

CHAIR REPORT GP-SUB COMMITTEE 2022/2023

Over the past year we have been adapting to the transition from pandemic to post-pandemic dentistry. We have worked tirelessly together with our dental teams to provide quality NHS dental care to our patients. Unfortunately, due to limited access to dental services over the past few years, many of us now have long NHS waiting lists and extensive treatment plans. Unfortunately, like many other sectors within the NHS, this has seen an increase in complaints and aggressive behaviour from patients who feel frustrated at the prospect of being unable to see their dentist as frequently as before. Many of our colleagues have encountered staffing shortages, leading to further stress and anxiety.

Therefore, it is more important than ever for General Dental Practitioners to work alongside each other and for this committee to highlight to our colleagues at Lanarkshire Health Board, current issues facing GDPs in Lanarkshire, to ensure health and wellbeing of dental teams is at the forefront whilst providing quality NHS dental care to our patients.

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

- WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY, STANDARD & GUIDELINES
- QUARTERLY COMPLAINTS UPDATE
- PECOS
- VENTILATION
- PDS – GA WAITING LISTS/CHILDSMILE/SEDATION/DOMICILLARY CARE
- ACTIVITY LEVELS
- MULTIPLIER/BRIDGING PAYMENTS
- DENTAL REFORM
- DENTIST RECRUITMENT/STAFF SHORTAGES
- OUT OF HOURS
- PRACTICE INSPECTION
- VOCATIONAL TRAINING
- OVERSEAS DENTISTRY

The GP-Sub Committee is made up of GDP's, The Director of Dentistry/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, and recently appointed Director of Dentistry for Lanarkshire. Congratulations Shelley, we are delighted to have a GDP representing us at weekly CDO meetings! I would also like to thank Mrs Gillian Forsyth (Primary care improvement & Development Manager) for her time and input into this committee this past year.

I would also like to highlight the retirement of a long-standing committee member Marion Stewart. I wish to record the Committee's thanks to Marion Stewart, a long serving and committed member of this committee for many years. Thank you, Marion, for your time, advice, and contribution to the committee, we are very grateful. Wishing you a long and happy retirement!

Two committee members are also leaving, Esha Vohra and David Core. Thank you both for your time and participation during meetings over the past three years.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a sincere thank you to our clerk, Andrew Miller who is leaving next month. We appreciate all your hard work, advice and especially your IT skills over the past few years! We are extremely grateful.

Finally, on behalf of the committee I would like to thank our Vice Chair Christina Ferry for her immense support over my past three years as Chair. Her wisdom and knowledge of Dentistry and her enthusiasm has been a lifeline to me during these difficult years as Chair during a global pandemic. Good luck in your new role as Chairperson Christina!

Caroline Pryce

Chair GP-Sub Committee