

GP SUB-COMMITTEE OF NHS Lothian Area Medical Committee

Monday 9th March 2020

7.00 pm

Novotel Edinburgh Park Hotel, 15 Lochside Avenue, Edinburgh EH12 9DJ

Chair - Dr Drummond Begg

MINUTES

1. **Attending** – Dr Drummond Begg, Dr Jenny English, Dr Iain Morrison, Dr Euan Alexander, Dr Robin Balfour, Dr Carl Bickler, Dr Gordon Black, Dr Stuart Blake, Dr Peter Cairns, Dr Jim Cowan, Dr Elaine Duncan, Dr Agata Dunsmore, Dr Morgan Flynn, Dr Andrew Forder, Dr Kerri Greene, Dr Katharine Hill, Dr Annie Lomas, Dr Ramon McDermott, Dr Neil MacRitchie, Dr Elizabeth Murray, Dr Rory O’Conaire, Dr Nick Payne, Dr Kim Rollinson, Dr Amy Small, Dr Catherine Smith, Dr Elizabeth Strachan, Dr Jon Turvill, Dr Laura Tweedie, Dr Ros Wight, Ms Alison McNeillage, Mr David Small, Dr Sian Tucker, Dr Nigel Williams, Mr Ryan Addison, Ms Sandra Allan

Apologies – Dr Catriona Morton, Dr Hamish Reid, Dr Rachel Hardie, Ms Tracey Gillies.

Chair welcomed new attendees and introduced the guests for the evening;

- Dr Rory O’Conaire, *newly appointed NW Edinburgh representative*
- Dr Neil MacRitchie, *newly appointed West Lothian representative*
- Ms Sandra Allan, *New Practice Manager representative (job share)*
- Dr Carey Lunan, *Chair, RCGP Scotland*
- Dr Sandeep Ramalingam, *Consultant Virologist*

2. Minutes of last meeting 10th February 2020, for approval

The following requested amendments were agreed;

2.1 – Agenda item 3, part 3 – Dataloch, last sentence to read;

“... Work collaboratively with **agencies**, all of whom we already work and share data with.”

2.2 – Agenda item 6.1, last line to read;

“...appropriate in some cases, providing **it is in line with advice on RefHelp.**”

Following these amendments, the minutes were approved.

3. **Matters Arising/Actions from last meeting**

3.1 – Letter with joint signatories has been issued to practices for sign-up to Data Protection Officer and Dataloch services. **DONE**

3.2 – Non-anonymised data from the Halfway Point Questionnaire has been fed back to the HSCPs. **DONE**

3.3 – Consultant to consultant referral was raised at Medical Directors mtg and will now be taken forward through the Lothian Interface Group and embedded where appropriate. This was also discussed at a recent Area Medical Committee where the consultant representative was supportive of this approach. It was noted that Dr Nik Hirani will also include this as part of the Modern Outpatients work. **DONE**

3.4 – AS is picking up the work to look at Orthopaedics opt-in results at 3 and 6 month intervals. **ONGOING**

3.5 – As a result of other priorities, it was recognised that TG has not had the capacity to progress with resolving the ongoing issues with bloods requests at RHSC since the last meeting. However Committee agreed that this remained a significant problem area that required an urgent solution. NW & DS agreed to discuss with TG on how best to take this forward. **ONGOING**

AP – NW/DS/TG to agree the best way forward in order to get a suitable resolution to the current wait times/process for urgent blood requests at RHSC.

3.6 – Committee agreed that in the current climate, “Communication of Death in Primary Care with Secondary Care” was important but non-urgent and therefore should be carried forward to a future meeting. **ONGOING**

AP – LMC office to carry forward “Communication of Death in Primary Care with Secondary Care” to July meeting.

4. **Chair’s Business**

4.1 – **Diabetes MCN update**

Chair brought the recent update from Dr David Joliffe to the attention of committee, which followed up on the earlier Diabetes MCN presentation to GP Sub Committee in January by Dr Joliffe & Professor Mark Strachan. The

importance of considering the GP impact factor in any further developments was highlighted.

4.2 – Home First Edinburgh Stakeholder Engagement Event

Chair highlighted the paper issued in advance which summarised key themes from a recent Home First Stakeholder Engagement event in Edinburgh, and it was noted that similar events are planned for other areas across Lothian.

4.3 – Removal of Pharmaceutical Company Sponsorship

Chair reminded committee that the meeting costs and catering arrangements for GP Sub Committee meetings are now fully funded by GP Sub Committee rather than sponsorship from pharmaceutical companies.

5. GMS Oversight Group update

Chair highlighted the draft minutes from the latest GMS Contract Oversight Group meeting (25th February 2020), issued in advance.

DS made committee aware of 2 key activities that were happening soon;

- Trialling of GP order comms within secondary care, with PSA testing in Neurology likely to be the first area for testing within next few months. It was noted that this is a positive move forward with opportunities for whole system gain.
- E-Health Programme priorities within Primary Care are to be reviewed/refreshed at the next IT Group meeting.

A query was raised with regards to the current position with practice loans as not all practices had received the details of their loan. DS agreed to feed back.

AP – DS to feedback to appropriate area that not all practices have received the details of their loan.

6. Coronavirus update

Dr Sandeep Ramalingam, Consultant Virologist, provided a short summary to Committee on the published evidence of the anti-viral effect of Hypertonic Saline Nasal Irrigation and Gargling (HSNIG) in upper respiratory tract infections (URTIs). Copies of the published papers were issued in advance.

The overall view from Committee was positive with the majority agreeing that the findings were useful and could be shared, however more formal intervention would be required before they could formally recommend this approach.

It was agreed that this evidence should be taken to other forums for feedback.

Committee discussed current protocol and guidance with regards to the current position with Coronavirus and it was agreed that we take a consistent approach and advise practices to follow the national guidance;

- NHS inform (www.nhsinform.scot) which provides the most up to date information for patients and doctors, and
- Health Protection Scotland (www.hps.scot.nhs.uk), a secondary website for doctors.

It was noted that a number of key meetings and discussions with Lothian Health Board are scheduled in the following days that will look at support for practices, including T&Cs, in order to protect GPs and practices should the situation change.

It was also noted that Scottish Government are currently focussing on 3 main areas – i) pathways, ii) infection control and iii) central online guidance.

Practices were asked to ensure their Business Continuity Plans were up to date, and it was agreed that IT should be approached to increase the capacity for remote access working for those who may need to self isolate but are otherwise well.

AP – DS to contact Barbara Forrest to raise the need for increased capacity for remote access working.

7. Medical Directors' (previously Medical Secretary) Business

7.1 – Nominations and elections update

Committee were informed that Dr Kerri Greene and Dr Neil MacRitchie were both successful in the recent election for 2 vacant West Lothian representatives seats previously held by Dr Sarah Little and Dr Steven Haigh.

Chair warmly welcomed Kerri and Neil to the committee.

8. Items for Information

Chair brought the following items to the attention of the Committee;

8.1 – **Scottish School of Primary Care Annual Conference** *, 7th May 2020

“Growing and sustaining primary care in Scotland”, with a focus on education.
Tickets are available via this link - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/91762874227>

8.2 – **Translation Services;**

Short demos are available to GPs and practices to reinforce the ease of use of this service. If interested, contact Delphine.Jaouen@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

A short survey is also being issued via PMs and can be access via this link;
<https://nhslothiansurveys.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/its-staff>

9. **AOCB**

9.1 – Chair informed Committee that this was Dr James Cowan’s last GP Sub Committee meeting in advance of his retirement later this month. Since joining the Committee in 1998, Dr Cowan has provided excellent professional advice and medical expertise. Chair warmly thanked Dr Cowan on behalf of Committee.

The meeting closed.

Date of next meeting – Monday 20th April March 2020