

North West London LDC Plan for 2026



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Introduction

The North West London LDC has a clear Vision and Mission:

Our vision:

For NHS dentistry to be valued as an integral part of the local health economy, creating an environment in which dentists are proud to work.

Our mission:

To embed dental services and oral health into local health and wellbeing plans, ensuring that our role is understood and valued, improving the working lives of dentists to deliver the care their patients need.

The Vision and Mission are supported by three pillars:

Support: We are here to support local dentists, that means helping make systemic changes to improve working lives but also helping individuals when they need it.

Clarity: We will be clear to our members and stakeholders about what we are trying to achieve and why. This will ensure that we are able to take feedback on to stay relevant but also encourage active participation from our members.

Inclusivity: We want to break down barriers to engagement and involvement and make sure that all dentists have the opportunity to be involved, learn and develop through their LDC.

The LDC is the voice of the dental profession at the local level. Without strong, credible and proactive engagement at the local level the voice of the profession at the national level is weakened. By working with partners to improve their understanding of the importance of dental services we will safeguard investment into dental services and improve systems to help dentists deliver the best possible care for their patients. Local engagement will put into practice national direction and show the dental profession as leaders. It is only by working locally that we can effectively and sustainably break down barriers to coworking and integration with the rest of the health and social care services so that dentistry is considered as integral to the NHS as other services.

By opening up opportunities for every levy paying dentist to be involved we hope to provide a supportive environment where the next generation of leaders can grow with confidence.

In the first three years of the NWL LDC much has been achieved but much remains to be done. The constant reforms and state of flux in the NHS has prevented ambitious local reform for NHS dentistry, and national mandates on dentistry have continued to dictate practice with little regard given to local priorities. We have, however, managed to form strong local relationships with the North West London Integrated Care Board and are considered valuable stakeholders. This relationship has already led to the development of two dental pilots in the area, and we hope to drive further proposals for increased integration of practice and support for GDPs.

Operation of the Board

The NWL LDC was newly formed three years ago and the Board has been developing its way of working since then, in parallel with driving local engagement. Our new plan for the operation of the Board is set out below:

Chair	Term	Board Meeting	Volunteers Meeting	Open meeting
Brent	01 Jan 2026-31 March 2026	Jan 2026	Feb 2026	Mar 2026
Ealing	01 April - 30 June 2026	Apr 2026	May 2026	Jun 2026
Hammersmith and Fulham	01 July - 30 September 2026	Jul 2026	Aug 2026	Sept 2026
Harrow	01 October - 31 December	Oct 2026	Nov 2026	December 2026 (AGM)

Integrated Care Board Engagement

The NWL LDC has successfully engaged with the NWL ICB and is part of several working groups and meetings. To date these have largely been attended by a single member of the Board to grow the relationship and provide consistency in engagement. Going forward the Board will rotate attendance at the meetings on an annual basis to ensure that there is a wider spread of engagement.

Engagement with the ICB is central to the LDC. The ICB is the commissioner of dentistry and responsible for contracts, though the management is outsourced to the Dental Optometry and Pharmacy Commissioning Oversight Group (DOP COG) hosted by the North East London ICB.

The ICB has the ability to develop local initiatives and drive different ways of working. Through our engagement with the ICB and by proving ourselves as valuable partners we hope that proposals informed by the frontline will filter upwards to influence national priorities.

Meeting	Frequency	Member
Primary Care Programme Board	Monthly	To be agreed by the Board
Primary Care Collaborative	TBC	To be agreed by the Board
Primary Care Commissioning and Contracting Group	Quarterly	To be agreed by the Board
Dental Liaison Meeting	Bi-monthly	To be agreed by the Board
Dental Collaboration of Practice	TBC	To be agreed by the Board
NHS London DOP Commissioning Oversight Group	Monthly	To be agreed by the Board

Local Engagement

Each Director will map out the local stakeholders relevant to their area, and decide on an engagement plan. If there are active volunteers in their area already they will work with them. If not they will go out to the wider membership to seek volunteers, or appoint, as per the Appointment of Volunteers Policy.

Engaging with local stakeholders fulfils several objectives. Firstly it ensures that local stakeholders, and so local populations, have a good understanding of how NHS dentistry works. By increasing the awareness about how NHS dentistry works we hope that local practitioners' lives are made easier. By helping patients understand the commissioning arrangements we can ensure that complaints are directed at the cause, and not the dentist.

By engaging with local stakeholders we show that dentistry is about more than just teeth and that our services are a core component of their priorities as well. Local authorities want to reduce health inequalities and improve health outcomes, as does the NHS, and dentistry has a clear role to play in those goals. By making them aware of what dentistry provides we help safeguard investment in dentistry by making any reduction unacceptable to local stakeholders.

We will also increase our engagement with LPC and LOC colleagues, started through our engagement at the ICB meetings, to ensure that we are working together for a strong voice for primary care.

To support our local engagement the Board has produced a clear Code of Conduct for members who volunteer to represent the LDC. This document sets out what the member can expect and what is expected from them.

The Board is pleased that members have come forward to volunteer their time to represent colleagues and engage with local stakeholders.

Stakeholder	Frequency	Member
Local Healthwatch	quarterly	1 volunteer per borough (Renal Patel - Hounslow, Dipesh Shah - Harrow, Payal Shah - Westminster)
Local Authority	quarterly	1 volunteer per borough (Cailling Redican - Brent)
Integrated Neighbourhood Team leads	quarterly	Director or volunteer in each borough
Ad hoc working groups	Ad hoc	As required
LPC and LOC engagement	Quarterly	Director or Volunteer (TBC)

Communication with members

Communication with the wider membership is conducted through monthly email newsletters. In general our newsletters have an open rate of 72.8 per cent, which is fantastic and we will continue to send out monthly newsletters with updates on what the LDC is doing on your behalf.

As well as reports on our activities and information from stakeholders we intend to start holding bi-monthly stakeholder meets which we will write up. These will include meetings with the practices involved in the two pilot schemes, providers of level 2 services, MCN Chairs etc.

This year we have published 24 articles on NWL LDC activity.

We have produced two infographics for every borough - 16 in total. These will now be updated annually and provide simple data on dental activity in each borough.

Conclusion

In 2026 the NWL will have a more structured approach to its internal arrangements and a clear map of engagement at the local level. We will continue to provide monthly newsletters with increased reports on activity. We will continue our engagement with the ICB and local stakeholders and start more structured engagement with other dental stakeholders. Ultimately we will continue to grow the credibility of the LDC and profession locally to increase our voice. We will use this voice to advocate for improvements at the local, regional and national level to ensure that the NHS is an environment that dentists are proud to work in.

North West London LDC

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