NI DPC met on 19 May 2017. Mark McCutcheon, Scottish Dental Practice (SDPC) and Roz McMullan, Chair NI Council were in attendance and welcomed to the meeting.

1) HSCB response re Buccolam
The HSC Board issued a letter to NI DPC clarifying the rationale for the use of Buccolam for the management of status epilepticus in general dental practice. It states that it is consistent with the current advice from the Resuscitation Council and the BNF in relation to medical emergencies in dental practice. The committee has been encouraged to inform their colleagues.

2) Levy fund
The accounts year end 2016 were proposed as a true and accurate record by R Graham and seconded by G Craig. Long term options for the sustainability of the fund are being explored by staff and representatives. Short term actions to increase contributions, including a presentation to new starts, distribution of forms and inclusion in newsletters have been undertaken. Those attending LDC meetings have been encouraged to discuss potential levy fund options.

3) DDRB recommendation 17/18 and 18/19
On 28 March 2017 DDRB recommended an increase to pay net of expenses of one percent1% for GDPs. In the absence of a Minister there is no confirmation that this has been accepted. Preparations for 18/19 evidence are underway. It is suggested; the impact of pensions auto-enrolment, potential impact of Brexit, new expenses; non-clinical hours worked and motivation/morale should be included in the BDA evidence.

4) Dental Workforce review – Skills for Health
An update was provided on the Skills for Health Dental Workforce review. A Steering Group has been established to oversee the review and the NI Council Chair represents BDA on this group. A workforce planning workshop was held on 22 March 2017 and BDA NI Council Chair, NI DPC Chair and the BDA Senior Policy Adviser participated in the event. The next phase will be one to one discussions with key stakeholders. The review is exploring the implications for the dental workforce in NI in responding to population need, examining the current patterns of service delivery as well as the potential for the utilisation of new roles and service delivery models. The dental nurse shortage, training (cross border) and GDC registration upon return to practice has been discussed. R McMullan suggested it would be useful to work off a WTE figure going forward, as opposed to a headcount figure for review.

5) NI negotiations & GDS pilots
The committee discussed a recent paper that was published in the BMC Journal ‘Does capitation affect the delivery of oral healthcare and access to services?’ which looked at the Oasis pilot and explored the impact of the capitation remuneration system on the delivery of oral healthcare and access to services. Limitations of the study were acknowledged by the authors and peer reviewers.

6) Brexit
The potential impact of Brexit was discussed including cost of materials, movement of staff and patients, specialist training, research funding from Universities and potential trade tariffs. It was noted that there is approximately 2.5% non UK graduate working in Northern Ireland in Dentistry. It was agreed that views should be sought from those practices in border areas.
7) **Amalgam Update**
It was agreed to raise the phase out of amalgam and the implications of this at the next non-contract meeting in June. Future use of amalgam in pregnant women will need strong justification for use. The cost of mercury imports may increase in future.

8) **BSO matters**
BSO training sessions were well received and considered useful, although it was felt sessions could be longer. It was noted that some sessions only covered one particular software provider and that solutions for some of the root issues were still outstanding. It was noted that the use of encryption keys - issued to access the portal - could potentially cause issues for staff working over multiple sites and for part-time staff. It was agreed to raise this at the next BSO user group meeting along with pensions, late payments and payment system rejection of codes. It was noted that there was a discrepancy in the most recent monthly schedule. BSO has confirmed that an MDS and revised schedule will be sent to practitioners in due course. Rates collection and a new part-time staff form in relation to practice allowance were also discussed.

9) **RQIA**
J Kelly, S Nelson and G Magee met with RQIA on 20th April. Key themes including inconsistency in inspectors approach and requests for information were raised. The definition of a ‘competent person’ was raised in relation to health and safety compliance. In relation to any potential changes in fees or frequency of inspections, this would require legislation change, which is not possible in the absence of an Assembly.

10) **Reports from LDCs**
The Eastern LDC will meet in the autumn; the Northern LDC met in April and Southern LDC in November. The Western LDC are working on some potential meetings outside Fermanagh and are still without a Chair.

11) **Stress in the Profession**
16 mental health first aid places have been identified in conjunction with PHA. Training is funded and counts towards CPD. The Framework ‘Probing Stress in Dentistry’ was provided. ‘Take 5’ resources have been distributed to surgeries for display.

12) **Consultations**
The RQIA corporate plan consultation and BDA response to GDC: Shifting the Balance document were noted.

12) **Reports**
Reports were discussed. It was noted that the Community Dental Contract has not yet been approved or implemented.

13) **Matters to PEC**
It was agreed to raise the potential impact of Brexit with PEC. Any recommended changes to the NI DPC constitution will also require agreement by PEC.

14) **Any other business**
The BDA research team are continuing to look at incidences of cancer in dentists. The issue of students returning from study to Northern Ireland from other parts of the UK and their entitlement to Health Service dental care was raised.

15) **Date of next meeting**
22 September 2017 @1.45pm the Mount Business Centre.

**Peter Crooks**
NI DPC Chair