

Speaker Reports by Hazel Coey

Speaker: Matthew Hill - GDC Executive Director of Strategy

Matthew gave a very interesting update to the delegates on developments, particularly focussing on Shifting the Balance. The GDC is working on modernising and streamlining dental regulation. It is involving the dental team, and stakeholders, by reviewing the complaints procedure and refocusing fitness to practice. It has held meetings with stakeholders, including the British Association of Dental Nurses, to ensure that all reforms will reflect stakeholder's views and requirements.

Matthew also took questions from the delegates, which turned into a lively debate regarding the Annual Retention Fee (ARF), and also Indemnity cover for dental nurses.

At the end of Matthew's GDC Update presentation, we had to stop the remaining questions from the delegates as time was short, however, Matthew showed a breadth of knowledge, and was extremely approachable with his questions and answers finale, which he promised to take back to the GDC for further action if required.

This was a very lively presentation and enjoyed by all in attendance at the Conference on Friday.

Speaker: Katy Kerr - Regional Advisor for Workforce Transformation and Continuing Registration, Health Education England

Katy, who is currently Chair of the National Dementia Friendly Dentistry committee, gave a very enthusiastic presentation on dementia. She discussed the progression of the disease, with reference to how we in the dental practice, can support people and their families with dementia.

She explained how she and her team have developed the E-Learning programme, 'Improving Mouth Care', which is free to access on E-Learning for Health.

Katy discussed with delegates the NHS Five Year Forward View, which outlines the aim to develop supportive care environments for older adults diagnosed with dementia. She also discussed how Dental nurses play a key part in supporting patients with additional needs.

Katy is obviously passionate about this terrible disease which affects so many in the older population, and their families.

This was a very informative presentation by Katy, and she made it quite clear to all the Delegates that their role in supporting patients with dementia in dental practices, is key!