Minutes of an LDC Meeting held on September 12th 2016 at the Kinmel Manor Hotel Abergele at 7 pm

Present.

Y Hopkins, C Dubourg, S Mawson, M Horton, A Hawkes, J Williams, I Douglas, Ette Ntekim, Ben Lewis, Sarah Gale, Dave Plunkett

Apologies.

Sandra Sandham, Tom Gregg, Andy Walton, R Bennett

Previous minutes approved as a true record.

Matters Arising

Recurrent Funding.

Approximately £900,000 has been offered by the LHB in areas of need across N Wales in order to lock in available funding

Letters were sent out last week. This should improve access across the area.

The LHB have 3 models for committing funding

1. Contract variation on sums up to K25

2. A restricted tender process for existing providers for sums between K25 and up to K589

3. A full tender process on sums above K589

LHB Restructure

No developments. The 3 area teams have been formed and dental money at present is devolved to them but it may be centralized again?

AoB

BD Guild./ Ben fund/ Sick dentist fund

The Committee agreed to donate as follows

Ben fund £1000

Sick Dentist scheme £1000

BD Guild £4000

LDC Committee Succession Planning

A discussion was held around how the Committee should develop in terms of succession planning.

Dr Lloyd decided he would stand down as Vice Chair and nominations should be asked for a replacement at the next meeting.

Quality Improvement.

Dr Horton has attended some meetings in which there have been discussions around “Quality Improvement”. He will keep the Committee posted on any developments

Chairs Correspondence

None

Secretaries Correspondence

Prof. Paul Brocklehurst, Director of NWORTH (North Wales Organisation of Randomised Trials in Health)has contacted the LDC asking if he can give a short presentation at a future meeting. ACTION. MH

Paola Browne has asked if the LDC can disseminate information on a Public Health 1000 lives Oral Piercing study ACTION ID

Orthodontics

Bangor succession planning is being looked at

There are still sessions unfilled at YGC

Waiting lists.18 months Maelor and Bangor

Over 24 months in YGC.

Sarah Gale noted that waiting lists in Birmingham have reached 5 years and IOTN rationing has been introduced.

There is difficulty recruiting associate specialists in hospital as they can earn more in Practice.

The X Border issue with West Cheshire is ongoing but practitioners are advised to carry on referring as normal for now.

The new universal ortho referral form seems to be working well.

Restorative

The new consultant is carrying out assessments and a fully functioning service should be in operation by Xmas.

The LDC website needs rebuilding and there will be costs to this

An e mail dialogue will take place between LDC members with a view to developing an improved and modernized website ACTION ID

Treasurers Report

Current £22208.35

Reserve £1957.16

GDPC

No meeting

WGDPC

A new Minister, Vaughan Gethin has been appointed and Collette Bridgman is now in post as CDO

Nothing else of significance.

Dental Health in N Wales

No report.

Advisers

Still only 2 in post but funding has been approved for a third post in the west.

NWOHSG

No report

PC Liaison Group

Primary care Operational Liaison Group Meeting

7th July 2016

Report for LDC

The LHB are proposing looking at the development of a commissioning framework

This will be in 3 categories

1 A full tender process will required if a single contract exceeds K589

2 restricted tender for amounts between K25 and K 589 for existing Contractors

3 Contract variation to allow the commissioning of recurrent monies up to the value of K25 to existing contract holders

4 Non recurrent monies will be contracted in the usual way

K643 is to be allocated in non recurrent funding this year [K65 individual limit] and the LHB hope to allocate some small additional activity on a recurrent basis. The offer of non recurrent funding was over subscribed.

COMPASS

End of year data is now available on Compass. The data looks robust despite the concerns over Compass

96% activity was achieved by the LHB with an underspend of K843 over 35 contractors

The main problem for the LHB with Compass is that Annual Contract Values cannot easily be amended

BCU Update

The area teams are now in place. Expansion of clusters is being recommended to include additional health groups.

Dental funding is currently devolved to the 3 area teams but structures are being developed that will bring dentistry under one umbrella

Dental Advisers

No appointment has yet been made for the west.

The LHB have been made aware of the need for succession planning

QAS

22 practices have so far been inspected and another 150 are to be visted by the end of March 2017

SOP outlining the management of the process of changing contractor staus from individual to partnership and partnership to individual

The LHB proposed a change to contracts that would allow them to reduce contract values to the Welsh average of around £24.50 in the event that any contact entered into a partnership with any other individual or group.

The effect of this would be to allow the LHB to vet any contract at the point of a practice sale if the sale involved entering into partnership with a prospective buyer to allow the transfer of the contract.

It would also result in the driving down of average UDA values across North Wales.

The LDC opposed this proposal and informed the meeting that advice from the BDA indicated that such a unilateral contract variation would be open to strong legal challenge.

The LHB advised the LDC that the document was being presented for information only and was not for consultation.

The LDC advised the LHB that it would seek further advice on the matter from the BDA.

Addendum.

Since the meeting the legal team at the BDA have written to the LHB challenging their right to introduce such a unilateral contract variation. At the time of writing no response has been received to the BDA letter.

Next meetings to be held 28/11/2016 and 23rd January 2017