

WCWG Meeting held on 23/06 /2022

The meeting was held at the Hilton Hotel in Cardiff on the 23rd of June 2022. I attended this virtually as this was an option. The vice chair for Welsh council was elected.

The focus of this meeting seemed to be on the fact that the DFs that are currently in the practices seem to be not up to standards of what a fresh graduate must be. The GDC has been asked about this and has said that the correct curriculum has been followed and maintained for these students in dental school even with COVID 19 pandemic. Due to lack of experience a certain practice was now worried that their FD had possibly not been able to remove caries fully and could have left caries underneath restorations. Therefore, a remedial form of short burst training was suggested for these dental graduates just before they join DF training programs. However, before starting Training programs the trainees may want to go on holiday, get married, and may find having early rentals expensive and that may hinder the idea of having a short burst training for them before they join practices. This was what the CDO Mr. Dickenson suggested

There were talks about considering a 2-year pathway of the training program and split them into part primary care, part community and rotate them that way to get broader experience and enable to retain the DFTs for longer. Mr. Dickenson also suggested postgraduate fellowships to offer DFs in remote rural areas and to work with dental schools on this matter.

With regards to the contract reform lack of data is still an issue. Not being able to accurately measure performance means cannot provide and deliver accurately. Band 3s are fewer in number. Associates are stressed. Paying associates is getting challenging with the new method. Historic patients who are good attenders are being turned away due to the load of new patients to be seen. There might be a population feed back extrapolated from ACORN to assess area risks. Potential modification of ACORN to what ones are really needed. There is a certain bit of anxiety as to how quickly will we be made aware as to what is in store for next FY?

Aneurin Bevan Trust has lost 1 million worth NHS contract as per the discussions based in the meeting.

There was a talk about vicarious liability by James Goldman. As far as DFTs are concerned poor quality work and sub optimal quality of freshly graduated FDs, would stand to high potential of vicarious liability for practice owners. Practices must have some form of insurance in place for non-delegable duty of care.

This needs to be clarified right at the outset. There were discussions that shared services and HEIW must take responsibility in these claims as they are the ones involved in allocating such FDs to practices.

Unfortunately, I had to leave the meeting at 3.10PM the intention was to finish the meeting by 4pm.

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