**Notes for the LDC meeting from Chair**

JW involved in contract reform negotiations as a part of WGDPC involving F2F and online. These are confidential so I can share very little at this stage except to say that they are cordial, respectful and challenging.

**19th October 20203 OHSG meeting was attended by Mostafa and Dan.**

**WGDPC 27th October 2023**

* Much of the meeting was dominated by the contract negotiations.
* DDRB and contract uplift discussed. 5% uplift was expected in line with salaried services. WGDPC have been in discussion with WG over the terms and details will come out soon.
* We discussed the contract volumetrics which are due out imminently. They were circulated at engagement events, but these seemed to be invited members only. Some of you may have attended.
* We discussed the WG report on services April 2022-March 2023. Link attached if you are interested. <https://www.gov.wales/nhs-dental-services-april-2022-march-2023>. Just to highlight two things. It suggests ACORN is a treatment? Preventive advice delivered in relatively few cases (pg14) so make sure your data capture is correct and record what you do.
* We discussed the WG financial position which is precarious. Link if you want it. <https://www.gov.wales/update-on-2023-2024-financial-position-summary-of-main-changes>.

In summary the main thing is what the minister actually said in the Senedd.

Next year’s revenue budget will increase by 2% and the capital budget will decrease by 1%. With inflation high the pressures we have sought to address this year will be even more difficult next year. I’m not sure there will be much on offer pay wise next year.

**JW attended a cluster leads meeting on 7th November**.

Adele Gittoes BCUHB Executive Director (interim) attended and was keen to highlight how important she feels primary care representation is and that it should have the same level of representation as secondary care departments. It currently does not.

Key points briefly.

Lynne Joannou presented and the GPs were relatively quiet. The GPs are very unhappy. They said a little more about how they truly felt when I attended the Primary Care Contractor’s forum meeting a week or so later. New unified contract in place from 1st October.

Key points for us are that-

* QI and supplementary services are additional elements.
* 7 services which were additional opt out services in the past are now mandatory.
* The requirement to attend collaboratives, clusters and engage fully is a **requirement**.
* Their contract mandates opening **8.30-6.00pm** with phones manned **8.00-6.30pm**.
* The funding is the area where talks have broken down. No pay rise received to date.
* Interestingly GPs in managed practices **HAVE** received their pay-rise in line with the NHS recommendation.

Accelerated Clusters Development

Karen Higgins (Director of Primary Care BCU and Pete Greensmiths boss) presented this section.

Key points –

* Governance of ACD is important. The framework needs to be right.
* The structure is laid out and has been widely distributed.
* There is a worry they will be overly bureaucratic at Pan cluster level, and they are keen to ensure this is not the case.
* If a Doctor, Dentist, Pharmacist and Optometrist can agree on a project the Pan cluster should be assisting not obstructing.
* There will eb levels of funding which can be agreed at cluster level and above that pan cluster approval will be needed.
* Clear view that this will not work unless more funds are made available for clusters.

**OMCN attended by JW 14th November 2023**

This can be covered with/by Ben and Owaise at the meeting.

**Primary Care Contractors Forum 20th November 2023**

An interesting meeting of GP, Pharmacist, Optometrist and Dental quarterly.

**Community Pharmacy.**

They are suffering and there is concern.

Key points for us.

* Decreasing numbers of pharmacists from 717 in 2019 to anticipated 688 by April 2024.
* Reasons outlined were workforce challenges, consolidation/merging, levels of abuse growing below inflation pay awards.
* Most operate to core hours. Supplemental hours can be stopped with 3/12 notice to the LHB. This is happening. Not many extended hours services now as they are not viable. Even affecting the big boys with Tesco reducing Sunday service.
* We will see the smallest number of pharmacies open across Wales this Christmas ever recorded.
* All of this was highlighted as a consequence of the 1% increase last year but was ignored. Some growing concern amongst Senedd members. This will be very difficult to reverse.
* Electronic prescribing is coming for GPs in Wales. It is being trialled in two areas of North Wales. Unclear whether in time we will be expected to follow. It’s seen as positive for GPs and pharmacists. That said there is concern over losing out to big online pharmacy giants.

**Optometry**

Reported but little of direct relevance to us.

**GPs**

Their new contract came in October but was backdated to April as noted above.

Key points around the GP concerns.

* There pay-rise is causing issues. When they get an increase, it is purely for the element which is pay. No reflection of increasing fixed costs in the settlement. GP partners will see income drop as staff costs need to rise.
* They feel hand backs are inevitable now on a financial basis rather than just staffing.
* The fact that the managed practice GPs all received their 5% only amplifies the injustice.
* Open letter from BMA Wales Chair.

<https://www.bma.org.uk/bma-media-centre/gp-leaders-issue-stark-warnings-about-the-future-of-general-practice-in-wales-as-gp-contract-negotiations-fail-to-reach-a-conclusion>.

* The BMA have produced very good guidance on Safe working for GPs. Principles of maintaining profitability and what to consider before handing your contract back.
* There are private GPs operating in Wales and it is anticipated that more will follow.
* The GPs did ask whether we would accept an invite to one of their future meetings. Mixing is on the agenda as they potentially look to private services to keep practices viable (sound familiar?) and they really feel we may be able to offer the benefit of our experiences.

**Compass Provider meeting with Angie, Paul Whiteside, Wendy Burns and Dan 23/11/23**

In summary, in England there has been provider self-service for 6 years and they want to roll this out in Wales and pilot it in BCUHB. This will essentially allow us to add and remove performers and adjust their pensionable earnings in a more streamlined manner. It has been very popular in England and there have not been any issues as far as we can see. There will be help and support available and Dan and I both felt it was a very sensible proposal which we supported. They will look to share details and roll this out in due course.

Jeremy Williams

27th November 2023.