

Morgannwg LDC Zoom Meeting Thursday 14th October 2021

1. Members Present:

Allison Walker in the chair, Huw Hopkins, Rachel Coles, Patricia Moreira, Richard Woods, Annie Walker, Sid Gupta, Paul Fraser, James Davies, Helen John, Simon Bond, Tesni Metcalfe, Gayathri Kini, Chris Woods, Imtiaz Khan, Anwen Hopkins.

2. In Attendance.

Roger Pratley, Claire McAllister, Dalip Kumar, Hannah West, Angie Eggar, Carla Queiros, Rob Westerholm, Sara Griffiths, Nicola Summers, Jennifer Berndt, Samantha Edwards, Charlotte Eckhardt, Ellie Parker, John Vaughan, Rob Elliott, Barrie David, Richard Courtney, Darril Williams, Amrish Gupta.

3. Apologies for Absence.

Will Fitzpatrick, Liz Samways, Lesley Hotson-Hicks, Gareth Crowther.

4. Approval of meeting notes 9th September and 23rd September 2021

Accepted as a true and correct record.

5. Matters Arising

To be discussed under relevant agenda items.

6. Election of Officers

The following were nominated unopposed to serve for a two-year period:

- Chair – Allison Walker
- Vice-Chair – Imtiaz Khan
- Secretary – Roger Pratley to be supported by Jennifer Berndt
- Treasurer – Huw Hopkins

Huw Hopkins would communicate with the outgoing Treasurer, Mark Harris to organise changes to the bank accounts, signatories, etc.

7. Orthodontics

Report had been emailed to all previously

Orthodontic Tender – Tender process for orthodontic contracts is due in November 2021. In an OMCN meeting held on 27th August it was confirmed this date was to go ahead and there had been no extension agreed. An email had been received this week informing Orthodontists that the HB had been considering pushing the Tender date back to March 2022. Even though they had been considering this for quite some time it had not yet been agreed and permission hadn't been granted.

This was not felt to be an equitable way of managing orthodontic contracts as it had huge impact on the financial stability of practitioners and causes disruption to the superannuation process which is not easily rectified. A notice period of six weeks to move the tendering process back to March 2022 was not felt to be appropriate or acceptable for the stability of orthodontic practices.

There was an issue around the length of time being taken for GDPs to carry out orthodontic extractions for patients undergoing orthodontic treatment. It was felt this was in part due the HB asking GDPs to prioritise access sessions and emergency treatment.

The ability for patients to video their mouths and forward to Orthodontists to aid the triage process was discussed. The Secretary to discuss with Orthodontists and look to add to LDC website.

Patients being referred for orthodontics as their malocclusion was having an impact on their mental health was a cause for concern. Orthodontists didn't feel able to deal with mental health issues and it was felt CAMHS referrals would only be accepted for young people experiencing severe mental health crisis.

8. Report on LDC/LHB Liaison Meeting 24th September 2021 (emailed to all previously).

- Mid-term performance Reports
- ACORN at 80% of submitted FP17Ws

The HB had reported the ACORN completion target of 80% was being exceeded within SBUHB with April-Aug standing at 84.9%

The HB were to start arranging mid-year reviews, this was welcomed and felt to be an opportunity for practices to voice any concerns around monitoring. Communication of issues is key especially for those practices falling below expectations. For practices falling below expectations these visits were to be mandatory.

It was felt the measuring system was flawed as reattending patients were skewing the figures. Practices would benefit from being sent their performance figures monthly along with the other practices within the HB for comparison.

The importance of recording Staff illness and patients failing to attend was reinforced as these will ultimately influence performance.

9. Improving Access – Members views

Following a meeting last week between the LDC and HB during which the difficulty with access was discussed, the HB had asked the LDC for ideas to improve access. They would then carry these ideas forward to WG for discussion.

The Secretary had prepared a power point for the meeting outlining the main issues. The main question was if further funds were to be made available could practices increase their availability for NHS work?

- The main outcome at present was to get patients out of pain, improving access for routine dentistry was not felt to be attainable under current SOP, targets, ACV etc.
- Giving up surgery time to increase emergency access would have a knock-on effect on ACORN, FV application recalls etc which were all target driven items.
- There was currently no capacity to see regular long-term attenders of practices, without seeing extra access patients.
- It was felt the practices could no longer run on goodwill and that recent issues had damaged the relationship between GDPs and the HB. It was felt the goal posts were ever moving.

- Workforce issues were a consideration with a high number of DCPs leaving dentistry during the pandemic, recruitment of associates was proving to be more difficult. Also, FDs had not received the full experience of training for this and last year. This had had a serious effect on the confidence and competency in dealing with emergency patients. A rota of FDs seeing access patients at a central site while supported and supervised by an ES was mentioned as a possibility to discuss further.
- Some practices were reporting empty access slots with no referrals from RMC on some days. It was felt the data held by RMC was not being used to its full capacity with patients attending other practices for further treatment and taking up slots. The filtering out by the RMC of patients who only required a one off get out of pain appointment would free up some appointments which were being failed by non-engaged patients.
- The HB were not aware of just how busy practices were pre pandemic, there were not enough access sessions then and now due to current SOP and time constraints this had exacerbated an already dire situation.
- Realistically it was felt the only way to improve access was to offer practices a serious financial incentive and see who was prepared to opt in.

10.LDC presence on social media

The need to encourage younger GDP/FDs to join LDC was discussed and a greater presence on social media was agreed to be a good starting point. Facebook and Instagram were discussed, and it was agreed to set up a What's App Group in the interim. The Secretary to liaise with Jennifer Bernd and report back at the next meeting.

The Chair is also going to speak with Educational Supervisors to encourage their FDs to attend LDC meetings to get a better understanding of the role of the LDC.

11.AOB

There was inconsistency around GDPs and DCPs receiving Flu and Covid 19 boosters in the same session. With some GDPs having reported being refused the flu vaccine due to them not being directly employed by the NHS. The Secretary had informed the Health Board who were going to take up the issue.

12.Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday 18th November at 7.00 p.m.