

Conference of Scottish Local Dental Committees, Friday 21 April 2023

CONFERENCE REPORT 2023

Introduction from the Chair of Conference

Once again it was a privilege and a pleasure to chair the Conference of Scottish Local Dental Committees this year.

We were delighted to welcome Practice Plan and Wesleyan as our Platinum Sponsors who were represented by Joanne Phoenix and Morna Beattie respectively. In addition, we were supported by Braemar Finance, Chase de Vere, Condies, Dental Protection, DDU, MDDUS, Scottish Dental Care and Thorntons all of whom I would also like to thank for their sponsorship. Practitioner Services Dental also supported the event with two well-known friends of conference who are always welcome in attendance - Linda Clelland and George Anderson - and many delegates enjoyed catching up with them in person rather than over the phone!

The first of our guest speakers was Gerard Boyle (Senior Dental Adviser, Practitioner Services) who was followed by David McColl (Chair of SDPC) - both of whom were warmly welcomed by the conference and provided informative updates on Practitioner Services and the work of the Scottish Dental Practice Committee respectively.



Jenni Minto (Minister for Public Health and Women's Health) spoke on behalf of the Scottish Government with Tom Ferris (Chief Dental Officer) also in attendance. Ms. Minto's update was well received by the conference with delegates proffering a steady stream of questions relevant to the future of dental service provision. Whilst some answers may not necessarily have been what the conference would have liked to hear the session was informative and engaging. The final guest of

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the morning was Dr Sandesh Gulhane (Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care) who provided an insight into his party's vision of the future of dentistry in Scotland.

The afternoon was dominated by the motions which as always brought lively discussion and debate to the sessions. We introduced a virtual system for the first time to vote on the motions and whilst this brought its own challenges it proved to be successful once mastered.

It is custom for the conference to support a charity and this year we again chose The Canmore Trust and raised £2,400. Combining this year and last year's totals we have raised £5,000 which is a truly magnificent achievement and I cannot thank you enough for your generosity.

I have to say that this conference could not have taken place without the input and support from all members of the Conference Agenda Committee and also the BDA team. And from a personal perspective I owe a huge debt of gratitude to Kirsten Phillips who has guided me throughout the many months of preparation and whose expertise I would have been lost without.

As I bid a fond farewell to the role as Chair of Conference I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported me over the past two years and to wish my successor Christina Ferry all the very best for her tenure as Chair.

Lindsay C. Milton

Chair of Conference of Scottish LDCs 2021-2023

Pre-Conference Dinner - Thursday 20 April 2023

A well-attended drinks reception was held before a black-tie dinner at the Stirling Court Hotel. The Chair provided an introduction, warmly welcoming all guests including the Chief Dental Officer and representatives from Practice Plan and Wesleyan Financial Services, the conference Platinum Sponsor.

After dinner, Christina Ferry, Chair Elect, and Liz Glass, Conference Treasurer, presented Lifetime Achievement Awards to:

- Jacqui Frederick (Greater Glasgow and Clyde LDC)
- John Davidson (Lothian LDC)

The Chair then introduced the 2023 conference charity, [The Canmore Trust](#), which had been chosen by the Conference Agenda Committee to support for a second year running. A [JustGiving](#) page had been set up and the Chair hosted a game of 'Heads and Tails' to raise donations for the cause.



Jacqui Frederick
Lifetime Achievement Award Winner



John Davidson
Lifetime Achievement Award Winner

Conference - Friday 21 April 2023

Morning Session

Welcome and Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the 23rd annual conference, and asked delegates and guests to visit the sponsors and representatives from Practitioner Services during the refreshment breaks.

Gerard Boyle, Senior Dental Adviser, Practitioner Services



Gerard Boyle was conference's first speaker and provided an update from Practitioner Services Dental (PSD). He began his session by outlining the organisational structure of NHS Scotland and explained where PSD sits within this. He explained there are three teams within PSD including the clinical team, consisting of Dental Advisers and Dental Reference Officers; Service Delivery, responsible for customer service and administration; and Contractor Finance, responsible for dental payments and monitoring.

Gerard went on to provide further detail about the specific role of the clinical team and their involvement in the Prior Approval and Scottish Dental Reference Service processes. He concluded his session by discussing the future of NHS dentistry in Scotland, providing insight into PSD's discussions with the Scottish Government about dental reform and the new draft Determination I of the SDR which is scheduled for implementation later this year.

David McColl, Chair of the Scottish Dental Practice Committee



David McColl provided an update on the work of the Scottish Dental Practice Committee (SDPC) over the past year. A summary of the progress on the motions passed at the 2022 conference, which were adopted as SDPC policy, was also provided as a document within the [conference delegate pack](#).

David started his session by providing an overview

of the roles and responsibilities of SDPC followed by a summary of the key issues pursued by its members on behalf of the dental profession over the past 12 months, involving extensive and challenging discussions with the Scottish Government (SG). Discussions had mainly focused on the new Determination I of the SDR which was being developed by SG, against the advice of SDPC members who expressed concerns about the system being unfit for purpose and increasing oral health inequalities. The new Determination I is due to be implemented in October 2023 and SG have advised that the bridging payment, currently set at 1.1%, will continue to be paid to contractors until this is in place. SDPC had also expressed major concerns about other key issues affecting dental practices, such as rising dental laboratory costs and inflation.

David went onto provide an update on the Doctors and Dentists Review Body (DDRB) process and recent patient participation and registration data before concluding his session with an engaging question-and-answer session from the audience.

Jenni Minto, Minister of Public Health and Women's Health



Jenni Minto, who was appointed as the Minister of Public Health and Women's Health in March 2023, provided an update from the Scottish Government. New to post, she began her session by introducing herself and thanking the dental profession for their dedication and resilience over the recent years working through the Covid-19 pandemic and its aftermath. She then summarised the financial support provided by the Scottish Government to support the profession during this time such as the provision of PPE at no charge and providing practitioners with bridging payments which she assured would continue until 31 October 2023.

The Minister, acknowledging the challenges still facing the profession, stated the dental sector had recovered well from the pandemic and that there was now the need for sustainable and long-term payment reform. She subsequently confirmed that the new Determination I of the SDR, currently still in draft, would be implemented as scheduled on the 1 November 2023 and assured that training and support would be provided to help practices adapt to the change. Appropriate fee values were still to be set and would be discussed with the BDA soon.

The Minister went onto discuss other concerns which she noted were priorities for the Scottish Government, such as: rising dental inflation and general cost of living; access to NHS dentistry; workforce challenges; and increasing oral health inequalities. She noted that the Scottish Government had already introduced an examination fee for children and had expanded grants and allowances for rural and island areas. The Minister concluded her session by stating that she looked forward to working with the dental profession and reiterated the need for the sector to reform to preserve current and future access to NHS dentistry.

The presentation was followed by a lively question and-answer session from the audience which covered a range of issues, including: the Scottish

Government's manifesto pledge to provide free NHS dentistry for all; staff recruitment and retention; engagement and communication with the profession; and low staff morale levels.

Sandesh Gulhane, Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care



Sandesh Gulhane's session focused on his party's vision of the future of dentistry in Scotland. As a General Practitioner, who continues to practice clinically one day per week in primary care, the Shadow Cabinet Secretary demonstrated his understanding of the issues affecting the dental sector and called on the current Scottish Government to introduce a sustainable funding model to preserve the future of NHS dentistry.

He explained the role an opposition party can have in influencing government policy and noted the specific work his party had recently undertaken in support of the dental profession including, parliament speeches and motions specific to dentistry and collaborative work with the BDA. He went on to note that he was keen to create a specific dentistry forum to discuss issues and advised he would be launching a detailed vision for dentistry at the Scottish Conservative Party Conference taking place on 28 and 29 of April

2023.

The Shadow Cabinet Secretary's presentation was followed by an informative question and answer session with the audience covering a range of topics, which included: domiciliary care; paediatric extractions under general anaesthetic; water fluoridation; and the role of artificial intelligence technology in future healthcare provision.

Joanne Phoenix and Morna Beattie, Practice Plan and Wesleyan Financial Services

Joanne and Morna spoke on behalf of Practice Plan and Wesleyan Financial Services, the conference's 2023 Platinum Sponsor. Both representatives provided informative summaries of the vital services and support each company provides. Wesleyan provides financial advice for medical, dental and teaching professionals, offering a lifetime of financial planning and financial help. Practice Plan, part of the Wesleyan Group, are the UK's number one provider of practice-branded dental membership plans, providing support and a wide range of services to practices. Joanne and Morna closed their session by encouraging any interested delegates to come and speak with them during the conference lunch break.

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Conference - Friday 21 April 2023

Afternoon Session

Election Results 2023-2024

Congratulations to the following office bearers who were either newly elected or re-elected to various conference posts. A description of each role can be viewed on the [conference website](#).

Chair Elect of Conference of Scottish LDCs:

Hazel Hannigan (Lanarkshire LDC)

Members of the Conference Agenda Committee (CAC):

Anita Belbin (Greater Glasgow and Clyde LDC),
Paul MacDonald (Lanarkshire LDC) and
Helen Dennison (Lanarkshire LDC)

Representative to the Scottish Dental Practice Committee (SDPC):

Helen Dennison (Lanarkshire LDC)

Representatives to the Board of Management of the Scottish Dental Fund (SDF):

Jim Law and
Tony Coia (retired LDC members)

Auditors of Conference:

Gordon Stewart and
Robert Sweeney (retired LDC members)

Liz Glass, Conference Treasurer

Liz Glass, Conference Treasurer, presented the conference accounts for the year ending 31 August 2022. Income for the year 2022, which consisted of LDC levies, conference sponsorship and Pre-Conference Dinner payments totalled £23,016.80 in comparison to expenditure which was £23,907.26. This resulted in a loss of £890.46 which Liz noted was acceptable. [A copy of the Conference Accounts can be found on the conference website.](#)

Due to a lower number of dentists, and therefore, less overall income, Liz made a recommendation to conference that the levy be increased from £8.00 to £8.50 per dentist for the 2024 conference. This proposal was voted on by conference delegates and passed unanimously.



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



Roy McBurnie and Jim Law of the Scottish Dental Fund (SDF) provided an update on the Board of Management Audited Accounts 2021/2022 and the levy.

Roy reminded delegates that the role of the SDF is to ensure that dentists elected to SDPC to represent the profession in negotiations and discussions with the Scottish Government, and other relevant parties, are not financially disadvantaged by lost clinical time when attending meetings. Funds are accumulated from LDCs who collect voluntary contributions (levies) from dentists in their respective NHS Health Board areas.

Jim went on to provide an update on the SDF accounts and propose recommendations to the levy. Income for 2022 had increased, in comparison with 2021 totalling £59,054 which was an increase of 2.1%. Expenditure had decreased by 14.9% to £40,906, with a surplus of £18,148. There was an increase in account reserves, totalling £275,544. Due to healthy account reserves, Jim recommended to conference that no changes be made to the

SDPC Levy, SDPC Honoraria calculation or SDF Honoraria calculation. No objections were made by conference delegates. [A copy of the SDF accounts can be found on the conference website.](#)

Roy concluded the session by advising that Jim Law would be stepping down as SDF Treasurer after many years. Roy thanked Jim for all his hard work and service to SDF as Treasurer and noted that Jim would remain on the committee to help the new Treasurer, Derek Harper, settle into his new role.

Motions 2023

[21 motions](#) were presented and debated, all of which were passed and discussed by SDPC whether to be adopted as formal committee policy. This year the Conference Agenda Committee chose to pilot an online system for delegates to vote on the motions.

1. Pilot for New SDR Determination 1

This conference demands that the Scottish Government commits to piloting the measures listed in Determination 1 of the SDR, as indicated by the Cabinet Secretary in September 2022, prior to full implementation across the profession in October 2023.

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

2. Cost Increases

This conference believes that, with inflation at extraordinary levels, there should be a recurring payment to reflect these cost increases, e.g., energy prices, materials, labour costs, laboratory costs etc.

[Forth Valley LDC](#)

The motion wording was amended by conference
[The amended motion was passed unanimously](#)

3. Adequate Sedation Fees

This conference demands that the Scottish Government provides improved training opportunities and realistic sedation fees to make treatment in practice financially and practically viable for GPs.

Lanarkshire LDC
Passed by majority

4. Increase to Fees and Allowances

This conference believes that all fee items and allowances should be increased in line with any general uplift in SDR fees and there should be a retrospective reconciliation of these allowances. (e.g., GDPA, CPDA, OOH sessional rate, Vocational Training allowance.)

Forth Valley LDC
Passed unanimously

5. Increase in Continuous Professional Development Allowances

This conference demands an increase in Continuous Professional Development Allowances to 10 sessions per year.

Greater Glasgow and Clyde LDC
Passed by majority

6. Review of NHS Commitment Payment Calculation

This conference demands that the Scottish Government review how NHS commitment is calculated.

Lanarkshire LDC
Passed unanimously

7. Notice for Maternity Pay Entitlement

This conference demands that dentists claiming NHS maternity pay receive written confirmation of their entitlement, along with the working calculation, including a choice exercise regarding superannuation deductions within 6 weeks of the application being submitted.

Lanarkshire LDC and Greater Glasgow and Clyde LDC

The motion wording was amended by conference
The amended motion was passed by majority

8. Reintroduce NHS Bursary Scheme

This conference proposes that the Scottish Government reintroduces the NHS bursary scheme to encourage recent graduates to remain in the NHS Dental System.

Lanarkshire LDC
Passed by majority

9. Modernisation of NHS Dental Technology

This conference demands provision of NHS dental technology through the introduction of a fair and reasonable reimbursement system for dentists using modern technologies such as digital scanning, 3D imaging, and digital study models.

Greater Glasgow and Clyde LDC
Passed by majority

10. Notice for Dental Reference Officer Exams

This conference calls for PSD to commit to giving 2 weeks' notice of any DRO exam.

Lanarkshire LDC
Passed unanimously

11. Specialist Shortages

This conference is concerned by the national shortage of Oral medicine and OFMS specialists and believes that Scottish Government should do more to encourage and facilitate these career pathways.

Lothian LDC
Passed by majority

12. Recruitment and Retention of Dental Nurses and Auxiliary Staff in NHS Dental Practices

This conference demands that the Scottish Government implements proposals for the recruitment and retention of dental nurses in NHS dental practices through implementing a national approach to recruitment and retention to include grants for training and education, increased access to organised courses that fulfil the requirements for re-registering with the General Dental Council (GDC), improved remuneration for dental businesses and creating a supportive and inclusive working environment that values the contribution of dental nurses.

Greater Glasgow and Clyde LDC
Passed by majority

13. Workforce Planning and Training

This conference believes that the viability of dentistry in Scotland is jeopardised by a lack of consideration of the workforce planning and training, particularly in the wake of the pandemic, and especially with respect to Laboratory Technicians. We call on the Scottish Government to urgently allocate funds to address this issue.

Forth Valley LDC
Passed by majority

14. Inadequate Funding for NHS Dental Laboratories Items

This Conference demands that the Scottish Government takes immediate action to address the funding crisis facing NHS dental laboratories and ensures patients receive quality dental care.

Greater Glasgow and Clyde LDC
Passed by majority

15. Domiciliary Care

The conference demands that Scottish Government address the crisis in domiciliary care provision through immediate training of more enhanced skills practitioners and appropriate reimbursement for the additional time and skill required to properly care for these complex patients.

Greater Glasgow and Clyde LDC
Passed by majority

16. OOH Sessional Rate

This conference believes the OOH sessional rate expressed in the SDR should be increased to reflect the complexity of the interaction with patients in distress, the workload or the need to operate in unfamiliar surroundings with unfamiliar staff.

Forth Valley LDC
Passed unanimously

17. Changes to Public Holiday Cover

This conference demands that all formal discussions about public holiday cover, both local and national, involve direct representation from GDPs.

Greater Glasgow and Clyde LDC
Passed by majority

18. NHS24 and cover for Public Holidays

This conference demands that NHS24 provides practices with confirmed dates for all covered public holidays for the full calendar year at the start of each year. Furthermore, that the unequal level of provision of holiday cover evident across health boards and in comparison with our GMP colleagues is addressed to provide parity.

Lanarkshire LDC
Passed by majority

19. Equal Treatment of Scottish Specialist Orthodontic Practices within the General Dental Services

This conference calls for the equal treatment of Scottish Specialist Orthodontic Practices within the General Dental Services and demands that these practices should be included in any future support initiatives under the umbrella of general dental services to avoid separation of specialist orthodontic provision from the general dental service, ensuring a level playing field for NHS dental contractors.

Greater Glasgow and Clyde LDC
Passed by majority

20. Support for Mental Health

This conference demands targeted and specific support for mental health issues within Scottish dentistry.

Forth Valley LDC
Passed by majority

21. Dental Corporate Bodies

This conference is concerned by the growth of large corporate bodies as a proportion of practice

ownership in Scotland and by their associated influence on the dental landscape. This conference would like to see an open discussion, with the Scottish Government, to assess and ultimately mitigate any negative effects arising from this corporate growth.

Lothian LDC
Passed by majority

Closing Conference

Chair's Closing Remarks

Lindsay Milton, Chair of Conference, thanked the Conference Agenda Committee and all others involved in the organisation of the 2023 conference. He also thanked all attendees, speakers, and sponsors for their valuable support. He finished his address by wishing Christina Ferry well in her tenure as Chair over the next two years.

Inauguration of Christina Ferry as Chair of Conference



Conference closed with the inauguration of Christina Ferry as the Chair of Conference of Scottish LDCs. Christina thanked Lindsay for all his hard work and guidance over the past two years as Chair.

2024 Conference

The Conference of Scottish LDCs will be returning to the Stirling Court Hotel on Friday 19 April 2024. Please make sure the date is in your diary and bring a colleague along with you. The success of the conference depends on the attendance and participation of delegates, so we look forward to welcoming you again next year.

More information about CAC and the annual LDC Conference can be found on the [conference website](#).

