

## Health Education England: Advancing Dental Care

<b>Purpose of paper</b>	To report constructive discussions with Health Education England in relation to its “Advancing Dental Care” (ADC) review of dental education and training.
<b>Action</b>	For noting
<b>Status</b>	<b>Public session</b>
<b>Corporate Strategy 2016-19</b>	We will work with partners to make the system of dental regulation more effective
<b>Decision Trail</b>	Council discussed ADC at meetings in 2018. It mandated the Chair to write to the four CDOs in August 2018.
<b>Next stage</b>	Continuing engagement with HEE and other partners through ADC workstreams and the overall assurance mechanisms.
<b>Recommendations</b>	To <b>note</b> progress
<b>Authorship of paper and further information</b>	Matthew Hill, Executive Director Strategy <a href="mailto:mhill@gdc-uk.org">mhill@gdc-uk.org</a> 0207 167 6188
<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix 1: Letter from the Chair to four CDOs, revised recommendations

## 1. Summary

1.1. The GDC raised a number of concerns in relation to phase 1 of HEE's review *Advancing Dental Care*, the primary report of which was published in May 2018. Those concerns related a) to the exercise of the GDC's statutory responsibilities, and b) to the extent to which the views of partners in other nations of the UK had been taken into account. The Chair wrote to the four CDOs to set out these concerns in August 2018.

1.2. Since then HEE have engaged positively with the GDC, with the following results:

- HEE has offered, and we have accepted, a place on its assurance board for phase 2 of the review (which has already commenced)
- It has amended those recommendations that had given rise to concerns about the exercise of our statutory responsibilities
- It has developed, we understand, mechanisms to feed in the views of the CDOs in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland
- We have jointly agreed to explore improvements in our mutual strategic relationship

1.3. The Chair has written to the four CDOs, as attached at Appendix 1, along with the revised recommendations to report this progress. The letter also makes clear that the previous obstacles to the GDC's being able to support the review fully – bearing in mind the many positive areas of reform that the review encompasses – have now largely been removed.

1.4. Council is asked to note progress as reflected in the letter from the Chair at Appendix I.

## 2. Recommendation

2.1. To **note** progress as reflected in the letter from the Chair at Appendix I

25 January 2019

Dear Chief Dental Officer

**Advancing Dental Care: Education and Training Review**

I wrote to you last August to set out the Council's position on the final report of Health Education England's (HEE's) proposals for the restructuring and reform of dental education and training, which was published in May 2018.

I explained that the Council held two main concerns about the content of the report and the process for its production. In summary, those concerns related to the extent to which the report made recommendations in areas where the Council has sole statutory responsibility, and the extent to which the report had properly recognised the differences in operation of the NHS in the four countries of the UK.

I am very pleased to say that since I wrote HEE has engaged very constructively with the Council's executive team.

In addition to some wider proposals around better strategic engagement between HEE and the Council, we have reached agreement on a revised set of recommendations, on the basis of which our first set of concerns has been largely allayed. I attach a copy of those revised recommendations for information. I understand HEE will make the new recommendations available to relevant stakeholders.

We also understand that as part of the governance structure for the next phase of the review, a mechanism has been established for the views of the four national CDOs to be fed directly in to the assurance board HEE has established to oversee the work. If you are content that this reflects your understanding, our second set of concerns also falls away.

37 Wimpole Street London W1G 8DQ

Phone: +44 (0)20 7167 6000 Email: [information@gdc-uk.org](mailto:information@gdc-uk.org)

Chief Executive and Registrar: Ian Brack

Subject to this last point, it seems to me that the way ought now to be clear for the GDC to do what it has desired to do throughout, which is to offer our support to the review. We have made a practical start in that, through our engagement with the assurance board, working groups and, in the short term, exploring with relevant workstream leads how our data might help inform meaningful workforce analysis.

However, the two broad issues we have raised in terms of governance and consensus – particularly in relation to the four nations – will remain very important to us and we will continue to make the case for both as the work develops.

I am copying this letter to Sir David Behan.

### **Proposed amended ADC Recommendations**

Following discussions with the General Dental Council, it has been agreed that Recommendations C2, C3 and C7 set out in the Advancing Dental Care Review Report should be modified to reflect the statutory role of the GDC. The agreed amended wording is set out below:

**C2** *Recognising the statutory responsibilities of the GDC for specialty listing, to promote a debate about specialist workforce needs and how to meet them:*

**C2.1** *Conclusions and recommendations should make reference to current population dental needs and a national workforce stocktake.*

**C2.2** *This should consider the most appropriate locations and care settings for specialty training, within the context of the Five Year Forward View and New Models of Care.*

**C2.3** *This should consider the impact of specialty services delivered via NHS England Tier 2 commissioning on speciality training.*

**C3** *To explore the concept, function and feasibility of additional education and training in General Dentistry through the relevant processes.*

**C7** *To explore suggestions and ideas raised during the review, including those involving scope of practice and curricula at both pre-registration and specialty level, with the organisations responsible for their development or implementation. We recommend the establishment of a cross-system working group, chaired by the CDO [England], to explore some of these issues in more detail, including the following:*

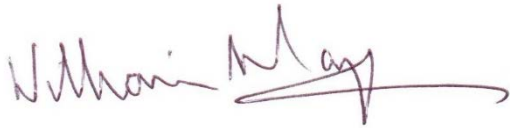
- *Enabling registrants to fulfil their full potential as members of the multi-professional dental team, by promoting opportunities within the GDC Scope of Practice, and identifying and removing barriers;*
- *Building a more prevention-based focus in practice;*
- *Harnessing technology; and Enabling more pre-registration, multi-professional learning opportunities*

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Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'William Moyes', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr William Moyes

Chairman

**Cc: Sir David Behan** - Chair of Health Education England

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