



West Sussex LDC Newsletter

Winter 2006



LDC News

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the new style LDC Newsletter. This Newsletter will provide West Sussex LDC with an effective way to communicate with its members – you!

We expect to issue a Newsletter every quarter and back issues will also be available on our new website www.westsussexldc.co.uk.

If you have any items you would like included, please e-mail them to the Lay Administrator, whose contact details can be found on the website.

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Message from the Chair

Season's Greetings to everyone!!

The good news for the New Year is you should be able to read this and subsequent newsletters on our website (www.westsussexldc.co.uk) which will go-live in January 2007. On the website (as seen below), you will find details of the LDC executive, activities, meeting dates and committee minutes, as well as news bulletins, useful contacts and links to the PCT, BDA, KSS Deanery, etc. In the meantime, here are some updates and issues currently under discussion by the LDC.

The West Sussex LDC's website will 'go-live' at the beginning of 2007.

*Visit the site at:
www.westsussexldc.co.uk*



LDC AGM

New constitution adopted at the Extraordinary Annual General meeting.

This took place as planned on 10th October. Turnout was poor, but those who made the effort were rewarded by an informative meeting and had an opportunity to discuss and vote on the changes to the Constitution, all of which were carried without dissent (see website for details). There was also a presentation by the West Sussex Oral Health Services Team.

Clinical Audit/Peer Review

The closing date for applications by those GDPs yet to complete a clinical audit in the current cycle is the end of December 2006. So if you haven't got around to it yet, please do so.

The very helpful "cookbooks" (which practically do it for you) are available from the WSOHS team and will also be posted on the website. For the next cycle, beginning April 2007, we are planning to launch a series of new topics for those of you who would prefer to do simpler, shorter audits, on a more regular basis to fulfil your audit requirements.

Low Priority Procedures

Some of you are already aware of the sudden implementation (without prior consultation, or agreement) by what was Adur, Arun & Worthing PCT, of an apparently long-standing, but little known list of surgical procedures, which will no longer be approved/funded within the secondary care service. Hidden amongst a largely predictable catalogue of forbidden interventions ranging from bat-ears to buttock-lifts are four outlawed dental procedures, which if referred by GDP's to MFU will be bounced back as inappropriate. These include apical surgery, removal of buried roots, asymptomatic wisdom teeth and non-impacted teeth. Exceptional cases will be considered on their own merits by the so-called PIN Panel, (initially to have no direct dental input) which has the power to override the LPP list if it deems it appropriate.

This was vigorously opposed by the LDC, OHAG and the MFU consultants, and has been the subject of exhaustive negotiation by, amongst others, the PCT's dental adviser, and although it seems likely the Strategic Health Authority will endorse the implementation next April, there is at least now dental representation on the PIN Panel and the hope is that we can at least win recognition of the many necessary exceptions to this absurd blanket ban.

On the subject of referrals generally, as you are aware these must now go to their intended recipient on the blue triplicate form (top copy only to be sent) via the Referral Centre at the PCT, where they are audited. We intend to put together some guidance on referral protocols and possibly a pro forma to help standardise and facilitate future referrals. In the meantime, it will expedite the process and minimise the chances of a "bounce-back" if you provide clear and concise information regarding the reason for the referral, relevant clinical details and medical history, together with radiographs where appropriate.

Dental Bodies Corporate

The changes to the legislation governing these have already produced several applications from practices wishing to take advantage of the apparent benefits of incorporation. The PCT has drawn up a set of criteria for those with a PDS\nGDS contract: you will need to be on target for UDAs and up to date with patient charge collection; have an undisputed contract and more than 50% of the directors must be dentists, or PCDs. The LDC will examine these criteria with a view to ensuring that such applications are dealt with in the best interests of all parties. See website for more info.

PCT Reorganisation

The five PCTs officially became one again on October 1st, (plus ça va, plus ça change) resulting in the inevitable reshuffles, redundancies and renaming.

We met with the new Chief Executive of West Sussex PCT, John Wilderspin on 31st October, to establish a dialogue as early as possible and to get an idea of his understanding of dental matters. We stressed the concerns of GDP's over funding, UDA targets - all the usual suspects - and although understandably non-committal he did at least give the impression of being open to sensible argument.

The future structure of the PCT with respect to dental services is still unclear, but both the LDC and OHAG have stressed to the CE their view of the importance of maintaining the productive dialogue we have developed with the Oral Health Services Team. We'll see.



Our new Logo

Membership

There are still vacancies on the Committee, so if anyone is interested (particularly from the Worthing area) please contact the Chair, or Hon Sec, contact details (you guessed it) can be found on our new website from January 2007, who will be pleased to arrange for you to attend the next full committee meeting as a guest.

OHAG

The group met at the Berkeley Hotel and welcomed its new Chair Tony Fallowfield, who announced the establishment of two new sub-groups: Clinical Governance and Dental Care Professionals - Terms of Reference to be posted on the website.

The Low Priority Procedures list dominated the meeting and an update was provided by Ms Bridget Mguni. The SHA was due to rule on this the following day and was expected to recommend its implementation.

Other matters discussed included Referral Management, Clinical Audit, Capital Grants and the charging by St. Richards' Hospital Medical Imaging Department for taking X-rays on referral from GDP's.

Jodie Olliver gave an update on West Sussex PCT developments, including an overview of the proposed new structure. She also reported on the success of Mouth Cancer Awareness week. An Oral Health Promotion Strategy & Action Plan, produced by Thelma Edwards from West Sussex CPDS, was also presented and elicited general approval from the group.

Mr. David Cheshire gave an update on the Periodontal DwSI Scheme, progress of which appears to have been very encouraging.

Date for next meeting is 22nd March 2007.



JANUARY 2007

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Forthcoming Meetings

The West Sussex LDC meets every two months. Meetings are usually held on a Wednesday at The Roundabout Hotel in West Chiltington.

The Executive Committee meets monthly at various locations.

OHAG meets quarterly.

LDC Executive Committee February 21

LDC Committee February 21

LDC Executive Committee March 14

OHAG March 22

LDC Executive Committee April 18

Happy New Year!