



# LDC newsletter

Welcome to the sixth issue of a new newsletter for LDC Secretaries.

This edition focuses on LDC Officials' Day, which was held in London on 7 December.

The BDA welcomes your feedback on developments locally and on items you would like to see this newsletter cover.

## CURRENT ISSUES

### LDC Officials' Day 2007

Issues with the contract – past, present and future – dominated the recent local dental committees (LDC) officials' day.

BDA Executive Board chair Susie Sanderson looked to the future and the onset of full local commissioning in April 2009, focusing on the challenges and opportunities to be faced. She suggested that, although April 2009 would not see a dramatic shift in methods of healthcare delivery, LDCs and primary care trusts (PCTs) would have to begin working together immediately to get flexible, locally tailored initiatives into 2008/9 local delivery plans.

Consultant in dental public health in Birmingham Ros Hamburger told delegates about plans in Birmingham for a practice-accreditation system that would encourage a quality agenda in addition to UDAs and provide financial incentives for practices to offer better services. Delegates welcomed such a positive approach.

Delegates also heard from two LDC chairs about their experiences, both positive and negative, of dealing with PCTs. Chair of the General Dental Practice Committee Lester Ellman outlined the impact of the new contract in its first year and concerns over the number of practices that had missed their Units of Dental Activity (UDA) targets. Delegates reported their concerns over apparent inconsistency and unfairness in implementing clawback measures.

Away from contract concerns, associate director of dentistry at the National Clinical Assessment Service Janine Brooks spoke about the agenda facing her organisation including some of the challenges facing young dentists beginning their professional lives. And General Dental Council chief executive and registrar Duncan Rudkin discussed the implications of the registration of dental care professionals and how he hoped this would contribute to maintaining professional standards and patient safety.

*Please forward this Newsletter to local GDPs*

Over 120 dentists attended this forum for debate and discussion led by LDC conference chair Eddie Crouch. The next meeting of LDC officials will be at the LDC conference, scheduled for Friday 13 June 2008 at Kensington Town Hall, London.

Copies of presentations are attached to this e mail.

Further information: Gareth Tracey, [g.tracey@bda.org](mailto:g.tracey@bda.org)

## Christmas Opening – a reminder

*The General Dental Practice Committee next meets on 1 February 2008.*

*To find out more about what GDPC is working on, contact either you local rep or the secretary, Gareth Tracey, on [g.tracey@bda.org](mailto:g.tracey@bda.org)*

Some NHS practices have traditionally not been open between Christmas and New Year. The new contracting arrangements mean that this is not possible unless the PCT/LHB agrees as this would be defined as a change in normal opening hours. The days the PCT/LHB is not covering through an Out of Hours service are normal working days and dentists are contracted to provide a service during their normal surgery hours (as specified in their individual contract), unless they come to a separate agreement with the PCT. Most PCT/LHB Out of Hours services will cover Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. LDCs might wish to raise the issue with their PCT/LHB to agree a reasonable policy when contractors' request a temporary change in their opening hours.

## PCT Newsletter

Finally, the BDA will be sending out a PCT Newsletter in January 2008. If there are any issues you would like us to raise in this issue, please contact Penny Stayte.

[P.Stayte@bda.org](mailto:P.Stayte@bda.org) or 020 7563 4154

## Local Commissioning- preparations

As you discussed at LDC Officials' Day, it will be helpful to share examples of pitfalls and of best practice happening in your area. Any information we receive will help us get a fuller picture of the situation across the country. **Please e mail us at [ldctaskforce@bda.org](mailto:ldctaskforce@bda.org) to let us know what progress has been made and how we can help.**