

WGDPCC Chair Update to LDC

11 December 2020

WGDPCC have been involved in discussions with Welsh Government on the use of dental teams in **Covid vaccination** programmes, it seems that NHS or private colleagues will be able to assist with the programme. The vital importance of vaccination of all dental teams as front line workers as been stressed to Welsh Government and to Health Boards, we know the speed of dental team vaccination across Wales is variable, but will keep flagging the issue. I will update on this as developments occur.

At the recent Welsh Dental Committee of the 8th December, Welsh Government stated that the **Wales SOP is being updated** and hope to hear details soon. Colleagues raised this issue of increased **waste disposal fees** for practices which will be followed up by Welsh Government. It is understood that **Designed to Smile** will be restarted in April 2021 – pending what may or may not happen with Covid.

There was an update from **HIW** who advised that had undertaken five inspections after concerns were raised and aim to complete up to 20 inspections in the rest of the year (data from November 2020). This is around 20% of the normal number. A question was asked about notification to HIW of Covid outbreaks in staff – HIW said that two outbreaks within a 28 day period was criteria for notification. Once notified HIW may seek to review surgery IPC procedures, PPE use and conformity with the SOP.

Can all colleagues make sure that all data recorded and inputted into **FDS** is accurate and represents the true work the practice has been undertaking.

Ongoing work on the Dental Foundation Training **Educational Supervisor agreement with HEIW** is occurring and being looked at by the BDA advisory team, I am grateful for all input from colleagues so far.

The latest **UK GDPC** meeting was on 4th December. In England no agreement has been reached for Q3 or Q4 2020/2021, or beyond into April 2021. There is a risk of UDA reinstatement from NHS England, with GDPC and BDA arguing against this. Activity has been levelling off as practices have reached a plateau of what they can achieve with social distancing and fallow times. Further discussion was had around Associates, Brexit, LDC Conference motions and PPE.

A new consultation on regulation and **the functions of the GDC** has been released.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/reducing-bureaucracy-in-the-health-and-social-care-system-call-for-evidence/outcome/busting-bureaucracy-empowering-frontline-staff-by-reducing-excess-bureaucracy-in-the-health-and-care-system-in-england>

BDA Equality Diversity and Inclusion committee is working with FGDP. Lots of work is being done behind the scenes with one strand being a survey on racism in dentistry which has been released at <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/racismindentistry/>

Finally, don't forget to complete your **GDC annual renewal** to keep up your registration.

A thank you from me to all who have been working on behalf of our profession over the course of the year, in particular our LDC representatives, and those working diligently behind the scenes. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a successful new year.

Best wishes

Tom

Tom Bysouth. Chair, Welsh GDPC