

Worcestershire Secretary: Dr Gillian Farmer – gfarmer@worcslmc.co.uk  
Herefordshire Secretary: Dr Richard Dales – herefordlmc@btinternet.com  
Executive Officer: Lisa Siembab – lsiembab@worcslmc.co.uk

## The Minutes of the Worcestershire Local Medical Committee Ltd held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020 at 7.00pm held via Zoom Conferencing

### OPEN MEETING

**PRESENT:** Dr D Herold, Dr S Pike, Dr G Farmer, Dr P Bunyan, Dr B Fisher, Dr S Morton, Dr R Kinsman, Dr J Rankin, Dr E Penny, Dr E Shantsilla, Dr J Rayner, Dr M Davis, Dr K Hollier, Dr C Whyte, Dr Roy Williams, Dr F Martin, Dr I Haines, Dr M Venables, Dr W Safdar, Meryl Foster, Dr D Pryke, Helen Garfield, Lisa Siembab, Dr S Parkinson, Lynda Dando, Mike Hallissey

1. **APOLOGIES:** Raveena Benney
2. **FORMAL APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2020 BY THE CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman asked if all were happy to sign the minutes of and these were signed off virtually.

The Secretary confirmed that there were no actions from the last meeting.

3. **WORCESTERHIRE ACUTE TRUST – Mike Hallissey**

Mike Hallissey attended the meeting and gave the Committee an update on the current position within the Trust. It is felt that Worcestershire has now passed the peak of the virus. He shared that the majority of hospital based deaths in the county were in patients that are 75+ with co-morbidities. Their model has now moved from 40 ambulance/60 walk ins to above 80% ambulance.

Mike Hallissey thanked the Committee for their help in setting up an Ethics Committee and commented that he felt this would be useful going forward as we transition into the new normal. He also shared that the Trust is starting to draft a Restoration Plan to capture the constraints and high risk practices going forward. This will be shared with the LMC for comment shortly. The Trust have many Senior Consultants shielding.

The Secretary asked for clarification on if GPs should be referring as normal as there are issues around who is holding the risk for these patients. Mike Hallissey agreed to confirm the position of the Trust on this in the next week as part of the Restoration Plan.

All elective patients are being tested 48 hours prior to their procedures to ensure they are clear to attend for their appointments.

The Chairman thank Mike Hallissey for attending the meeting.

#### **4. CCGs**

Lynda Dando attended the meeting to update on behalf of the CCG. She acknowledged how far general practice has come since the last meeting and how quickly and positively general practice have responded to the new model of working in such a short space of time. She also added that she hopes that we can all continue with this momentum. Lynda Dando shared that there will be a piece of work being led by Ruth Lemeich and the Transformation Team and they will want the LMC to feed into this work.

The Secretary asked Lynda Dando for reassurance that reimbursement rates for practices will be maintained in line with levels well before the beginning of the outbreak. Lynda Dando confirmed that they are looking at quarter 3 last year to protect practice income. She also confirmed that no reimbursements will be capped in future years. An example being for minor surgery where it may be that more procedures are carried out due to a backlog.

Dr J Rankin highlighted an issue for dispensing practices regarding their income being very significantly adversely affected at the moment in light of COVID. He requested a low interest loan for dispensing practices and the Secretary supported this view. Other CCGs have agreed to this approach. Lynda Dando agreed to escalate this.

Dr J Rayner asked for an assurance that in addition to practice income being protected that practices will also be paid for the higher level of work they are doing. Lynda Dando assured that all practices will be paid for the work they are undertaken.

The Chairman thanked Lynda Dando for attending the meeting.

#### **5. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – See Separate Agenda**

The Chairman formally opened the AGM.

Dr S Pike updated that the Chairman, the Vice Chairman and the Treasurer wish to stand for a further year and they were all unopposed. The Secretary is employed and as such is not elected each year.

The Constitution was circulated via email and remains unchanged. Declarations of interest were asked to be forwarded via email or a statement with no change from last

year. New Committee Members still need to forward a completed Declaration of Interest Form.

The Chairman formally asked for approval to transfer all the work of the Worcestershire Local Medical Committee and its tax liabilities to the Worcestershire and Herefordshire Local Medical Committee Limited. A summary of the changes within the budget forecast was circulated to all members for consideration, together with, a summary of the payment rates for Committee Members for the new financial year for 2019-20 and the proposed levy.

The Committee agreed the budget and to freeze the levy.

The Chairman proposed and the meeting agreed to continue to use the current Accountant and Auditor, French Ludlam.

The future working of the Committee was discussed and it was agreed that no changes were necessary to the structure of the Committee, timing and venue of the meetings.

Co-optees were discussed and it was agreed that a list of co-optees be shared via email so that these can be agreed at the next meeting.

The Chairman formally closed the Annual General Meeting.

**Action: Lisa Siembab to share a list of current co-optees**

## **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Minute: 5/698 Covid-19 Update**

The Secretary ran through an update on the most important issues around Covid-19.

PPE – Dr R Williams updated that there is a specialist company working for free for the CCG for monitoring PPE usage and stocks levels. The Secretary updated that the LMC has written to our MPs twice on the issue of PPE and there is still the national supply line.

Testing of Health Care Workers – there was a long discussion on testing for healthcare workers and their families, the swabbing technique, how effective the tests are and if and how test results are communicated to practices. Dr R Williams shared that SW Healthcare have now taken on the co-ordination of test results for the county but it is not clear on whether they will be informing the practice in addition to the patient.

Death Verification and Cremation Forms – the Secretary asked if there were any issues around verification of death. There were no concerns locally. There was a discussion around the agreed processes.

NHSEI – the Secretary updated that Dave Briggs is the Responsible Officer for our area.

**Minute: 5/699 LMC Development Day – Collaboration in Action**

The Secretary updated briefly on this event that was held in March shortly before the pandemic. Once things have settled, she will review the outputs of this event and feedback to the Committee.

**Jo Hall** – Dr S Parkinson updated on Jo's imminent retirement from the CCG. It was agreed that she will be missed and to make a contribution towards her collection.

**Education** – Dr F Martin updated that there is still no decision on what will happen with those trainees who are due to finish shortly.

### **CLOSED MEETING**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.05pm.