



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Dental Reform Programme

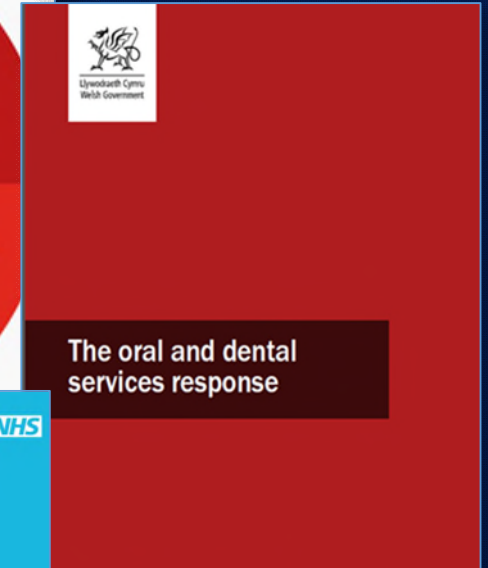
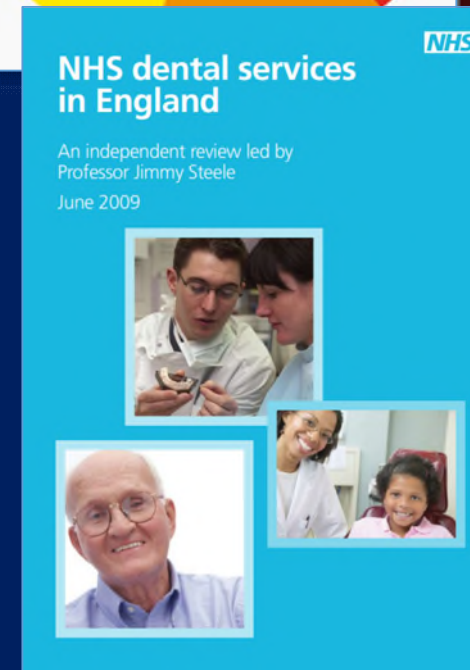
Update – Towards 2026

Andrew Dickenson

Chief Dental Officer

Why reform?

- Deep-rooted systemic challenges
- Multiple challenges – complex to address as requires coordinated response across policy, profession and public
- Previous contract failures: Recurring problem, despite attempts to fix from within the system (“tinker around the edge”; “marginal gains”)
- System innovation is required:
 - Society faces a challenge which requires a systemic response (*access, workforce, inequalities*) ie; **push innovation forward**
 - Society has a systemic opportunity to create a new kind of system ie; **pull it forward** (*skill mix, digital, legislative reform*)



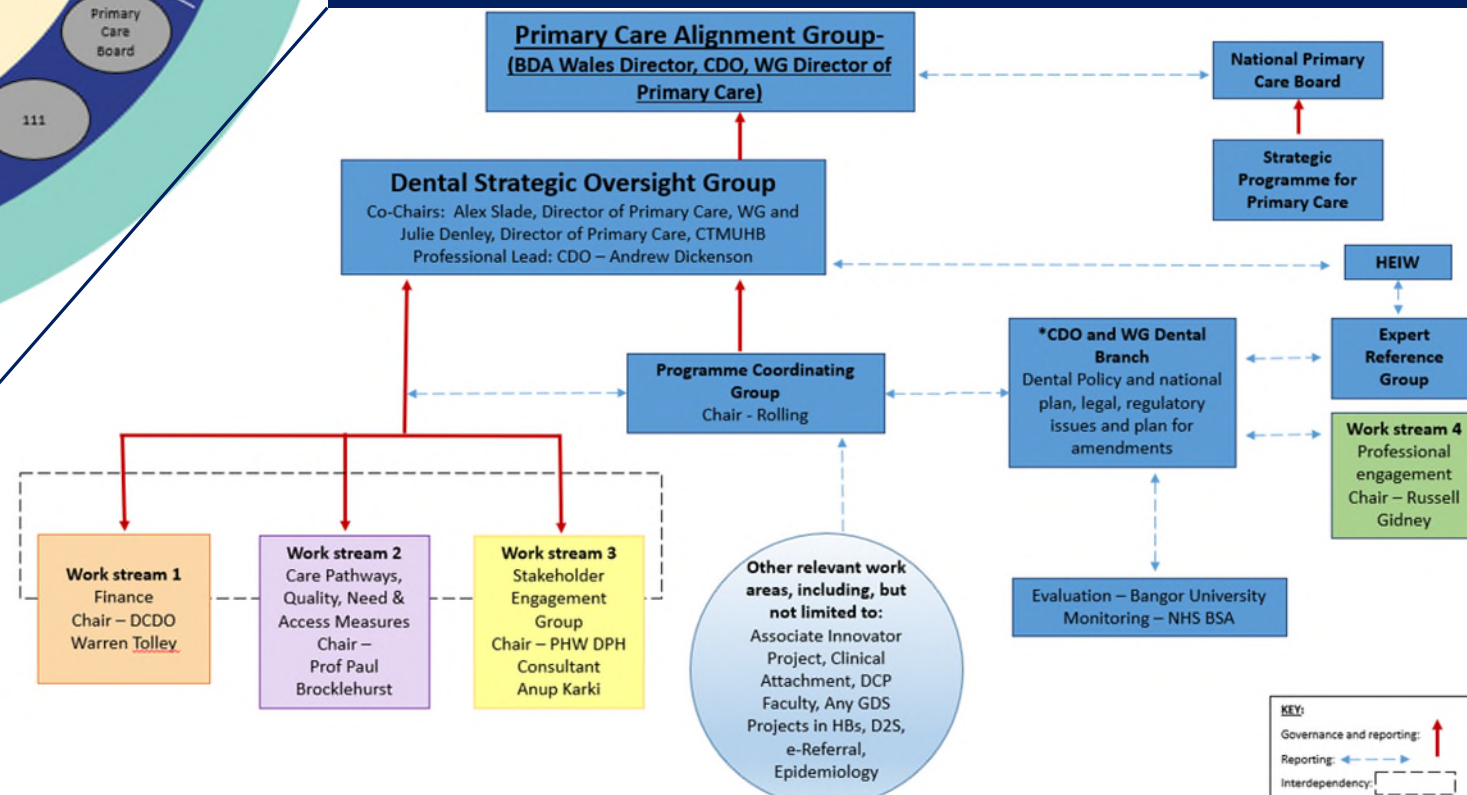
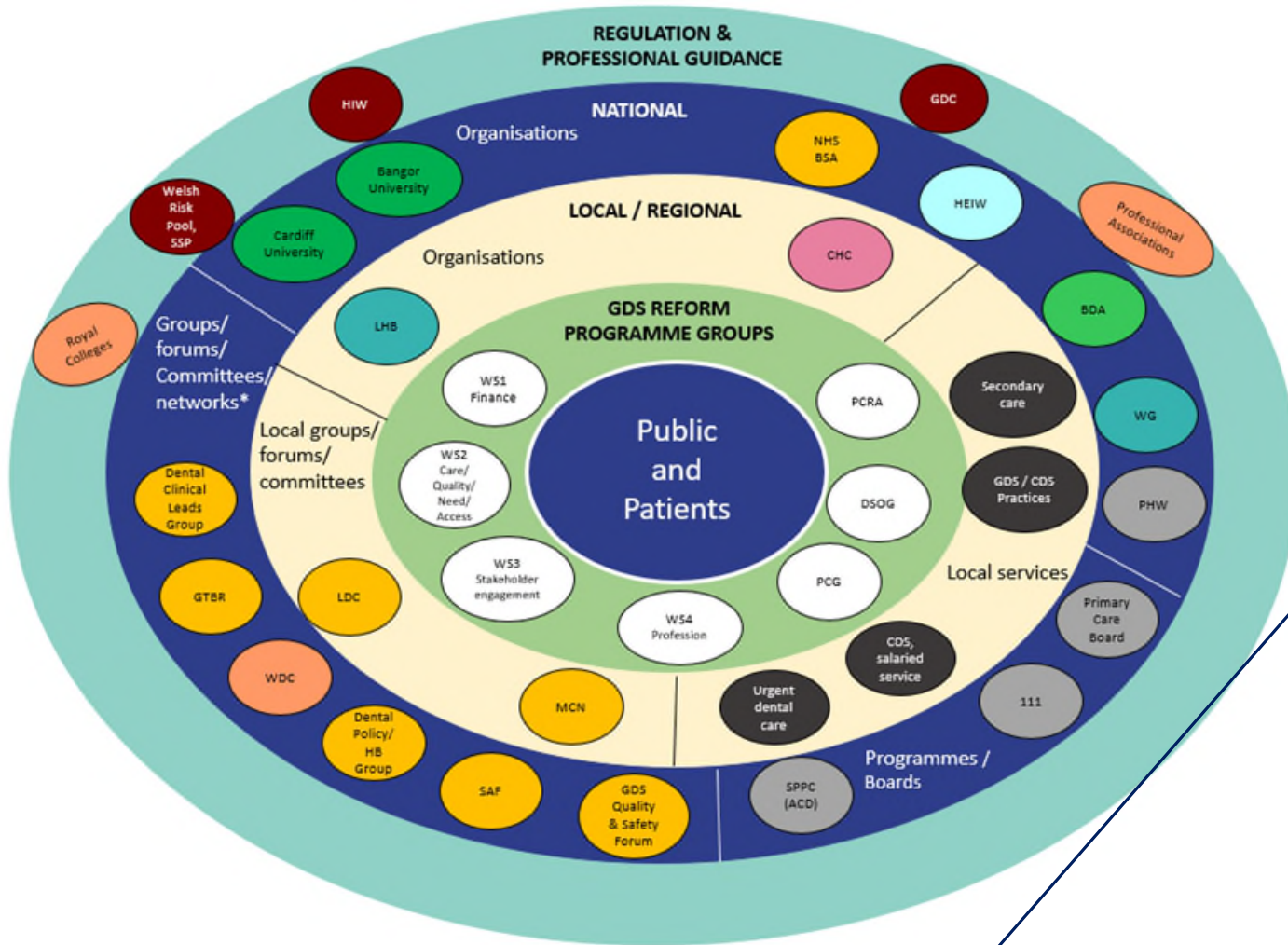
An aerial photograph of a city, likely London, showing a wide river (the River Thames) with several bridges. The city is densely packed with buildings, and there are green spaces and parks visible. The image is partially obscured by a dark blue curved shape on the right side, which contains the text.

Reform ambition

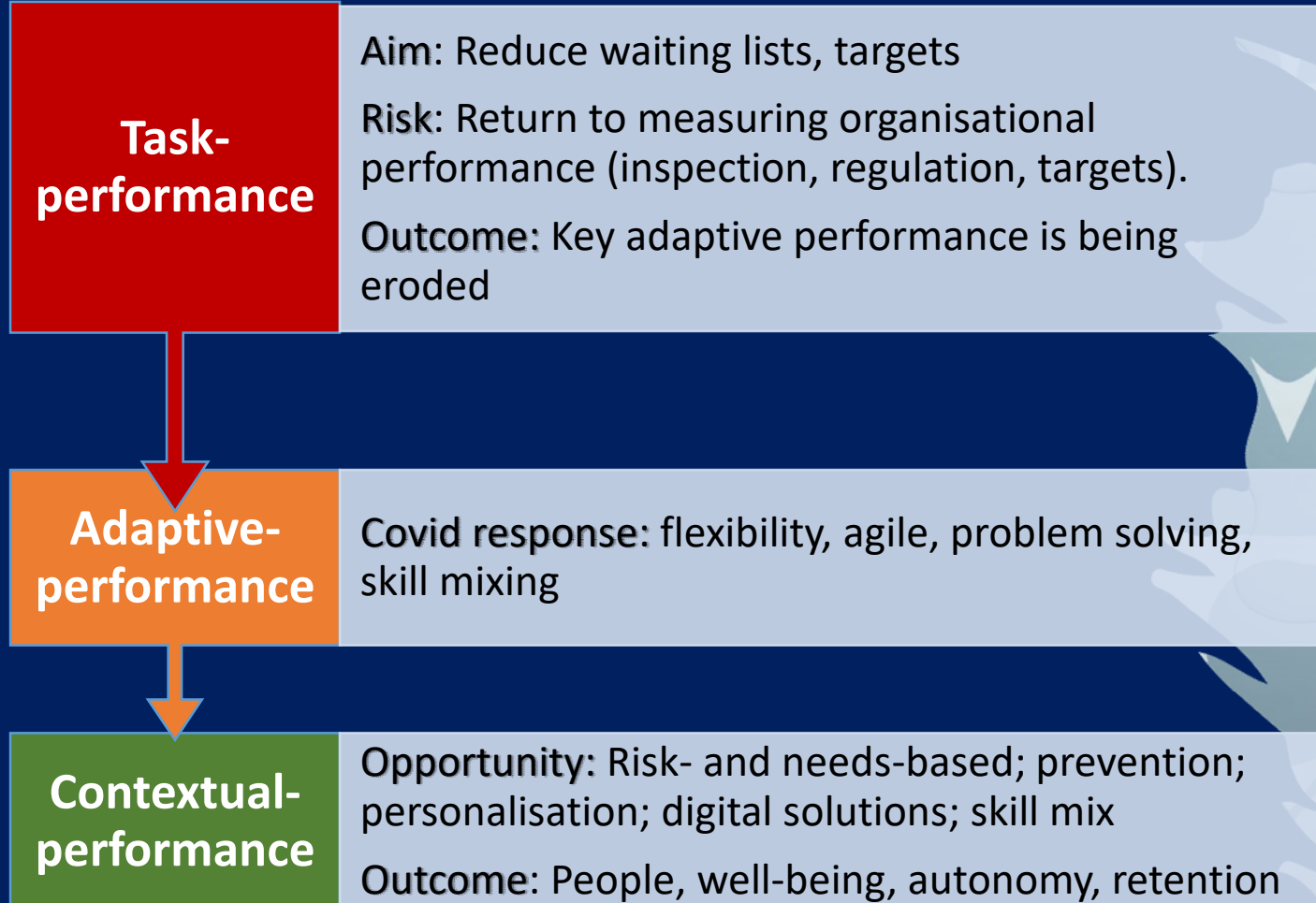
- **Widening access**
 - Urgent care
 - Workforce
 - Rural challenges
- **Focussing on quality of care**
 - Address inequalities
 - Innovative delivery models
- **Incentivising prevention**
 - Personalised care
 - Population health

What does the profession
want from reform?

Reform design

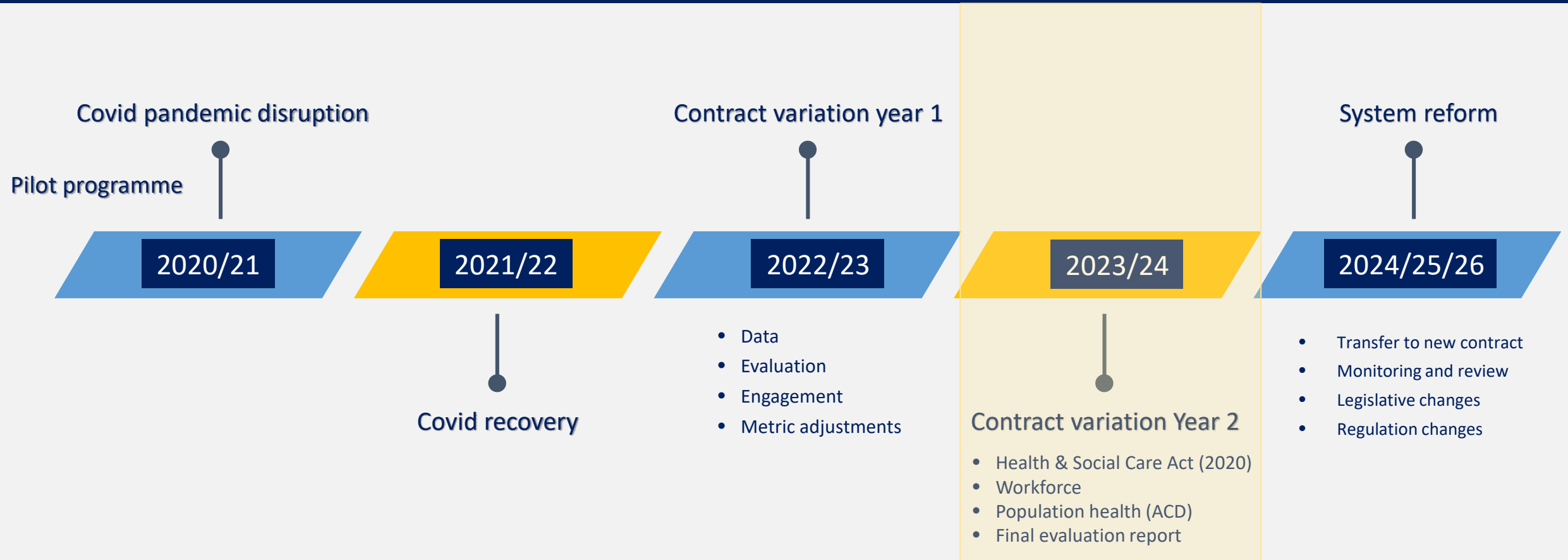


System innovation



Objectives	Principles
What?	Aim to give practices the freedom and responsibility to look after its patient base, monitor and report the generated oral health outcomes.
How?	Reduced emphasis on individual interventions and counting procedures against targets.
Why?	Commitment to move away from UDA monitored activity towards quality oral health review for all patients
Who for?	Quality of care , monitored through ACORN data, to ensure that dental health is improving within a practice population and patient retention.
How so?	Practices with predominantly healthy dental patients encouraged to see more patients than a practice with higher levels of dental need.
What next?	The wider Dental Reform programme incorporates contract reform. System Reform will continue at pace to address access issues, inequalities and disparities in care, and workforce challenges in line with national and WG policy.

Dental Reform Timeline



- **Access:** waiting lists, urgent care, workforce
- **Prevention:** Principles of Care, skill mix, population commissioning
- **Quality:** Candour