

Kent Local Dental Committee

Annual Report 2025–2026

Contents:

Secretary's Report	p2-9
Statement of Accounts	p10
Listing of Representatives on KLDC Committees/Other Bodies	p11
Membership 26-27	p12-14

Secretary's Report 2025-2026

Introduction

This year has seen further changes at executive level within the Kent Local Dental Committee (LDC). Caroline Batistoni stepped down as secretary, taking on the position of Dental Clinical Strategy lead within the Integrated Care Board (ICB). I would like to thank Caroline for all her hard work and look forward to maintaining a positive working relationship.

Cheryl Wood was re-elected as Chair, and this is my first Secretary's report following my acceptance of the role. My first year as secretary has been marked by significant changes. It has been a period of learning and relationship-building, as we continue to nurture our collaboration with the ICB and networks across Kent and Medway.

There are substantial changes ahead due to the NHSE and ICB reshuffle. Upcoming contract changes will pose challenges, but the Committee remains committed to supporting ongoing contract reform.

The Role and Structure of Kent Local Dental Committee

- LDCs are statutory NHS bodies established in 1948 at the inception of the NHS. Kent LDC serves to represent the interests of dentists across the Kent and Medway region. The Committee plays a key role in advising the Integrated Care Board, NHS England Southeast Commissioners, Contracts Managers, Primary Care Directors, Medical Directors / Professional Standards department, and Dental Leads on matters relevant to General Dental Practitioners (GDPs) in Kent. In conjunction with neighbouring LDCs within Kent, Surrey, and Sussex (KSS), the Committee continues to collaborate closely with the ICB and NHSE SE on dental contractual and performance matters, including participation in the Professional Standards Group Panel.
- The Kent LDC is elected from general dental practitioners listed with the three former Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) in Kent & Medway. In addition to elected members, the Committee has co-opted representatives from the dental leads of the East & West Kent Community/Salaried and Hospital Dental Services, as well as a young dentist, ensuring that the perspectives of those at earlier stages of their careers are also considered.
- The full Committee meets quarterly, with in-person meetings held biannually and virtual meetings also scheduled biannually. To promote inclusion and participation, a virtual attendance option is maintained for face-to-face meetings, enabling members who are unable to attend in person to join remotely. This

approach supports higher attendance rates and encourages broad discussion and the sharing of expertise and ideas.

- The Committee is funded through a statutory levy collected from all NHS dental practitioners providing mandatory dental services in Kent. The budget is set annually and published in the Treasurer's statement of accounts (Page 10).
- Kent LDC maintains active engagement with colleagues from other regions and professional bodies, including the British Dental Association (BDA) and representatives from across the United Kingdom with participation in the BDA Regional Liaison Groups, attendance at the national LDC Officials' Day hosted by the BDA, and involvement in the LDC Annual Conference. These forums provide valuable opportunities for sharing expertise and discussing sector-wide issues.
- Furthermore, in Kent, the Committee convenes with representatives from the Local Medical, Optical, and Pharmaceutical Committees every six months. These meetings are dedicated to the discussion of matters of mutual interest, fostering inter-professional cooperation and strengthening relationships between healthcare sectors within the region.
- Looking ahead, as neighbourhood teams and primary care collaboratives continue to develop, Kent LDC remains committed to working alongside other professional groups. The Committee's collaborative efforts aim to ensure that dentistry is recognised as a priority within the primary care workforce, supporting the ongoing integration of dental services with broader healthcare provision.
- Colleagues are invited to address any matters highlighted in this report. At the Chair's discretion, practitioners may also attend the quarterly KLDC meetings as observers. To express interest or participate, please contact the secretary initially at secretary@kldc.org.uk.
- The current membership of the committee and roles undertaken are listed at the end of this report (Page 11-14)

NHS England Changes

- The Committee acknowledges the imminent changes associated with the conclusion of NHS England and further financial constraints on Integrated Care Boards (ICBs). Despite such transitions, Kent LDC has consistently maintained its presence and will continue to collaborate with whichever organisations emerge following these structural adjustments.

Contract Reform:

- The NHS 10-year plan, aimed at transforming services by 2035, includes dentistry, reflecting a broader shift in government spending priorities away from hospitals and towards primary care. This strategic realignment is designed to “build an NHS fit for the future”, ensuring that dental services are given appropriate focus within the evolving healthcare landscape.
- The government's priority on urgent dental care was highlighted by Labour's election pledge to commission 700,000 urgent dental appointments. Tooth decay remains one of the leading causes of hospital admission among children aged five to nine, underlining the ongoing importance of prioritising urgent and preventative dental care.
- In addition to the commitment to provide 700,000 urgent appointments, the urgent dental care incentive scheme has been established to further encourage dental contractors and their oral health teams to deliver more urgent care to patients in 2025–2026. Moving forward, the contract reform, which mandates provision of urgent care, clearly signals the government's ongoing priority in this area.

Key aspects of the 2026 NHS dental contract reform:

- **Urgent Care Focus:** The payment for urgent, unscheduled care will rise to £75 per course of treatment with £15 paid automatically for capacity, replacing the current 1.2 UDA rate.
- **Complex Care Pathways:** Three new payment pathways will be introduced to cover complex treatments, such as extensive gum disease treatment or multiple fillings.
- **Preventative Care & Children:** A greater focus on preventing oral health issues in children, including allowing dental nurses to apply fluoride varnish on prescription between appointments.
- **Workforce Expansion:** Increased reliance on and support for the wider dental team to provide care.
- **Funded Peer review, clinical audit and appraisals:** Encouraging and supporting the whole team in quality improvement

Targets, Hand-backs and Overperformance:

There were very few contract hand-backs during 2025–2026. Rebasing remains ongoing for providers that frequently underperform, while 10% overperformance was approved for most providers that expressed an interest and fulfilled the criteria.

The urgent dental care scheme was successful, with appointments booked through the helpdesk. Kent was on target and received praise for the scheme it had established. Kent had reached approximately 80% when monitoring stopped in January, one of the highest levels nationwide.

The urgent dental care incentive ended in March 2026 with the introduction of the contract variation. The Dental Helpdesk in Kent will be disbanded as practices open their doors and dedicate a specific portion of their contract value to urgent and unscheduled care, creating a much-needed safety net for patients in acute pain.

General Anaesthetic Waiting Lists in Kent

Community Dental Services in Kent has the largest general anaesthetic waiting lists in the South of England. This has been ongoing since the Covid 19 pandemic and although, for the first time since 2019, there are currently no patients waiting 52 weeks or more, the overall waiting list remains long and will require continued support to keep it at an acceptable level.

Funding has been approved for 2026–2027 to reduce the number of patients on the GA waiting lists, this will be delivered through weekend working and a collaborative approach across services. Referrals into CDS remain high.

- The target is to reduce the waiting list by February 2027.
- At the time of writing, there are no patients waiting 52 weeks or more.
- Ongoing support will be needed to maintain waiting times at an acceptable level.

Procurement:

NHS Kent and Medway ICB hosted a Dental Market Engagement Event on the provision and development of NHS dental services, focussing on the following areas:

1. Special Care and Paediatric Dental Care
2. Periodontal Restorative Dental Care
3. Domiciliary
4. General Anaesthesia
5. In hours Helpdesk for special care and paediatric and for those with urgent problems not able to access mainstream dental services
6. Out of hours Helpdesk (emergency dental problems)
7. Unscheduled Dental Care
8. Urgent Dental
9. Oral Surgery
10. Dental Sedation Services

This event was an opportunity for commissioners, providers - both dental practitioners in the community and acute hospitals, and other key stakeholders to come together to discuss and explore approaches to enhancing the accessibility and quality of NHS dental care and how these additional services can support this.

The event provided information about NHS Kent and Medway dental commissioning plans and to give a better understanding on future procurement requirements and market opportunities.

Tier 2 Oral Surgery Procurement

Following the market engagement event, the tier 2 oral surgery procurement proceeded and attracted significantly more provider bids than expected. As a result, the existing oral surgery contracts were extended for one year because there was not enough time to complete the full sifting process.

New Procurement Timeline

- The procurement has progressed to a two-stage process.
- This process will run during 2026–2027.
- The aim is for new contracts to be in place by April 2027

Retrospective audits have been included in the contract extension to help reduce inappropriate tier 1 referrals being seen in the IMOS service; this will support more efficient use of the service.

Kent LDC Website

The Kent Local Dental Committee (KLDC) website serves as a crucial resource for dentists across Kent and Medway. It provides access to a wealth of information, including NHS publications and key reference documents relevant to dental professionals in the area.

At present, the website is undergoing significant updates and revisions. These changes aim to ensure that all information available is current and relevant, reflecting the evolving needs of the dental community. The Committee is committed to making the website a reliable and up-to-date point of reference for practitioners seeking guidance, documentation, and support.

LDC Conference

The 2025 LDC Annual Conference took place in Newcastle on 5–6 June, focusing on resilience, contract reform and the future of NHS dentistry. Key themes included workforce pressures, financial instability, burnout, wellbeing and the need for stronger collaboration across the dental profession.

With rising numbers of GDC registrants but no increase in numbers working within the NHS contract, what are the barriers?

Speakers warned that current uplifts are not keeping pace with rising costs. Shiv Pabary urged completion of the BDA survey so the true cost of NHS dentistry is reflected in negotiations, noting that marginal changes alone will not resolve the crisis.

Jason Wong MBE highlighted high burnout levels and called for a shift from blame to learning, with wellbeing seen as essential to productivity.

Stephen Kinnock, Minister of State for Care, joined virtually and emphasised the need to improve NHS dentistry, address urgent demand through 700,000 appointments, and support prevention through skill mix, supervised toothbrushing and community water fluoridation.

There is no perfect payment system, but urgent and acute need must be prioritised and the real costs of NHS dentistry understood.

Other speakers explored team resilience, balancing performance with recovery, and how mindset affects performance.

Further details are available on Kent LDC website

LDC Officials Day

The LDC Officials Day is aimed at updating LDC representatives in England with key issues in NHS dentistry, strengthening communication between local committees and the General Dental Practice Committee (GDPC).

This year, LDC officials Day was attended by Drs Laura Smith, Cheryl Wood and Elizabeth Hartle. The full report can be found on Kent LDC website.

Practitioner Support and Engagement

Support for Individual Practitioners

- A substantial aspect of the Committee's responsibilities is to assist individual practitioners with any complaints or concerns that may arise during their day-to-day professional activities. Kent LDC remains committed to enhancing the sustainability of general dental practice within the county and is dedicated in advocating for the interests of all local dentists. Members of the Local Dental Committee are available for confidential consultation and support; practitioners are encouraged to reach out if they require assistance. Contact details for committee members are available below and on the Kent LDC website.

Mental Health – Support and Guidance

Challenges Facing Dental Professionals

Maintaining a healthy work-life balance can be challenging for dental professionals, with increasing reports of colleagues experiencing difficulties. Factors such as financial pressures, workload demands, staffing concerns, targets and contract changes can be hard to manage. At times, these circumstances may become overwhelming for dentists and their teams.

Support from Kent LDC

Kent LDC remains committed to offering support and assistance to colleagues within the dental community. Whether you are seeking reassurance, practical support or guidance towards further information, the Committee is available to help.

Pass Scheme:

To provide an initial, confidential and informal point of contact for non-maliciously raised concerns whether it be by self-referral or from the profession or professional bodies (this includes colleagues, dental practice advisors, NHS England, GDC, CQC, Deanery, Indemnity Providers & LDC)

<https://kldc.org.uk/information/kent-practitioner-advice-support-scheme-pass/>

Accessing Counselling and Psychological Therapies

Information regarding self-referral for counselling support is available on the KLDC website.

<https://kldc.org.uk/information/counselling-services/>

In addition, psychological therapies can be accessed free of charge through the NHS, or privately for those seeking a faster service.

Useful Contacts

Some useful further contacts include:

- **HSE Guidance:** <http://www.hse.gov.uk/stress/index.htm>
- **NHS Every Mind Matters:** Dealing with Stress <https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/mental-health-issues/stress/>
- **MIND:** How to be mentally healthy at work <https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/tips-for-everyday-living/how-to-be-mentally-healthy-at-work/work-and-mental-health>
- **The Dentists' Health Support Programme (DHSP):** The Dentists' Health Support Trust <https://www.dentistshealthsupporttrust.org/> offers advice and support for addiction, mental illness, and fitness-to-practise concerns. Confidential advice is available free of charge via helpline: 0207 224 4671
- **Confidential:** Providing emotional first aid for dentists in distress—call 0333 9875158 or visit <https://confidential-helpline.org>
- **Breath Dental Wellness:** There is also information on the following website: <https://www.breathdentalwellness.org>

- **Relate:** Topics include relationships, insecurity, mental health and wellbeing, divorce, and loneliness <https://www.relate.org.uk>

Accurate on publication

What can your LDC do to help you?

Please remember that your KLDC elected members are committed to providing strictly confidential and independent advice regarding complaints and practice-related issues. Should circumstances warrant, they will also suggest seeking assistance from your Professional Indemnity provider. If you are uncertain about whom to contact within the KLDC, or would prefer to consult someone outside your local area, it is recommended to initially reach out to the Chair or Secretary. Contact information for all KLDC members can be found below and on the KLDC website.

If you are facing any concerns or difficulties, it is important not to handle these situations alone. Many dentists who have approached us report that the reassurance and understanding offered by a supportive colleague is invaluable. Should additional support be required, KLDC can also direct you to further relevant services.

Laura Smith
April 2026

Statement of Accounts:

KENT LOCAL DENTAL COMMITTEE 2025/2026

	TRAVEL	TIME SPENT ON LDC MATTERS/MEETING ALLOWANCE	STATIONERY POST PHONE WEBSITE	CLERICAL	SUBSIST- ENCE	HONORARIA	ANNUAL CONFERENCE	OTHERS	TOTAL
2024/2025	£1,474.49	£39,950.97	£931.46	£2,235.00	£1,554.00	£36,564.00	£4,376.31	£3,628.16	£90,714.39

2025/2026	£1,412.00	£31,799.00	£544.75	£1,620.00	£787.00	£37,540.00	£4,946.89	£2,451.16	£81,100.80
-----------	-----------	------------	---------	-----------	---------	------------	-----------	-----------	------------

RECEIPTS

Balance b/fwd	£35,996.28
Income Statutory Levy	<u>£118,800.00</u>
	<u>£154,796.28</u>

EXPENDITURE

Expenditure Above	£81,100.80
To British Dental Guild	£17,000.00
To Dentists Health Support Trust	£12,000.00
To BDA Benevolent Fund	£2,000.00
Balance at Bank at year end	<u>£42,695.48</u>
	<u>£154,796.28</u>

Listing of Representatives on KLDC Committees/Other Bodies

[April 2025]

Members are appointed to certain positions by the committee rather than elected (indicated thus †). Other positions listed are open to elected members however some committee positions require continuity each year because of the nature of the work and required training involved.

Name of Committee	Member(s)
PSG Professional Standards Group	Dr Laura Smith † (as LDC Sec)
KSS LDN Kent, Surrey & Sussex Local Dental Network	Dr Laura Smith † (as LDC Sec)
Oral Health Improvement MCN Oral Health Improvement Managed Clinical Network (Co-ordinators / Joint Chairs - Drs Sarah Davies & June Willis- Lake)	Dr Mark Nugent Dr Shrine Ramamoorthy (deputy)
Restorative MCN Restorative Managed Clinical Network	Dr Cheryl Wood
Routine Dentistry MCN General Practice Managed Clinical Network	Dr Shrine Ramamoorthy Dr Colette O'Sullivan (deputy)
Oral Surgery Forum / MCN Oral Surgery Managed Clinical Network	Dr Muneer Patel
Dental Foundation Training Programme Director (Kent)	Dr P Mauthe*
Hospital Representative	Dr A Elder †
LMC Representative	Dr Mark Nugent Dr Moonis Iqbal (deputy)
BDA - General Dental Practice Committee	Dr Elizabeth Hartle *

† Appointed position * Denotes not appointed by the KLDC

April 2025

Current Kent LDC Members:

PREMKUMAR AMBROSE – West Kent

westhilldental22@gmail.com

SURINDER BHATTI - Eastern & Coastal Kent

01227 761158

surinder.dental@gmail.com

CAROLINE BATISTONI - West Kent

Dental Clinical Strategy Lead Kent and Medway ICB

caroline.batistoni@nhs.net

PARMAJIT CHOPRA - Eastern & Coastal Kent

01795 477224

peter@choprardental.com

RISHI CHOPRA - West Kent

rockin_rishi@hotmail.co.uk

SARAH DAVIES - Co-opted member

Clinical Lead for MCH Community Dental Service

01634 334660

sarah.davies4@nhs.net

ANDREI DUDILA - Medway

dudila.andrei@gmail.com

ANDREW ELDER - Co-opted member - Hospital Representative

Consultant in Restorative Dentistry -

Sec: 01233 616683

andrewelder@nhs.net

TARA GOUK - Co-opted Member - Young Dentist Representative

tara.gouk@nhs.net

CLAIR HAMILL - Eastern & Coastal Kent

Dental Clinical Advisor SE region

clair.hamill@nhs.net

ELIZABETH HARTLE - West Kent

Vice-Chair to Kent LDC; GDPC member for Kent and Medway

01892 833926

elizabeth@aycliffedentistry.com

ELEANOR HEWITT - Eastern and Coastal Kent
eleanorhewitt@hotmail.co.uk

HUSSAM LONE - West Kent
hussam213@hotmail.com

MOONIS IQBAL - Eastern and Coastal Kent
moonis.iqbal@gmail.com

ANTHONY LAM - Eastern and Coastal Kent
anthonyltm@yahoo.com

JANKI PATEL - Eastern and Coastal Kent
jankinpatel85@gmail.com

PETER MAUTHE - West Kent
Regional Training Programme Director, HEE London & KSS; Regional Advisor for PLVE and RE, HEE London & KSS.
pwmtooth@mac.com

SEYED MORTAZVI - West Kent
hadlowdental@nhs.net

YE KYAW MYINT - Eastern & Coastal Kent
dr.yekyaw.myint@gmail.com

MARK NUGENT - Medway
LMC Representative; Oral Health Improvement Managed Clinical Network (MCN) Representative
Vice-Chair to Kent LDC
01634-231776
wickhamhall@aol.com

COLETTE O'SULLIVAN - West Kent
KSS Routine Dentistry Managed Clinical Network (MCN) (*deputy*)
01622 890574
coletteosullivan@btconnect.com

NAISHAD PATEL - Eastern & Coastal Kent
01303 262683
nash@pennypotdental.co.uk

UJWAL PATEL - Medway
uj1patel@hotmail.co.uk

VIKAS PATEL - Medway
01634 232204
vikaspatel78@gmail.com

MUNEER PATEL - Eastern & Coastal Kent
Oral Surgery Managed Clinical Network (MCN)
0203 299 9000 extn. 32620
muneer_26@hotmail.com

GAVIN POWER - Co-opted member
Consultant in Orthodontics
01233 616157 (secretary)
gavinpower@nhs.net

SHRINE RAMAMOORTHY - Medway
Routine Dentistry Managed Clinical Network (MCN) Representative
01634 851061
drshrinerathi@yahoo.com

LAURA SMITH - Eastern and Coastal Kent
Secretary to Kent LDC; KSS Local Dental Network (LDN); SE Coast (Channel) LDCs
Group Representative; PSG representative
secretary@kldc.org.uk
lauraem.smith@nhs.net

JUNE WILLIS-LAKE - Co-opted member
Associate Director for Community Dental Services
(East Kent and North East London)
Governance Lead, Dental and Planned Care Division
Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust
june.willis-lake@nhs.net

HUW M. WINSTONE - West Kent
Treasurer to Kent LDC; Regional Senior Dental Clinical Adviser SE region.
huw.winstone@nhs.net

CHERYL WOOD - Eastern & Coastal Kent; Chair to Kent LDC; KSS Restorative Managed
Clinical Network (MCN); SE Coast (Channel) LDCs Group Representative
01303 255559
cheryl.wood5@nhs.net
chairman@kldc.org.uk