

LDC LANARKSHIRE CHAIR REPORT 2021/2022

Dentistry like many professions has been severely affected by the Pandemic. Introduction of further lockdowns, testing, isolation, enhanced PPE and fallow times made the delivery of dental care extremely difficult. 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.

However, during this unprecedented time, LDC Lanarkshire has met on numerous occasions to discuss the everchanging regulations and numerous issues which affect the everyday working lives of Lanarkshire GDPs. Current problems many dentists faced were highlighted to the committee and taken forward via our representatives on the SDPC (Scottish Dental Practice Committee) to the CDO.

COMMITTEE

The LDC committee is made up of 15 ordinary GDPs who meet 5/6 times a year. The LDC meetings follow on from the GP Sub Committee meeting and continued to be held virtually as we were unable to meet face to face again this year. 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 and we were delighted to see continued increase in mandate holders over the past 12 months.

TOPICS DISCUSSED

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

- VACCINATION PROGRAMME
- VENTILATION
- FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR NHS DENTISTRY
- ACTIVITY LEVELS
- VT ACTIVITY
- ASSOCIATES & DENTAL NURSES RECRUITMENT CONCERNS
- STAFF SELF-ISOLATION & RETURN TO WORK GUIDANCE
- REVISED SDR
- PPE
- FREE DENTAL TREATMENT 18-26 YEAR OLDS
- FUNDING VENTILATION & RED BANDED HANDPIECES
- ABUSIVE PATIENT BEHAVIOUR & STAFF MORALE/MENTAL HEALTH
- CDP EVENTS
- STUDY GROUP
- RETIREMENT DOD & PDS CLINICAL DIRECTOR

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF LDC'S

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. Motions this year being proposed for conference include:

1. SG to address lengthy waiting times for paediatric and special needs patients for GA
2. SG to revise inadequate fees for items requiring lab work to allow viable treatment & ensure survival of local dental labs
3. SG to commission independent review of NHS dental fees to reflect time taken for treatment, paperwork, costs of materials and general practice expenses
4. SG to address an increase in Prior Approval fees in line with increased Item of Service fees
5. SG to address student intake to ensure increase in recruitment and retention crisis currently affecting all roles in NHS dentistry
6. SG asked to raise current level of VT trainer allowance to reflect increased workload to provide adequate mentoring of recent graduates who have limited clinical experience as a result of pandemic
7. SG to work with all four nations to implement standard research based infection control measures & provide consistent and practical guidelines

ACHIEVEMENTS

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Vice Chair Christina Ferry on her recent appointment of Chair Elect of Conference Agenda Committee and gaining a seat on Scottish Dental Practice Executive Committee. Also, congratulations to Committee Member, John Hyland who has been elected Lanarkshire seat on SDPC & NES Scottish dental VT committee. Both also been elected for PSD prior approval group.

CDP EVENTS

Webinars

Over the year we have held three very successful webinars, all of which involved an update on the current situation and referral protocol within Lanarkshire of each service.

- Oral Surgery – Treat or Refer
- Managing the Anxious Child Patient
- Orthodontics in General Practice with Lanarkshire ortho update

Study Group

Early last year Tom Walker, newly appointed Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon to Lanarkshire, contacted LDC Lanarkshire to ask if we would facilitate study groups on Oral Surgery topics for the local GDP's. We were delighted to assist and have since held;

- Signs & symptoms of Head & Neck Cancer
- Dental Alveolar & Soft Tissue Referral in a post Pandemic Era
- TMJ Conditions and Management
- Skin Lesions of Head and Neck

Our next Webinar is on 10th March @ 7pm NHS Pension Update and our next study group is on Dental Cysts (date to be confirmed). Please visit our Website and Facebook page for updates on upcoming CPD events and news.

RETIREMENT

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

My first year as Chair was certainly challenging and my second no different! However, I am incredibly grateful to our Vice Chair, Christina, Andrew 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!

Caroline Pryce - Chair LDC Lanarkshire