

Winter 2016

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GDPC Meeting

General Dental Practice Committee will meet this Friday (29 January) to discuss a packed agenda and a report of that meeting will be circulated to you by your GDPC representative shortly.

The agenda includes a presentation from the Chief Dental Officer. Other agenda items include a report on Local Dental Networks, updates on contract reform, the commissioning guides, changes to FP17s and a consideration of the implications of the delegation of health and social care responsibilities to Greater Manchester (known locally as Devo Manc).

LDC Conference 2016

Details of the agenda and booking arrangements for Conference will shortly be posted on the LDC Conference website <http://ldcuk.org/>.

As you know this year's conference will take place in Manchester and will span two days with arrival on Thursday 9 June at 12 noon and departure on Friday 10 June after lunch at 1.30pm. It will take place at the Manchester Hilton Deansgate.

The submission deadline for motions, nominations and booking is Friday 15 April 2016.

Unsung Hero Awards

The Conference Dinner will again host the 'Unsung Hero' awards and LDCs are encouraged to propose anyone who has worked within the LDC but has never been given the formal recognition they deserve.

The closing date for nominations is Monday 29 February and the nomination form is being circulated with this issue of Connections.

Statutory and voluntary levies

Feedback from LDCs and from dentists themselves (young dentists particularly) suggests that there is some confusion about the way that levies are deducted. Victoria Michell, Practice Management Consultant at the BDA has written an article for the February edition of *BDJ in Practice* outlining the importance of the LDC role and the way that LDCs are funded. *BDJ in Practice* will be available in early February. The BDA will be producing a promotional leaflet for LDCs to help you promote what you do to constituents.

CRUK/BDA/RCGP Oral cancer recognition toolkit

The BDA has developed an oral cancer toolkit in partnership with Cancer Research UK, to help dental health professionals identify and refer possible cases of oral cancer. The toolkit includes information on the signs to look out for, how to respond, as well as possible risk factors. There is a detailed image library, a referral guide, case studies, examination videos and a CPD quiz. Three hours of verifiable CPD is available to members via the BDA's [CPD Hub](#).

See <https://www.bda.org/mouth-cancer>

BDA calls for smoking cessation funding to be ring-fenced

The BDA has also called for ring-fenced funding for smoking cessation, following the news that around 40 per cent of local councils have dropped their free stop-smoking services. Incidences of mouth cancers are soaring – the tenth most common cancer in UK men and fifteenth most common in women. A survey of tobacco control leads by Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) also reveals that existing smoking-cessation services are now in doubt as local councils brace themselves for annual cuts to their public health budget of 3.9 per cent over the next five years. The ASH survey, published this week, also highlighted that these cuts are in addition to the £200 million announced in last year's Budget.

Future of regulation

CQC/GDC/NHS England/NHSBA have produced a "future of dental regulation" report. They will be working through the recommendations throughout 2016 and moving quickly to make changes. The full report can be accessed at:

http://www.cqc.org.uk/sites/default/files/20151207_future_dental_service_regulation.pdf

GDC Corporate Strategy 2016-2019

The GDC has now published its own three year strategy: '*Patients, Professionals, Partners and Performance*'. This gives details on how *the GDC*: '*will improve its own performance and efficiency by supporting dentists and dental care professionals to provide the best possible care to patients*'. It can be found on the GDC website <http://www.gdc-uk.org/Aboutus/policy/Documents>

The next meeting of the Council will take place on Wednesday 27 January 2016. Key items to be considered include:

- findings and action plan following the publication of the Professional Standards Authority report by the (PSA) in December
- discussion of the Section 60 order and the planned change in fitness to practice; and
- discussion of the new communications and engagement strategy.

The agenda and papers are available on the GDC's website <http://www.gdc-uk.org/Aboutus/Thecouncil/Pages/Council-meetings-2016.aspx>

CQC Update

Inspections

CQC has undertaken roughly 600 inspection this financial year. Whilst the percentage of 100% passes for dentistry appear to be dropping slightly (probably due to 50% of inspections aimed at practices "of interest") it is still high compared to other sectors.

Fees

The fees consultation has just finished. It has been agreed that fees should go down in 2017/18 and stay down till at least 2019/20.

Strategy

The CQC is consulting on its plans for the next five years. Please see its consultation document '*CQC's strategy 2016 to 2021 – Shaping the future*'.

Further information can be found here: <http://www.cqc.org.uk/content/2016-2021-strategy-consultation>

GP federation registration webinar

LDCs may also find the GP federation registration webinar of interest given the new models of care and the developments in Greater Manchester that will be closely followed by the rest of the UK. LDCs could well form GDP Federations in the future.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m43EuIWpCJ8>

Information Governance Toolkit Update

The IGT deadline is again fast approaching and all NHS dental practices in England will need to be or maintain their level 2 compliance. For those who achieved level 2 compliance this will require those practices to review, update and most importantly republish their submissions.

Practices that fail to do this will find their compliance level has reverted to level 1.

Practices that did not reach level 2 compliance last year will need to be working to reach level 2 by the end of March 2016. These practices will need to complete the Toolkit as well as publish the Toolkit.

Once level 2 compliance is reached, all practices should be working towards level 3 compliance which is an auditing process involving a review of their practice procedures.

NHS England stakeholder engagement survey - Directory of Services

The current Directory of Services, which is used by all NHS 111 providers and many ambulance trusts, holds details of the Urgent and Emergency health services across the country to support the onward signposting and referral of patients to the right service at the right time.

South East CSU is supporting NHS England by seeking information about the potential benefits of an improved repository of information with quick access to accurate information in terms of patient experience, quality of consultation and time reduction.

Practitioner opinions are being sought: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/759P5CS>

British Dental Conference & Exhibition

BDA Conference runs from Thursday 26-Saturday 28 May in Manchester. Information about confirmed speakers can now be found on the BDA Conference homepage: <https://www.bda.org/Conference>

Conference early bird rates are available until 7 March and BDA Expert and Extra members are reminded to register for their free Passes.

For anyone who has not been before here is a short [video](#) which gives a flavour of what to expect. We would welcome any feedback on it.

BDA Careers Day

This event takes place Friday 12 February at Senate House, London. This year the event will focus on opportunities for all dentists whether newly-qualified or looking to change career direction. It is open to members and non-members.

Sessions include an update on dental contract reform by Henrik Overgaard-Nielsen, Becoming a FD trainer, and sessions on specialties including special care dentistry, oral and maxillofacial surgery, orthodontics and periodontics. Full details are available here: <https://www.bda.org/careersday>

Industrial Action

BDA junior hospital dentists were balloted and participated in the industrial action on Tuesday 12 January, against the government's proposed contract for trainees working in hospital settings in England. Following this action talks resumed at ACAS with action planned for 26 January being postponed. Further action on 10 February has not been ruled out as yet. Further information can be found on www.bda.org/traineecontract

Regional Liaison Group

The regional liaison group next meets on Friday 19 February and LDCs are encouraged to submit agenda items to their regional representatives (see below) or direct to the Secretary at LDCSupport@bda.org.

The [regional representatives](#) on the group are: Az Hyder (North East), Stuart Allan (North West), Alyn Morgan (Yorkshire and Humber), Sue Barber (East Midlands), Eddie Crouch (West Midlands), Michael Clarke (London), Barry Westwood (South East Coast), Andrew Taylor (South West), Keith Percival (Wessex) and Brett Sinson (South Central). Contact information can be found here: <https://www.bda.org/dentists/representation/gdps/ldcs/ldc-contacts>