

South East London LDC Plan for 2026



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Introduction

The South East London LDC has a clear Vision and Mission:

Our vision:

For NHS dentistry to be integrated with the rest of the health and social care system to enable dentists and dental care professionals to maximise their skills for the benefits of their community.

Our mission:

To provide effective support for the dental profession at the local level to ensure that local partners are informed and able to utilise systems to enable dentists to provide the best care possible for their community.

The Vision and Mission are supported by three pillars:

Advocacy: We will represent the local profession to stakeholders to ensure that the role and value of oral health and dental services is well understood and that that understanding is acted on. Our communication on behalf of the profession will be open, evidence based and for the benefit of oral health.

Peer support: We will break down barriers to isolation to ensure that colleagues have access to support and a network of trusted help in the local area.

Diversity: Our profession is a diverse one. 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.

Over the last three years the Board has worked hard to build good relationships with the South East London Integrated Care Board and raise the profile of dentistry. We have also worked with colleagues from local authorities to understand their priorities for local health improvement and explore how dentistry can play a role.

Operation of the Board

The SEL 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. The Chair of the LDC will rotate every quarter, and during each term they will Chair three meetings. Our new plan for the operation of the Board is set out below:

Chair	Term	Board Meeting	Volunteers Meeting	Open meeting
Bexley	01 Jan 2026 - 31 March 2026	January 2026	February 2026	March 2026
Bromley	01 April - 30 June 2026	April 2026	May 2026	June 2026
Greenwich	01 July - 30 September 2026	July 2026	August 2026	September 2026
Lambeth	01 October - 31 December 2026	October 2026	November 2026	December 2026 (AGM)
Lewisham	01 Jan 2026 - 31 March 2027	January 2027	February 2027	March 2027
Southwark	01 April - 30 June 2027	April 2027	May 2027	June 2027
Bexley	01 July - 30 September 2027	July 2027	August 2027	September 2027
Bromley	01 October - 31 December 2027	October 2027	November 2027	December 2027 (AGM)
Greenwich	01 Jan 2026 - 31 March 2028	January 2028	February 2028	March 2028
Lambeth	01 April - 30 June 2028	April 2028	May 2028	June 2028
Lewisham	01 July - 30 September 2028	July 2028	August 2028	September 2028
Southwark	01 October - 31 December 2028	October 2028	November 2028	December 2028 (AGM)

Local Engagement

Over the next year we will increase our engagement at the borough level, engaging with more local stakeholders. Each Director will map out the local stakeholders relevant to their area, and decide on an engagement plan. We will then engage the wider membership to seek volunteers, or appoint, as per the Appointment of Volunteers Policy.

We have been meeting with directors of public health in local authorities and local Healthwatch to better understand local priorities. This has led to useful discussions about the relationship of dentistry to plans to reduce health inequalities. We have taken the opportunity to explain how the dental contract works and how stronger relationships with more contractual flexibility could improve services.

Engaging with local stakeholders ensures that they, and their local populations, have a good understanding of how NHS dentistry works. We present this information through policies and articles agreed by the LDC Confederation Policy Committee.

To support our local engagement the Board has produced a 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.

We will also expand our engagement to the Local Pharmacy and Local Optical Committees so that we can start to work more closely together and share experiences and engagement. This will help the voice of primary care stay strong and united, and ensure that intelligence is passed around in a timely manner.

Our local engagement is expected to revolve around the following local stakeholders:

Stakeholder	Frequency	Member
Local Healthwatch	bi-annual	1 volunteer per borough
Local Authority	quarterly	1 volunteer per borough
Integrated Neighbourhood Team leads	quarterly	As required
Local Pharmacy Committee and Local Optical Committee	quarterly	1 volunteer for the LDC

Communication with members

Communication with the wider membership is conducted through monthly email newsletters. In general our newsletters have an open rate of 77.6 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. Our newsletters contain polls every month. To date these have had very low engagement, but we would like to see this increase as feedback helps ensure we are reflecting the general position of members.

As well as reports on our activities and information from stakeholders we will start to hold bi-monthly stakeholder meetings with different dental groups in the LDC area, such as IMOS providers, which we will write up.

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.

South East London LDC

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<https://ldc.org.uk/ldc-members/south-east-london-ldc/>