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Biennial General Meeting of GDPs, 21st September 2023.

Secretary's Report

Introduction

We are now two years on from the last BGM in September 2021, when I wrote in my report, *'who would have thought that within a few months the practise of dentistry would have changed to the extent that it has?'* At the time the pandemic situation was worsening again, and colleagues were looking after their patients in the most stressful and uncomfortable conditions ever experienced by colleagues and their staff. But as ever, you all came through it. Many bruised and battered and financially worse off, some working from dawn to dusk and later to avoid clawback. During this period Welsh Government has produced many communications on the restarting and the continuing process of Contract Reform, many of which have been confusing and unfit for purpose, creating long discussions on the various LDC WhatsApp groups and many communications between the LDC and Welsh Government. The Contract Reform program restarted in April 2022 following last minute communications with Practices and the April 2023 update was similarly late and distressing for Practices.

LDC Meetings

The LDC has not held face-to-face meetings since 10th March 2020, all meetings having been held remotely since that date. We have continued with the policy commenced during the pandemic of inviting all GDPs and DCPs to our remote meetings and the attendances of often 40 to 50 have justified this stance. These remote meetings have taken place on 14 occasions since the BGM of September 2021 and there have been 3 meetings of LDC members only and six meetings of the LDC Executive. Of the 14 open meetings three have been attended by Mr Andrew Dickerson, CDO Wales where he has presented an update on Contract Reform and taken questions, some prepared in advance and some from the floor. In addition to this we have written to him on six occasions with problems being encountered by colleagues when delivering services. We thank him for his engagement with us.

Mr Karl Bishop, Dental Director at the Primary Care Unit of SBUHB has presented updates at our open meetings and we thank him, together with the HB DPAs, for his and their continued engagement which has been and continues to be invaluable.

We have held presentations on topics of special interest at two of the open meetings. The first at the meeting of 15th September 2022 by Patrick Keys, Account Manager at Consultant Connect on the use of Consultant Connect and the second on 15th June 2023 by Phil McEvoy, Head of Pensions at BDA on The Pension Question. Both presentations were well attended, interesting and informative and videos of the presentation were prepared and made available for colleagues.

On 18th May 2023 we held an open meeting to which Senedd Members representing both Constituency and Regional seats within the SBUHB area were invited. Three of the MSs attended together with two representatives of MSs who were unable to attend, and four MSs sent their apologies. The intention of the meeting was to have a two-way conversation about the difficulties the public are having accessing NHS Dentistry and the difficulties Practices are experiencing delivering NHS Dental Care to patients. The feedback from MSs and LDC members was good. A short while after the meeting a debate was held at the Senedd on Dentistry and all three of the members who attended the meeting with us raised questions based on the conversations that we had at the meeting. We must engage further with our MSs on issues that we consider to be relevant.

Work of the LDC Executive

Members of the LDC Executive have attended numerous meetings of the LHB/LDC Liaison Group, Oral Quality, Safety and Patient Experience Group meetings, Reference Panels, Orthodontics MCNs, Oral Medicine/Oral Surgery MCNs, Workforce Meetings, BDA WGDPC and Welsh Dental Committee meetings. The Chair presented a motion at the 2022 Annual Conference of LDCs stating **Conference believes that NHS GDPs deserve more funded representation on government committees that immediately affect the running and the future of the GDS.** The motion was carried and became GDPC policy.

You will note that Allison Walker, our current Chair will after October no longer be working in the SBUHB area and therefore must leave Morgannwg LDC. We thank her for her commitment during her time as a member and for the last four years as Chair.

Huw Hopkins has completed his first two years as Treasurer to the Committee and has done a sterling job after taking over from Mark Harris.

Finally, my thanks to Sarah Davies, our Minutes Secretary, for her support during and between LDC meetings.

We look forward to seeing colleagues on the evening of 21st September remotely at the BGM at 7pm at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7715593961>

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Pratley', written in a cursive style.

**Roger Pratley,
Secretary,
Morgannwg Local Dental Committee**