

Dear all

As LDC Chairman for Derbyshire County, I represent the local dental community. As dentists and practice owners / contract holders we are concerned about the progression of COVID-19 as is anyone else. In addition, we have a duty of care to our staff and patients. Many practice owners are concerned about the viability of their practices.

We are looking for the best way to work together to find solutions. I messaged Jane Temple as it was brought to my notice that there had been a directive issued that SCD should cease seeing patients and cancel the day until adequate PPE masks were provided, fitted and training given. Now given that all practices have compromised patients that may need treatment we were concerned that the same standard should be applied to all clinics. I am aware that supplies may be limited but this simply underlines that a plan is needed to allocate resources where needed. Many Derbyshire practices are triaging and providing analgesia and antibiotics but this is a short term measure.

As an LDC, we are happy to work with commissioners to find a way through this but we cannot do it without support. We don't have a full database of contract holders and performers as we only have details of those joining the LDC. We have asked area teams many times in the past for an updated mailing list. This used to happen with old PCT. Providers are concerned about the impact of clawback after the CDO letter. At this challenging time, they do not need this pressure.

So - I don't believe in bringing problems without solutions.

1. Provide LDCs without delay, an up to date mailing list so that we can contact all providers and performers. We have already set up a Derbyshire LDC WhatsApp group which is overheating but it is limited in its scope and we need clear information.
2. Set up urgent care centres throughout Derbyshire. Derby city is a separate LDC but we can work together. We can set up a practice rota system to cover urgent care but we will need support especially adequate PPE otherwise, like SCD we cannot function. This could be focused to a smaller number of UDC practices.
3. Practices need professional space to manoeuvre rather than looking over their shoulder at potential short to medium term clawback.
4. General dental practice is a substantial resource which needs to be supported. Without this support, many practices may fold. This would be irreplaceable for many years.
5. I will be checking in to the online NHSE meeting tonight at 6. Hopefully we can come out if it with a plan.

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