

GDS Reform Programme in Wales

Programme Update - June 2023

The GDS Reform Programme Updates are shared quarterly, to provide current information on the work of the programme and opportunities for training and ongoing communication and engagement.

Please ensure that this update is shared with all members of your dental team, as the information within is relevant across all roles and responsibilities.

Update from Welsh Government

- Metrics for 2023/24 – issued just before Christmas giving 3 months for practices to consider their options for the coming year.
- Engagement events in January 2023 were an opportunity to discuss system and contract reform and ask questions about the coming year.
- Guidance – mitigation for high needs patients and end of year management giving HBs the option to offer additional carryover of underperformance to ensure dental funding remained invested in dentistry.
- Contract Variation Notice – formalising the offer made before Christmas and currently waiting to see what proportion of practice opt to work under the reform offer for 2023/24. Initial indications are that the majority of practices will continue to do so.
- The Minister for Health and Social Services has responded to the Health and Social Care Committee inquiry into dentistry – the response can be read here: [Dentistry \(senedd.wales\)](https://www.senedd.wales/eng/committees/committees.aspx?committee=Health%20and%20Social%20Care&topic=Dentistry)

GDS Reform Programme Board – Dental Strategic Oversight Group (SOG)

The last meeting of the Strategic Oversight Group took place on 29 March 2023. Highlight points of discussion included:

- Principles of Care, which have been held back due to the already onerous ask on practices to work differently, but also because of the work around the health pathways which the HBs are starting to undertake as part of the wider piece of work, unifying on a once for Wales approach, where the Principles of Care will have a very strategic role to play.
- Response to the Dental Inquiry report, most of the recommendations have been broadly accepted. However, WG question the necessity for a public survey surrounding water fluoridation.

The next meeting is scheduled for the end of June 2023.

Public Communications

A joint meeting has been arranged with members of workstream 3 (stakeholder engagement) and workstream 4 (professional engagement) to discuss different options for communicating with the public/patients.

Dental Workforce Planning

HEIW is dedicated to transforming the workforce for a healthier Wales. The dental department is continuing to lead the development of a Dental Workforce Plan (DWP) for Wales. The DWP should:

- Understand current demand drivers for Dental services and identify the key factors that will shape demand over the next 10 years including technological advances and changes in healthcare delivery using a scenario based approach to future proof the delivery of care
- Identify the challenges and key supply-side issues across a range of professional groups and areas across Wales and provide a framework for future supply pipelines
- Develop clear and costed actions to develop sustainable workforce models to take forward the delivery of the Dental services model recognising the nature of delivery across Wales that requires different solutions (for example, rural health)
- Provide a framework for clear local, regional and national action
- Underpin future decisions on education & training commissioning

To take a look at what has been achieved so far <https://heiw.pagetiger.com/dental-workforce-plan-a>

If you want to learn how to get involved with the DWP you can contact heiw.dentalworkforceplan@wales.nhs.uk

In March we launched the Train, Work, Live Dental Campaign which will help us to create opportunities to attract, develop and grow the dental workforce. This recruitment and retention campaign will continue over the next three years. This is only the start of the journey as we develop a dental workforce plan and seek to create opportunities to attract, develop and grow the workforce here in Wales. Initially the campaign is focusing on dentists, however the wider dental workforce – dental nurses, hygienists and therapists will be included going forward. [Dental | Train Work Live | Wales](#)

Dental Workforce Development

19th April saw the launch (on-line) of the HEIW GWELLA Dental Leadership Platform. The event was designed to introduce dental professionals to the HEIW GWELLA site with its evidence-based leadership resources so that those professionals who are (or will be) required to develop the skills needed to lead their teams effectively in their local community, health system or at a national level were able to see how HEIW can provide support with this.

This link: <https://leadershipportal.heiw.wales/go/ly8ee7> will take you to the presentation that our digital partner in GWELLA gave at the launch. The last slide contains the contact form for you to apply to register on the GWELLA Leadership platform and start your leadership journey with HEIW.

We also have our own dedicated Dental Leadership page. The dentistry hub is located here: [Dentistry Leadership Hub](#). This will enable you to take a closer look at the events, resources and initiatives that will help you develop your leadership knowledge and skills. Think about your leadership learning needs, as well as those of your team. Over the next few months, we will continue to add to these resources, especially those that relate to leadership in the dental profession.

In regard to the recent announcement from the CDO for dental therapists, dental hygienists and clinical dental technicians providing NHS treatment in NHS (Wales) general dental practices, we are now putting together structured training and development to support any registrants who wish to practise under these new arrangements. There will be a series of programmes and courses both 'hands-on' and blended approach learning to support the DCPs. Contact kathryn.marshall4@wales.nhs.uk

The development of the HEIW NEBDN programme continues. We are now at the selection stage; applications having closed at the end of March. Expressions of interest from potential dental nurse trainees have come from across all areas of South and West Wales, with the majority of applicants from the Cardiff and Vale area. The full programme of study will begin in the early summer. Bethan Withey is our Dental nurse training support officer (Bethan.withey2@wales.nhs.uk).

The Oral Health Education (OHE) course for GDC qualified and registered dental nurses is now in its final three months. This course was run as a pilot and a full evaluation of the programme is now taking place. The next course will begin in August 2023 and interested DNs should contact Bethan Withey as above.

NHS BSA update

The following work is ongoing and further updates will be supplied in due course:

Patient questionnaires:

We are continuing to survey patients via our general, urgent, and orthodontic surveys by SMS, email, or letter. Feedback continues to be positive and reflects previous months. During 22/23 financial year we have managed to survey over 150 000 patients which is x10 more than previous years.

Practice Statements: We are in the process of supporting Health Boards and Shared Services Partnership with the updating of practice pay statements to reflect the 23/24 volume metrics. Practice statements should be updated by end of May 2023.

eDEN Metrics 23/24 + eDEN Y/E Interventions work: We hope to have data for 22/23 mitigation and 23/24 metrics available in eDen in the first week of May and will send communications to users once the updates have been made. In addition to these communications, users should refer to Welsh Government published guidance and notes shown on eDen as a first step for any queries. Any additional data questions can be sent to DataServicesSupport@nhsbsa.nhs.uk.

Primary Care One

The PCOne dental pages have been redesigned to enable easier access to information. Information can be found on <https://primarycareone.nhs.wales/topics1/dental-public-health/> and all communications will be shared via links to the website in future.

If there is anything else you'd like to see on here, please let us know!

Be involved

We welcome feedback and questions from **all members** of the dental team. We may not have all the answers at present, but we capture the questions and use them to inform our programme and communication (e.g., FAQ documents and engagement events). So please keep asking questions and giving us your feedback via dentalpublichealth@wales.nhs.uk