

CHAIR REPORT GP-SUB COMMITTEE 2021/2022

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has continued to disrupt the delivery of oral care over the past year. We have become accustomed to wearing enhanced PPE, adhering to fallow times and dealing with the stress of staffing issues due to sickness and isolation. Therefore, it has been more important than ever for General Dental Practitioners to work alongside each other and our colleagues at Lanarkshire Health Board, to ensure adequate dental care was available to our patients.

Many meetings were held throughout this past year and the following is a list of the most discussed topics on the committee's agenda.

- FFP3 MASKS & FITTING
- COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME
- VENTILATION
- ISOLATION GUIDELINES & TESTING
- SDR
- ACTIVITY LEVELS
- GA WAITING TIMES
- PECOS
- FUNDING VENTILATION/RED BANDED HANDPIECES
- WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY, STANDARD & GUIDELINES

The GP-Sub Committee is made up of GDP's, The Director of Dentistry, The Clinical Director of General Dental Services, and a representative from Lanarkshire Health Board. Topics are discussed openly, and the views of the committee are fed back to the board via the Area Dental Advisory Committee.

This is an important committee for all GDP's as it tends to be the interface between practitioners and their Health Board and is the vehicle through which information is filtered down to the profession and where ideas and recommendations are made from the profession to the Board.

The GP-Sub Committee has the same GDP membership as the LDC and meets on the same evening, one following on from the other. Practitioners on this committee are remunerated for their time and serve for a 3-year term after which they are eligible to remain if they so wish. As we were unable to meet face to face our meetings have continued to be held virtually on 5 occasions over the past year.

I wish to thank all committee members for their efforts this past year and for the work they do on behalf of all dentists in NHS Lanarkshire. My sincere thanks also to Shelley Percival, Clinical Director of General Dental Services, Mrs Gillian Forsyth (Primary care improvement & Development Manager) and Mrs Anne Moore (Director of Dentistry) for their time and input into this committee this past year.

I would also like to highlight two retirements during the past year.

Firstly, the Committee would like to give our gratitude and thanks for the significant role that Anne Moore played, not only within the Committee, but also her wider role in dentistry in Lanarkshire. She has been a guiding force in the Public Dental Service for a long number of years and was instrumental during the pandemic, providing support to all dentists. She helped set up dental hubs and organised PDS to work alongside GDP's to ensure emergency dental care was available to all our patients in the earlier days.

Secondly, I wish to record the Committee's thanks to Gordon Stewart, a long serving and committed member of this committee for the past 26 years. He was Vice-Chairman from 2011-2014 and then served as Chair from 2014-2017. Gordon has always been a great listener and an invaluable contributor to debates, always capable of providing reasoned argument and gifted at finding a practical solution to the difficult and complicated issues facing members, we will certainly miss your wise words. Wishing you a long and happy retirement Gordon!

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to say a sincere thank you to our clerk, Andrew Miller who has settled into the Secretariat post with ease and we thank you for your time, advice and especially your IT skills over the past 12 months!

Caroline Pryce

Chair GP-Sub Committee