WGDPC report JW

WGDPC is a standing committee of the Principle Executive Committee (PEC). Subject to the authority of the PEC, it aims to represent the interests and act on behalf of dentists working in general dental practice in Wales. Jeremy Williams is the representative for the BCUHB area.

Last meeting was held in person in Cardiff 0n 24/06/2022. This was the first F2F meeting of WGDPC in over 2 years.

The meeting was dominated by discussion around contract reform with Andrew Dickenson the CDO in attendance for a significant part of the meeting.

Key points from the meeting.

Contract reform

* The lack of data at performer level was a real concern and this has improved since this meeting with eDEN updated.
* Concern was expressed over NP targets and patients not counting until completion. The CDO had heard this concern and accepts it needs to be addressed. We do it with orthodontic contracts. It was also stressed to the CDO that patients’ non-attendance needs to be recognised within the metrics.
* Recruitment and retention. CR had made this more difficult rather than less. Associates leaving for private positions. The CDO stated that gaining the views of individuals and LDC’s as to which bits of CR had been successful and which had failed would help him to move forward. This is another reason why this is a learning year.
* LHB interpretation and implementation of the metrics is a concern within Wales. We do appear to have a better working relationship with the LHB in this regard. The CDO stressed these are metrics and not targets. He accepted this message had not always got through with even eDEN referring to the data as targets. He emphasised again that as this was a learning year the LHB’s needed to use discretion.
* Those who remain on UDA’s will it appears have much less “interpretation” of the metrics than those who opted for CR. The CDO commented that we still have UDA’s within the contractual framework but the goal is to move away from these with the obvious impact on UDA contracts in future years.
* Other comments were around dentists wanting CR to work. We must accept however that we are losing dentists and all other members of the dental team from the NHS. It was also raised that the additional £2 million announces early this year by the health minister had not come through to dental practices. The CDO agreed with the above. He stated he is listening and developing the contract. He hopes to share details of April 2023’s contract by the end of 2022.
* I am sure you will all have noted the higher profile that dentistry has had in national and local media thanks to the hard work of the BDA. The BDA continues to lobby ministers and members of the Senedd and will always welcome comments from BDA members.

DFT.

* Trainees are considerably less experienced. They require more time and input from trainers circa 5 extra hours a week. There was discussion over whether this was purely a “pandemic consequence” but it was felt the pandemic had just exacerbated issues already present.
* Skills are needing to be taught which should have been taught in dental school rather than it just being a lack of experience. It was strongly felt that trainers needed this to be recognised, we cannot rely on goodwill.
* The issue of filling rural FD posts was discussed along with vicarious liability of FD’s.
* The CDO suggested feedback to the GDC if it was felt that undergraduate standard of training had dropped.
* He asked whether national recruitment was working for Wales? Whether a mixed environment 2-year FD programme should be introduced? Whether splitting the FD year into 6-month blocks with one period in the more rural area aid recruitment to these areas. He suggested he raise this in discussions with HEIW
* Vicarious liability of FD’s was raised. It was agreed that with the contractual relationship with FD’s, shared services could be sued under vicarious liability and the CDO will feed this back to them.
* The issue over vicarious liability for trainers was raised. This could incur additional insurance costs and would need to be factored into negotiations for FD contracts. The CDO again agreed to discuss with HEIW.

Other discussions in brief

The PEC strategy for the next 3 years was briefly discussed. Key focus areas are contract reform and working to support private dentists. The BDA membership offer would be looked at as will website modernisation.

It was noted that HIW have reduced their inspection notice to 2 weeks causing an added pressure for dentists and their teams.

Many of you will have seen a GDS contract reform survey from the BDA. Please do engage with these if they arrive in your in box.

Jeremy Williams

05/09/2022