Morgannwg
Local Dental Committee

BGM Chair Report September 2023 – October 2026

The period since our last BGM in September 2023 has been an exceptionally busy and important one for Morgannwg Local Dental Committee and for NHS dentistry throughout Wales.

I would like to highlight the following:

- **The new GDS contract has inevitably dominated our work.** The consultation, preparation for implementation in April 2026 and the first six months of operation have presented considerable challenges for practices and the dental teams working within them.
- **The decision to postpone the 2025 BGM was, I believe, the correct one.** With implementation of the new contract approaching, continuity within the LDC was particularly important and enabled the existing Committee and Executive to continue representing colleagues throughout this period of major change.
- **The LDC has worked hard to represent the views of colleagues rather than simply assume what those views might be.** Two surveys were undertaken: the first during consultation on the proposed contract and the second shortly after implementation. The latter produced 100 responses representing 47 practices or practice locations and provided valuable evidence of the early experience of the new arrangements.
- **The results of those surveys have been used actively.** Reports were prepared and circulated to Welsh Government, SBUHB, BDA Wales, Senedd Members and others with an interest in NHS dentistry. They highlighted concerns about claiming, software, care packages, patient charges, administrative workload and, importantly, the effect of the changes upon morale and future commitment to NHS dentistry.
- **We have maintained regular engagement with Welsh Government and SBUHB.** The Chief Dental Officer and his team, together with representatives of the Health Board, have attended our meetings and responded to issues raised by the LDC. We have not always agreed, but maintaining constructive dialogue remains essential.
- **Our close working relationship with BDA Wales has been particularly important.** We have regularly shared information and concerns on national contract matters, ensuring that the experience of practitioners within Swansea Bay contributes to wider representation of the profession in Wales.
- **Political engagement has continued.** Senedd Members have been kept informed about the difficulties facing NHS dentistry and, following our 2026 survey, Mike Hedges MS and Dr Gwyn Williams MS attended an open meeting with colleagues. This subsequently contributed to a request for a Members' Debate based upon a motion developed in collaboration with BDA Wales.
- **The work of the LDC has extended well beyond Contract Reform.** Members have continued to represent GDPs on Health Board committees and other groups, while issues including urgent

dental care, referral pathways, orthodontic waiting times, workforce, dental clusters, professional collaboratives and the Dental Out of Hours Service have all required attention.

- **Communication with colleagues remains fundamental to our role.** Open Zoom meetings, WhatsApp, email and the LDC website have enabled us to reach considerably more colleagues than would be possible through traditional Committee meetings alone.
- **None of this work happens without people giving their time.** I would particularly like to thank members of the Executive and Committee for their commitment over an unusually long three-year term, and all those colleagues who have attended meetings, completed questionnaires and brought issues to our attention.
- I also thank our Secretary, Roger Pratley, for the considerable amount of work involved in administering the LDC, communicating with colleagues and other organisations, preparing reports and correspondence and ensuring that the views of GDPs within SBUHB continue to be heard.

Looking ahead, the challenge for the incoming Committee will be to monitor what actually happens as the new contract becomes established. Where it works, that should be recognised. Where unintended consequences become apparent, they must be identified, supported by evidence and raised with those able to address them.

Whatever changes take place within NHS dentistry, the need for effective local representation of General Dental Practitioners remains as important as ever.

Imtiaz Khan
Chair
Morgannwg Local Dental Committee
22 October 2026