

**CRISIS?  
WHAT  
CRISIS?**

## **GDPC Chair's update**

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# A Summer of Discontent?

- “Crisis? What Crisis?” mentality from government.
- PM’s repeat claims on reform, funding and workforce misrepresent this service as on the ‘road to recovery.’



## Myth vs reality

- Access
- Funding
- Workforce
- Reform



**CRISIS?  
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# Back in the USSR?

- Access – a v limited recovery
- Return of queues
- Aug 2022 figures – 9/10 unable to take on new NHS patients.
- Capacity lightyears away from pre COVID norms



# Fair funding?

- A static budget cited as record breaking investment.
- Clawback of £400m+ - a very conservative estimate
- Return to policy of using charge hikes to cover for government cuts.



# An exodus still in motion

- No 'bounce' from recent reforms.
- Fall in workforce to levels not seen since 2012/13



# Myth vs Reality

## Marginal changes vs Maximal losses

- **Spin: 'Most significant changes' in a decade**
- **Reality: Only changes in a decade**
- 1,100 NHS dentists lost since lockdown – lowest number since 2012
- 9 in 10 practices not accepting new adult NHS patients, 8 in 10 child NHS patients
- c 80% of contracted UDAs delivered
- £1/2 billion clawback



# Last year's conference

## Manchester LDC

**This conference believes that the NHS dental service is in danger of falling over due to years of systemic failure by government DHSC and NHSE.**

## Devon LDC

**This conference proposes that the government makes changes to the NHS GDS dental services, so that the service is a more attractive career proposition for newly qualified dentists and incentivises existing dentists currently working within the service to remain.**

## West Sussex LDC

**This conference calls for governments in all four countries to build back a better NHS dental service that delivers to patients, clinicians, practices, and local communities as well as the Treasury and finance departments.**

## Wakefield LDC

**Access to NHS dental care is every citizen's right. NHS England must ensure that adequate funding is made available that this right can be exercised without delay.**

# We need a rescue plan

- Immediate action to stabilise the system
- Visibly show govt commitment to NHS dentistry
- A commitment to significant reform that moves us away from the UDA towards a prevention-focused, capitation-based system
  - Making use of underspends: “You have to follow the money”



# Marginal Changes II: The Sequel

- Areas of focus are:
  - New patients
  - High needs patients
  - Making the NHS more attractive
  - Prevention
  - Urgent care
- Progress has been *very* slow

NOT  
COMING  
SOON

# The road to the next election

- What we do outside negotiations will continue to determine the political space we have in negotiations.
- Our goal is to apply maximum political pressure in the run up to next UK General Election.
- The recommendations from Health Committee will likely offer a benchmark to measures parties commitments against





# The road to the next election

What we must do:

- **Strong media focus** – maintain momentum. Be evidence-based, patient centred.
- **Working locally** – With LDCs, with candidates and incumbents. Giving dentists the tools to take action.
- **Be overtly ‘political’ but non-partisan**  
Shape manifestos; Get politicians to make pledges. Work publicly and privately.



# An anniversary year

- Happy 75<sup>th</sup> birthday to NHS dentistry
- Easier to write a eulogy than a jaunty anniversary message.



# In closing

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*'Coronation? I thought  
this was the queue for  
an NHS dentist'*