

**MINUTES OF THE EIGHTY-FOURTH
MEETING OF THE KENT LOCAL DENTAL COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY
WEDNESDAY, 10TH JANUARY 2024
AT 6.00 PM AT THE BRIDGEWOOD MANOR HOTEL, WALDESLADE WOODS ROAD,
ME5 9AX AND VIRTUALLY ON "ZOOM"**

Present: Batistoni (Secretary), Banvir (v), P Chopra (v), R Chopra, Elder (v), Hamill (v), Hogan (v), Lone, Myint (v), Mauthe, Nugent, O' Sullivan, M Patel (v), V Patel (v), Ramamoorthy, Shivji, Smith (v) Unter (v), Winstone (Treasurer) Willis-Lake and M Patel (v) and Wood (Chair)
Observer: Prem Kumar dentist at Dartford.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Dr Wood welcomed members to the January meeting and apologised for the late start to the meeting due to a technical issue with IT and a traffic accident delaying members' arrival. Apologies were received from Drs Bhatti, Chandni, Davies, Kolozvari, Moryazvi, U Patel and Power. Dr Wood welcomed new observer Prem Kumar from Dartford.

2. LAST MEETING, WEDNESDAY, 4TH OCTOBER 2023, AT THE BRIDGEWOOD HOTEL AND VIA "ZOOM"

(a) Confirmation of Minutes – **Action:** The Minutes were approved and uploaded onto the KLDC website as usual {[Oct23 Minutes Attached](#)}.

(b) Matters Arising –

- Pg 1 (2a) – The Minutes of 5th July 2023 were approved and uploaded onto the KLDC website.
- Pg 1 (4a) – The journalist from the Times and Tunbridge Wells – there has been no further correspondence, but Dr Batistoni will keep members updated.
- Pg 1 (5) – Dr Winstone forwarded the Insurance to Dr Batistoni who contacted the broker to look in to this further. Written confirmation that anyone acting in an official capacity for the LDC, regardless of title, would be covered. The policy was subsequently renewed by Dr Winstone.
- Pg 2 (6) – Kent & Medway Integrated ICB – There have been no further developments on a meeting regarding GA provision in Kent and Dr Willis-Lake confirmed that she had not had any contact. **Action:** Drs Wood/Batistoni will address at a planned meeting with the ICB next week.
- Pg 3 (7e) – Dr Smith/Batistoni circulated the Pulpotomy Study details to members immediately after the last meeting. Dr Hogan advised that he still requires details for the C Diff department. Dr Winstone said that he had the serious incident report. Details will be passed to Dr Hogan. Dr Smith advised that Dr Bhatti is going to discuss antibiotic prescribing at the study group, but this will be in next year's schedule which has not yet been finalised.
- P5 (13) – Update to prescribing information in line with new guidance – this has been uploaded on the KLDC website.

3. NOTICE OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) Removal of personal emails addresses from website to avoid scam messages
- (b) Inviting Foundation dentists to the LDC

4. SECRETARY

(a) Correspondence – (not reported elsewhere) – Dr Wood advised that Eddie Crouch at the BDA had received a complaint from Roger Gale – MP for North Thanet - about a Ukrainian dentist in his constituency who could not work in the UK but is working as a dental nurse instead. Roger Gale would like to visit Dr Wood to get clarification on this and to discuss and visit practices in Kent. Dr Winstone advised that you have to be on the GDC register in order to work here. However, it was perceived this may be an opportunity to raise the real issues facing dentistry

with a local MP, including raising the issue of GA access. **Action:** Dr Wood to contact Roger Gale to arrange a meeting and practice visits and will liaise with Dr Willis-Lake on this also. Dr Batistoni received correspondence from the Dean of Dental Education wanting to promote use of the new Canterbury skills room.

(b) Report of Meetings – (not reported elsewhere) – there was nothing further to add.

5. TREASURER:

(a) Report - Dr Winstone apologised for the late submission of his report. He advised that the NHS Employers have increased the staff mileage rate allowance to 59p/mile. He advised that the KLDC usually use this rate for the KLDC mileage payments. He suggested that this rate be adopted and this was **agreed** by the KLDC members.

(b) Statutory Levy –Dr Winstone discussed donations from the KLDC account as they are normally discussed at the January meeting.

British Dental Guild - It was **agreed** that we increase this donation from £15,000 to £17,000 this year.

Dentists Health Support Trust – It was **agreed** that payment remains the same as last year at £12,000.

BDA Benevolent Fund – It was **agreed** that payment remains the same as last year at £2,000. A discussion took place regarding the impact that it will have on the levy because of the number of contracts given back. **Action:** It was **agreed** that payments would be made this year but it would be modified next year if there is a dramatic change. **Action:** Dr Wood would request the figures for the last two years at the next meeting.

6. LDC OFFICIALS' DAY [{Attached Report Part 1}](#) - [{Attached Report Part 2}](#)

Drs Batistoni's/Winstone's reports were attached. Dr Batistoni advised that this meeting was held face to face for the first time since 2019. It was also attended by other KLDC members, Drs Hartle, Winstone and Wood. The day commenced with Eddie Crouch Chair of the BDAs Principal Executive Committee and Shawn Charwood Chair of the GDPC who provided updates on their ongoing work at a national level. There were also updates on the new Provider Selection Regime, which will influence procurement of new contracts and changes to the NHS Pension Scheme. A case study presented how the North West region is working effectively with their local commissioners. In the afternoon, there were breakout regional sessions. Overall, there was plenty of useful information about how things are working in other areas and ideas that could be adopted locally. She felt there is often more innovation in other areas which could be learned from.

7. KENT & MEDWAY INTEGRATED CARE BOARD (ICB)

Drs Wood/Batistoni met with Louise Matthews before Christmas. There has been no progression on many issues since the autumn, which is mainly due to a lack of funding and the focus on restoring UDA delivery to pre-pandemic levels before adopting new ideas. Spending has been reduced by about a third in Kent and the ICB is undergoing restructuring, which may affect who is in the role of Deputy Director responsible for Dentistry.

There was discussion of the continued issues around lack of GA access in Kent. Dr Willis-Lake informed the committee that she has heard nothing in East Kent and has a very limited list. Dr Davies helps her now and again with sessions when she can. She wrote to Nik Goodger twice to ask if Max Fax would be able to give up one morning session a week but has heard nothing. She is worried about the impact this could have on the children with a real risk of infection leading to death of a child. Sussex and Surrey are unwilling to help, despite the waiting list for GA in Sussex sitting at around 2 weeks at times. Dr Willis-Lake is due to retire in around 18 months and is reaching a point where she wishes to close the list as she does not feel it is right to keep adding children to a list which has no capacity. She believes it should be down to the chief executive and the ICB to find a solution. Mark Johnson is also aware. Dr Batistoni added that the GA issue has been placed on the ICB risk register, so they do acknowledge that it is a serious issue. **Action:** Dr Wood advised that they would discuss this issue at the meeting with the ICB

next week. **Action:** Dr Nugent suggested that they also speak to Roger Gale and Eddie Crouch and advise them that despite all efforts they are being ignored and Drs Willis-Lake/Wood will also write to them jointly in the next couple of weeks.

Flexible commissioning was discussed again. It had previously been mentioned that allowing flex of 10% of existing contract values requires no extra funding, however the ICB are not willing to consider this until UDA delivery has reached pre-pandemic levels. Flexible commissioning will go back on the agenda in the next contract year. The ICB is being reconstructed and it is possible there will be a bit more leverage but they will not know what the changes will be until after April.

8. NHS ENGLAND MATTERS

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

(i) Unscheduled Care Recommissioning Streeting Group [{Attached Report 1#2}](#) - [{Report 2#2}](#)
Dr Hogan's reports
were attached he had nothing else to add.

(ii) (a) Kent Loal Dental Network (LDN) [{Attached Report}](#) – Dr Batistoni's report was attached. She advised that there was a change to the structure of the LDN with a plan that there will be two meetings a year (one face-to-face) plus sharing of information on an online platform to facilitate more timely discussions of issues. The next meeting is on the 17th January and she advised that she would know more once they have had this meeting.

(ii)(b) Orthodontic MCN & Orthodontics – there is no representative and therefore nothing to report.

(ii)(c) Oral Health Improvement MCN Oral N – Dr Batistoni's report was attached but there was nothing further to add.

(ii)(d) Restorative MCN – there was nothing to report.

(ii) (e) Routine Dental Care MCN [{Attached Report}](#) – Dr Smith added that they are still taking on practices for the pulpotomy study if anyone is interested.

(ii)(f) Urgent Care; Oral Surgery & Special Care MCNs – Dr M Patel advised that there has not been a meeting since the KLDC last met; therefore, there is nothing to report. The next meeting is next week.

(ii)(g) KSS Antimicrobial Prescribing Network (KSSAPN) [{Attached Report 1#3}](#) - [{Report 2#3}](#) – [{Report 3#3}](#) – Dr Hogan's report was attached.

(iii) Dental Electric Referral Services (DERS) – Dr Winstone said that he had spoken to Alison Cross and that there had been no changes in the last three months but they are not aware of any issues.

(iv) KSS Performance Advisory Group (PAG) - Dr Batistoni said that there had only been one meeting since the last KLDC meeting. There were changes moving forwards, with dental cases being heard alongside medical cases meaning more frequent meetings but likely fewer cases per meeting. Dentists will continue to be involved only in dental cases. It will be interesting to see how this works out.

(v) KSS Performers List Decision Panel (PLDP) – this group has disbanded and it was **agreed** to remove this item from the agenda.

(vi) LDC Liaison Group [{Attached Report}](#) – The report from the October meeting is attached. Changes to this group have been discussed and the most recent meeting has been cancelled.

There is a strong feeling from participating LDCs that they want this group to remain. There will be a meeting (yet to be scheduled) to discuss further but it was felt that we need to think carefully before losing this group. Dr Hogan said that he uses this forum to put points across but there never seems to be enough time to raise concerns – although LDC updates were moved up the agenda to try to overcome this.

(vii) SE Coast LDCs (Channel Group) – there has been no meeting since the last KLDC meeting and therefore there is nothing to report. The next meeting is in February.

(b) DentaLine [{Attached Report}](#) – Dr Davies' report was attached. She was unable to attend the meeting and therefore there was nothing to add.

(c) Dental Practice Advisors – Reports

Dr Shivji reported that much of his time in the advisor capacity has been taken up by onboarding International Dental Graduates into the national performers list in the region. He said that they have seen a large increase in the numbers wishing to work as NHS performers in the region. He is holding training needs reviews for them in the evenings to expediate their entry. The bulk of delays are with the GDC registration and the PCSE application. Once NHSE get hold of them they are working hard to get them on. Sometimes the supervisors are slow in corresponding to emails. He also added that he triages endodontic referrals and attends the Dental Contracts Oversight Group.

Dr Winstone reported that he had been involved in international graduates, referrals and restorative as well as some complaint reviews. He had also been involved in trying to establish Patient Group Directives to allow hygienists/therapists on the NHS to be able to administer local anaesthetic and apply topical fluoride. Lack of guidelines have meant this has not been possible. However, he is hopeful that changes to the Medicines Act will allow hygienists/therapists to provide these items on the NHS in the future.

Dr Hamill advised that she had resigned from this post and therefore had nothing to report.

9. PASS – Practitioner Advice & Support Scheme – There have been no cases. Drs Wood attended a PASS session at the LDC Officials' Day. It was a well-structured session that outlined how the scheme works in Cheshire, incorporating light touch facilitators who have been trained to recognise red flags. There is a hope that this scheme might be rolled out on a country wide basis and they are gathering evidence on this. Dr Hogan advised that they needed to be considerate to the funding and limit the cost to the LDC in terms of payment. The current LDC PASS funding is only sufficient to hold three sessions after which the dentist would be required to fund themselves. It was discussed whether NHS WTE could support this and Dr Batistoni said that she could raise this at the Primary Care Workforce Integration Group meetings, to which she has recently been invited.

10. HOSPITAL REPRESENTATIVE GROUP

Dr Elder said that he did not have anything specific to report. However, he said that he would be more than happy to assist Dr Willis-Lake in addressing her concerns in trying to find sessions for the children. He agreed that the lists should be shared out fairly but acknowledged these were challenging times. He also added that Max Fax were also having to absorb those patients.

Action: He will advise Dr Willis-Lake if he manages to get a result.

11. SALARIED DENTAL SERVICES

(a) East Kent [{Attached Report}](#) – Dr Willis-Lake's report was attached but she had nothing to add.

(b) West Kent [{Attached Report}](#) – Dr Davies's report was attached but she was not present this evening and therefore there was nothing else to add.

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

<https://kldc.org.uk/gdpc-reports> (see website)

The latest report was added to the website. Dr Hartle was not present at the meeting and therefore there was nothing further to report.

13. LMC REPORT

- (a) LMC Report – [{Attached Report}](#) – Dr Hogan added to his written reports that if a GP is approached to give an interview it is referred to the LMC secretariat who will deal with it. If any LMC member would like to have media training, then the secretariat will organise it. He advised that he was approached by BBC radio Kent to give an interview this week in relation to the Dentaïd caravan visiting Maidstone. He referred this enquiry to the chair of the LDC whom he felt would be more in the loop and advised the BBC to remove his name from its contact list. He also said that he had not received any training on how to give media interviews and said that if anyone was thinking about doing so they should make sure that they are in a very strong position. Dr Wood said that she had received his email but declined to give an interview on the basis that the LDC had previously **agreed** to leave Dentaïd to their own devices and therefore she felt that it was inappropriate to give an interview.
- (b) LMC/LDC/LPC Officials Meeting – Dr Batistoni added that with changes at the ICB towards a more integrated Primary Care service, there is lots of interest in professionals working together. The Local Pharmaceutical Committee have extended an invitation for her to attend their meetings as an observer. Dr Batistoni asked if the LDC would be happy to invite a representative from the LPC to attend and this was **agreed**. **Action:** Dr Batistoni to extend and invitation to the LPC ahead of the next LDC meeting.

14. KLDC WEBSITE [\[https://kldc.org.uk\]](https://kldc.org.uk)

Dr Batistoni advised that there has been a number of updates to the website and that she had been working together with Drs Unter/Hogan who have been updating the prescribing guidelines. The new antimicrobial Prescribing toolkit has been added, and members were asked to take a look if they have not done so already. There are also useful links for education programmes and CPD as well as two audits. All of this information is very helpful to dentists.

15. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

[{Attached Report}](#) - Dr Mauthe's report was attached. There was nothing further to add.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) Removing Personal Emails for the KLDC website to avoid scam emails - A discussion took place as to whether personal email addresses should still be displayed along with the secretary and the chair. This is due to the amount of junk mail and spam email that is created. There was a mixed consensus and therefore it was decided that the chair/secretary would email individuals to ask for their own personal preferences.
- (b) Inviting Foundation dentists to the meeting – A discussion took place about inviting Foundation trainee dentists to the meeting. **Action:** It was agreed that Dr Mauthe would arrange to invite two trainees along to the April meeting.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING Wednesday, 17th April 2024 (AGM) at the Bridgewood Manor Hotel, Walderslade Woods ME5 9AX

FUTURE DATES: Wednesday, 10th July 2024
 Wednesday, 9th October 2024

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm