MINUTES OF THE EIGHTY-FIFTH
MEETING OF THE KENT LOCAL DENTAL COMMITTEE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 17TH APRIL 2024
AT 6.00 PM AT THE BRIDGEWOOD MANOR HOTEL, WALDERSLADE WOODS ROAD, ME5 9AX AND VIRTUALLY ON "ZOOM"

Present: Batistoni (Secretary), Bhatti, P Chopra (v), R Chopra, Elder (v), Hartle, Hogan, Kolozvari v), Lone (v), Myint (v), Mauthe, Nugent, O' Sullivan, M Patel (v), Ramamoorthy, Shivji, Smith, Unter, Winstone (Treasurer) Willis-Lake (v), and Wood (Chair)

The current secretary (Dr C Batistoni) took Items 1-3 (a) of the agenda

1. INTRODUCTION TO THE AGM AND WELCOME TO NEW OBSERVERS
   Dr Wood welcomed members to the April (AGM) meeting. There were two observers present: Prem Kumar and Rosalind Garner

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
   Apologies were received from Drs Davies, Hamill, N Patel, U Patel, V Patel and Power.

3. Appointments
   (Chair) – Dr Wood advised that she was willing to stand for a second year.
   Dr Wood was **proposed** by Dr Batistoni and **seconded** by Dr Unter. No other nominations were made and therefore Dr Wood was **re-elected** unopposed.

The Secretary handed over to the new chair (Dr Wood) to take the remaining Items of the agenda

   (b) Vice Chair (s) – Nominations were sought by Dr Wood.
   Dr Nugent was **proposed** [to be confirmed]and **seconded** by [to be confirmed]
   Dr Hartle was **proposed** by [to be confirmed] and **seconded** by [to be confirmed]

4. CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENTS AND HONORARIA
   (a) Secretary – Dr Batistoni advised that she was willing to stand for a second year. Dr Batistoni was **proposed** by [to be confirmed] and **seconded** by [to be confirmed] No other nominations were sought and therefore Dr Batistoni was re-elected unopposed.
   The Honoraria for secretary was agreed at 70 sessions (no change).
   (b) Dr Winstone said that he was willing to stand for another year. Dr Winstone was **proposed** by Dr Batistoni.and **seconded** by Dr Nugent No other nominations were made and therefore Dr Winstone was **re-elected** unopposed.
   The Honoraria for Treasurer was **agreed** at 12 sessions (no change).
   (c) Chair (Honoraria only)
   The Honoraria for Chair was **agreed** at 12 sessions (no change).
   (d) Confirmation of Co-opted Members
   It was agreed that Drs Davies, Elder, Power and Willis-Lake should all be co-opted to the committee for a further year. Drs Elder and Willi-Lake advised that they were happy to continue. Dr Power had already advised the same by email.

5. REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMITTEE (Attached report) Dr Wood gave a quick synopsis of each of the committees. There were no changes made to the representatives on PAG (Dr Batistoni). KSS LDN (Dr Batistoni), Restorative MCN (Dr Wood), General Practice MDCH (Dr Smith), Oral Surgery MCN (Dr M Patel) or the LMC (Dr Hogan). A change was made to the representative on the Oral Health Improvement MCN as Dr Arinze has not attended a number of meetings. Dr Nugent was happy to take on this role and as there were no other volunteers, this was agreed.

6. LAST MEETING, WEDNESDAY, 10TH JANUARY 2024 – at the Bridgewood Hotel and via "zoom"
   (a) Confirmation of Minutes
   (b) Matters Arising –

- Pg 1 (2b) – The Minutes were approved but did not appear to have been loaded onto The KLDC website. Dr Batistoni advised that she will chase this up
- Pg 1 (2b) – Kent and Medway Integrated ICB – This has been discussed again. But there have been no further developments.
- Pg 1 (4(a) – Dr Wood has agreed to meet with Roger Gale and Clare Hamill has agreed to host him in a visit to her practice.
- Pg 2 (5 b) – Statutory Levy – donations from the KLDC account – this will be discussed in Dr Winstone's report (Item 9 (b).
- Pg 3 (7) – GA – this will be discussed further at the meeting with Roger Gale.
- Pg 4 (10) – Dr Elder said that Nick Goodger from East Kent Hospital is aware of the problems with GA but does not have sufficient operating space and that it needs to be discussed at a much higher, commissioning level. Dr Willis-Lake said that she had not received a response.
- Pg 5 (b) – Dr Batistoni has extended an invitation to the LPC but had not heard back. Dr Mauthe advised that he would arrange for 2 FDs to attend the next meeting as this was the AGM and probably not the best meeting to attend.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) LDC Annual Conference – to be held on Thursday – Friday 7th June at DoubleTree Hilton Brighton Metropole Hotel.

(a) Dentists attending
(b) Motions

(ii) Expressions of Interest Invitations and Ministers Round Table event (Dr Shivji)

8. SECRETARY

(a) Correspondence – (not received elsewhere) – Dr Batistoni advised that she had received the same sort of correspondence as usual. She had received correspondence from three solicitors requesting copies of patient notes. They had looked at the website and thought that the KLDC was an appropriate contact for Dentaline, due to search engine returning the KLDC website highly when looking for Dentaline. It's not clear that there is much we can do about this, other than redirect such queries when they come in.
There was also contact from the East Kent Federation of Women's Institutes seeking someone to attend a meeting they were holding. The Federation of Women's Institutes National Conference is due to be held and there will be a vote on a motion around NHS dental services and the desperate need for contract reform. The local federation are seeking to understand the issues better so they can decide how to vote. Unfortunately, the meeting is on a weekday morning, making it difficult for most dentists to attend, but they did manage to find someone. The positive aspect of this is that it is a motion from a lay group which recognises the NHS contract as being at the heart of many of the issues facing both the public and dentists.
There had also been some contact seeking dentists to attend a focus group in East Kent, which was attended by Drs Nugent and Smith who gave a brief report. They felt it was very interesting and was a way of gathering information around various parts of the UK with a view to reporting to the government. There was quite a lot of discussion, and it was felt that the connection with GPs was not really working as well as it could because they were not working as a team. Dr Shivji added that there was a big drive towards integration and cardiac disease and that dentists need to make themselves known.
(b) Report of Meetings – reported as they occur on the agenda
(c) Annual Report {Attached Report} Dr Batistoni shared her draft report. She said that this was her first annual report and that she had big shoes to fill taking over from Dr Unter. This will be updated with Dr Winstone's annual Treasurer's report. She asked if anyone had any suggestions, or felt anything needed to be added to let her know.

9. TREASURER

(a) Report – Dr Winstone thanked Dr Batistoni for circulating his last minute report. He discussed and went through the accounts explaining each of the payments and how these figures were derived. He advised that if anyone wanted to look at them they were most welcome. He explained that last year Dr Ken Hymas audited the books and he felt that he would like the books to be audited again this year. **Action** It was **agreed** that Dr Winstone would ask Dr Hymas if he would audit them again this year and that a remuneration of 1 session guild rate would be paid for his services. It was **agreed** that the British Guild rate would be adopted from 1st April 2024. This means that the rate will be increased from £3.75 to £3.90 per session. The new meeting rate will be rounded up to £58.00 per meeting. He said he had set a budget for next year based on this year's figures and that he will get the budget in tomorrow so that it would be in by the 1st May. He said that today's meeting would be paid at the new rate and that members can change their forms to £3.90. **Action**:- Dr Batistoni will send out the new forms after the meeting. {After the meeting Dr Batistoni circulated the new forms}. The mileage rate will remain the same.

(b) Statutory Levy – As per the January meeting Dr Winstone has made the following payments: - British Dental Guild £17,000; Dental Health Support Trust £12,000 and BDA Benevolent Fund £2,000.

10. KENT & MEDWAY (ICB)

Dr Batistoni advised that this topic had been covered quite comprehensively in the annual report and so would not duplicate too much with an oral report. She said that the relationship with the ICB had been a positive one over the last year. Dr Batistoni had recently been invited to attend a Care Strategy Workshop. This will help to build a plan for the NHS in Kent. The invitation is a positive step towards integrating dentists within the wider primary care family and the workshop provided an opportunity to present the views of dentists alongside GPs and pharmacists. There is still a lot of misunderstanding of how dentistry works, even amongst other health professionals including GPs. This is about working together as one team. There will be a further workshop in two weeks. She asked if anyone had any feedback to let her know.

Drs Batistoni and Wood has also been invited by the ICB to attend recent Health and Adult Social Care Overview Scrutiny Committee Meetings in Medway and east Kent respectively. These are local council meetings which look in to how health services are provided in the area and are an opportunity for councillors to ask questions of those responsible for commissioning and supporting services. What was very clear from these meetings was that even amongst those with a self declared interest in health services, there remains a lack of understanding of how dental services work, particularly with regards to the lack of patient registration and the inability to collate any kind of waiting list data.

11. NHS ENGLAND MATTERS

(a) NHS England SE & (NHSE) – there was nothing to report

(i) Unscheduled Care Recommissioning Steering Group {Attached Report1} {Attached Report 2} – Dr Hogan advised that The next meeting has been cancelled. There are a couple of practices in Aylesford that are on the Steering Group. Remote prescribing was not included, and Dr Hogan was asked to produce a couple of documents. He said that he had been really busy and had not had any time so he has held back. There is another meeting next week and he is not going to do the service specification but said he might have views on whatever they come up with.

(ii) (a) Kent Local Dental Network (LDN) – Dr Batistoni reported that there had not been a meeting since the KLDC last met. The structure to the January meeting had changed with the idea of having more timely online communication via a Teams Channel. Unfortunately there are on-line service has not worked well as many people cannot access it, so she did not have anything to report. Dr Winstone said that this could be because she is not staff. Dr Batistoni said that there was a virtual meeting coming up soon and hopefully there will be an update by the next LDC Meeting

(ii) (b) – Orthodontic MCN & Orthodontics – this position is still vacant.

(ii) (c) – Oral Health Improvement MCN – It was reported that there was a meeting in January. One of the main issues raised was that the dental checks by one were not happening in some areas. This has now been resolved as it mainly pertained to a single dentist. They are discussing steps to make improvements so that patients can take responsibility for their own health by giving them the relevant

skills. They have reintroduced the smiles booklet for children and stickers have been introduced. There is progress with supervised brushing sessions in schools and early years settings. This seems to be working well. There is a push to utilise flexible commissioning to address needs in care homes.
(ii) (d) – Restorative MCN – It was reported that the meeting today was cancelled so there was nothing to report.
(ii) (e) – Routine Dental Care MCN {Attached Report} - there was nothing further to report.
(ii) (f) – Urgent Care; Oral Surgery & Special Care MCNs – Dr M Patel reported that the last meeting was cancelled. He said that it seemed to be ticking along nicely with very few issues. Contracts have been extended for 2 years.
(ii) (g) – KSS Antimicrobial Prescribing Network (KSSAPN) {Attached Report1} – {Attached Report 2} – Dr Hogan added that this was a very important topic with dentists being at risk. 5% of *C Diff* infections are attributed to dentists and 95% medical. PPIs increase the risk of C Diff. He said that there was a 13.5% mortality from C Diff. Dr Hogan felt that providers should be sent information packs especially where they have had a C Diff case. He said that he is unable to influence this but would appreciate other members input. He was keen to have the LDC write a letter to the chairs of the APN to support the provision of targeted information to practices that have had a patient experience a *C diff* infection. He said that he had also spoken to Dental Protection but that they did not seem interested only if something goes wrong. Dr Wood asked if Dr Hogan would get some information together to share on the KLDC website and also to formulate a letter to the APN Chairs and this was agreed. **Action:** Dr Hogan to liaise with Drs Wood and Batistoni on information for the website and letter supporting the provision of targted information about *C diff*
(iii) Dental Electronic Referral Service (DERS) – Dr Winstone reported that there were no major changes of note but that any changes would be expensive.
(iv) – KSS Performance Group (PAG) – Dr Batistoni reported that there was a change to how these sessions are structured in January with dental and medical cases now being heard on the same day. This has caused some issues with attendees for different parts of the meetings having to wait around as it is impossible to predicts exactly how long each case will take to discuss. In addition, there seems to have been some confusion with the dental representation at these meetings and so she has not attended one recently. The system is likely to be changing again following the imminent publication of a new framework for the PSG, but until this is published, it is not clear how things might change.
(v) – Liaison Group {Attached Report} – there was a suggestion that a supportive role is needed and practices can help by sharing information.
(vi) – SE Coast LDCs (Channel Group) – It was noted that this meeting is a good opportunity to meet neighbouring LDCs. A lot is covered in the Liaison meeting. Lots of interesting things are happening in Sussex with additional hours and blended sessions which appears to be working well and their way of working may be adopted more widely in the future.
(b) Dentaline {Attached Report} – Dr Davies was not present at the meeting and therefore there was nothing further to add to her report.
(c) Dental Practice Advisor Reports – Dr Shivji reported that after the direction of three week turnaround for applications into the national performers list, a great deal of time has been spent on international dental graduates. This includes working most evenings and all weekend interviewing them. He said that he is working on an investigation with NHS fraud and DCOG.
Dr Winstone advised that he had also been working with international graduates who wanted to know when they would be going on the Performers List. He said that he needed time to catch up. He was also working on reminders, complaints and case assessments.
Dr Hamill was not present and therefore she had nothing to report.

12. PASS – PRACTITIONER ADVICE & SUPPORT – REPORTS
There were no PASS cases to report.

13. HOSPITAL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT
Dr Elder had nothing to report but asked if anyone had any questions to please ask. No questions were raised.

14. SALARIED DENTAL SERVICES

(a) East Kent – Dr Willis-Lake apologised for not producing a report. She reported that the CDS waiting list was now 9 weeks; perio 12 weeks; domiciliary 24 weeks but that 24% of patients were not true domiciliary cases; GA current waiting list is 92 weeks with 204 children. She said that Kevin Taylor at the Royal London is trying to purchase £10,000 a day in order to send 8 patients who are fit and well and are able to travel to London in a taxi paid for by the trust. They have a paediatric specialist and this service should be up and running around June time. She is unable to stop the list and this is going to be a very costly exercise so she has asked the ICB for £100,000 from Unspent money. Ashford, Canterbury and Dover have the longest waiting lists.
(b) West Kent {Attached Report} – Dr Davies' report was attached. She was not present at the meeting and therefore there was nothing further to add.

15. GENERAL DENTAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE REPORT OF KENT REPRESENTATIVE (S)
https://kldc.org.uk/gdpc-reports (see website)
Dr Hartle's reports were on the KLDC website. She said that the BDA keep persevering . She had nothing further to report.

16. LMC REPORT
(a) LMC Report {Attached Report} – Dr Hogan added that GP's are not happy with the new contract and 99.5% of GP'S rejected it and are looking at obtaining legal advice.
(b) LMC/LDC/LPC Officials Meeting – Dr Batistoni apologised but she was on holiday for the last meeting.

17. KLDC WEBSITE
Dr Batistoni advised that as she has spent the last year getting to grips with the secretary role, the website has received less of her attention. There are areas which are due to be updated and this will be a focus in the next 6 months. Dr Hogan's C Diff information package would be uploaded once it had been written up. Any other suggestions for the website are always welcome.

18. EDUCATION AND TRAINING
(a) WT & E HEE LKSS Report {Attached Report} – Dr Mauthe's report was attached. Dr Mauthe reported that it was going to be a long on-going project.
(b) Kent Dental Mentorship & Study Group – Dr Bhatti reported that there was an interesting debate on understanding service providers at the last meeting and this had been an eye opener. There were some concerns that GP's were able to make paper referrals but dentists were struggling on Rego. The next meeting is on the 21 May and it is free if anyone wishes to attend.

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS
(i) LDC Annual Conference – to be held on Thursday – Friday 7th June at DoubleTree Hilton Brighton Metropole Hotel.
(a) Members Attending – As bookings needed to be finalised before this meeting, Dr Batistoni has sought expressions of interest from the committee to attend the conference and names were drawn out of a hat. It was **agreed** that Drs Batistoni, Winstone, Shivji and Smith would attend with Dr Hartle as GDPC representative and Dr Lone as special observer.
(b) Motions - No motions were submitted
(ii) Expressions of Interest Invitations (Dr Shivji) – Dr Shivji explained that information about a cardiovascular disease case finding pilot project would soon be sent out to ICBs and expressions of interest invited. He also explained that the minister for dentistry wants to run a round table event with wet fingered NHS dentists to understand where we are and what could be done differently for contract reform. If anyone would be interested in attending this event they needed to let him know within 24 hours so information could be forwarded on.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING
The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 10th July at the Bridgewood Manor Hotel, Walderslade Woods Road, ME5 9AX.

FUTURE MEETINGS: Wednesday, 9th October 2024 &
Wednesday, 8th January 2025

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm