



**2025 Conference of Scottish LDCs
Friday 25 April**

VDP Information

Local Dental Committees

The role of Local Dental Committees:

- A Local Dental Committee (LDC) is a group of practising General Dental Practitioners (GDPs) treating NHS patients within their local Health Board area who regularly meet to discuss and pursue pertinent dental issues affecting their region. Such topics may include pay and conditions, pensions and workforce issues.
- LDCs also closely engage with their local Health Board over issues affecting the delivery of dental care: patient referrals, decontamination, audit, practice inspections, patients' treatment appeals and the out-of-hours emergency service.
- Some LDCs also organise Continuing Professional Development (CPD) events for their members.
- There are currently 11 active LDCs in Scotland:
 - Ayrshire and Arran LDC
 - Borders LDC
 - Fife LDC
 - Forth Valley LDC
 - Grampian LDC
 - [Greater Glasgow and Clyde LDC](#)
 - Highland LDC
 - [Lanarkshire LDC](#)
 - [Lothian LDC](#)
 - Orkney LDC
 - Tayside LDC

The History of LDCs:

- The foundation of the National Health Service (NHS) in 1947 revolutionised the provision of medical and dental care. Now all members of the community could access treatment free at the point of delivery.
- Alongside the NHS, LDCs were established in September 1947 to provide a forum for NHS dentists to discuss policy and highlight issues of pay and working conditions. At the time the LDCs followed the boundaries of the administrative areas of their respective Health Boards. In 1974, all LDCs were reorganised to form larger committees and this happened again in 2007 when, for instance, Greater Glasgow and Clyde LDC came into being.
- LDCs come together once a year at the annual Conference of Scottish LDCs to raise motions which, if passed, are then submitted to the [BDA Scottish Dental Practice Committee](#) (SDPC) for consideration to be discussed at Governmental level and with other relevant organisations.

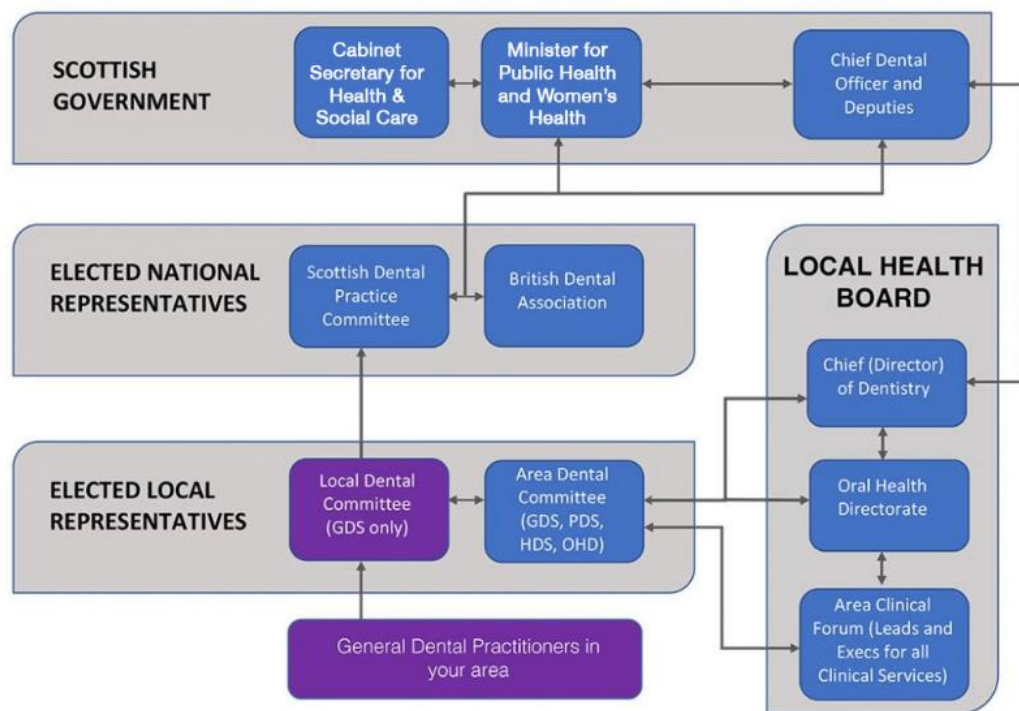
How LDCs are funded:

- The work of LDCs is funded entirely by voluntary mandates (levies) from GDPs in that Health Board area.
- Currently the levy works out at 0.2% of gross income, so £20 per £10,000. This very small contribution is directed towards financing the LDC's work in speaking up for the profession and, in many areas, the provision of relevant CPD events.

How to get involved with your LDC:

- You can help to shape the health and direction of the dental profession by standing for election for your local LDC.
- Each LDC consists of elected representatives from across the Health Board covering their geographical area. Some LDCs, particularly those in the central belt, have a full committee and regular elections.
- LDC representatives are elected on a three-yearly cycle with a proportion of seats being contested each year. Any dentist can put themselves forward for election.
- The majority of committee members are ordinary GDPs (practice owners and associates). As well considering local issues, each committee can put forward representatives to sit on SDPC, the national representative body of non-salaried GDPs.

How LDCs fit into Scottish Dental Politics



The BDA Scottish Dental Practice Committee

- The [BDA Scottish Dental Practice Committee](#) (SDPC) represents all non-salaried General Dental Practitioners (GDPs) practising in the NHS or privately, including orthodontists and assistants, in Scotland.
- SDPC meets three times a year to ensure that there is a regular opportunity for members of the committee to raise and discuss issues.
- SDPC's priorities:
 - Negotiating with NHS Boards and the Primary Care Directorate of the Scottish Government 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.

- Discussing matters relating to the delivery and remuneration of dental services provided by non-salaried GDPs.
- Liaising with the General Dental Practice Committee and Scottish Council.

The Conference of Scottish LDCs and the Conference Agenda Committee

The purpose of the [Conference of Scottish LDCs](#) is to:

- Bring LDCs together to discuss political issues and topics facing the general dental service in Scotland.
- Provide CPD and sharing of best practice.
- Encourage networking amongst GDPs.

About the Conference:

- The annual Conference typically takes place on a Friday in April in Stirling. A quota of invited guests / attendees are also invited to attend a Pre-Conference Dinner the night prior to the Conference.
- The Conference Agenda usually contains various speakers on topical issues. Past examples include the Chief Dental Officer and other members of the Primary Care Directorate; MSPs; the Minister responsible for dentistry; Dento-legal Advisors from indemnity organisations; the GDC and many more.
- Motions are submitted by each LDC which are proposed by representatives on the day and debated. Motions passed are then debated by SDPC, and if passed for a second time, are taken forward as policy for negotiation with the Scottish Government.

The role of the Conference Agenda Committee:

- The [Conference Agenda Committee](#) (CAC) is a group of GDPs who organise the annual Conference of Scottish LDCs.
- CAC is made up of the following members:
 - Chair of Conference
 - Immediate Past Chair of Conference
 - Chair Elect of Conference
 - Treasurer
 - Up to three LDC representatives
 - The Chair of the BDA Scottish Dental Practice Committee
 - Conference Secretary / BDA Policy Adviser
- Members of CAC organise the Conference as well as run the event on the day.
- Members of CAC give up their free time, usually in the evenings, to attend approximately four meetings per year to organise the Conference.

Further Information:

- Please visit the [conference website](#) for further information.
- If you have any questions, please feel free to ask Lindsay Milton, VDP Liaison, at the Conference.
- Alternatively you can email the Conference Secretary, Kirsten Phillips – kirsten.phillips@bda.org.

List of Dental Acronyms

Below is a list of some dental acronyms which may be mentioned at the Conference:

- ADAC - Area Dental Advisory Committee
- ADC – Area Dental Committee
- BDA – British Dental Association
- CAC – Conference Agenda Committee
- CDO – Chief Dental Officer
- CPD – Continuing Professional Development
- CSLDC – Conference of Scottish LDCs
- DCDO – Deputy Chief Dental Officer
- DDRB – Doctors and Dentists Review Body
- DLA – Dental Legal Adviser
- FOI – Freedom of Information
- GA – General Anaesthetic
- GDC – General Dental Council
- GDP – General Dental Practitioner
- GDPA – General Dental Practice Allowance
- GDPC – BDA General Dental Practice Committee
- GDS – General Dental Service
- GMP – General Medical Practitioner
- HDS – Hospital Dental Service
- LDC – Local Dental Committee
- NES – NHS Education for Scotland
- NI – National Insurance
- NIDPC – BDA Northern Ireland Dental Practice Committee
- NSS – National Services Scotland
- OHIP – Oral Health Improvement Plan
- PDS – Public Dental Service
- PHS – Public Health Scotland
- PSD – Practitioner Services Division
- QI – Quality Improvement
- SDF – Scottish Dental Fund
- SDPB – Scottish Dental Practice Board
- SDPC – Scottish Dental Practice Committee
- SDR – Statement of Dental Remuneration
- SG – Scottish Government
- SPPA – Scottish Public Pensions Authority
- VDP – Vocational Dental Practitioner
- WGDPC – BDA Welsh General Dental Practice Committee