

**MINUTES OF THE NINETY-SECOND
MEETING OF THE KENT LOCAL DENTAL COMMITTEE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 7TH January 2026
AT 6.00 PM ON “Zoom”**

Present: Drs Ambrose, Batistoni, Bhatti, P Chopra, R Chopra, Davies, Dudila, Gouk, Hartle, Hewitt, Lone, Mauthe, Myint, Nugent, O’Sullivan, J Patel, N Patel, U Patel, Power, Smith (Secretary), Willis-Lake, and Wood (Chair).

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Dr Wood welcomed everyone to the January meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Apologies: Dr Winstone

Dr Mauthe to say that he was running late but would join the meeting as soon as he could.

2. LAST MEETING

Wednesday, 8th October 2025 – at the Bridgewood Hotel and via “zoom”.

(a) Confirmation of Minutes – The minutes were approved and will be uploaded onto the KLDC website.

(b) Matters Arising

(Previous actions)

- Pg 4 (14) Circulate KDMSG flyer – this is now completed.
- Pg 4 (15a) To arrange donation to British Fluoridation Society – this is now done and a thank you note has been received.

(Actions from Last Meeting):-

- Pg 2 (4c) Dr Winstone to ask Dr Hymas to scrutinise 24/25 accounts – this has been organised.
- Pg 2 6(1a) Kent LDN has now been disbanded – this has now been removed from the agenda.
- Pg 3 6(1e) Permission to circulate AI generated minutes – it was deemed these are not always 100% accurate and still require human oversight, since no one from KLDC was present to confirm accuracy these minutes would not be published
- Pg 3 6 (1f) Dr Patel’s report on BAOS Meeting – Dr Smith to request again.
- Pg 3 6 (1f) To change agenda details to OS MCN – this has been done.
- Pg 3 6 (iv) LDC Liaison Meeting has been disbanded – this has been removed from the agenda.
- Pg 3 6 (v) Channel Accounts to be sent to Dr Winstone - this has been done.
Digital Dentistry Day flyer to be circulated – this has been done.
- Pg 4 (13) KLDC Website link to contact page for members to check details – this has been completed and updates made
- Pg 4 15 Christmas BDA dinner information to be circulated - this was done.

3. SECRETARY

(a) Correspondence (not reported elsewhere)

Dr Smith advised that information on the Healthwatch awards had been distributed **Action:** The BDA awards information will be circulated after the meeting. Dr Smith advised that she had been contacted by a dentist requesting information on oral surgery accreditation, Dr Smith has forwarded the relevant information. Drs Smith and Wood have been assisting a colleague during a difficult time and Dr Smith has been assisting a colleague through PSG

(b) Reports of Meetings (not reported elsewhere) - Dr Smith reported that at the end of October, Drs Batistoni and Smith had a meeting with Oliver from Healthwatch following the Healthwatch survey which highlighted some recurring themes, a Q/A page for the website is being considered to answer some of the most frequent comments.

PCWIG – discussed the John Hopkins Stratification Tool, a tool for GPs which aims to flag patients who are likely to require additional support, in an attempt to reduce hospital admissions; also discussed neighbourhood teams as an NHS priority and how to integrate dentistry. KSS primary care simulation facility also discussed – role play in managing particular situations – potential could roll out for use in dentistry

- (c) Notice of (AGM) & Draft Annual report - Dr Smith advised that the next meeting would be the AGM on the 1st April and this would be a hybrid meeting. **Action:** Dr Smith to prepare the draft Annual Report for circulation.

4. TREASURER

- (a) Report
- (b) Statutory Levy
- (c) Donations [{Attached}](#)

Dr Winstone unfortunately could not attend the meeting but had attended the pre-meeting the previous evening. It was suggested at the pre-meeting that donations would be kept the same as the previous year, for the committee to discuss. It was suggested a buffer was kept due to the uncertainty moving forward, should more dentists withdraw from the NHS. The previous year £17,000 was paid to the British Dental Guild, £12,000 to the Dentists Health Support Group and £2,000 to the BDA Benevolent fund. **Action:** It was agreed that we would pay the same amounts this year and Dr Wood would let Dr Winstone know the decision of the meeting.

5. KENT AND MEDWAY INTEGRATED CARE BOARD (ICB)

Dr Batistoni advised that the ICB are restructuring, and staff are being lost due to redundancies including Lou Matthews who is very knowledgeable. The new CEO Adam Doyle is from Sussex and is very keen that dentistry is included, making primary care more of a focus, concentrating on recruitment and retention. Oral Surgery recommissioning is going ahead, there were a large number of bids and Dr Batistoni feels that it is unlikely to be completed by April. This raises the question of how they are going to bridge the gap. A market engagement event is being planned looking at the management of referrals, inappropriate referrals with options of triage. Reform changes will come into effect from April, concerns on how to implement change in such a short timeframe, Dr Batistoni said that she would report back as and when she has more information

6. LDC OFFICIALS' DAY 2025 [{Attached}](#)

Dr Smith's report was attached. She added that during the afternoon session they were divided into groups. They were asked if they were given limited funding what would they do with the money. She reported that it was interesting that even in small groups of 5/6 people we could not agree on terms and said that this highlighted how complex any new contract would be. Dr Wood said that it was similar in her group in that no one could agree on how they would want to move forward and there was a lot of discussion.

7. NHS ENGLAND MATTERS

- (a) NHS England SE & (NHSE)
 - (i)(a) Orthodontic MCN & Orthodontics – This position is still vacant – no current meetings.
 - (i)(b) Oral Health Improvement MCN – Dr Nugent advised that the next meeting is 28th January.
 - (i)(c) Restorative MCN – There had not been a meeting since the LDC's last meeting.
 - (i)(d) Routine – [{Attached}](#) - **Action:** Dr Smith reported that she has a meeting with the ICB in the next couple of weeks and that she would email the information on the freedom to speak up provider in Kent when she has the information
 - (i)(e) Oral Surgery – [{Attached}](#) – Dr Muneer's report was attached.
 - (ii) Dental Electric Referral Service (DERS) – Dr Winstone was not present. Dr Power advised that there had been a meeting last Thursday regarding improving the referral pathways on Rego. He said that there was no representation from the LDC. Dr Batistoni said that she had received a last minute invite and had attended the meeting. It appeared that an invitation had been sent to Dr Wood but she was not sure why she had not received it. Dr Power said that he would be happy to attend future meetings but was required to give the hospital at least 8 weeks' notice to

attend. **Action:** Dr Batistoni advised that she would speak to Thomas Cale and liaise with Dr Smith to make sure that the right people get an invitation for future meetings. Dr Power felt that orthodontic representation was important. Dr Davies said that she thought the reason that no orthodontic representative was invited was because currently there is no orthodontic MCN running and that Rego had a new provider and may not have the correct contact details. She said that she would also be happy to feed back. Dr Power was concerned that he would require 8 weeks' notice for such meetings; Dr Davies will also reiterate about giving 8 weeks' notice for future meetings.

(iii) PSG (formerly KSS Performance Advisory Group (PAG) – Dr Smith reported that she had had two cases in the last three-month period. One case where the GDP had stopped practicing due to ill health but not updated their contact details with the performers list; following a patient complaint, NHSE were unable to contact the performer, the failure to respond resulted in onward referral to PSG. GDP now engaging with PSG, this case highlights the need to ensure updated contact details are on PCSE (primary care support England). A second case where a performer had conditions from the GDC but had failed to inform the performers list of the GDC investigation, PSG felt no further action was required, however highlights the requirement to inform NHS performers list if a regulatory body investigates you

Action: Dr Smith advised that she would write to the head of PSG and ask for an information sheet or update sheet on the ongoing requirements as a performer

(iv) SE Coast LDCs (Channel Group) – no meeting.

(b) Dentaline [{Attached}](#) – Dr Davies' report was attached. She asked that if anyone was interested in working for Dentaline, particularly in East Kent to please let her know.

(c) Dental Practice Advisors – As both Drs Winstone and Hamill were not present there was nothing to report.

8. PASS

There were no cases and therefore nothing to report.

9. HOSPITAL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Dr Elder was not present at the meeting. Dr Power advised that he had not heard from Dr Elder but said that they were aware of the problem with regards to GA sessions and were raising awareness. They were also struggling to get their own sessions but were considering sedation. They were not sure what the impact would be on hospitals.

10. SALARIED SERVICES

(a) East Kent [{Attached}](#) – Dr Willis-Lake's report was attached. She added that there suddenly seemed to be pressure on the ICB on the GA wait list which is one of the largest in England, this has resulted in weekly meetings and extra lists on a Sunday. She said that she would be going to the William Harvey Hospital the following day to work jointly on an ENT patient and that they were working well together. MTW have been helping by providing 2 regular slots per month. The lead for the ICB said that it was business as usual but Dr Willis-Lake said that it was difficult getting staff to work weekends. They now only have 44 patients over 52 weeks. She asked if anyone had GA experience to let her know.

(b) West Kent [{Attached}](#) – Dr Davies report was attached. She added that they have 63 patients over 52 weeks and have been doing Saturdays for five years and are just ticking over. The team will be burnt out soon. With the complex child cases there are less staff available at weekends and anaesthetists are limited. Patients remain very grateful. She felt the team at Medway have been fantastic. Dr Shivji will be visiting Dr Davies this week but whilst there is extra funding they still require extra sessions.

11. GENERAL DENTAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE: REPORT OF KENT REPRESENTATIVE(S)

<https://www/kldc.org.uk/gdpc-reports> (see website)

Dr Hartle had not attended any meetings and therefore there was nothing to report.

12. LMC Report

- (a) LMC Report – Dr Nugent reported that he had attended a meeting on 20th November 2025 at Tudor Park. 124 practices signed up to provide Mounjaro, 21 opted out, 30 outstanding ICB gave notice to cease funding for home visits from December 2025, but this has been extended now to March 2026, the average age of patients visited is 85 years old. MPs are supporting maintaining this service. Discussion took place around contract negotiation of locum pay, sick pay and pensions with an uplift not being passed on from practices. No uplift from last year for the winter GP scheme. Spirometry contract re-negotiation. Some locums were having problems accessing the Oliver McGowen training which was paid for by the LMC. This training is mandatory and will be CQC checked.

Dr Wood said that she was very surprised they were having problems accessing this training, she said that the E-learning for Health course was very good.

- (b) LDC/LMC/LOC/LPC officials meeting – Dr Smith attended a meeting in November and it was represented by all 4 areas. The new GP contracts are likely to be imposed in April, government has currently paused meetings with BMA GP committee. New online consultation system is work in progress, requests must be triaged on the day, looking at ways to work with the new system. Pharmacy first is a new scheme whereby the pharmacist can deal with 7 clinical conditions without the need to see a GP, must meet targets to get the additional funding, **Action:** Dr Smith to circulate the information. MECS – minor eye care service discussed, not all practices can provide the service but those that can are listed on the pekm website. **Action:** Dr Smith to email the link to members

13. KLDC WEBSITE [<https://kldc.org.uk>]

Dr Smith advised that she had updated the members page and the meeting dates online. The Minutes for the April and July meeting will be uploaded shortly. A link has been added to Rego and the max course sessions have been added. The ortho / restorative referral page that Drs Power/Elder sent has also been updated. Dr Smith said that she would get around to updating the community page shortly.

14. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- (a) WT&E HEE LKSS Report – Dr Mauthe said that seminars had been set up on Wednesdays, 14th January, 11th February and 4th March for those who might be want to become trainers.

Action: Dr Smith to circulate flyer along with other information. Report [{Attached}](#)

- (b) Kent Dental Mentorship & Study Group – Dr Bhatti said that he hoped that the lecture on sleep apnoea went well as he was unable to attend. The next session is on 20th January and there is a composites master class with Dr Ian Klein. He asked if members could spread the word.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to discuss.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 1st April 2026 – AGM – F2F at the Bridgewood Manor Hotel (Hybrid)

FUTURE MEETINGS: Wednesday, 15th July 2026 “zoom”

Wednesday, 7th October 2026 East Kent TBC (Hybrid)

The Meeting closed at 7.10 pm