

LDC newsletter

Welcome to the fourth issue of a new newsletter for LDC Secretaries. We hope this is helpful in providing support to LDCs in preparing for local commissioning and we would welcome any suggestions about how we can help further.

LDCS AND LOCAL COMMISSIONING

Dear LDC Secretary

I wanted to concentrate in this newsletter on the run-up to full local commissioning in April 2009. Preparation is underway now, and it will be crucial that all stakeholders- dentists, LDCs and PCOs- work together to address the challenges that we face. The schedule is very tight, and we have much work still to do.



Through newly established Regional Groups of LDCs the BDA will deliver support and training in key areas – relationship development; negotiation training; commissioning; contract support; development of oral health needs. We will also provide information on local service provision and a support pack of key documents and guidance to supplement the support already given to LDC Secretaries. To access this new support please contact Tim Parsons, Business Manager at ldctaskforce@bda.org

Regional Groups

The 10 new groups are arranging inaugural meetings over Summer and Autumn 2007. There will be more information for delegates at the LDC Conference on 7/8 June 2007. In the meantime, if you want to get involved in your Regional Group, please contact Gareth Tracey at ldctaskforce@bda.org or 020 7563 4158

Timetable to local commissioning

In order for PCOs* to have full systems in place by April 2009, some processes have to start now. The BDA has recently held a seminar to look at ways to help dentists, LDC and PCOs plan for full local commissioning. Details can be accessed on:

<http://www.bda.org/advice/docs/LocalCommissioningTowards2009.pdf>

**Primary Care Organisation refers to both PCTs and LHBs*

The tightness of this schedule means that the BDA is encouraging its members, directly and via the LDCs, to work with PCOs immediately to start to put in place the measures outlined. To access support for this activity please contact Gareth Tracey.

*How can LDCs
influence PCOs?*

Help us keep you informed

Some PCOs are further down the line than others in preparations for local commissioning. We would like to know what is happening in your area. Any information we receive will help us get a fuller picture of the situation across the country. Please e mail us at ldctaskforce@bda.org to let us know what progress has been made.

Questions to ask your PCO

- Is there a commissioning strategy or dental plan? If not, can we help draw one up?
- Have you any service needs that might be addressed by contracting in a different way to the standard GDS contract? Can we discuss our ideas with you?
- How might Practice Based Commissioning impact on dental commissioning?
- Do you anticipate that there will be any adjustment to GDS contract values in 2009?
- What is going to be the process for discussion of PDS agreements that will end between now and April 2009?
- Can we set up regular contact meetings to discuss issues of mutual interest/importance?

For support in developing relationships with your PCO contact ldctaskforce@bda.org

More detailed advice for LDCs

The BDA has published some detailed advice for LDCs on issues around local commissioning- such as contracting, the legal background, flexibility around UDAs and next steps.

This document can be accessed at:

<http://www.bda.org/advice/docs/Moving%20towards%20local%20commissioning.pdf>

Training on NHS Tendering

The BDA is happy to provide large group training to dentists on tendering for NHS dental services. The 90 minute session covers the rules and regulations, preparing a business case and hints and tips for presentations and interviews. To book a session for your GDPs, contact ldctaskforce@bda.org

Timeline- towards April 2009

April 2007	PCO Personnel should be in place; Oral Health Action Group (OHAG) or similar should be involved in the commissioning services already;
Summer 2007	Local Delivery Plans for 2007-8; Review of existing contracts
November 2007	LDP for 2008-9
April 2008	PCOs' local commissioning plans and Integrated Service Plan to be in place;
August 2008	PCOs to discuss approach to GDS contract values with LDCs and agree approach. Discussions with contractors.
October 2008	PCOs agree contract values for 2009-10 and where there is a change that is not agreed, begin a dispute process.
April 2009	Full local commissioning starts
October 2009	Monitoring and review. PCOs should undertake Profession and Patient surveys; and mid-year review