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## The Minutes of the Worcestershire Local Medical Committee Ltd held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7.00pm Via Zoom Conferencing

### OPEN MEETING

**PRESENT:** Dr D Herold, Dr J Chun, Dr J Rankin, Dr I Haines, Dr C Whyte, Dr L Jones, Dr S Pike, Dr R Williams, Dr P Bunyan, Dr G Farmer, Dr K Hollier, Dr M Venables, Dr B Fisher, Dr W Safdar, Dr R Kinsman, Dr J Rankin, Dr D Pryke, Dr M Davis, Dr F Martin, DR Helen Garfield, Meryl Foster, Dr S Morton, Dr R Kinsman, Dr R Benney, Dr J Rayner, Dr S Parkinson, Charmaine Hawker, Jo-anne Alner, Mike Hallissey, Lisa Siembab

1. **APOLOGIES:** No apologies were received.
2. **CCG** - The Secretary thanked our CCG colleagues for joining the meeting.

**Covid-19 Vaccination Programme** – Charmaine Hawker shared that a template has gone out to practices today to ask practices to submit a return by Monday to look at what costs they could be incurring throughout the vaccination period for issues such as additional cleaning costs and weekend working for heating and lighting.

A letter has been sent out about the costs associated with vaccinating care home residents. There has also been a local proposed fee for housebound vaccinations and this is subject to a national fee being announced. It is currently £10 per patient vaccinated.

Charmaine Hawker also highlighted a series of workforce initiatives. The Next Generation Programme commenced last week with 34 participants which was well received. The Phoenix Programme will be launched next week with 25 applicants and this will be included on the next LMC newsletter. Charmaine Hawker thanked Dr S Morton for supporting all of the workforce work on behalf of the LMC.

Charmaine Hawker also shared that today the GP Fellowships Programme was launched and The Secretary attended. There were 20 people signed up for this but unfortunately only 7 have been released. This could be due to the current capacity issues in primary care or it because the backfill funding is too low and this does need

to be looked at again as we do need GPs to be part of these programmes. The CCG asked for the support of the LMC with promoting these initiatives.

The Secretary commented on the excellent workforce initiatives around recruitment and retention and how well run they have been. The Secretary also thanked Dr S Morton for all his hard work on this.

Charmaine Hawker also shared that in the last MPU there was the latest prioritisation framework. Following feedback from the LMC, the CCG are trusting that practices are able to use their judgement to prioritise workload accordingly.

Finally, Charmaine Hawker reminder everyone that there is income protection in place until the end of March and this will be reviewed in February to look at where we may need to make changes particularly in relation to quarter 1 of next financial year.

The Secretary commented that the prioritisation framework message may need to be clearer to practices so they are clear that they are being trusted to prioritise, that income will be maintained and that the document is guidance only.

The Chairman commented that the deadline is very tight for the additional costs template to be returned by Monday morning. Charmaine Hawker responded that if any practices are having issues returning it in time they should let Chris Plant at the CCG know.

Dr J Rankin asked if any practices are undertaking joint injections and the Chairman asked the meeting if anyone is. Only one member commented that they are, Dr C Whyte stated that this is on clinical need only.

Jo-anne Alner updated the meeting on progress on the delivery of vaccinations. Herefordshire and Worcestershire are being named across the Midlands the STP to follow as we are doing so well. Jo-anne Alner thanked everyone for this.

She stated that as of Tuesday we have administered 52,600 vaccines across Herefordshire and Worcestershire, together with, 60% of our care home resident and 74.5% of care home staff. 54% of our over 80s have been vaccinated and we are doing really well vaccinating health care workers.

There was a discussion around administering second doses of vaccines. It is clear that this is not now allowed.

Jo-anne Alner also shared that mass vaccination sites are opening at the end of January and from 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021 the Artrix is due to open with St Peters, Worcester and Three Counties in Malvern opening on 1<sup>st</sup> February. There is also a site in Herefordshire.

The Alexandra Herefordshire County sites are still operating until the middle of February when all of our healthcare workers should have been vaccinated. This is

driving the desire to keep those sites open in order to drive up staff uptake and PCN are also taking these people on.

Jo-anne Alner also shared that vaccines are going to step up in the next few weeks. We have not got vaccines being administered on a 24/7 basis and the CCG have heard nothing more on this. It is not thought GPs will not be expecting to undertake this.

Jo-anne Alner further shared that letters to the 70-79 cohort will go out next and the programme continues people will go the site closest to them.

Dr J Rankin asked about the timing of vaccinations for healthcare staff and the emerging view is that it makes no sense to delay the vaccinations for these staff. Should we attempt to vaccinate all our staff as soon after the interval as possible due to the higher risk. Jo-anne Alner responded that at the moment it is 12 weeks and if it is administered before then it is deemed a second dose and there is a very strict line on this. A discussion followed on this.

Dr F Martin asked if there is a view on the wasted vaccine at the end of clinics. The Chairman responded that this is very difficult but we would not want to waste any vaccine and he suggested that most practices could find someone to give the vaccine to as a first dose.

The Secretary responded that we have been given a strategy to follow and it will only work if we all follow it.

A discussion on this followed. The Chairman asked for a show of hands if the committee would like us to push back to GPC on this issue. The consensus was that we will follow the CMO strategy.

The Secretary thanked Jo-anne Alner and Charmaine Hawker for attending the meeting and in particular the Charmain thanked Jo-anne Alner for all her work in Worcestershire and wished her good luck in her new role.

### **3. WORCESTERSHIRE ACUTE HOSPITALS TRUST**

The Chairman thanked Mike Hallissey for attending the meeting and he updated on the current position. As of this morning the Trust has 250 in patients on wards and 29 patients on ITU. They also have 18 patients have cpap on normal wards which should be in ITU. They are running at 200% capacity in ITU at present.

He further shared that it is feared we will not hit the peak of this wave until the beginning of February. The volume of admissions are much higher and they have been forced to shut down most of their elective activity but they are trying to keep some cancer activity open. Consultants have been mobilised to support wards due to the complexity of the work and the Trust are concerned about their ability to cope with further patients numbers.

Dr S Morton asked if they were able to produce these numbers in the MPU so that GPs are clear on activity level at Worcester. Dr B Fisher commented that all of this detail is also available on TeamNet.

The Trust are having discussions with the CCG to try to stop patients presenting at their front door that will not benefit from being hospitalised and how they could be managed in a different way. The Trust is looking at how we can provide this advice to GPs.

A discussion on this followed and the Chairman thanked Mike Hallissey for attending the meeting.

#### **4. FORMAL APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2020 BY THE CHAIRMAN VIRTUALLY.**

The Secretary ran through the actions from the last meeting:-

**RAS Rejections** - There will be an audit held in Jan/ Feb to look at previous month's data.

**Long Covid Codes** – this was covered in the MPU.

**Referrapatient** – the Secretary has received no further evidence on referral being rejected on the basis of the template not being filled in.

**Integrating Care Document** – this is on the agenda.

**Social Media Recruitment Groups** – this was included in the newsletter.

The minutes of the last meeting were signed off virtually by the Chairman.

#### **5. MEMBERSHIP**

The Secretary updated two of our constituency areas are due for re-election this year before April and also that Dr B Fisher is planning to leave the Committee in June and Dr R Kinsman plans to step down from the LMC and the Treasurer role at the end of March. She asked all to consider the Treasurer role and if they can think of anyone who may be interested in joining the Committee. Dr B Fisher shared that a GP from his practice is interested in observing the next meeting.

**Action:** Dr B Fisher to provide the details of the interested GP to Lisa Siembab

#### **MEETING OF WORCESTERSHIRE LMC – Closed Meeting**

#### **6. ELECTION OF NEW VICE CHAIRMAN**

Lisa Siembab formally convened a meeting of Worcestershire Local Medical Committee in order to seek nominations for a new Vice Chairperson.

She asked for any members of the Committee that wish to nominate themselves for them to raise their hands. Dr M Davis nominated himself and there was an election by way of a show of hands of the voting members of the Committee. The Committee voted unanimously in favour of Dr M Davis and he was congratulated by the Chairman and the Secretary.

Lisa Siembab formally transferred the work of the Chairman and the Committee back over to the Limited Company and closed the meeting.

## **WORCESTERSHIRE LMC LTD – Open Meeting**

### **7. HEALTH AND CARE TRUST**

The Secretary updated on the data sharing agreement between the Trust and our GP practices. We have obtained a legal view from our lawyers who have made commented to make this a more robust document and they have also reviewed the indemnity clause. Herefordshire already have a very similar data sharing agreement. A discussion was held around the indemnity clause itself.

### **8. STP/ICS**

The Chairman shared that he and the Secretary met with David Mehaffey and Mike Farrah recently. David Mehaffey is the new Director of ICS Development for the CCG and Mike Farrah is working with the ICS. The ICS is now moving at pace as it needs to be a legal entity by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021. Mike Farrah, former NHSE Head of Primary Care and now the Deputy Chief Executive of Kings Hospital, London and is going to be helping ICS' understand what it all means for primary care. He is an advocate for the independent contractor status for general practice and will be supporting a series of workshops to help primary care understand what we need to do to respond to the changes.

The plan is that there will be a GP engagement session that will be recorded that will look at what an ICS is and what it means for practices. This will be followed up by engagement with the CD group and LMC to drill down on the detail.

The Chairman and the Secretary are due to meet with David Mehaffey to get to know him and to promote things from our perspective.

### **9. WORCESTERSHIRE ACUTE HOSPITALS TRUST**

See above.

### **10. REGULAR ITEMS**

**a. NHS England – nothing to report**

- b. **Public Health/County Council** – the Secretary shared that she is struggling to move forward income protection for LARCs and healthcare checks and she will keep pushing on this.
- c. **Education** – nothing to report
- d. **People’s Board** – nothing to report
- e. **Dispensing** – Dr J Rankin raised an issue on prescription charges. A number of practices have been affected by a significant rise in dispensing activity resulting in the back of the script not being completed when a patient is exempt from prescription charges. The charge has then been subtracted by the Business Services Authority following analysis of the script. Some practices have approached their CCG to claim under the Covid Reimbursement Scheme. The Secretary asked if Dr J Rankin could put something together for the newsletter.

**Action: Dr J Rankin to provide an article for the newsletter**

- f. **Out of Hours/NHS 111** – Dr E Penny updated that all the KPIs are green at present. She feedback that she did raise the issue of the lack of demographics on the 111 list and she can feedback any further issues on this. Dr C Whyte responded that she is still experiencing issues with this.

**Action: Dr E Penny agreed to ask them to contact Dr C Whyte directly**

- h. **Non-Principals Group** – nothing to report
- i. **Registrars** – Dr L Jones shared that trainees are still struggling to find jobs and placements. The Secretary responded that she has raised this via the Training Hub. Dr J Chun asked if there is a central place for searching for jobs and the Secretary responded that this is the Training Hub site.
- j. **P.M. Groups** – nothing to report
- k. **Administration** – nothing to report
- l. **PAG** – nothing to report
- m. **GPPB** – nothing to report
- n. **CAG** – nothing to report
- o. **PCNs** – Dr R Williams updated that the CDs are having meetings with Mike Farrah to look at the ICS development work. It has been recognised that they need to develop a clinical forum across the health economy with the LMC to work on clinical issues such as short term quick fixes and also long term issues. This approach could be learnt from Herefordshire in terms of the progress they have made.

## 7. MATTERS ARISING

### i) Covid Updates

The Secretary commented that Covid was discussed earlier on the agenda.

The Secretary shared that at the Provider Board Form it was agreed we would write a letter for patients to support practices and this has now gone out to

practices. The Secretary was also on BBC H&W on Saturday morning to promote this message.

## **8. COMMITTEES**

- a) **GPC Committee** – Dr S Parkinson updated on the last GPC Meeting. He also shared that he will not be standing for re-election for GPC when his post comes up for election in early April. There will be an election in March and the postholder will be in post by the July meeting. He asked all to consider if they would be interested in standing for this post.
- b) **GPC England and UK** – nothing to report

## **9. NEW ITEMS**

### **a) Motions for Conference**

The UK LMC Conference is to be held in York in May and we need to submit motions by 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021. The Secretary asked for any suggestions to be emailed and these will be discussed further at the next meeting.

## **10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no AOB.

### **CLOSED MEETING**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.09pm.