

Virtual Conference of Scottish Local Dental Committees, Friday 23 April 2021

CONFERENCE REPORT 2021

Introduction from the Chair of Conference

When I took over as Chair of Conference of Scottish Local Dental Committees in 2019, I was excited and up for the challenge. Little did I know how different things would be! When Covid-19 struck with the subsequent lockdown, we had no option but to cancel 2020's Conference which was scheduled to take place at the Stirling Court Hotel. Since then, the profession has had to adapt to a new way of working, which has been particularly challenging and difficult. This year the Conference of Scottish Local Dental Committees also had to adapt and run the event virtually. It is so important that our delegates had the opportunity to voice their opinions and to be heard.

During our preparations, we had several setbacks. The Chief Dental Officer, (CDO) Tom Ferris had agreed to speak at the event and engage with delegates in a question-and-answer session. However, four weeks before Conference we received correspondence from the Office of the Minister for Public Health and Sport stating the Minister had



declined her invitation as she was prevented from attending due to purdah and that the CDO would also be unable to attend. (Purdah is the pre-election period, where there are restrictions on the activity of ministers and civil servants). It is unusual for purdah to apply to civil servants as they are unelected, however the CDO stated that Scottish Government (SG) were applying the rules more strictly and so he would be

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unable to attend in any capacity. [He provided a statement which can be viewed here.](#)

Practitioner Services had also agreed to provide a presentation with a question-and-answer session, but also cancelled at short notice.

The event was sponsored by Dental Protection, a Platinum Sponsor. The other sponsors included Colgate, Wesleyan, Condis, MDDUS, Braemar Finance, Christie & Co, Henry Shine, Kerr, and Optident. I would like to thank all the sponsors for their continued support. The charity supported by conference this year was Dentists' Health Support Trust. This charity provides amazing support to dentists who are struggling with addiction and mental health issues.

I am incredibly grateful to our speakers David McColl, Helen Kaney and Derek Manson

who provided us with highly informative presentations and answered our delegates' questions.

Many thanks to the delegates who proposed and presented their motions superbly. It was great to see so many new faces attending conference and getting involved.

Congratulations to all the newly elected or re-elected office bearers. It was great to have so much interest in these positions this year.

I am pleased to hand over the chain of office to Dr Lindsay Milton. I would like to take this opportunity to wish him well in his preparations for next year's event, which is scheduled to take place at the Stirling Court Hotel on 22 April 2022.

Judy Brady, Chair 2021

Conference - Morning Session

1. Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first virtual Conference of Scottish LDCs. She explained that due to the virtual nature of Conference an electronic voting system would be used and run by P de Vries, part of the Conference Agenda Committee Technical team. In normal times BDA Scotland would act as Returning Officer. The Chair stated that the Standing Orders allowed for Conference to elect a Returning Officer in the absence of a BDA Scotland member of staff (staff would be busy working behind the scenes to facilitate the virtual event) and proposed that P de Vries be this year's Returning Officer. Delegates voted unanimously to have P de Vries as Returning Officer.

2. David McColl, Chair of the BDA's Scottish Dental Practice Committee

David was Conference's first speaker and advised Conference that due to the effects of Covid-19 he would not have time to speak about the work SDPC had carried out in 2019, and which had been surpassed by the pandemic. A paper detailing SDPC's actions in relation to the 2019 motions could be found on the [new Conference website](#).

David explained that SDPC represents all non-salaried general dental practitioners in Scotland practising in the NHS and/or privately. They negotiate with the CDO and Scottish Ministers and other appropriate bodies on matters relating to the delivery and

remuneration of dental services provided by non-salaried general dental practitioners, including orthodontists and assistants, working in Scotland.

He reported that pre-Covid-19 SDPC had been working on a number of issues including participating on SG working groups in regard to the SG Oral Health Improvement Plan, (OHIP) focussing on prevention, liaising with the DDRB on the 2.8 per cent net uplift payment and with SG on the expenses element of pay and engaging with SG about the lengthy waiting times for paediatric extractions under general anaesthetic. A motion on paediatric waiting times would be proposed later from Greater Glasgow & Clyde LDC.

David then provided a timeline throughout the pandemic focussing on the events that took place during the last 12 months, the effects this had had on the profession and the actions taken by SDPC and the SDPC Executive Sub-committee. This included liaison with the CDO and his team, Scottish Ministers, Practitioner Services Division and NHS National Services Scotland.

David spoke of his disappointment about the lack of consultation with SDPC and lack of communication with the profession during the pandemic. He also shared his concerns that some information from Scottish Ministers about the pandemic route map relating to dental services had been misleading to the public and this had caused a lot of anxiety to practitioners. He referred to the numerous issues SDPC had dealt with over the last 12 months which included practice closures, the phased return to practice, PPE supplies, the lack of ventilation guidance, securing furlough payments and lobbying SG for payments for private practitioners, although even after



lobbying Ministers SG had been reluctant to award payments to private practitioners. He also referred to the difficulties faced by GDPs in some NHS Boards in recognising practitioners as a priority group allowing GDPs to be able to become a vaccinator. He voiced his concerns about the long-term model of care and the lack of engagement by SG to take this forward.

David noted that the SNP had made a pledge in their election manifesto to remove the patient charge and that the BDA and SDPC had not been consulted about this before its publication. He said that should the SNP win the Scottish election urgent discussion with SG would be essential and that assurances from SG were needed that the dental budget would be fully funded to support the proposal were also needed. A motion was proposed on this matter, see Section 8, motion 23.

David explained that there were three types of pension schemes available to GDPs and that they all had a different retirement age. He reminded delegates that they should review their annual statement from the

Scottish Public Pensions Agency (SPPA).

David reported that discussions continue with the DDRB about the next pay uplift award.

The session was followed by an energetic Q&A session which included questions about the unsatisfactory communications from the CDO's office during the pandemic, new associate pay, and the proposed removal of patient charges. [The full presentation can be found on the Conference website.](#)

3. Helen Kaney, Lead Dento-legal Consultant & Head of Dental Services, Dental Protection, Platinum Sponsor

Helen advised delegates that a number of different types of indemnity cover were available and that they should give consideration to the type of indemnity cover that would best suit them and their practice. Indemnity is required by law and the GDC can ask for proof of cover. Helen went on to say that it is anticipated that in the next few years Scottish Government may mandate for indemnity cover to be regulated.



Helen stated that Dental Protection (DP) has been in operation for 125 years, and then referred to the different types of cases DP had dealt with which included criminal complaints, ethical matters and disciplinary matters. She said that it was important for clinicians to understand that claims could arise quickly and it was essential that the clinician liaise with their indemnity provider. She provided a case example where notification of a claim had been received about an orthodontic treatment which had begun 22 years ago. Helen noted that Dental Protection has dealt with 236,000 cases in the last ten years, including 37,000 clinical negligence claims on behalf of the medical and dental professions across the world.

Helen noted that a third of all GDC warnings relate to personal conduct issues which include drug offences and inappropriate comments made on social media and highlighted that not all indemnity providers offered cover for this type of case.

An active Q&A session followed which covered issues such as vicarious liability, and Covid-19 claims relating to PPE. [The full presentation can be found on the Conference website.](#)

4. Derek Manson, Northern Ireland Representative on SDPC

Derek gave an informative and interesting presentation detailing how dentists in Northern Ireland had gone about changing the process to allow dentists to opt-out of the LDC levy mandate. He explained how it had become increasingly evident that LDCs were experiencing a fall in income due to less contributors to the levy. There were a number of reasons for the decline which included more frequent moves within

the workforce, a shift in the workforce demographic and an increase in new list numbers. Derek stated that a working group was set up which began by reviewing the regulations and subsequently a number of options were identified with engagement from the Health and Social Care Board, Business Services organisation, (BSO) (PSD equivalent) and the LDCs. A consultation was then carried out and following liaison with the BSO a change to the software was made and an opt-out form created. Derek stated that to date there had been 48 dentists who had opted out which was less than five per cent of the workforce. The change had led to a better understanding of the role of the LDCs and communications between them and dentists. Derek was pleased to learn that there was a motion to be put forward later seeking an opt-out system in Scotland and encouraged delegates to vote for it. See Section 8, motion 10.

A lively Q&A session followed. [The full presentation can be found on the Conference website.](#)

5. Elizabeth Glass, Conference Treasurer

Liz reviewed the accounts for 2020, and explained that following the cancellation of Conference 2020 due to Covid-19, the Agenda Committee had agreed that all of the sponsorship money would be returned. Liz arranged with the Bank of Scotland that online banking be set up to allow electronic repayments which were counter-authorised by either Chair or Chair Elect, as set out in the Standing Orders. Liz then contacted LDC Treasurers and Secretaries and made arrangements to return all Conference Levies and contributions to the 2020 pre-conference dinner.



Due to Conference 2020 being cancelled, the expenditure for the year to 31 August 2020 was limited. Expenditure included the reimbursement of Agenda Committee members attending SDPC, the Chair's honorarium, and for herself as Treasurer with an increase of two additional sessions which reflected the increased amount of work e.g., reimbursements due to the cancellation.

Liz also explained that the Agenda Committee and Representatives of Conference are reimbursed at the British Guild Rate, which is reviewed and updated annually by the British Dental Guild (BDG). They normally meet in early April and the new rates are introduced prior to our Conference in late April. In 2020 the rate remained at £300 per session along with a new hourly rate for virtual meetings was implemented at a rate of £85 per hour or part thereof with a maximum of £300 per session and a maximum of £600 in any one day. The Agenda Committee immediately introduced this new amount.

The BDG revised the Guild Rate to £310 per 3.5-hour session and £88 per hour, to be backdated to 1 April 2021 and has been

implemented by the Agenda Committee.

The total expenditure for the year to 31st August 2020 was £6324.20, a deficit of £6324.20 for the year to 31st August 2020.

Liz proposed that the Conference levy remain at £8.00 per capita. Delegates voted unanimously in favour of the proposal.

Liz explained that this year's charity was in aid of the Dentists' Health Support Trust which is a charity run by dentists that helps dentists with mental, emotional and addiction problems thus their motto Dentists Helping Dentists. She encouraged guests and delegates to donate which could be done on the Conference website via a JustGiving link.

[A copy of the Conference accounts](#) and [Liz's presentation](#) can be found on the Conference website.

6. Roy McBurnie, Chair of the Scottish Dental Fund and Jim Law, Treasurer

Roy McBurnie, Chair began his presentation by explaining the role of the SDF is to ensure that the dentists elected to SDPC to represent the profession in negotiations and discussions with the SG and other relevant parties are not financially disadvantaged by lost surgery time when attending SDPC meetings. He went on to say the funds are gathered from the LDCs who collect contributions from dentists in their respective NHS Board areas who have completed mandates authorising modest deductions from their monthly remuneration.

Jim said how pleased SDF members were that a motion was being proposed later that would require GPs to opt-out of making contributions via their respective NHS Boards rather than 'opt in', which D Manson's

presentation earlier had focussed on. [A copy of Jim's presentation can be found of the Conference website.](#)

See Section 8, Motion 10.

Jim Law, Treasurer began by explaining that the SDF funding was running at a deficit of £10,843, but that the Board had reserves of £247,377. The levy was currently set at £2.00 per month and that contributions were down £15,240. He went on to say that the SDPC gross costs had increased by £15,240 and that funding recovered from the British Dental Guild (BDG) was down £1,477. The SDF sessional rate (2020) of £300 matched the BDG rate.

A motion was put forward that the levy be maintained at £2.00 per capita per month. Delegates voted unanimously in agreement with the proposal.

Jim went on to explain that the BDG rate had risen to £310 per session (or three and a half hours) to be backdated to 1 April 2021. In light of the coronavirus the rate for virtual meetings was £88 per hour. The SDF had continued to reimburse dentists on a sessional/half session basis during 2020.

A proposal that the SDF amend the recompensation to an hourly rate of hourly rate of £88/hour. Delegates voted unanimously in agreement with the proposal.

A copy of [the SDF accounts](#) can be found on the Conference website.

Proposals that the Chair receive: 1 session of £300 per annum, Secretary receive: 1 session of £300 per annum and the Treasurer receive: £300 per month i.e., 2 sessions @ 50 percent sessional rate. Delegates voted unanimously in agreement with the proposals.

Conference - Afternoon Session

7. Election Results 2021-2022 Session

Congratulations to the following office bearers who were either newly elected or re-elected to the Conference posts:

Chair Elect of Conference – Christina Ferry, Lanarkshire LDC

Treasurer to Conference – Elizabeth Glass, Greater Glasgow & Clyde LDC

Auditors to Conference – Kieran Fallon, MBE and Robert Sweeney, retired members

Representatives to Conference Agenda Committee - Elaine Winter, Ayrshire & Arran LDC & Stewart Robertson, Lanarkshire LDC

Representatives to the UK LDC Conference to be held virtually on 12 June 2021 - Elaine Winter, Ayrshire & Arran LDC
Helen Dennison, Greater Glasgow & Clyde LDC
Matt Dickie, Highland LDC

Representative to the Scottish Dental Practice Committee – Clare Murphy, Greater Glasgow & Clyde LDC

Representatives to the Board of Management of the Scottish Dental Fund - Tony Coia SDF Secretary and Jim Law, Treasurer appointed in 2020 by the Conference Agenda Committee elected by Conference to continue for the next two years

Roy McBurnie, Chair and Derek Harper, SDF member elected for three years.

8. Motions 2021

1. Communication & Dissemination of Information

The Chief Dental Officer, PSD and other relevant bodies must recognise that the dental profession requires timely, direct, accessible and clear communication and guidance delivered through appropriate channels and that it is easily understood.

[Lanarkshire LDC & Ayrshire & Arran LDC Passed unanimously](#)

2. PPE

This Conference calls on the Scottish Government to extend appropriate PPE supply to GDPs until a new financial plan is in place.

[Lanarkshire LDC](#)

The motion amendment was proposed by N McMillan and seconded by A Yelland
[The amended motion was passed by majority](#)

3. Measuring Activity

This Conference demands that the 8,000 codes are included as a principal measure of dental practice activity.

[Ayrshire & Arran LDC Passed by majority](#)

4. Stabilising Restoration Codes

This Conference proposes that the new stabilising fillings code is made available to allow practitioners to record their activity and be remunerated accordingly.

[Greater Glasgow & Clyde LDC](#)
[Passed by majority](#)

5. Consultation re New Financial Model

This Conference requires confirmation from the Chief Dental Officer and Scottish Government that there will be a period of consultation with GPs, allowing them to feedback their thoughts or concerns, before any new financial plan or replacement/change to the SDR is implemented.

[Lanarkshire LDC](#)
[Passed unanimously](#)

6. Scottish Government Oral Health Improvement Plan - Design Groups

This Conference proposes that the new post pandemic model of care is realistically funded to ensure the viability of NHS dental practices and enable access to oral health care for all.

[Greater Glasgow & Clyde LDC](#)
[Passed unanimously](#)

7. Consultation re Future CDO

This Conference demands that dentists have input into the selection of any future Chief Dental Officer.

[Ayrshire & Arran LDC](#)

The motion amendment was proposed by S Kidd and seconded by N McMillan
[The amended motion was passed by majority](#)

8. Sustainability

This Conference urges Scottish Government to aid GPs in facilitating more environmentally sustainable practices. We ask Scottish Government to review infection control guidelines post COVID-19 with a view to becoming more pragmatic and evidence based on the need for single use items and PPE, and to provide funds to encourage purchase of re-usable alternatives when appropriate.

[Greater Glasgow & Clyde LDC & Fife LDC](#)
[Passed unanimously](#)

9. CDO Length of Post

This Conference supports a set term of office for the post of (any future) Chief Dental Officer.

[Ayrshire & Arran LDC](#)

The motion amendment was proposed by N McMillan and seconded by D Morrison
[The amended motion was passed by majority](#)

10. Opt-Out of LDC Levy

This Conference proposes that Scottish Government convert the mechanism for LDC voluntary levies into an 'opt-out' scheme.

[Greater Glasgow & Clyde LDC](#)
Passed by majority

11. Lengthy Waiting Times for Paediatric Extraction under GA

This Conference demands that Scottish Government address the urgent issue of lengthy waiting times for paediatric surgery by providing more funding and resources to enable children to be treated in a timely manner.

[Greater Glasgow & Clyde LDC](#)
Passed unanimously

12. Pregnant Dentists

This Conference calls on the Chief Dental Officer and Scottish Government to provide clear guidance for both employed and self-employed dental staff in relation to working whilst pregnant, particularly in relation to AGPs.

[Lanarkshire LDC](#)
Passed unanimously

13. Practice Administration

This Conference proposes that the new model of care considers the time taken for practice administration.

[Greater Glasgow & Clyde LDC](#)
Passed by majority

14. Dental Hygienist Training

This Conference proposes that the Scottish Dental Schools reintroduce the training of Dental Hygienists.

[Fife LDC](#)
Passed by majority

15. Committee Structure & Inclusion of DCPs

This Conference supports the inclusion of dental care professionals into the committee structures of Scotland.

[Ayrshire & Arran LDC](#)
Failed

16. Limit of Registration Period

This Conference believes that in order to encourage engagement and motivate patients' self-responsibility in their oral health the time period of registration should be limited.

[Greater Glasgow & Clyde LDC](#)
Passed by majority

17. Dental Nurse Pensions

This Conference calls for the inclusion of dental nurses into the NHS pension scheme.

[Ayrshire & Arran LDC](#)
[Failed](#)

18. Care Home Residents

This Conference proposes that the oral health of care home residents needs to be urgently addressed. Screening for oral cancer and dental disease should be resumed and the Caring for Smiles initiative re-instated.

[Greater Glasgow & Clyde LDC](#)
[Passed by majority](#)

19. VDP CPDA

This Conference calls on the Chief Dental Officer and Scottish Government to increase the CPDA from 6 to 12 sessions for the next year for any GDPs who completed VT in the 19/20 scheme.

[Lanarkshire LDC](#)
[Passed by majority](#)

20. VDP Training Practices

This Conference demands VT practices to be rebranded as “enhanced training practices” with a postgraduate learning status in collaboration with a university.

[Ayrshire & Arran LDC](#)
[Failed](#)

21. Vexatious Patient Behaviour

This Conference calls on the Scottish Government to put in place a clear and rapid pathway that allows GDPs to refer patients who are engaging in behaviour that is unacceptable in the dental practice. We seek a model whereby we can protect our dental team.

[Greater Glasgow & Clyde LDC](#)
[Passed by majority](#)

22. Quality Improvement (Clinical Audit)

This Conference demands that the mandatory requirement to undertake audit, SEA and QI be taken out of the GDS regulations and left as a voluntary requirement for GDPs to facilitate improvements in patient care.

[Greater Glasgow & Clyde LDC](#)
[Passed by majority](#)

23. GDS Funding 21/22

Given the recent manifest pledge by the SNP to abolish patient charges for NHS treatment without prior consultation with the profession this Conference demand a clear and unambiguous guarantee that Scottish Government will put at least £431m into the GDS 21/22.

[Greater Glasgow & Clyde LDC](#)

The motion amendment was proposed by E Coote and seconded by G Lennox
[The amended motion was passed by majority](#)

Closing Conference

9. Chair's Closing Remarks

The Chair thanked all of the Conference Agenda Committee including Patricia de Vries and Andrew Miller who had set up the new LDC Conference website and ensured the smooth running of this the first virtual Scottish Conference. She also thanked Nicola Kaya who had returned from retirement to assist with the organisation of the event. She also thanked all those who had proposed motions and all of this year's sponsors. The Chair encouraged members to keep involved with their local LDCs.

11. 2022 Conference

It is intended that Conference will be held as a face-to-face event returning to the Stirling Court Hotel on Friday 22 April 2022. Please make sure the date is in your diary and bring a colleague along with you.



10. Inauguration of Lindsay Milton as Chair of Conference

Conference closed with the inauguration of Lindsay Milton as the new Chair of Conference. Lindsay thanked Judith for all of her hard work over the last two years and especially throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.