

Minutes for the LDC meeting held on 16th October 2007
Held at the Postgraduate Centre, Poole Hospital

1. Apologies: Brian Parnell Reg Carnell Hugh James Alastair Danby
 Claire Burton
2. Minutes of last meeting
 - Both sets of PCTs were present at the OHAG meeting. Both foresee that there will be a rolling contract with very little change in 2009
 - Michael Cricklow (Dorchester Course Advisor) has been contacted and asked if a course in negotiation skills could be arranged. There has been no response as yet. It was felt that a standardised UDA value would be introduced. In practices with high values, Adrian Wright may not raise the UDA value. Adrian Hunting felt that practices with low values would have difficulty in recruiting new dentists so the UDA value would need to be raised. In Dorset the average UDA value is £21.50.
3. Out of Hours:
 - Nothing has been advertised on our website as yet. A letter has been written to Adrian Wright to see what level of cover is required for Christmas. There has been no response as yet. There is slight ambiguity with the guidance. Carole Cusack has sent a letter to the Poole/ Bournemouth dentists stating that practices can only close on the bank holidays and that they are contracted to work on the other days between Christmas and the New Year. Jonathan Mynors-Wallis is to write to Carole outlining the cover the dentists are likely to provide: A nurse within the practice taking calls and triaging so that only true emergencies are seen by the dentist. Last Christmas the back-up service was totally overwhelmed. It was pointed out that the patient cover was worse since the introduction of the new contract.
4. UDA targets
 - Adrian Wright has no written policy as yet for East Dorset. The practices in this area in general who over- or under-achieved the UDA targets by 4% could carry them forward to 2007/8 and each practice was reviewed individually.
 - Martin Rogers (Bournemouth/Poole) has made no provision to pay over-production of UDAs. Practices that were within 4% of their target were allowed to continue into 2007/8 with no financial clawback. All practices were reviewed individually.
 - There was a general feeling that the PCTs were quite approachable and were acting fairly.
 - Some dentists were experiencing problems with their software and issues were arising with mis-calculation of superannuation.
5. Buying and selling practices:
 - The West Dorset Strategy Group has been attempting to arrange a meeting since September but to no avail.
 - In East Dorset, where practices with UDA contract values exceeding £75k come up for sale, their contract would go out to tender. (The equivalent value in Bournemouth & Poole is £100k). There is a possibility that the successful tender may not buy the practice. Both PCTs recommend off the record that practices need to become limited companies before they decide to sell. The problem with this is that the UDA values need to be re-negotiated. When practitioners retire the PCT may not want to re-commission the UDAs and re-allocate them elsewhere. Dentists can no longer squat.
6. Dorset Strategy Planning
 - There was no reference to dentistry. This was poor as the dental contract is worth £17m. Jonathan Mynors-Wallis is to write to the Chairmen of the Trusts to see whether they would appreciate dental input.
7. Report from Dental Advisor
 - Not present

8. Treasurers Report
 - Current bank balance is £2023. Both PCTs have advanced £2000.
 - The LDC was still not receiving significant levies although it was felt that this was being addressed.
 - The Sessional Fee is £250 in line with the Dental Guild rate of £243. The mileage rate was increased from £1.10 per mile to £1.20. Expense forms are to be sent out in the near future.
9. LDC training for the GDPs
 - The committee wanted the course to be recognised as s63. The LDC was having difficulty getting other people to organise the negotiation course so wondered whether the LDC should organise it itself – volunteers required. The BDA provide free speakers but need to speak to all Dorset dentists, maybe in conjunction with the AGM.
10. Report from other meetings
 - OHAG: Martin Rogers has identified funding for a consultant in dental public health on a 3-6 month contract to troubleshoot and produce a report on assessment needs.
 - Orthodontics: Treatment needs to be carried out within 18 weeks of the initial appointment at the hospital. There is a problem with the funding of setting up a triaging centre to see where patients are best treated - hospital orthodontic cases in general practice or in a specialist practice. It was thought the funding was coming from the clawback of underachieved UDAs.
 - Ann Williams advised that children could be referred to a consultant anaesthetist for extractions so the children would be seen earlier as the 18 week rule would apply.
11. AOB: None
12. Date of next meeting: 29th January 2008.