

Morgannwg LDC Zoom Meeting Thursday 29th April 2021 at 19.00.

Welcome from LDC Chair

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2021 were approved.

Update from Karl Bishop, Dental Director, Primary, Community and Therapies Service Group, SBUHB.

- Covid transmission rates were now dropping considerably and were approaching their lowest since last summer. Rates now stood at 17 per 100,000 of population.
- The rate of infection now appears to have plateaued with pressure on acute sites being greatly reduced. Although infection rates had greatly reduced there was still a need to be vigilant especially with the emergence of new variants.
- During C-19 up to 20% of hospital activity has been carried out remotely. Consultant Connect was now in the pilot phase, it was felt to be a useful tool that enables swift responses from colleagues.
- Work is being carried out on how to reduce backlog of waiting lists. A year ago, there were 9,000 patients waiting over six weeks for appointments, this had now increased to 25,000. Post-election funding is anticipated in May 2021 and there is hope of extra funding for new initiatives.

GDS

- GDPs were working well through the CDO guidelines with 32 practices now at 100% ACV and 5 at 95%.
- Fluoride application: 62% of adults and 84% children were the latest figures.
- OOH is being closely monitored and remains busy.
- RMC new patient referrals to practices commence on Monday.

Orthodontics

- Guidance for specialist practices had been published last week, it was anticipated that there would be more guidance published within over subsequent weeks.
- Orthodontic practices were still working to the SOP, adhering to fallow times and social distancing.
- Data had shown that activity for Q4 across Wales was in line with 2019
- The MCN was carrying out work around waiting lists. New referrals going forward were to include ACORN and IOTN, with only green ACORN to be referred for orthodontics. If there was any difficulty attaching ACORN to referral then it was advised to make a note on referral.
- All waiting lists were being held by FDS they are working towards making the process as smooth and efficient as possible.

Update from DPAs

Under other relevant agenda items.

FD Update

- The CDO has confirmed DFT funding is secure and will remain in place for 2021\22. It was felt the raising of the training grant from 90 to 100% needed to be raised for clarification.

- There were to be 65 FD places funded by WG next year, although it was felt only 62 would be filled. It was hopeful nine career development dental posts would be created.
- Still awaiting clarification in May of the numbers of dental students that will graduate in the summer to fill the schemes. There is a possibility of two schemes Sept 21/March 22.

Caries and Periodontal Disease Pathways

- Document had been emailed to all previously by PHW, it was felt to be an important document that GDPs needed further time to familiarise themselves with. Both positive and negatives viewpoints needed to be considered before responding.
- It was decided to hold a further meeting to discuss the document in depth on Thursday 13th May 2021, giving all GDPs sufficient time to familiarise themselves with the document and formulate a response.
- The diagrams in the consultation paper were in parts illegible, the secretary to see if this can be improved.
- The secretary will formulate a response to PHW after the meeting.

Update from LDC

- **Cluster Membership Meeting** – The Chair asked for ideas from members around areas that extra funding would be welcomed in dentistry, practices could benefit greatly from extra funding. Any thought and ideas to be forwarded to Cluster Leads to take to next meeting.
- **Nursing Homes** – A new SOP was in the process of being written this was to aid the restoration of services in a safe manner. At present only emergency service was available, it was hopeful this SOP would be published next week.
- **Topical Fluorides** – SBUHB was doing very well although there was some concern on the policy of application across the board. It was raised whether application to red/amber patients was appropriate and necessary, the issue of taking away freedom of clinical judgement was discussed. All practices were advised to document the reason why if topical fluoride is not applied to some patients as this could influence payment of ACV.
- **D2S** – now looking at September 2021 to restart services in schools.
- **Orthodontics** – referral changes were now taking place with all patients on legacy waiting lists now requiring updated ACORN (only green to be considered for treatment). A priority system was now going to be put in place, time spent on waiting list was no longer the criteria for an appointment. Patients' expectations need to be managed on referral, they need to be made aware of long waiting lists and that a course of treatment is not a given if not deemed necessary. Radiograph and photographs may now become part of the referral process to enable appropriate triaging. Prioritisation Paperwork had now gone out to providers for feedback and comment.

Any Other Business

- **Cambria Specialist Practice** – the practice has received a very high number of referrals with waiting list for non-urgent now at 24 months, pre covid was 11 months. SBUHB was piloting simpler referrals being sent direct to The Resource Centre in Port Talbot, these would be triaged by Cambria with a clinic being held one day per week.
- **All – Wales Oral Surgery Referral Handbook** – this document was now being circulated for feedback. Due to there being slight variations across HBs, the document must be modified to reflect different policies in different areas of Wales. The Secretary to email everyone for comment and observations. This will be added as an agenda item to meeting being held 13th May.

Date and time of next meeting

Thursday 13th May 2021