SCOTTISH PUBLIC DENTAL SERVICE COMMITTEE

22 June 2021

Report

The Scottish Public Dental Service Committee (SPDSC) met by videoconference on 22 June 2021.

1. Remobilisation of the PDS
   SPDSC were concerned about the increasing number of unregistered patients, including children, seeking treatment from the PDS. It was noted that some independent general dental practitioners (GDPs) were treating more patients privately, sometimes to the detriment of their existing NHS patients. Those GDPs continuing to provide NHS treatment have been overwhelmed by the backlog of patients waiting for treatment and at present were only seeing emergency cases. The backlog has led to an increase in referrals to the PDS, many of which are inappropriate. This was placing increased pressure on the PDS who are now having to provide additional emergency clinics, including at weekends. The impact has meant that the PDS are no longer able to see their own vulnerable patients. It was agreed that BDA Scotland would write to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care to highlight these issues.

2. Covid Vaccination payments
   There was concern that some PDS dentists were being paid at Band 5 level whilst independent GDPs were receiving the more generous sessional rate of £231 per session. BDA Scotland recently received two Scottish Government letters that had been sent to NHS Boards in February and March to clarify the payment rates for Covid vaccinators.

3. Paediatric Extractions under General Anaesthetic
   SPDSC continued to be very concerned about the long waiting times for paediatric extractions under general anaesthetic. Since the pandemic began, the waiting lists appear to have grown considerably due to the logistical requirements for patient self-isolation and PCR testing prior to treatment, and theatre sessions being withdrawn at short notice. BDA Scotland has sought trend data on waiting lists from Scottish Government on several occasions, but no response has been received.

4. Overtime Working
   There was a discussion about the need to have a nationally agreed overtime rate for PDS dentists as part of their Terms and Conditions. It was agreed that BDA Scotland would seek a range of views from committee members and the BDA accredited representatives on this issue before approaching the Scottish Government.
5. **SPDSC Constitution**  
As part of the BDA Triennial Elections process due to be held in the autumn, SPDSC reviewed their constitution. It was agreed that no changes were required to either the name or content of the current constitution.

6. **Scottish Council Membership and Communications Working Group**  
It was noted that Scottish Council had set up a Working Group to improve communication with the profession and to boost membership numbers in Scotland. The working group had met twice in April and May and discussed membership trend data, the current BDA membership offer, future recruitment and retention strategies, and marketing and communication to members including the use of social media. The group is pursuing a number of actions and will meet again on 30 June.

7. **DDRB**  
The BDA submitted written UK-wide evidence to the Doctors and Dentists Review Body (DDRB) in January. It was noted that the oral evidence session took place in April. A request for an overall uplift of 5% had been put forward for all branches of the profession. The evidence had included the results of the CDS/PDS BDA survey undertaken recently and included issues relating to morale and motivation. The report from the DDRB was awaited.

8. **Dentists in Training – lead employer arrangements**  
The NHS Education for Scotland (NES) Doctors and Dentists in Training (DDiT) Dental Subgroup met in March to discuss plans to move trainees to NES as the main employer that had been delayed by one year. Core and Specialty trainees will transfer to NES in September 2021, and VDPs will transfer in August 2022. The latter date is provisional, with a final decision to be made by October 2021.

9. **Arrangements for the next meeting**  
The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 21 September 2021 at 14:00hrs by videoconference.

Graham Smith  
Chair of SPDSC  
June 2021