

KLDC Minutes January 2021

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE KENT LOCAL DENTAL COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 6TH JANUARY 2021 AT 6.00 PM AS A VIRTUAL MEETING ON “ZOOM” DUE TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

Present: Drs Adesanya, Ahmad, Banvir, Barham, Bhatti, Carstens, P Chopra, R Chopra, Elder, Hartle, Hamill, Hogan, Mauthe, Momin, Myint, Nugent, M Patel, N Patel, U Patel, V Patel, Raghava, Ramamoorthy, Sheridan, Shivji, Smith, Unter, Varghese, Willis-Lake (attended for the first half an hour but had to leave promptly at 6.30 pm to join the vaccination programme training), Winstone and Wood.

Apologies: Dr Sarah Davies sent her apologies.

Observers: Mrs Elizabeth Lines attended as an observer (Heathwatch UK)

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Dr Hogan wished members a very Happy New year and welcomed Elizabeth Lines from Healthwatch UK who had come to observe and take back constructive feedback. Dr Davies sent her apologies due to the unfortunate death of her father. Dr Willis-Lake would only be attending the meeting until 6.30 pm as she was able to secure a place for the final part of her training to start working additional shifts to provide vaccinations for Kent and Medway.[Report under item 10a].

2. LAST MEETING, WEDNESDAY, 7TH OCTOBER 2020 – held “virtually”

- Confirmation of Minutes ~ {[Report Attached: Item 2\(a\)KLDC Final Minutes October 2020 v03](#)} - the minutes had a few minor changes but were otherwise agreed and will be uploaded along with all the attached reports on the KLDC website as usual.
- Matters Arising – Action point from October Minutes p4: DCQAP – Dr Unter advised that this group had been disbanded and there was nothing to replace this. Since the previous meeting there was now an LDC Liaison Group for all the NHSE/I SE LDCs set up [7(a)(v) refers] so it was felt that this was the only alternative being offered to replace DCQAP.

Dr Hogan advised that Drs Winstone/Unter and himself had made lots of enquires into the ‘flu vaccination programme. East Sussex LDC had made funds available to help their dental practitioners and he said that their efforts in this should be applauded. Dr Hogan wrote to the Chair at East Sussex to ask how they could justify allocating funds to this programme under the 2006 NHS Act (as far as LDC bodies are concerned, the wording in this states that the levy can only be used for the administrative costs of running the LDC. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/41/section/113>) but as yet has not heard back. It was the view of the KLDC that the constitution did not support the financial expenditure of the ‘flu vaccination programme to its dentists in Kent. It did not want to increase the levy which ultimately would mean taking more money from dentists. It was felt overall the best way to support dentists at this time would be not to take any more money from them.

3. NOTICE OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- SDCEP recent Guidelines (PenV) - Dr Barham

4. SECRETARY:

- Correspondence – (not reported elsewhere) ~{[Report Attached: Item 4\(a\) & 12\(a\) ~ COVID Vaccination Programme](#) for practices etc **AND** Item [4\(a\) ~ Greenbook chapter 14a v3](#) etc} – Dr Hogan thanked Dr Unter for the incredible amount of work he has done in the last year especially for help and advice he has given to dentists.

Dr Unter advised that he would report some items as they appear later on the agenda.

He advised that he had dealt with a lot of calls from dentists as well as nurses and receptionists on vaccination advice. He advised that dentists were in the priority group JCVI 2b and he hoped shortly to email out all practices in Kent with details of where to get vaccinated once these had been supplied by NHSE/I and Kent & Medway CCG.

The planned LDC liaison meeting with NHSE/I had been cancelled earlier this afternoon by them. A number of agenda items had been raised by the SE LDCs which Annie Godden (Chair) felt as they were unable to answer at this stage the meeting should be deferred.

Dr Unter explained he and Dr Hogan had written on behalf of the KLDC to all the MPs in Kent with regards to the unrealistic contract requirements for quarter 4. There was a planned Parliamentary debate shortly to raise concerns.

Finally, he mentioned a contact via the KLDC website he had received from a distressed 18 year old student with learning difficulties and with significant toothache who was unable to access NHS treatment He was offered only private. Thankfully with the help of Alison Cross and the KLDC he has now finally been seen and treated.

- Report of Meetings (not reported elsewhere) - Dr Unter advised that these will be reported as they appear later on the agenda.
- Notice of Biennial Elections and Annual General Meeting (AGM)~ {[Report Attached: Item 4\(c\) ~ Membership for KLDC Dec 2020 v002](#) etc} – Dr Unter reminded members that half the current committee would have their current four year (max) term of office expire at the end of March 2021 and would be eligible for re-election. He had already prepared nomination invitation letters to circulate to approx. 700 GDP colleagues working in Kent. He reiterated how important it was for the members coming up for re-election to make sure that they send in their nomination forms in order to stand again. Mrs Tracy Moynes (the KLDC Clerk) has kindly agreed once again to act as the independent Returning Officer.
- Succession planning / proposal for adoption of an Executive Committee – Dr Hogan advised that he was passionate about the KLDC and its accomplishments. Its website in particular was very well regarded and used extensively by NHSE/I SE and other LDCs as well as Kent dental teams.

Dr Hogan proposed that the LDC should develop a small executive committee who would shadow the current Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer with a view to following in their footsteps. This was to help them to understand these officers duties so that from 2022 onwards there would be an effective route for other members to assume responsibility for these roles should the current executive members wish to stand down. He asked that members give this consideration over the next three months. He was looking for three members to make representation in the March (AGM) meeting as to why they would like to undertake one of these positions. If there was an uptake of more than three a voting ballot would take place. Dr Winstone advised that West Sussex have an executive committee who stand in their wings. A suggestion was made that perhaps we have more than three. Dr Winstone advised that the KLDC would fund the members who were elected. **Action:** This will be discussed and an agreement will be implemented in the March meeting.

- Update to the KLDC Constitution – {[Report Attached: Item 4\(e\) ~ additional updated number for appendix A](#) etc **AND** [Item 4\(e\) ~ Kent LDC Constitution BDA model 2021](#) etc } – Dr Unter explained that there had been some updates to the LDC Constitution recommended by the BDA and he proposed to the committee some should be adopted. The current KLDC Constitution was last updated in April 2013. He pointed out the proposed changes to members (this having been already circulated before the meeting). One main change was the increased allowances regarding the use of the Statutory Levy to support education, PASS, charitable donations and supporting members attending national meetings. The committee has been amended from 25 to 29 members. Dr Unter reminded members that the Chairman has to be an eligible practitioner whereas the Secretary and Treasurer do not. Dr Hogan mentioned that (unlike KLDC) neighbouring LDCs do not apparently publish their accounts whereas Kent do every year at the AGM and in the Annual Report. Dr Unter had obtained updated data on the number of eligible practitioners practising within the GDS in Kent – which is approximately 700 dentists.
- The existing Constitution requires more than 75% of the current committee to approve any amendment to the Constitution (Para 24.2) Dr Unter held a ballot at the meeting via Zoom to see if members were happy to adopt the proposed new draft constitution - 100% of members (28 / 28 in attendance from a total membership of 29) agreed the new proposed constitution. This will now be sent to NHSE/ I SE for approval.

5. **TREASURER**

- Report – {[Report Attached: Item 5\(a\) ~ Treasurers report 01 2021 notes only](#) **AND** [Item 5\(a\) Treasurers report 01 2021 Table only](#)} ~ Dr Winstone advised that everything was paid up to date. They had made some savings on travel and the meeting room costs; however, there had been extra time spent by officers and therefore the budget was short on where he would like to have been. Last year levies were supposed to have been collected every month but it ended up being done in one payment which was not ideal. The BSA will collect monthly going forwards.
- Statutory Levy – Last year £15,000 was paid to the British Dental Guild; £12,000 to the Dentists Health Support Trust and £2,000 to the BDA Benevolent Fund in

charitable donations. Dr Winstone envisaged that the account would be a little low until next year and asked the committee whether they wanted to reduce any of the amounts we give in donations. Dr Hogan felt that Dental Health Support Trust and BDA Benevolent Fund would be much in need of our donations especially this year but wondered if we could look at the donations to the British Dental Guild as he felt that they were not always transparent as to what other LDCs contribute or indeed the details of what the Guild spent their donation on. **Action:** It was agreed that Dr Winstone would hold off any donation payments until the March meeting. In the meantime he would seek a copy of the most recent accounts from the Guild. Dr Hogan thanked Dr Winstone as ever for all of his hard work over the course of the year.

6. **LDC OFFICIALS DAY** ~{[Report Attached: Item 6\(a\) ~ BDA LDC Officials Day Nov 2020](#)} – A report from the LDC Officials Day, Friday 27th November 2020 was attached. This was an all-day event. Among the many topics discussed there was an update on BDA developments from Eddie Couch, (newly elected) chair who talked about the growth in activity by the BDA; An update from Dave Cottam, Chair General Dental Practice Committee who commented that dentists have now been granted “Key Worker 2b status” to receive Covid vaccination and advised that BDA now have over 500 cases logged with regards to Associates pay disputes.

7. **NHS ENGLAND MATTERS**

- NHS England SE & NHS Improvement (NHSE/I) – nothing specific to report

(i)(a) Kent Local Dental Network (LDN) ~ {[Report Attached: Item 7\(a\)\(i\)\(a\) ~ KSS LDN 21 Oct 2020 Notes v3](#)} - Dr Unter shared his notes from the meeting of the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Local Dental Network on the 21st October. Healthwatch Kent expressed an interest in attending an LDC Meeting and he was happy for them to attend as an observer. (Hence our visit from Mrs Elizabeth Lines this evening).

(i)(b) Orthodontic MCN & Orthodontic ~ {[Report Attached: Item 7\(a\)\(i\)\(b\) ~ OMCN Report for LDC](#)} – Dr Sheridan’s report advised that NHS England want waiting time for assessments and waiting time for treatment starts and Richard Jones has produced a methodology for them to use to give a standardisation across the region. It is being requested that assessments are carried out as soon as practicable to allow proper triaging and prioritisation of treatment.

Activity is steadily increasing but is still severely impacted. When practices reopened there was only capacity to treat on-going cases. No new starts and no assessments. This has a knock on effect which has caused waiting lists to lengthen significantly. The most severely affected are the ‘poly-clinic’ practices due to SOPs (standard operating procedures) / cleaning / distancing etc. Covid regulations.

New targets were being discussed for 20-21. It is now likely that any target may only be for the 4th quarter. Subsequently this has been demanded as a 70% UOA requirement. She advised that they are getting a lot of cancellations.

(i)(c) Oral Health Improvement – MCN – Dr Hogan asked Dr Smith if she had been involved in this committee. **Action:** Dr Smith advised that she needs to have a conversation with Dr Willis-Lake / Davies (MCN co-Chairs). No one was available to report on this committee tonight.

(i)(d) Restorative MCN – Dr Unter advised that there had been no meeting since the last meeting of the KLDC.

(i)(e) Routine Care MCN ~ {[Report Attached: Item7\(a\)\(i\)\(e\) RD MCN 11 11 2020](#)} – Dr Smith had submitted a report and was thanked by the Chair.

(i)(f) Urgent Care; Oral Surgery & Special Care MCNs – Dr Unter reported that they had not had an LDN meeting since his report (Item 7(a)(i)(a) refers). The next KSS LDN meeting would be next Thursday and he would as usual collate any useful information for the next KLDC meeting.

(i)(g) Kent Infection Prevention & Control Antimicrobial Stewardship (KIPCAS) – Dr Hogan advised that they had not had any recent meetings but said he was having a national “Teams” meeting tomorrow with Wendy Thompson on Antimicrobial Dentistry and C-Diff shortly. He felt it would be an interesting meeting and he will let members know what transpires.

(ii) Dental Electronic Referral Service (DERS) – Dr Winstone reported there was new guidance with consultant specialists looking at the pathways in Rego and flagging things up. Alison Cross is onboard and he advised that if anything did not work properly to let him know.

(iii) KSS Performance Advice group (PAG) – Dr Unter reported that the PAG process continues despite the Covid pandemic. He will next attend a meeting on the 14th Jan. via “Teams”. There was a considerable amount of reading preparation before each meeting.

(iv) KSS Performers List (PLDP) – Dr Hogan advised that there was nothing interesting to report. He commented upon the quality of Supervisor Reports where dentists have conditions. Alison Taylor had asked Dr Hogan to put together a document of what should be expected in Supervisor Reports. This will be a useful document that will help supervisors to mediate with dentists when meeting their conditions. It will also be very useful to dentists who will appreciate what they need to do in order to meet these conditions. This document will be uploaded onto the KLDC website once agreed. Dr Winstone added that this document will also highlight to supervisors what they should be doing as a supervisor instead of it coming as a complete surprise.

(v) LDC Liaison Group ~ {[Report Attached: Item 7\(a\)\(v\) ~ LDC Liaison Meeting 14 10 2020 notes v5](#)} – Dr Unter advised this new group meeting with NHSE/I SE included the eight LDCs of KSS, Hampshire IoW, Oxfordshire, Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire. A meeting planned for earlier today (6th January) had been cancelled by the commissioners at short notice. Dr Hogan advised that this was an opportunity to meet with commissioners but as there were lots of questions proposed by the LDCs as agenda items which NHSE/I SE could not answer

they had decided to cancel. The individual LDCs however did have a Zoom meeting to discuss urgent matters.

A discussion followed around the Covid-19 vaccination programme. Dr Unter has done a lot of lobbying with regards to vaccination and been in touch with the Kent LMC; Kent & Medway CCG and NHSE/I SE.

Dr Unter reminded members that dentists are priority Group 2b along with hygienists, nurses, and patient facing reception teams. He advised that dentists should contact their GPs to make sure that they inform them that they are in that priority group and that their records indicate this via a code on their medical records. He also requested dentists make sure that this information is disseminated to other dentists and their staff as a GP would not necessarily know that they are in this priority group.

Dr Elder made a suggestion that perhaps practice teams could go forward as a group and that there may be a way of booking in via a portal. He advised that Canterbury cricket ground will be opening as a vaccination centre next week.

Dr Shivji advised that he is involved in the training as a vaccinator with the Kent Community Trust and said that over 12,000 people are being readied to go on multiple sites from 8 am to 8 pm seven days a week. It was noted that there were lots of other priority 2b groups.

[Secretary's note: Subsequent to tonight's meeting, K&M CCG asked the KLDC to take the lead and publish on its website details of the hubs available to dentists and their teams. Dr Unter had subsequently used contact email addresses for both NHS and private practices supplied by NHSE/I SE. This includes details of any supporting documentation required. The web address link for this is: <https://kldc.org.uk/covid19/14th-jan21-dental-staff-vaccinations-details-of-vaccination-hubs>]

Dr Unter discussed quarter 4 UDA targets as outlined in the CDO letter of 22nd Dec 2020. NHSE/I is looking at returning to Units of Dental Activity with a target of achieving 45% of pro-rata UDAs for the quarter, to achieve 100% of contract value. For orthodontics, the UOA target is likely to be even more stretching at 70% of UOAs to achieve full contract recognition for the quarter. The BDA have argued persistently that these targets are inappropriate and will cause financial difficulties for some. At the moment there are patients cancelling, staff sick as well as those staff who are isolating or shielding. School children are also not at school. This will all have an impact on patient targets being hit. Dr Unter advised that he and Dr Hogan are writing to all Kent MPs as this was due to be debated shortly in Parliament - he will share any response with the committee. He felt that patients may not get the care that they deserved if practice owners have the financial worry. As a group the SE area LDCs are also writing a joint letter to Matt Hancock, the CDO and Jo Churchill very much putting emphasis on patient care.

It was felt that it is important that if dentists were not going to hit their targets because of Covid concerns to make sure they keep detailed records of the reasons why in order to report back to NHSE/I using the "exceptions" process. 31st of March is the cut-off point. Guidance can be found on the BDA website.

(vi) SE Coast LDCs (Channel Group) – Dr Unter advised that there had been a meeting earlier with Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Isle of Wight, Buckinghamshire etc. The topics discussed have been recorded elsewhere in the minutes where relevant.

(b) DentaLine – {[Report Attached: Item 7\(b\) ~ Dentaline Kent LDC report January 2021](#)} – Unfortunately Dr Davies was unable to attend the meeting but her report was attached. DentaLine currently has one clinic open each night for face to face appointments and 2 further dentists providing AAA calls. Their face to face care provides a very limited service with only 3 - 4 patients being able to be accommodated per session rather than approximately 15 AAA calls per session. They have advised NHSE that the situation / volume of calls received by DentaLine appears to be higher now than when practices were shut. They have been asked to feedback issues where patients are having particular issues with practices on week days to determine if further support is needed.

(c) Clinical Dental Advisors – reports:

- Dr Shivji reported that he is now reviewing complaints across the region, has completed a clinical records review and is liaising with PCN and GPs locally regarding vaccinations.
 - Dr Hamill reported that she had been involved in editing the practice visit checklist. This review is to include a Covid section and also reviewing the other areas checklists to have one unified visit checklist for the region. She had completed some practice visits, record card reviews and many complaint reviews. She reported that the complaints team were now short staffed as staff had been redeployed to support Covid associated work.
 - Dr Winstone reported that he continues to triage endodontic referrals for Kent, Surrey & East Sussex. As senior CDA his work has included supporting the CDA team by ensuring training & benchmarking for new & existing complaints reviewers, screening reviews done by other reviewers and he has completed some complaints reviews himself. Dr Winstone commented that he had produced a learning line in November which had been circulated to all providers, this included a section on frequent difficulties with Rego learning-line . He gives clinical advice on referral difficulties or appropriateness, often speaking to practitioners across the region and he advises when pathways change. He and the Professional Standards department liaise with HEE and Dr Winstone had worked with Dr Hogan on the supervisors support document.
8. **PASS** – There was nothing to report on PASS. Dr Unter advised that most support matters have been successfully dealt with by 1:1 discussion or correspondence with colleagues in difficulty and the PASS process has fortunately not been needed.
9. **HOSPITAL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT** - Dr Elder reported that he had just returned after a relaxing week off. He returned to the Trust with more challenges and twice as many patients as the last time. He reported that he had joined the vaccination team which has meant giving up some time helping with other core services. Surgery are reporting no beds and theatre time with very minimal cancer services and backlogs.

He felt that at least there was light at the end of the tunnel with the vaccination programme starting.

10. SALARIED DENTAL SERVICES

- East Kent - Dr Willis-lake reported that they still had backlogs to clear despite them not having the same targets as GDS. Their biggest problem was the GA's which had previously been cancelled and were supposed to be resumed on the 12th but once again have all been cancelled.
- West Kent – {[Report Attached: Item 10\(b\) ~ MCH CDS Kent LDC report Jan 2021](#)} – Dr Davies was unable to attend but her report was attached..

11. GENERAL DENTAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE:REPORT OF KENT REPRESENTATIVE (S)

For the latest report please visit <https://kldc.org.uk/gdpc-reports>

Dr Hartle reported on a meeting on the 22nd December. It was felt that the Q4 targets needed to be challenged and letters had been written to MPs. She has asked the Chief Dental Officer to visit her practice to see what a working day is like. She advised dentists to record all activity especially where targets are unachievable. There is to be a meeting next week. It was felt that it was money versus patient care. Nationally they are very busy. She advised that her testing kit had not arrived and that lateral flow tests can give a false / positive. There are staff who do not want the vaccine and some cannot have it if they are pregnant and shielding. She asked members to please look at the reports and to write to their MPs.

12. LMC REPORT

- LMC Report LMC Report {[Report Attached: Item 12\(a\) ~ Kent LMC meeting Nov 2020 report](#)} – Dr Winstone's report covered the Covid Vaccination Programme. There will be a national booking system. KLMC meetings via Zoom have had very good attendance rates. They are looking at having the option post-Covid for members to be able to either attend in person or attend via Zoom. Not all hotels/conference venues have this option so the KLMC secretariat to investigate. This should be something for Kent LDC to possibly collaborate over with KLMC.
- LMC/LDC/LPC Officials Meeting {[Report Attached: Item 12\(b\) ~ LMC, LOC, LPC report 1st Dec 2020](#)} – Dr Unter reported that he and Dr Hogan attended a meeting with Kent LMC, LPC & LOC on Monday 1st December 2020 via Teams. Discussions took place around the imminent vaccination programme and how dentists might help, as well as associate pay issues and the effects of fallow time on treatment capacity. It was felt that this was a very useful meeting and the next meeting is planned for the 17th May 2021.

13. KLDC WEBSITE

Dr Hogan commented that he thought the website was brilliant with all relevant documents promptly posted on it along with Dr Hartle's documents. There has been a lot of activity on

the contact page from dental colleagues and recently with patients coming through with enquiries on a regular basis. This is of course not the purpose of the contact facility which is meant for dentists! However, Dr Unter has tried to help all those patients who have made contact and directed them as appropriate. There are imminent intentions to publish the Covid vaccination details for dental teams in Kent subject to agreement by the K&M CCG.

Dr Unter asked once again that if there was anything members would like to go on the website or if there was anything out of date to please let him know.

14. EDUCATION AND TRAINING – DENTAL FOUNDATION TRAINING ~{[Report Attached: Item 14 ~ HEE KLDC report Jan 21](#)}

HEE LaKSS in partnership with community and hospital colleagues have developed and implemented one day a week placement opportunities this year giving Foundation Dentists and Therapists insight into the patient pathway on referral and career development opportunities as well as additional clinical experience. All Foundation Dentists and Therapists have been fit tested and risk assessed prior to clinical activity.

Dr Shivji added that interest in placements have stopped and the Trust's policy has changed. There is a lack of AGPs at undergraduate level and next year the cohort will be severely lacking in AGPs experience.

Much of the educational activities provided by the HEE LaKSS are being carried out "virtually" to reduce potential for Covid transmission. HEE LaKSS are providing numerous free webinars which can be accessed on Accent. For course booking and Dental CPD courses please visit: (Dec21 - Link no longer valid - Link Removed)

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING (AGM)

Wednesday, 31st March 2021 – to be held virtually via "zoom"

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- [SDCEP recent Guidelines \(PenV\)](#) - Judy Barham

There has been recent new guidance from SDCEP with regards to PenV and this brought into question whether or not this should be moved up the list above Amoxicillin. It was decided that as any change to Rego and the software would be expensive, there was no universal indication for it to be moved. The LDC should take advice and look to experts in the field before requesting any changes.

Dr Hogan asked Elizabeth Lines (Healthwatch Kent) what impression she had received from tonight's meeting. She thanked him for letting her attend as a guest. She felt that dentists were very nice people and that there were issues with the way that they were funded and instructed to work. She felt that there was a national emergency with dental care and that it was in need of some "PR". Patients need to see a dentist, but a lot of people just cannot get on an NHS list. She said that she would share the discussions and the useful knowledge

gained attending the meeting with her organisation. Dr Hogan thanked her for attending tonight's meeting.

FUTURE DATES:

- Wednesday 7th July 2021 and
- Wednesday 6th October 2021 Holiday Inn, Rochester (venue to be confirmed)
- Wednesday 12th January 2022
- Wednesday 6th April 2022 (Easter is Sun 17th Apr)
- Wednesday 6th July 2022
- Wednesday 5th October 2022

Meeting closed at 8.35 pm

Docs/Reports March 2021/Minutes Final 06 Jan 2021