 100 practices a year and there are approx. 450 practices in wales. Karl Bishop has said that this is unacceptable to ABMU so now ABMU were going to do their own inspections so that practices would be inspected every 3 years.

Anwen Hopkins