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The Minutes of the Worcestershire Local Medical Committee Ltd held on Thursday 11th February 2021 at 7.00pm Via Zoom Conferencing

OPEN MEETING

PRESENT: Dr D Herold, Dr J Chun, Dr I Haines, Dr C Whyte, Dr L Jones, Dr S Pike, Dr R Williams, Dr P Bunyan, Dr G Farmer, Dr M Venables, Dr B Fisher, Dr W Safdar, Dr R Kinsman, Dr J Rayner, Dr D Pryke, Dr M Davis, Dr F Martin, Helen Garfield, Meryl Foster, Dr R Kinsman, Dr S Parkinson, Lisa Siembab

1. **APOLOGIES:** Dr K Hollier, Dr S Morton, Dr R Benney, Dr J Rankin, Lynda Dando.

The Secretary welcomed Dr Ravi Khehar and Dr Katy Gines both observing with a view to nominating themselves to join the Committee.

2. **MEMBERSHIP**

The Secretary shared that nominations are currently being sought for the South Worcestershire Representative roles on the Committee. This closes on Monday 15th February 2021.

Lisa Siembab also shared that Dr P Bunyan has kindly agreed to take on the Treasurer role for the Committee when Dr R Kinsman steps down at the end of March. This will be ratified at the AGM in April. The Secretary asked if the Committee were happy with this. The Committee agreed. The Secretary thanked both Dr P Bunyan and Dr R Kinsman.

3. **FORMAL APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 10TH DECEMBER 2020 BY THE CHAIRMAN VIRTUALLY.**

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

Prescription Charges – this action is still outstanding and Dr J Rankin sent his apologies to the meeting. The Secretary will follow this up.

Out of Hours – the Out of Hours Service has contacted Dr C Whyte to discuss the issues she was experiencing with the lack of information on the NHS111 report.

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

4. CCG

The Secretary shared that the CCG's Phoenix Programme is running this evening and Dr S Morton is representing the LMC.

The Secretary also raised an issue of rental income for practices who take on medical students in general practice. It had been suggested that there may be no funding for this representing a substantial loss of income for several practices. The Secretary raised this via GPC and they have confirmed that practices should not lose income for 2020-21 and HEE are putting in place a new national minimum rate for of £28,000 per annum for training practices. They also confirmed that practice rent reimbursement is funded separately by the CCG and should maintained.

5. HEALTH AND CARE TRUST

The Secretary shared that income protection for Health Checks has been agreed with the Local Authority agreeing to honour the previous payments until the end of March. As a result of this the LARCs payments have also been honoured by the Health and Care Trust in line with this but there will be no extension beyond March for LARCs..

The Secretary also raised the mental health pilots that are running locally and that these are not working well. It is clear there needs to be a cultural change of how mental health services are delivered locally. CDs are working on a Mental Health Service at a PCN level and the Trust have established a Board to move this work forward.

6. STP/ICS

The Chairman updated that the Executive Forum continues to meet and discuss how this moves forward. A draft white paper was leaked to the press and this clearly showed that the direction of travel is the Government taking back more control over the NHS.

The Chairman commented that there had been an interesting article on this recently.

7. WORCESTERSHIRE ACUTE HOSPITALS TRUST

Mike Hallissey joined the meeting. He provided the committee with feedback on the current situation at the Trust and he feeling was that things are slowly improving.

Various issues around communication with general practice and how we manage risk were discussed. Advice and Guidance were discussed and the issue around

downgrading and rejection of referrals. It was suggested that wait times be included in the MPU.

The Secretary raised the ongoing issue of non clinicians not being able to order diagnostics on ICE. Mike Hallissey responded that this issue is progressing and he agreed to chase this up and get an update.

Action: Mike Hallissey to ensure that wait times are included in the MPU and chase up the ICE issue. Lisa Siembab to ask the CCG for waiting times per department to be included in the MPU.

Both the Chairman and the Secretary thanked Mike Hallissey for joining the meeting.

The Secretary commented that the biggest issue going forward will be waiting list management and it was suggested that wait times could be included in the MPU. There was a discussion on the rejection of referrals and Dr S Pike commented that there are some incidents of where the rejection letters are sometimes not respectful. Dr S Pike agreed to share examples with the Secretary.

Action: Dr S Pike to email any examples of poor communication from the Trust to the Secretary to escalate.

8. REGULAR ITEMS

- a. **NHS England** – the Secretary shared that we have a new Responsible Officer, Dr Anne-marie Houlder. She is also the Deputy Medical Director to Dave Briggs and she covers the West Midlands Footprint that we are included in.
- b. **Public Health/County Council** – nothing to report
- c. **Education** – Dr F Kameen has retired and a new Area Director has been appointed. Recruitment for February's VTS was low with only 2 applicants for Worcestershire.
- d. **People's Board** – nothing to report
- e. **Dispensing** – nothing to report
- f. **Out of Hours/NHS 111** – Dr E Penny updated that everything is fine with mainly green on KPIs.
- h. **Non-Principals Group** – nothing to report
- i. **Registrars** – Dr L Jones updated that a colleague had a problem with inappropriate workload transfer between secondary and primary care. There seems to be a lack of respect for GPs and lack of taking responsibility for their own workload. The Secretary asked for any evidence of this to be shared with her.
- j. **P.M. Groups** – Meryl Foster updated that the CCG Finance Pilot has not yet commenced following Chris Plant attending a previous meeting. The Secretary agreed to chase this up.

Action: The Secretary to raise the lack of PM engagement with Chris Plant

- k. **Administration** – nothing to report
- l. **PAG** – nothing to report
- m. **GPPF** – nothing to report
- n. **CAG** – Dr R Williams updated that the CCG have confirmed that the CDs and the LMC be invited to these meetings going forward. The Vice Chairman will attend these meetings.
- o. **PCNs** – Dr R Williams shared that the two main issues for PCNs are the vaccine programme and the Mental Health Service update. Dr S Parkinson shared that he is currently working for SW Healthcare at the Mass Vaccine Centre at the Artrix in Programme. He shared that the centre is not receiving sufficient patients booking into the centre. Also the Lead Provider for the Three Counties Vaccination Centre has pulled out and SW Healthcare are taking it on.

The Secretary updated on issues around wastage of vaccines and who should receive these and who should not. The guidance is very clear the vaccines should only be given to those in the priority groups and we need to be able to justify any decisions made.

7. MATTERS ARISING

- i) **Motions for Conference** – The draft motions for LMC UK Conference have been shared with the Committee via email and these were discussed. These were discussed and agree.
- ii) The Chairman asked if anyone would like to speak to a motion. Dr F Martin would like to attend and will confirm.

The Chairman confirmed that motions 1,3,4,5,6,7 are to be submitted and the Secretary would like to amend the wording slightly for number 1.

Action: Lisa Siembab to submit the agreed motions

- iii) **GPC Regional Seat** – the Secretary shared that she will be standing for the GPC Regional Seat when Simon stands down.
- iv) **Covid Vaccination Programme** – discussed under PCN above.
- v) **Contract Agreement 2021/22** – the Secretary shared that there have been minimal changes and the Secretary briefly ran through these.

8. COMMITTEES

- a) **GPC Committee** – Dr S Parkinson updated on the last GPC Meeting.
- b) **GPC England and UK** – nothing to report

9. NEW ITEMS

a) Coroners' Office GP Portal

The Chairman updated that the Coroner Mr Reid, has contacted us regarding the GP portal to report deaths electronically. A pilot has been underway in 6 practices and he proposes this to be rolled out to all practices gradually from March. Unfortunately, feedback from practices has not been addressed fully and the software remains incompatible and is not user friendly. Discussions are ongoing to address this prior to any rollout.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no AOB.

CLOSED MEETING

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.58pm.