**LDC LANARKSHIRE CHAIR REPORT 2020/2021**

Like many professions Covid-19 has had an enormous impact on Dentistry, resulting in severe disruption in the delivery of oral care, with lockdowns, quarantines and the many restrictions imposed on us. The pandemic has been life-changing, not only from a clinical perspective but also to our businesses, our staff and indeed all aspects of our livelihood.

The LDC committee is made up of ordinary GDPs who meet 5/6 times a year. The LDC meetings follow on from the GP Sub Committee meeting. However, during this unprecedented time, LDC Lanarkshire has met on numerous occasions (too many to count) to discuss the everchanging regulations and numerous issues which affect the everyday working lives of Lanarkshire GDPs during the pandemic. As we were unable to meet face to face our meetings were held virtually. During the pandemic we have seen many dentists become more interested in the politics behind Dentistry and we have never had as much interest to join our LDC. I am glad to say we now have a full committee of 15 members for the first time in many years.

I would like to welcome our new members, John Hyland, Hazel Hannigan, Esha Vohra, Rachel Byrne and Paul MacDonald.

The following are a list of topics which instigated the greatest amount of debate and discussion over this past year amongst the Committee:

* Pandemic and closure of dental practices March 2020
* Provision of Urgent Care Centres
* Communication between Dentists, CDO and SG
* Return to Routine Dental Care, SOP’s and SDCEP Guidelines
* FFP3’s and enhanced PPE
* Protective Screens
* Ventilation
* Finance
* Website and Facebook
* Increasing number of mandate holders
* CPD events (Webinars)
* Update Constitution
* Vocational Trainees and New Associates
* Recording of Activity
* Vaccinations

Lanarkshire LDC have delegates that attend the Annual Conference of LDC. Motions are debated and voted on by the delegates attending conference from other Health Boards. The motions passed at conference are discussed at SDPC (Scottish Dental Practice Committee). Motions this year being taken to conference include:

1. Improving communication between Dentists, CDO and SG
2. Consultation on new SDR/New Remuneration Model
3. Extension of PPE supplies
4. Further funding for newly qualified Vocational Trainees for CPDa
5. Clearer guidance for dental staff working whilst pregnant, particularly in relation to AGP’s.

The LDC is funded by mandates signed by Lanarkshire GDP’S and from CPD events we organise. The mandate is taken from monthly schedules (£2 per thousand of gross income). This helps fund important work done on behalf of GDPs. This past year has seen a huge increase from 10% to 35% in mandate holders. I would like to thank our Vice Chair, Christina Ferry, for her exceptional hard work and many unseen hours she has committed, increasing the awareness and role in which mandates play in the success of our LDC. She has also worked tirelessly helping set up our website which has helped the LDC communicate with our dental colleagues and advertise CPD events via Webinars. In November 2020 we held our first webinar ‘Ask the Experts’ and in January this year an Oral Surgery ‘Treat or Refer’ webinar, both of which were a great success! I would also like to thank John Hyland for all his IT assistance with both the website and Facebook page. Please visit our Website and Facebook page for updates on upcoming CPD events and news.

My first year as Chair has certainly been challenging! However, I am incredibly grateful to Christina, Margaret our Clerk and all the committee members for all their support and guidance throughout the year. Although this has been a testing time for us all, it has seen dental colleagues come together, across Lanarkshire, form friendships, provide moral support and be a source of information and strength to each other. We hope this continues in the years to come!

I would like to thank my predecessor as Chair, Jennifer Wink, for her many of years of service on the LDC and wish her well in the future. One of our longest serving members of LDC Lanarkshire, Mike Arthur retired this year after serving 43 years on the committee. He was greatly admired by us all for his reasoned debate and cautious approach and we wish him well in his retirement.

I would like to pay tribute to Graham McKirdy, a friend and colleague of many on the committee, who very sadly passed away early last year. Graham was one of our most respected Committee members and a well-known and highly regarded member of the Dental Profession.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to say a sincere thank you to our clerk, Mrs Margaret Fulton LL.B, known to most of us as Maggie. After 27 years of loyal service, she is retiring. She has been a fundamental part of our committee and a great servant to Dentistry in Lanarkshire. Her knowledge and advice on legal matters over the years has been invaluable. She is an honest, reliable, conscientious individual who has always shown huge support to the committee, we will all certainly miss her guiding hand. It is not until you become Chair that you realise the enormous work that goes on behind the scenes and the important role that Maggie plays in our Committee, we appreciate the extensive work undertaken on our behalf and are forever grateful to her. I would like to wish her on behalf of all members, a long and healthy retirement.

Caroline Pryce (Chair)