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The Minutes of the Worcestershire Local Medical Committee Ltd held on Thursday 14th October 2021 at 7.00pm Via Zoom Conferencing

OPEN MEETING

PRESENT: Dr P Bunyan, Dr G Farmer, Dr D Pryke, Dr D Herold, Dr F Martin, Dr R Khehar, Dr R Benney, Dr J Rayner, Dr S Manton, Dr S Morton, Dr C Whyte, Dr I Haines, Dr M Shah, Dr E Ukorebi, Dr M Davis, Dr M Shah, Christine Blanchard, Helen Garfield, Michelle Hallahan, Dr S Matthews, Lisa Siembab

The Chairman welcomed Christie Blanchard the New Chief Medical Officer to the meeting, Dr Sarah Matthews, a GP from Coventry who is our new GPC Representative and Dr Esien Ukorebi the new South Worcestershire Trainee Representative.

1. ACUTE TRUST

The Chairman and the Secretary thanked Christine Blanchard for joining the meeting and reiterated that she will always be very welcome to join any meeting and has an open invitation. The Secretary ran through some key issues with the Trust for us in Worcestershire. Christine Blanchard responded that she is very keen to work with us to resolve these issues and for us all to work together.

Christine Blanchard gave an update on the situation at the Acute Trust.

2. APOLOGIES: Dr K Hollier, Dr E Penny, Dr J Chun, Dr R Williams, Dr M Venables, Meryl Foster

3. FORMAL APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 9TH SEPTEMBER 2021 BY THE CHAIRMAN VIRTUALLY.

The Secretary updated on the actions from the last meeting:-

Review of the Constitution – the Secretary shared that we have confirmed with LMC Law that a GP of any standing can apply to join the Committee. In addition our co-optees are not limited in number.

New Medical Director – The Secretary has a meeting scheduled shortly with the new Chief Medical Officer who joined the meeting earlier.

S106 Funding – Dr C Whyte has been in discussions with Dr M Davies regarding this although there has been no progress been made to secure any funding. The Vice Chairman has put this on the agenda for the next Estates Meeting.

ACP Funding – Meryl Foster sent her apologies to the meeting.

Enhanced Service Review – this is an agenda item.

The minutes were signed off virtually by the Chairman.

3. **MEMBERSHIP**

The Secretary shared the happy news that Dr K Gines has given birth to a baby boy and has now commenced her maternity leave.

4. **CCG**

The Secretary shared that Lynda Dando sent her apologies to the meeting. There is a large amount of work and meetings continuing with the CCG.

Resilience Funding – the Secretary shared that there is some additional resilience funding available for practices to share good practice and we have sought ideas from all practices in conjunction with CDs.

5. **HEALTH AND CARE TRUST**

The Secretary updated that she met with John Devaprium earlier today .It is very useful to get an update from their perspective. The Secretary has met with Ann Baines who has been tasked with developing a business case for the Mental Health and Wellbeing Collaborative on behalf of the Trust and the CCG to look how we can do things better. This was discussed. Dr M Shah and Hollie Hastings will be giving an update on Workforce at the next LMC Meeting.

6. **STP/ICS**

The Chairman shared that there is some progress being made and planning about who will sit on each of the boards and LMC membership on these boards is still being discussed.

8. **REGULAR ITEMS**

- a. **NHS England** – the Secretary updated on the covid vaccine medical exemption that is a contractual requirement and has a fee attached. The concern is that although a small minority will have a genuine exemption there will be a larger number seeking the medical exemption and this may cause issues for GPs in

terms of the patient/ Dr relationship. It is likely this will create significant work. She also raised the issue of declaration of GP earnings. This does seem highly unfair as there is no context being included and no other parts of the NHS are being asked to declare their earnings.

- b. **Public Health/County Council** – the Secretary has received many queries practices around the PHE policy from GPs with children who are positive for covid and the need for healthcare workers to self isolate. This is causing workforce issues.
- c. **Education** – nothing to report
- d. **People’s Board** – Dr S Morton shared that there has been talk about setting up academies for different work groups and they are looking for a Clinical Chair of the ICS People Academy Steering Group that has yet to be established. Dr S Morton has also raised the pressures of general practice in this forum. He also highlighted the Shiny Minds App that is available for all GPs and practice staff.
- e. **EDI** – Dr M Shah highlighted that it is anticipated that this area will become greater in the future and they are looking at how this can be tackled in practices in the future.
- f. **Estates** – The Vice Chairman shared that there are some very difficult decisions being taken about new practices as effectively there is no funding available. Dr S Matthews commented that Coventry and Warwickshire has a county wide planning group and this pulls together all planning across primary and secondary care.
- g. **Dispensing** – Dr J Rankin reiterated the issue of dispensing fees by outlining the history of this. Overall the general trend is that dispensing fees are being reduced. The dispensing fee published for October was less and this affects non-dispensing practices more. There was an overspend during covid and is partly why it has been so dramatically reduced.

Dr J Rankin also raised the issue of prescription charges and the exemptions so that the prescription charge is not deducted from the charge. During covid it was agreed that the practice could sign the exemption on behalf of the patient although some practices omitted to do this and this affected 240 practices. The range of loss for those practices were up to £50,000. The feeling is that this was as a result of covid rather than practices deliberately not signing the reverse of the prescription. There was a promise that during covid no practice would be disadvantaged and this does not appear to be the case in terms of the dispensing fee and prescription charges and the LMC needs to get involved in this significant matter. The Chairman commented that there is encouragement for dispensing practices to write to their MP and he agreed to send something to our local MPs.

The Chairman raised the DSQS Scheme where dispensing practices receive a payment for the quality they provide and there is an audit that is chosen by the contractor each year. The NHSE has decided on the audit this year and it is related to anticoagulation. The Chairman would like to write to NHSE on this issue.

Action: Dr J Rankin to draft something to go to our MPs

- h. **Out of Hours/NHS 111** – - nothing to report
- i. **Non-Principals Group** – nothing to report

- j. **Registrars** – Dr S Manton shared that she attended a conference recently and found this useful.
- k. **P.M. Groups** – Michelle Hallahan shared that at their next PM Meeting they will be discussing the roll out of the cleaning and infection control. Also at the next PM Meeting there will be an update on Tier 2 registration for GPs as in the future 70% of GPs will be from overseas placements. Dr M Shah commented that there will be some CCG funding available for practices to trial this.
- l. **Administration** – nothing to report
- m. **PAG** – the Secretary and Dr S Matthews shared their views on the new PAG format and the lack of local representation for GPs.
- n. **GPPF** – nothing to report.
- o. **CPF/Clinical Practitioner Forum** – the Secretary updated that she attended this recently and gave a brief update.
- p. **PCNs** – nothing to report.

9. **MATTERS ARISING**

i) **Enhanced Services Review**

The Secretary shared that the Enhanced Services are being reviewed with the Clinical Directors. There is a further meeting scheduled and the next stage will be to look at how we cost these services rather than accepting what we are offered for these services. A discussion on enhanced services followed. The Secretary informed the committee that a fees calculator was being worked up imminently and this may be how we choose to cost services. The committee agreed that if this was not suitable then the LMC should commission independent costings for the enhanced services.

ii) **GP Abuse, Media, MP Letters**

The Secretary shared that she has written to our local MPs on this issue specifically around the abuse being received by GPs and their practices. A discussion followed on this. It was suggested by Dr S Morton that we asked Sajid Javid MP visit one of our practices. The Secretary has offered an invitation to all MPs to visit local practices. It was agreed we should invite Sajid Javid to the next LMC meeting

Action: The Secretary to ask Sajid Javid MP to the next meeting.

10. **COMMITTEE**

a) **GPC Committee** – Dr S Matthews shared an update on her first GPC Meeting. The Secretary shared an update on the contents of the NHSE Access Plan and her views on how we might demonstrate our concerns about the plan. The Chairman also shared his views on the plan and he feels we must do something and doing nothing is not an option. A lengthy discussion followed on this and how we should respond to this. Views were sought. It was agreed any further action would be shared with the committee prior to the next meeting if necessary.

b) **GPC England and UK** – nothing to report

11. **NEW ITEMS**

- i) **Complaints** – the Secretary shared that the LMC Office has received increased contact from practices relating to complaints they have received. Many of these complaints are asking for lots of data and practices should seek support if they do receive a complaint of this nature. There is information on FOI requests if required, and CNSGP and MDO should be contacted early on. Dr M Shah has agreed to sit on the Health and Wellbeing Board as the LMC Representative and colleagues should seek help if they do need any help with their wellbeing.
- ii) **GPDF Workshops** – the Secretary recently attended a workshop on the future of the LMC in light of the development of the ICS.

12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Face to Face Meetings – the Chairman asked if the committee would prefer a face to face meeting for the next meeting. He asked for a show of hands and many were happy with this and he agreed to look at a hybrid meeting with a virtual option.

Action: **Lisa Siembab to check the room is still available and explore a virtual option**

Delay to Flu Vaccinations – Dr S Morton raised the issue of the delay with the delivery of flu vaccinations and the impact on practice workload.

PNA – Dr J Rankin asked for an update on this to be requested as this has usually been issued by this time of year.

Action: **Lisa Siembab to get an update on this**

CLOSED MEETING

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.35pm.