



# CONFERENCE NEWS

## Conference of Scottish Local Dental Committees

Stirling Court Hotel, University of Stirling, Friday 26 April 2019

# Conference Report

## Introduction from the Chair of Conference

It's hard to believe that two years have passed since I took over as Chair of the Conference of Scottish LDCs, however, I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience and as my tenure comes to a close I would recommend this role to any of my fellow colleagues.

**The theme for conference was 'Dentistry is Changing, but is it Progressing?'**

We had three key speakers: Monica Lennon, MSP, Scottish Labour Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport, Matthew Hill, GDC, Executive Director Strategy and Phil McEvoy, BDA Pensions Manager all of whom gave excellent presentations followed by very productive 'question and answer' sessions.

It was interesting to have the previous Cabinet Secretary (Shona Robison) address Conference last year, and to hear Monica Lennon share her informative views on Scottish dentistry this year. We were encouraged to hear Monica commit to representing dentistry within the Scottish Parliament. Her enthusiasm to hear our views of our profession was appreciated.

As always, a great deal of work is required to achieve a successful Conference and my gratitude is extended to my Conference Agenda Committee, with special mention to Nicola from the BDA team.

Once again, our thanks for their continued support to Conference goes to our sponsors: Braemar Finance, Condies, Denplan Simplyhealth Professionals, MDDUS and Wesleyan Medical Sickness. We look forward to welcoming you back next year!

Finally, I would like to pass on my appreciation to all who contributed to our greatest ever charity collection, of £800 during the charity quiz held at the pre-conference dinner. The donation will go to Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland in support of our past Chair of Conference, John Craig, who has suffered a recent illness. Our thoughts are with John as he continues his recovery. As my final duty and on behalf of our new Chair Judith Brady, we look forward to welcoming you to next year's conference on the 17 April 2020.

**David McIntyre, Chair 2019**

## Pre-Conference Dinner – Thursday 25 April 2019

A well-attended drinks reception was held before the black-tie dinner at the Stirling Court Hotel.

The Chair welcomed delegates and guests, and spoke about current issues facing the profession, highlighting the need for greater clarity from Scottish Government and constructive two-way communication during the implementation of the Oral Health Improvement Plan (OHIP) actions.

At the conclusion of the dinner, the Chair offered his congratulations and was delighted to present



Lifetime Achievement Awards to Laura Milby, Lanarkshire LDC and Derek Harper, Fife LDC.



## Conference – Friday 26 April 2019 – Morning Session

The Chair welcomed everyone to the 20th Annual Conference, and asked delegates and guests to visit the sponsors and Practitioner Services Division (PSD) representatives during the refreshment breaks.

### Monica Lennon, MSP

Monica Lennon, MSP was Conference's first speaker and began by passing on her best wishes to John Craig, Chair of Scottish Dental Fund.



Monica explained that she was the MSP for Central Scotland, the Scottish Labour's Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport, Convener of the Cross-Party Group on Women's Health, the Cross-Party Group on Construction, as well as Co-convenor of the Cross-Party Group on Drug and Alcohol Misuse. In Parliament, Monica's campaigns include proposals to make Scotland the first country in the world to provide free access to period products in a bid to ending period poverty and she has drawn on family experience to fight for better support for those affected by problem drinking. Monica also noted that before entering Parliament she was a local councillor in Hamilton and worked as a chartered town planner for over a decade.

Monica referred to the Scottish Government's OHIP, noting that she recognised that the profession was facing frustrations due to the time taken to implement the first five action points, with only one implemented so far. She also noted that the former Chief Dental Officer (CDO) had retired in

December and the post was yet to be advertised and understood that the BDA had written to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport and the Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing on the matter.

Monica referred to concerns over the comment in the OHIP that recall intervals for patients who have demonstrated they can maintain oral health and who are not considered to be at risk of oral health disease may be extended to an interval of 24 months. She also spoke of the impact this could have in relation to the early identification of oral cancers. She also referred to patients who live in deprived areas who face financial barriers when buying items such as toothbrushes and toothpaste and acknowledged that this needed to be addressed.

She stated that dentists had faced a real term drop in pay over several years and understood that dental expenses were no longer taken into account during the DDRB process. She went on to note that morale within the profession was low, that some dentists were planning to leave dentistry early, and how important it was to re-balance this issue. Monica ended by stating that she would be happy to raise concerns with other MSPs and in Parliament on the profession's behalf on a range of issues.

A lively question and answer session followed.

## Phil McEvoy, BDA Pensions Manager

Phil gave an interesting and informative presentation on NHS pensions, and began by explaining that he sits on Scheme Advisory Boards for all the UK's NHS Pension Schemes, representing the interests of dentists in the running of those arrangements.



Phil went on to explain that in Scotland there were three schemes. The 1995 scheme had been replaced by the 2008 scheme which in turn was replaced by the 2015 scheme. Older members were protected and allowed to remain in the existing schemes. He went on to explain how much in percentage terms members pay and employers pay into the schemes. He referred to the 2016 valuation which had triggered discussions on 2015 scheme improvements. The improvements to the scheme were due to have been implemented in April 2019, but had been 'paused' by HM Treasury.

Phil referred to the recent court case developments concerning firefighters' and judges' pensions noting this could work in GDPs' favour in relation to age discrimination. The Court of Appeal had ruled 'unlawful direct age discrimination' and that Government had launched an appeal to the Supreme Court to the decision. It was anticipated that those GDPs in the 1995 NHS pension scheme (implemented in 1997) would be given protection.

Phil noted the BDA's focus was to work with Scottish Public Pensions Agency (SPPA) to improve communications to members, trying to persuade the SPPA to allow members to have more flexibility for Pension Schemes and saving. This would better manage their exposure to pension tax charges, and ensure that the NHS Pension Schemes remain the best arrangements available to dentists. He advised delegates they could contact SPPA directly to seek an up-to-date pension statement, if they had not received one.

Another lively question and answer session took place and covered issues such as age discrimination, and opting in and out of the NHS pension schemes.

## Gordon Morson, Chair Scottish Association of LDCs

Gordon spoke about the decreasing membership of the Association and proposed that the SALDC be dissolved due to a lack of direction and support from the wider dento-political community in Scotland.

The proposal was seconded by Giles Sandford, Tayside LDC and passed unanimously by delegates.

Gordon then put forward a motion: 'The SALDC asks Conference to approve that the funds previously allocated to the SALDC when it was re-instated in April 2014, be returned to the SDF.' The motion was seconded by Giles Sandford, Tayside LDC and passed unanimously by delegates.

Gordon then suggested that 'The SALDC asks that Conference approve that the funds returned to the SDF be subsumed into the SDF general funds and not held over for future use of a SALDC as was done previously.' Roy McBurnie, Vice Chair Scottish Dental Fund (SDF) stated that SDF had not held separate funds which were identifiable for the SALDC. Gordon withdrew the motion.

## Conference Treasurer

Liz Glass noted that last year's Platinum sponsor had helped keep Conference funds in good order and that there was enough to cover an emergency Conference.

It was noted that no levies had been received from Highland and Grampian LDCs. Delegates were concerned that mandates continued to be paid by some dentists in Grampian and it was questioned who was responsible for the governance of the funds. Jim Law, Treasurer stated he had had discussions with LDC Treasurers but not individual dentists on this matter. It was agreed that the Conference Agenda Committee would investigate further and report to delegates in 2020. It was also noted that work was ongoing to resurrect Grampian LDC.

Liz suggested that the Conference levy be reduced from £9 per dentist to £8 per capita. Conference voted unanimously to accept the revised levy.

Liz reminded Conference about the valuable service provided by the Dentists' Health Support Trust, stating that last year mood disorder cases had overtaken all other conditions.

## Matthew Hill, GDC, Executive Director Strategy

Matthew, Executive Director of Strategy, GDC explained that his knowledge of regulatory policy had been gained through several senior roles across a wide range of fields. These included food safety,

alcohol and broadcasting, and that he had held Director positions in both research and intelligence. Prior to joining the GDC, Matthew was Director of regulatory risk at the Gambling Commission.



Matthew began by providing a review of his 2017 presentation on the GDC's 'Shifting the Balance: a better fairer system of dental regulation'. He stated that the implementation of 'upstream' measures were showing a significant reduction in complaint volumes, and improvements in the quality of decision making. He said there had been a major shift in emphasis in the GDC's engagement with the public and the profession and referred to a number of meetings held during 2018, including one in Scotland. He also spoke about the decision to move some operational functions, involving roughly 90 posts, to Birmingham, incurring a saving of £50m over 15 years. It is anticipated the move will be concluded by the end of this year.

Matthew referred to the GDC's six Principles:

- **Principle 1:** relating to feedback and how it is used.
- **Principle 2:** easy to find information about complaints procedures and how a complaint can be raised.
- **Principle 3:** keeping the complainant informed of progress and when to expect a response.
- **Principle 4:** answer questions clearly and on time.
- **Principle 5:** providing clear information on how the procedure was dealt with in the time specified and how the outcome was reached.
- **Principle 6:** using feedback to improve the GDC's service.

Matthew spoke about the complaint repatriation process which had successfully been rolled out in Wales in 2019, and noted that whilst work was in hand in Scotland progress had been slower.

Matthew ended by noting that an update about the Annual Retention Fee (ARF) was due in the next few

months. A consultation on the GDC's new corporate strategy would be published in May 2019 which would impact fee levels, and asked that delegates participate.

Another lively question and answer session took place.

## Elections Results 2019 – 2020 Session

[Congratulations to the following dentists who were either newly elected or re-elected to posts at Conference:](#)

**Chair Elect of Conference:** Lindsay Milton

**Auditors to Conference:** William Hutton and Graham McKirdy

**Representatives to the Conference Agenda Committee:** Christina Ferry and Elaine Winter

**Representatives to the 2018 UK LDC Conference:** None

**Representative to the Scottish Dental Practice Committee (SDPC):** Clare Murphy

**Representatives to the Board of Management of the Scottish Dental Fund:** Mike Arthur, Kieran Fallon and Graham McKirdy, new to the SDF, to replace John Craig who had resigned his seat.

### Scottish Dental Fund

[Roy McBurnie, Vice Chair began his presentation by saying how grateful he was for John Craig's wise counsel over the years in his role as SDF Chair.](#)

Roy stated that the Guild Rate had increased to £300 wef 1 April 2019. It was noted that not all NHS Boards were paying the Guild Rate, Roy encouraged delegates to contribute to the Fund.

Jim Law, Treasurer gave a presentation on the Board's finances. He proposed that there be no

change in the SDF honoraria calculation method although the sessional rate was now £300.

The Chair: 1 session of £300 per annum, Secretary: 1 session of £300 per annum and the Treasurer: £300 per month i.e. 2 sessions @ 50% sessional rate.

Delegates voted unanimously in agreement of the proposals.

It was proposed that the SDPC honoraria remain unchanged although the sessional rate was now £300.

Chair 7.5 sessions: £2250.

Vice Chair 4.25 sessions: £1275.

Delegates voted unanimously in agreement with the proposals.

It was proposed to lower the 2018 LDC levy of £2.40 since SDPC claims had reduced and the SDF fund had increased slightly. Delegates unanimously agreed to lower the LDC levy to £2.00 per capita per month wef 1 October 2019.

Roy referred to Conference papers SLDC2019/4b and 4c which provided details of proposed minor changes to the SDF constitution in order to amend some long-standing anomalies. The motion was passed by delegates unanimously.

Roy said he would act as Chair of SDF in John Craig's absence until elections in October 2019.

## Conference - Afternoon Session

The afternoon began with presentations from David McColl, Chair of the SDPC. The first presentation covered the action taken by SDPC on motions passed by Conference last year to make them SDPC policy. David referred to the SDPC Policy Document, an organic document which is amended each year following the new motions passed at Conference.



David provided a brief overview of the role of SDPC and its' members followed by some of the key issues addressed by SDPC during the last 12 months.

- The former CDO announced her plans to retire in June 2018, and retired in December 2018. The post has not been advertised, Tom Ferris is acting as Interim CDO. The BDA and SPDC continue to express concern at the delay in appointing a permanent CDO.
- Meetings with Jeane Freeman, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport were cancelled by Scottish Government twice. The BDA and Committee Chairs met with Joe FitzPatrick, Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing. This meeting was productive, but follow-up correspondence was less so. Mr FitzPatrick now has portfolio responsibility for dentistry.
- The BDA and SDPC have been engaging with Scottish Government and the Scottish Ambulance Service regarding the revisions required for the first responder status of GPs and defibrillators.

- The BDA and SDPC met with the GDC on two occasions and an additional practice visit was arranged. Continued engagement with the GDC to streamline their approach to fitness to practice with a more supportive role and improved handling of complaints. SDPC continues to seek local resolution at Board level. This was being treated as a priority by SDPC.

- The BDA and SDPC were working collaboratively with Scottish Government on dental nurse survey to assess vacancy and recruitment levels.

- The BDA and committee Chairs had held an informal introductory meeting with the Interim Directors of Dentistry. Future meetings will take place once the posts are permanently filled in the autumn.

- A number of SDPC working groups had been put on hold until more detail is provided about the OHIP. SDPC continues to liaise with Scottish Government on the OHIP action points.

- David sits on the Scottish Government Domiciliary Care Implementation Group.

- David provided oral evidence to the DDRB on 1 April 2019 in London. The DDRB no longer decide on the expenses element of pay. Scottish Government plan to conduct a further expenses exercise in late spring. Delegates were urged to participate as the data will inform future pay awards.

David concluded by thanking his committee and the BDA for their input over the last year with special thanks to Gerard Boyle, his Vice Chair, who had resigned his seat on SDPC to join PSD in June 2019.

## Motions 2018

- **AEDs**

Following the introduction of AED mapping there is now a requirement for dental practices to provide emergency care out with their premises as first responders. In light of this additional responsibility this conference proposes that GDPs and their staff will no longer be required to self-finance their annual BLS training and should be reimbursed for any such costs which are incurred

Greater Glasgow & Clyde LDC  
Passed by majority

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- **Provision of Oxygen Cylinders**

This Conference believes that individual Boards should allow general dental practitioners access to the BOC oxygen cylinder supply contract

Lothian LDC  
Passed unanimously

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- **Denpro Procurement Emergency drugs**

This conference asks the Scottish Government to take over the procurement and upkeep of emergency drugs

Ayrshire & Arran LDC  
The motion was amended by A Yelland and seconded by G Boyle  
The amended motion was passed unanimously

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- **GDPR**

This Conference believes the Scottish Government should provide access to a Health Board Data Protection Officer for all general dental practices so that they are aligned with general medical practices

Lanarkshire LDC  
Passed unanimously

- **e-Prior Approval**

With the concerns regarding the complexity and excessive information requirement of the recently introduced e-prior approval, we request all PA's to be risk assessed by PSD with only the appropriate information requested

Lanarkshire LDC  
Passed unanimously

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- **CPI Allowance**

This conference proposes a meaningful CPI allowance payable as part of any future Protected Learning Time (PLT) proposal where issues have been identified during a CPI and successfully addressed as part of a QI project

Greater Glasgow & Clyde LDC  
Passed unanimously

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- **LDC Mandates**

Due to the increasing difficulty LDCs are experiencing in attracting members' mandates and the resultant concern with financial stability, we call upon the SDPC to initiate discussion with all interested parties

Lanarkshire LDC  
Passed by majority

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- **SDR Restorative Case Referrals**

This conference seeks additional service provision for advanced restorative cases (Tier 2) under the NHS where the SDR is inadequate and secondary care can no longer cope with the volume of referrals with complex treatment needs

Greater Glasgow & Clyde LDC  
Passed by majority

- **Restorative Treatment Referrals from Primary Care to Secondary Care**

This conference demands that Lothian Health Board provides a properly funded NHS Lothian Oral Health Service so that GDP's are able to refer their patients for specialist restorative treatment where they feel that the treatment required by the patient is out with their competency

Lothian LDC  
Passed unanimously

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- **OHRA**

The conference proposes that as well as being consulted on the key components of what will make up the Oral Health Risk Assessment, it should be subjected to a meaningful pilot and evaluation of patient outcome before full implementation

Greater Glasgow & Clyde LDC  
Passed unanimously

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- **Directors of Dentistry**

This Conference demands GDP Sub-Committee representation in the appointment of Directors of Dentistry and the introduction of funding to enable GDPs to apply for these positions

Greater Glasgow & Clyde LDC  
Passed unanimously

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- **Quality Improvement (Clinical Audit)**

This Conference demands that any Quality Improvement sanctions should be national and not left to individual Health Boards

Fife LDC  
The motion was amended by D Harper and seconded by E Winter.  
The amended motion was passed by majority

- **NHS Education for Scotland – Quality Improvement (Clinical Audit)**

This conference demands that NES recognises hours based on the process of Audit and not on the outcome

Ayrshire & Arran LDC  
Passed by majority

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- **SCI Gateway**

This conference proposes that the dental SCI Gateway referral system should be reviewed and redesigned to an agreed national standard. Furthermore, dental SCI Gateway should be uniformly adopted across all Health Boards to enable two-way communication and facilitate efficient electronic patient referrals that are fit for purpose

Greater Glasgow & Clyde LDC  
Passed unanimously

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- **Minamata Convention on Amalgam**

This conference proposes the removal of a stabilisation fee for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers. This should be a fee for definitive treatment and should not be on prior approval since the MatB1 certificate confirms their status

Greater Glasgow & Clyde LDC  
Passed by majority

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- **Minamata Convention on Amalgam**

If Scottish Government is serious about implementing Minamata then they should allow definitive non-amalgam restorations to be placed not just in children but in pregnant or breastfeeding mothers

Ayrshire & Arran LDC  
Passed unanimously

- **NHS Pensions**

This conference demands that the default NHS pension age be reinstated to 60

Ayrshire & Arran LDC  
Passed by majority

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- **NHS GG&C Paediatric Extraction Suites**

This conference proposes that NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde should have a dedicated General Anaesthesia (GA) suite for paediatric dental extractions

Greater Glasgow & Clyde LDC  
Passed unanimously

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- **Dental Practice Management Systems**

This conference proposes that Scottish Government would provide general dental practitioners with access to a supported single practice management computer system. This system would be comparable to the general medical practice management system. It is posited that hardware and software updates would be included in this system. It would integrate with relevant systems such as PSD, e-prior approval, OHRA and SCI Gateway so as to avoid duplicating information and increasing GDP work load. This robust e-Dental programme should be procured, maintained, integrated and updated by Scottish Government

Greater Glasgow & Clyde LDC  
Passed majority

- **Prescribed Medicines Dental Database**

This conference believes that patient safety in all areas of healthcare could be greatly enhanced through the establishment of an accessible database of prescribed medicines and required medical protocols (such as antibiotic cover) which dental practitioners can access

Ayrshire & Arran LDC  
Passed by majority

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- **SDR Intravenous Fees**

This conference calls for an increase in the SDR fee paid for providing intravenous sedation. The current operator sedationist fee is inadequate in order to perform it safely in accordance with the current SDCEP guidelines

Greater Glasgow & Clyde LDC  
Passed by majority



## 2019 Conference Feedback

As in previous years, the staff at Stirling Court Hotel provided a great service throughout Conference.

Conference was delighted to welcome two Vocational Dental Practitioners to Conference and from their feedback they found the day informative.

Congratulations to Roy McBurnie the winner of this years 'Heads and Tails' charity quiz held during the pre-Conference dinner.

45 evaluation forms were completed and returned out of a total of 74. The majority of comments were positive indicating that Conference was a success. Respondents all agreed that conference addressed the issues affecting general dental practitioners in Scotland. Positive comments were made about the venue, facilities and Conference speakers.

Additional comments included:

- I liked the pre-dinner drinks reception, much better than meeting in the bar
- Shorter lunch break and include an afternoon 'comfort break'
- More time for speakers and Q&As so they don't run late
- Might be interesting to ask each Chair of an LDC to speak for approx. three minutes on their local issues
- Organisation of Conference was excellent.

Conference closed with the inauguration of Judith Brady as the Chair of Conference. Judith thanked David for all his hard work over the last two years as Chair.



## 2020 Conference

Conference is an expensive event, it takes a lot of preparation and its continued success depends on the attendance and participation of delegates. Please make sure you have next year's date in your diary and bring a colleague!

Next year's event will be held on Friday 17 April 2020 at the Stirling Court Hotel.