



FACULTY OF GENERAL DENTAL PRACTICE (UK)
THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

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Ms Alison Ryder
DHESP Consultation
South East London Workforce Confederation
South Bank Technopark
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Dear Alison

A Vision for Londoners' Oral Health 2016

Thank you for including the Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK) in the consultation on *A Vision for Londoners' Oral Health 2016*. I am responding as chairman of the Faculty's Lay Advisory Group, which represents the patient perspective. A separate response will be sent from the Faculty.

The Lay Advisory Group welcomes this document, which sets out clearly what The London Dental Health and Education Strategic Partnership would like to deliver. It appears to be a comprehensive document that covers all the main subject areas, including current topics such as diversity implications and patient choice.

Our group has one major concern that we all picked up: the striking omission appears to be the lack of reference to patient consultation and involvement. We believe that there should be an emphasis on working co-operatively with patients and the public to discover what they would like to receive. How are their views being captured? We would suggest that this might be incorporated as a sub-goal under 4 – An integrated system of oral and dental care – or any other appropriate section. I understand that the consultation paper is going out to patient fora via the PCTs; we welcome this move and hope that you receive constructive comments.

With reference to the specific questions asked, our response is as follows:

1. Do you consider that having a vision for Londoners' oral health is important?	Yes, dental and oral well-being is essential to all of us, and there has been insufficient consideration and resources directed at them historically.
2. Do the Introduction and Context sections of the document cover the right areas?	Yes, although we believe that there should be particular consideration given as follows: <i>Societal trends</i> – Should there be a recognition that London is the main British destination for international tourists and business travellers? With the huge visitor

	<p>numbers passing through the capital, should there be 'walk-in' access to dental care?</p> <p><i>Oral health trends</i> – there has been a rise in mouth cancer in the UK in recent years. Could this be in London and other ethnically diverse areas where sections of the population traditionally chew tobacco, areca nuts, betel nuts, paan and gutka?</p> <p><i>Systems of provision of care</i> – Should there be a statement acknowledging the current poor access to NHS dentists?</p>
<p>3. Do the 10 goals cover the right areas? 4. Do the sub-goals cover the right areas?</p>	<p>We think that both goals and sub-goals are appropriate.</p>
<p>5. Which do you see as the priority areas to address?</p>	<p>We believe that goals 2 – Improved access to, and uptake of, oral and dental care – and 3 – High quality oral and dental care – are the priorities. If these can be achieved, they should lead to achieving goal 1 – Better oral health and reduced health inequalities.</p>
<p>6. Do you have any other comments on the document?</p>	<p>The Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK) issued a document on behalf of the Lay Advisory Group a couple of months ago – <i>Patients' Rights and Responsibilities</i> – which can be accessed on our website – www.fgdp.org.uk. It would be ideal if all dental care providers could take on board the points incorporated in this document.</p>
<p>7. What do you consider should be the next steps?</p>	<p>It would be logical to develop clear targets against each goal along with an implementation plan with realistic timescales. This should involve ongoing consultation with key stakeholders, not least patients and the public at large.</p>

We congratulate the London Dental HESP on this document and suggest that the paper is promulgated across the country as other regions may find it useful to embark on a similar exercise.

We would be keen to be kept involved with this project, and are happy to provide further input as required.

Yours sincerely

Peter E Sanders
Chairman, Lay Advisory Group