



# Lancashire & South Cumbria

## Local Dental Committees

### - LASC LDCs Executive Statement 2022 -

**Background:** LDCs are statutory bodies of the NHS Organisation with which they are linked. This has historically been Health Authorities, PCTs and latterly Area Teams. Our Local Area Team covers Lancashire and South Cumbria (LASC)

**What does the LDC do?**

*“Local Dental Committees are there to protect dental businesses and the interests of dentists”*

**How is this achieved?**

- LDC officers attend a number of meetings on behalf of local dentists to ensure a “sense check” is maintained in respect of commissioning decisions and potential performance actions.
- The LDC will ensure the voice of dentistry is heard at all levels.

**Commissioning:**

- An excellent relationship has been established between the LASC LDC Executive and the NHS England LASC Area Team and therefore no actions or commissioning decisions will be taken without the LDC Exec being involved.

## **Professional Standards:**

Performance cases are brought to the Performance Advisory Group (PAG) by NHSE. At these meetings disciplinary actions are taken which could have serious consequences for the dentist concerned if a sense check is not provided by the LDC representatives.

At these PAG Meetings an LDC rep. is always present to ensure common sense prevails and the Performance side of the Area Team are keen to ensure the correct processes are followed and hence fully engage with the LDC Exec.

## **Practitioner Support**

As your LDC Executive we are fully committed to supporting our Practitioners in times of need and have all had appropriate training in this process.. Problems come from a number of angles and often these are problems we did not expect. We are available to discuss any problems you may have and support you to achieve a resolution. We have two layers of support:

- Executive Advice - this constitutes a supportive discussion around the issue/problem etc and if necessary signposting to the most appropriate support. We have established a portfolio of support and will be able to make these resources available to you.
- Dental Practitioner Advice and Support Scheme (DPASS) - this is a structured resource provided by the Executive who have all had appropriate training to deliver the support. This process is particularly useful in situations where a practitioner has been the subject of a Regulatory Body process e.g PAG, GDC or CQC.

**REMEMBER - IF IN DOUBT GIVE US A SHOUT!**

## **The future:**

- In these changing times it is essential that a dental presence be maintained at a high level to ensure dentistry is considered amongst all the other commissioning activity undertaken by the Area Team.
- Current NHS developments could adversely affect dentists e.g. Integrated Care Systems/Primary Care Networks etc...
- Without that presence there is a very serious likelihood that dentistry will be side-lined or ignored.

### **Central connections:**

- LDCs also are closely linked to the BDA and are a fundamental part of engagement with the profession.
- Members of the LDC Exec attend the LDC Conference and LDC Officials Day.
- The LDC Exec are involved in the Regional LDC Meetings to exchange information and receive updates.
- Some members of the LDC Exec hold positions on the General Dental Practitioner Committee and are able to communicate local concerns etc to the central BDA GDPC committee

### **Communication:**

- The LASC LDCs have a website run on behalf of the county by Lancashire Coastal LDC.
  - The Website contains a vast library of useful information from reliable sources, all conveniently drawn together in an easy 'one stop' location. The Website Team also communicates the most important updates directly via an e-group mailing service.
  - Website and mailing resources include; regular advice blogs, notifications and insights, current guidelines and pathways, information for courses and CPD opportunities from carefully selected institutions, NHS & Private referral resources, and a free referral and vacancy listing service to further support dental businesses in our areas.
- It is essential that all practitioners are registered to take advantage of this free resource; and LASC LDC representatives actively publicise and promote the website at local events and courses.

### **How to make use of the LDC:**

- The LDC is the one organisation that is solely there to support dentists and dental practice.
- Above all the LDC is there for any queries relating to dental practice. There is always someone to help you from the LDC Executive.
- The website is a free resource which can also offer free listings for vacancies and referrals to aid business growth.
- The LDC can be contacted either directly or through the Lancashire LDCs website;

Bernard (LDC Executive Secretary)

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Website Administration Team

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**Financial picture:**

LDCs themselves incur running expenses and are obliged to contribute to national expenses. A summary is included below.

- Reimbursement of members at Guild Rate whilst representing the LDC at appropriate meetings during surgery hours e.g. Area Team Liaison Meetings, Local Dental Network meetings, Performance Committees, Disciplinary Committees etc.
- LDC meetings themselves are not funded.
- Funding of various officers of the LDC e.g. Secretary/Treasurer/Communications Lead.
- Funding of members travel.
- Contributions to National Funds e.g. Dental Guild/GDPC.
- Statutory contributions to the LDC Conference – based on number of dentists represented by the particular LDC.
- Funding of communications e.g. Website, Newsletters, e-groups etc...
- It is the responsibility of the NHS Organisation concerned to approve the budgetary requirements of the LDC and then to raise that levy from constituent GDS dental contract holders by authorising deductions to be made by the BSA.
- This was approved by NHSE Lancashire and South Cumbria at the Liaison Meeting on June 10th 2020.

**Historical Lancashire Position:**

- The three Lancashire LDCs had individual arrangements whereby levy was collected from GDS contract holders as a fixed amount.
- This process was actioned by the NHS Organisation through a Statutory Levy.
- The Statutory Levy is compulsory and not subject to an opt-out option.

**Current LASC Position:**

- Due to changes in the way the BSA needed to action levy collection it was necessary to establish and deduct an LASC wide levy.
- The BDA have worked with LDCs and NHS England to set up the new arrangements.
- LDC levy is statutory for Contract holder with a GDS contract (what happens with individual performers in each practice is down to Contract holders/providers in house contractual arrangements).

*LASC LDCs 2022.*