

Wolverhampton Local Dental Committee

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Minutes of a meeting of Wolverhampton Local Dental Committee held on Wednesday 30th September 2026, at the Mount Hotel.

Present

Afy Ilyas (Chair), David Cooper (Secretary), Steve Cowley (Treasurer), David Pannell, Divya Patel, Mutahir Rahman and Wai Wah Yip .

Apologies

Jerry Ellison

Minutes

These had been circulated and were accepted by the meeting.

Contract Amendments

The future staffing situation at the AT was still unclear. The LDNs were to be reduced in number and it was assumed that the Chair of the Black Country would absorb Birmingham/Solihull into his remit. However, nothing regarding this had been officially communicated. There had been a general slowdown and stagnation following the change of Prime Minister and ministerial appointments.

LDC Conference Report

DC had attended conference at Manchester in June and he had circulated a report which is attached to these minutes.

WMLDCs Meeting Report

Only three of the five major software companies thought that they were ready to deal with the Care Pathways. Two of them had serious reservations.

The DoH still maintain that these pathways are optional, but as 'best practice' is to offer the patient a care pathway, then they are not really optional. If they were not to be offered, then GDC could potentially get involved.

BDA membership was slightly down with staff redundancies a possibility. The board was to be reduced from 15 members to 9 and BDJ was moving to a digital platform.

Any Other Business

LDC Officials' Day will be held on 27th November in London and DC will attend as the Wolverhampton representative.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on December 9th at the same time and venue. This will be deferred until February 10th if there have been no significant developments.

LDC CONFERENCE 2026

LDC Conference this year was held in Manchester over two days, the 4th and 5th of June.

Chaired by Sarah Canavan, it was the usual mixture of presentations, debate and discussion before voting on motions

Shiv Pabary, Chair of GDPC, gave an update. He commented that it had been 16 years since the Steele Review, when a certain Andy Burnham was Health Secretary. Not a great deal had changed since then and we were expecting the inevitable merry go round of ministers if there was a change of PM.

Private work was now subsidising NHS to the tune of £1bn per year. No clinician should have to deliver NHS care at a financial loss and a reformed contract should achieve the correct remuneration for treatment given. The recent contract changes were not reform. Talks with the Department were progressing but very slowly.

Later this month would see the introduction of UDA values for denture modifications and the care pathways. These pathways were deemed to be optional but were a

potential minefield as a failure to explain them fully to patients, or to even offer them could pose problems with NHS or even GDC.

Delegates were not impressed with the way they were being introduced.

Tom Whiting from GDC said that the new strategy was to support dental professionals.

FtP cases had risen by 25%. Most hearings were now online and staff were available to guide participants through the process.

There were now more new registrants with overseas qualifications and they would be in the majority within a few years.

Dental tourism was becoming a concern to the GDC.

There were more than 30 motions put forward, some of which promoted some robust debate. Significantly, a motion proposed by Birmingham LDC asking for a national CPD day as a protest and a method to pressurise DHSC to upgrade contracts was carried with 75% support.