

Morgannwg LDC Zoom Meeting Thursday 10th December 2020 19.00

Welcome from LDC Chair

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd October 2020 were approved.

Update from Karl Bishop, Dental Director, Primary and Community Delivery Unit, SBUHB

- Covid transmission rates were now high and likely to keep rising up to the Christmas period.
- There had been an escalation in Covid response over the last few weeks. Gold Command were now meeting five days a week which included weekends. Meetings had dropped to once a week since the summer.
- The concern was now a shortage of staff as opposed to beds due to increased positive Covid tests and staff having to self-isolate.
- More Covid positive patients did now generally not need to enter ITU.
- Care home staffing levels were now becoming critical with 15 homes currently at Red Level. District nurses were now supporting the staff.
- Vaccine – every HB in Wales had received an allocation based on their population. Due to the infrastructure being different in each HB, there were different roll out plans.
- Security around the vaccine was paramount.
- GDPs would shortly receive a communication from HB asking for details of patient facing staff who will require a vaccination. This would be in the form of a spreadsheet to complete and return.
- Uptake of the vaccination will not be mandatory and guidelines around PPE and fallow time will still need to be adhered to.

Health Board issues around dentistry

- A communication from CDO regarding expectations for quarter 4 was expected. It was of the utmost importance FP17s were submitted promptly and accurately.
- It is a possibility that contract reform would be a natural progression from April 2021.
- The importance of practices keeping clear and accurate records of patients receiving treatment and advice was stressed. Welsh Government is using these records to plan services and there seemed to be a variation in activity across the country.
AGPs are not the only benchmark taken into account as reasonable activity may differ from practice to practice. Any issues around reporting should be raised with HB so they can offer help and support. Any disparity in activity could be an issue going forward.
- It was announced today a grant of £450,000 had become available from WG to improve ventilation in dental practices that provide NHS treatment. All SBUHB contract holders would be invited to submit an application in the near future.
- An updated SOP was imminent, it was thought this would align with the English SOP therefore increase access due to the reduction in fallow time.

Parkway Update

Parkway had terminated its Paediatric GA contract with SBUHB on Tuesday 20th October 2020 with three months' notice. The HB have since approached Parkway to increase sessions from one to three per week to start in January 2021. There was now a backlog of 250 children requiring treatment.

This service was now due to end in May 2021, the LDC had not been invited to planning meetings re paediatric GAs going forward. To be taken to next Liaison Group meeting.

Orthodontics

Orthodontic practices were not seeing any non-urgent new starts as they were conscious any new lock downs would result in patients being unsupervised during their course of treatment for an unacceptable period of time. Again, this had resulted in a large backlog of patients waiting to start treatment.

Update from DPAs

Under other relevant agenda items.

Preliminary information on cluster membership

The HB will be seeking expressions of interest from GDPs across the eight Primary care Clusters within SBUHB to become cluster members.

The LDC had been consulted previously.

It was felt to be a good idea to have dental representation within the clusters, with there being 3 in NPT and 5 in Swansea. The remuneration was expected to be in the region of £400 for 2 meetings a month, the treasurer to check if this would be superannuable.

Update from LDC

- Concern was raised that school closures would have an impact on the workforce within practices.
- Kirstie Moons had been appointed HEIW Postgraduate Dental Dean, she is the first DCP to be made Dean.
- D2S had set a return date of 01/04/2021
- HIW were hoping to resume practice inspections before the end of the current year.
- A review board was to be set up in January 2021 to look at the new contract.
- There was still no update regarding Educational supervisor issues.
- The importance of reminding all practice staff to social distance within the practice was emphasised. Any practice staff who receive a positive test result or who are isolating should be reported to HB. This is to aid workforce planning.

Further Updates

The possibility of more input from DCPs at LDC meetings was discussed, the Secretary to look at the constitutional implications.

Morgannwg LDC BGM and Elections

The next LDC BGM and elections are due to be held in April 2021, after discussion it was agreed to delay until later in 2021. A date to be agreed later in the year.

Date and time of next meeting Thursday 21st January 2021