

HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT LOCAL DENTAL COMMITTEE

Secretary's Report to the Portsmouth City Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel (HOSP)

24th March 2015

OVERVIEW AND UPDATE OF LDC ACTIVITY 2014/15

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Dental Committee (H&IOW LDC) is the largest LDC in England and represents the interests of 907 performers of NHS primary dental care services throughout Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The LDC consults on local commissioning and the developments surrounding the provision of NHS dental services within its constituency boundaries that includes Portsmouth. LDCs are recognized in statute under the NHS Acts of 1977 and 2006 by NHS England and local providers of NHS primary dental care contracts and agreements contribute to the committee through a Statutory Levy. There are 28 NHS dental contracts/agreements in Portsmouth with a value of just over £9 million.

The LDC is aware that PHE, NHS England and the Area Team within the LDC's constituency borders are experiencing yet another reorganization with the Wessex Area Team (WAT) becoming a sub-regional team of the Southern region on the 1st April 2015. The latest intelligence suggests that the term of sub-regional team will be dropped in favour of a Office of NHS England. Local GPs are finding it very difficult to keep abreast of all these changes that potentially destabilize the administration of dental practices services to their patient population.

The LDC is strengthening its links with the British Dental Association (BDA) Wessex Branch Council, the BDA Southampton Section and some Managed Clinical Networks (MCNs) and other working groups eg restorative that may eventually become MCNs.

The LDC in collaboration with the Southampton Section of BDA is to hold a **Question Time Evening Event in Winchester on Tuesday the 16th June 2015** where young dentists (under 40 years old) and others will be able to ask questions of a selected diverse panel from NHS England, BDA, HEE, GDPC and the LDC. Young dentists are especially finding it more difficult to understand the rapidly changing NHS landscape that includes modern dental commissioning and there is a reluctance from younger dentists to commit to longer term positions within general dental practice which potentially destabilizes the dentist/patient relationship in many locations. The LDC will be providing several other Continuing Professional Development events this year and this follows on from

the events held last year on Contract Reform and the Dental Assurance Framework.

The LDC is maintaining good working links with Public Health England and striving to engage with Local Councils (Health and Wellbeing Boards/Health Overview and Scrutiny Panels). The LDC will always lobby on behalf of local general dental practices engaged in the provision of NHS primary dental care services and we welcome our continuing and invited engagement as a core member of the Local Dental Network (LDN) which is intended to be a clinically led forum that considers dental commissioning of services with provision and implementation of those services based on emerging national specialist clinical pathways and local intelligence gleaned from Managed Clinical Networks, Task and Finish Groups with any additional strategic needs assessments .

Local dental service providers and performers attended the informative LDN event on the 11th March in Lyndhurst and it is hoped that local General Dental Practitioners (GDPs) will enthusiastically engage with this process.

Unfortunately the available funding for Local Professional Networks of which the LDN is one is very tight.

A separate report has been generated by the Consultant in Dental Public Health to cover oral health and dental commissioning in Portsmouth

The LDC has good and constantly developing links with Health Education England (Health Education Wessex) and we actively engage to provide support and advice to our constituents through the LDC's trained and accredited members thereby providing mentoring, coach/mentoring, appraisal and Foundation Training by Equivalence Assessment services. The LDC provides some administrative support that facilitates the GDP appraisal process throughout the old SHIP area that includes Portsmouth. The LDC's Dentists in Difficulty scheme has helped 4 Hampshire and IOW dentists during the last nine months with LDC funded advice and support pitched at a pastoral level.

The LDC has excellent links with the Portsmouth Dental Academy (PDA) and sits on the Stakeholder Advisory Group. The PDA is engaged in many health improvement activities and these are ***appended as prepared notes by the Clinical Director on the current health improvement activities undertaken by the Dental Academy in Portsmouth***

The committee has recently endorsed the commitment of two LDC members to undertake Performance Advisory Group (PAG) and Performers List Decision Panel (PLDP) Discipline Specific Practitioner training to quality assure them when sitting on these performance panels in a core and voting capacity. The LDC was mindful that these two trained and accredited members when sitting on these panels are not there in a LDC capacity and bounded by a formal engagement agreement with NHS England but there is also a invitation to the LDC to provide a non-voting member to the PAG panel meetings to input on behalf of our constituents to ensure that clinical and contractual views are adequately and accurately represented. The two LDCs maintain their two seats within the Contract Recommendation Panel to also ensure that colleagues are

proactively represented when individual dental contractual matters are discussed and decisions made under the regulations.

The LDC has just completed the Community AED Scheme that was initiated twelve months ago and a separate report has been generated for this. Regrettably only 3 AEDs were placed in Portsmouth practices. The report will be published on the LDC's website: www.hants-iow-ldc.info and outlines the successes and failures together with the processes and results of this LDC administered but NHS England funded programme of activity designed to save lives in the practices' locality. The total number of external community AEDs housed in purpose-built cabinets is 39 throughout Hampshire and the Isle of Wight which is disappointing but nonetheless worthwhile.

There is still capacity to fund another capital funding initiative for local practices with the substantial sum remaining. Currently the LDC is considering the offer to practices of a part-funded digital x-ray equipment scheme in collaboration with a large dental supply company. This scheme if approved will improve the patient experience by reducing the amounts of radiation and facilitating the transmission of high quality clinical data to the referral recipient.

The two LDCs in Wessex have continue to meet every three months in the spirit of collaborative working and mutual support and the seventh such meeting was held on the 20th January.

Importantly the two LDCs jointly meet every 3 months with representatives of NHS England and Public Health England. Most recently on the 6th February we met to discuss a number of important issues that impact on our constituents and patients.

The H&IOW LDC currently supports a elected General Dental Practice Committee (GDPC) member to represent all general dental practitioners at a national level and this committee engages with the Department of Health on many issues that have a bearing on the provision of general dental services throughout England but recently this has concentrated on NHS dental contract reform. Contract reform is about to enter the phase of prototypes based on two versions of a blended contract of capitation, activity and quality. The prototypes will run for at least 18 months and contract reform may not be introduced until 2018/19.

More Recent Activity

The Secretary very recently attended a Regulation of Dental Services Stakeholder Event. This was the first event to discuss the remit and aims of the appointed Programme Board that has been set up with a follow up event expected in June of this year. There were only two other LDC representatives and this is likely to become a working group that will look at implementing changes within a two year envelope. The group looked at a number of questions:

1. How does the present and overall system of regulation fit together?
2. How can the current model be improved?
3. What are the information sources and how can these be shared?
4. How do we listen to those using our services?

5. How do we communicate and engage with those using our services and other dental professionals?

There is an opportunity for the invited participants to engage in some of the interim subgroup activity looking at new models, communication, standards, roles, responsibility, risk, data and information.

The Friends and Family Test becomes live in all NHS dental practices on the 1st April 2015 and the LDC has identified a speaker on this topic for the LDC meeting on the 17th June and another speaker will deliver an update on dental pharmacology including anticoagulants on the 9th September 2015.

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