

Autumn 2015

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GDC Corporate Strategy 2016-2019 consultation

LDC representatives put their questions and comments on the GDC's new Corporate Strategy to the GDC's Chief Executive Officer, Evlynn Gilvarry, at a stakeholder event specifically for LDCs held on 5th October. The slides from that meeting along with brief notes of the discussion **are circulated with this issue of Connections**.

In its [response to the consultation the BDA](#) expressed grave concerns that the regulator was attempting to extend its remit well beyond the duties given to it by Parliament. The BDA called on the GDC to focus exclusively on working within the powers required by statute, improving its performance in relation to the Professional Standards Authority's Standards of Good Regulation and the principles of right-touch regulation; to keep its costs down and only charge a fee necessary to carry out its statutory functions; and to listen to the feedback it currently receives. Principal Executive Committee (PEC) Chair, Mick Armstrong, condemned the GDC's inexorable mission creep and attempts to extend its remit at the expense of registrants.

GDPG Meeting

General Dental Practice Committee met on 2nd October to discuss a packed agenda and a report of that meeting will be circulated to you by your GDPG representative. Contract reform was a key agenda item - with senior officials from the Department of Health presenting speaking and taking questions from the Committee on the remuneration mechanisms that will be used in the contract prototypes. Other agenda items included 28-day re-attendance, DDRB and efficiencies for 2016/17, and FDs' clinical confidence.

NHS commissioning guides

NHS England has [published the specialist commissioning guides](#) on [Orthodontics](#), [Special Care Dentistry](#), [Oral Surgery/Oral Medicine](#) and the Restorative Guide is expected in March 2016.

Implementation is now underway and LDC representatives have been invited to observe an NHS England implementation day for commissioners, Dental Local Professional Chairs and Consultants in Dental Public Health on Monday 19th October. The Chair and members of the LDC liaison committee will attend and notes of the meeting will be shared with all LDCs as soon as possible after the event.

Use of the statutory levy

The use of the statutory levy was considered at GDPG. It was generally agreed that GDPG members could be reimbursed loss of earnings from the statutory levy given that they were an important channel of communication between the centre and the LDCs. Otherwise the NHS Act specified that levies could be spent on "administration" including reimbursement of members' travel expenses

LRC levies working group and primary care support services changes

From 1 September 2015, Capita became responsible for the delivery of NHS England's primary care support services. NHS England's stated vision for this contract is: *'to create modern, easy to use administrative and business support services, which are consistent across England and which minimise the administrative burden on primary care'*. The new name for the service is: Primary Care Support England (PCSE).

NHS England has formed a Stakeholder Forum: 'to represent the views of the professional groups impacted by the changes and to provide an environment to review new service developments'. Brett Sinson represents the BDA on this working group.

PCSE and Stakeholder Forum members have set up a working group to look at ways to simplify and improve the collection of LRC levies for new and existing practices. Brett Sinson and Eddie Crouch are both on this working group. Updates will be provided in the [PCSE Bulletins](#) and through the LDC liaison group.

Christmas cover

GDPC has worked with NHS England to develop a consistent and national policy on what is reasonable regarding dental practices' holiday and Christmas cover, to ensure a common sense approach is taken that works for both practitioners and patients. GDPC has been arguing for a pragmatic approach, allowing dental practices to 'buddy' with another NHS contracted surgery.

All practices should have received letters from their local NHS England offices setting out the minimum level of service practices are required to provide Christmas and New Year 2015/16, and asking practices to fill out details of their proposed buddying arrangements, so communications to patients from all parties can be clear.

Practices also need to ensure that answerphones are set to reflect the new arrangement and that notification of changes is clearly displayed on the door of the practice at least four weeks prior to Christmas so that patients with active courses of treatment are aware.

Further information will shortly be available on the BDA website.

BSA electronic claims – action needed by practices

Global changes to website security certificates due to be implemented on 1st January 2016, mean that practices will need to be sure they have installed the latest updates to their practice software by 1st December 2015, in order to be able to submit electronic claims to NHS Dental Services. This is because NHS Dental Services will be upgrading its website certificates in early December, in preparation for the global change. Failure to update software will potentially result in practices being unable to access the NHS Dental Services portal, as well as being unable to submit electronic claims.

Further information about the issue including links to FAQs on the NHS BSA website can be found on the [BDA website](#).

ICO report on data security in dentistry

Following its review of dental practices, the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) has published its report on the information risks and challenges faced by the dental profession. The review revealed: confusion around the need to register with the ICO; a lack of written contracts with IT contractors and internet service providers, and an absence of retention policies and confusion about retention periods. BDA members can obtain further information from the [BDA website](#).

Business Rates

After challenging NHS Area Teams' refusal to reimburse business (non-domestic) rates to practices who paid in instalments, the BDA has now received confirmation from NHS England that it agrees with the Association's interpretation of the legislation and many of these practices are, in fact, entitled to reimbursement.

More details are available on the [BDA website](#).

Local Representative Committees' Workshop

Members of the BDA's GDPC-LDC Liaison Committee attended a workshop for LMCs, LDCs, LPCs and LOCs and NHS England to talk how the future for LRCs and current challenges and opportunities. Dave Cottam (GDPC Vice-Chair) gave a presentation on how his LDC operated and his message of the need for better communication by NHS England was reflected by the other primary care LRCs. David Geddes, Head of Primary Care at NHS England emphasised that LRCs had a very important role to play in supporting practitioners in difficulty. A further workshop will be held in six months' time. Notes of the meeting will be circulated shortly.

LDC-GDPC Regional Liaison Group

The regional liaison group next meets on Friday 31st October 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 and Brett Sinson (South Central).

Pending the development of the new national LDC website LDCs will, as an interim measure, be able to access mailing lists for all LDCs via Outlook.

LDC Conference and Unsung Hero Awards

The 2016 conference will be held over two days on the afternoon of Thursday 9th June and the morning of Friday 10th June with the conference dinner taking place on Thursday evening as is traditional. It will be held at the Hilton Deansgate, Manchester which will accommodate the entire conference as it did in 2014.

The conference dinner will include the presentation of the Unsung Hero Awards. These provide a rare opportunity to publicly recognise the efforts of LDC colleagues who work tirelessly with no recognition and LDCs are encouraged to think about suitable candidates.

The closing date for nominations is February 28th 2016 and all the details are on [the LDC Conference website](#) <http://www.ldcuk.org/awards>

LDC Officials' day

Booking for BDA Officials' day on Friday 4th December is now open. The programme for the day seeks to update delegates on wider oral health issues before looking in more detail at some of the developments which impact on LDCs' work (eg hearing about Performer List Developments from Capita) as well as receiving briefings on important recent legal cases from the BDA's Advice Team. Sara Hurley, Chief Dental Officer, NHS England will attend the whole day and will be reflecting on her first six months in post in her keynote address.

www.bda.org/officialsday

LDCs are reminded that [booking forms](#) need to be returned to the BDA by Friday 13th November at the latest.

Dental Unscheduled Care Meeting

LDCs have been invited to attend an event on the 18th of November 2015 in London, (venue to be confirmed). The event will provide an opportunity to discuss and share challenges and successes regarding unscheduled dental care services across England - bringing together clinicians, providers and commissioners from across the health system.

The formal invitation is being circulated with this issue of Connections.

To book please use this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/unscheduled-dental-care-stakeholders-event-registration-19081105099>