

Morgannwg LDC Members Zoom Meeting Thursday 6th October 2022

Present

Mohammed Imtiaz Khan in the Chair, Roger Pratley, Tesni Metcalfe, Chris Woods, Richard Woods, Rachel Coles, James Davies, Paul Fraser, Ewart Johnstone, Rhian Jones, Jennifer Berndt, Huw Hopkins, Liz Samways, Sid Gupta, Gayathri Kini, Patricia Moreira, Richard Jones, Carla Queiros.

Apologies for Absence

Allison Walker, Helen John.

Minutes of the Meeting 5th July 2022 – Accepted

Discussion WG GDS Reform Programme – Engagement Events

- The CDO had prepared a timetable of events which included further consultation with stakeholders in February 2023. This would include negotiations of proposed final contract offer. Concern was raised this will be imposed as had been the case historically.
- Historic/Existing patient targets were a huge concern for this year 22/23 and this should take precedence over concerns for next year 23/24. Most were proving to be red and needing multiple appointments with no room in the diary as this was being taken up by target driven appointments
- The breakout sessions were felt to be too short at fifteen minutes and there was not enough time for in-depth discussion.
- It was felt there was no acknowledgement of workforce issues or any plan to deal with going forward.
- It was generally felt reform was underfunded and with the threat of clawback looming more and more dentists would be forced to make a business decision and hand back NHS contracts.

Discussion LDC/LHB Liaison Group Information

- Clawback was not felt to be uniform across Wales with some HBs not applying clawback on FV metric. This is felt to be unfair as the contract is uniform across the country. Parameters were not equal across Wales causing uncertainty and concern amongst practices.
- HB and eDen figures do not match, there were proving to be large numbers of discrepancies. Associates were still reporting issues with accessing any data on eDen.
- New patient and historic patients are proving to be the most difficult metrics to achieve, this is evident on slides provided by HB. It is now looking to be physically impossible to reach these targets especially as the number of patients provided by HB now appear to be drying up.
- Practices that had agreed to accept access patients to help achieve their targets were now reconsidering due to the high number of aggressive, rude patients with very high expectations coming through.
- Patients requiring the use of Language Line were proving to be difficult to treat due to the length of time taken to interpretate. This can in some cases take up to an hour, therefore increasing the risk of not hitting targets.
- Contract variation when it started in April was already on the back foot as only two weeks' notice was given with GDPs diaries already booked weeks ahead.

- Proposed new metrics for 22/23 both have issues, expecting patients to know their NHS number was going to prove to be an issue with most unaware and the practice having increase administration pressure. Providing HBs of details of NHS and Private sessions was felt to be unnecessary and disruptive to the day to day running of a practice.
- Waiting lists for Secondary care were high post pandemic and it was felt a regular publication of waiting times would be beneficial to all and aid the management of patient's expectations.
- It was proving to be more and more difficult to sustain the running of an NHS practice with the running costs constantly increasing. Materials, staff remuneration, Laboratory costs etc all increasing and there being no increase in the funding from WG. How much longer this can be sustained by practices was discussed with some practices already considering handing back NHS contracts to concentrate on private dentistry to sustain their businesses.
- The fact a high amount of target data is only obtained once a form has been completed and transmitted was an issue. A lot of open and on-going courses of treatment were not being taken into account and with the waiting time to complete treatment long, due to full diaries this was being considered to be dead data. It was felt useful to be able to submit relevant data on the opening of a COT.

Further Problems with Contract Reform

Discussed under other agenda items

Workforce Survey Update

- The Secretary had prepared slides which would be available to all once all the data had been collected and more work carried out.
- There had been a total of 50 responses to date which equated to 79% of practices surveyed. Thirty-seven of these had been from Swansea locality with thirteen from NPT.
- Figures showed GDPs are more inclined to work part time, with new GDPS having less surgery time due to work life balance.
- It was felt due to FD posts being funded by WG more needed to be done to encourage newly qualified dentists to stay in Wales. Central recruitment needs to look at matching Cardiff graduates to Welsh schemes.
- There were sixteen GDS Training Practices that had trained seventy FDs, of these thirty-eight, 54% were still in Wales. One third of FDs who trained in SBUHB had never worked in Wales.

Ongoing meeting format

It was agreed to hold three monthly LDC members meetings with face-to-face meetings to be held every other. The first to be held in January 2023 via Zoom, venue for Face to face to be confirmed as Holiday Inn Express, Llandarcy.

General LDC meetings were to be held midway between members meetings via Zoom due to the high attendance numbers.

There was to be therefore a total of six meetings per year, the Secretary to prepare a schedule of dates for 2023 and send to all.

It was agreed to arrange a dinner for former Treasurer Mark Harris in early 2023 to thank him for his service.

Any Other Business

- Vaccinations – there had been no update from HB when the Autumn Covid Booster or Flu Vaccine vaccinations would be available to the dental team.

- Clusters – It has been suggested there was to be a separate Dental Cluster as opposed to joint GDS/GMS. A £400 fee was paid monthly for attending cluster meetings currently, due to the increase of meetings and presentations it was felt this was not enough and needed to be looked at. The Chair had attended the meeting and would report an update at the next LDC Meeting.
- Parkway – GA sessions had been cancelled in October due to the lack of referrals from RMC. This had resulted in a high number of children attending A&E at Morriston with swellings and dental pain. Parkway had received complaints from parents unable to access GA sessions for their children, Parkway had carried out sessions without payment due to distressed parents and children. This was raised in Oral Surgery MCN held two weeks ago the HB representative that attended the meeting was to carry forward with HB and report back at next meeting. This next meeting due to be held in January 2023.
- Parkway were carrying out GA day cases for Morriston, on a few occasions only one or two cases were being seen per day due to the paperwork not being sent across in a timely manner. This was felt to be not acceptable due to the high numbers on waiting lists and attendance at A&E. The Secretary to contact parkway for an update on the situation.

Date and Time of Next LDC Committee Meeting

Thursday 12th January 2023 via Zoom