

# South West London LDC Plan for 2026



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# Introduction

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

**Our vision:**

Supporting GPs to provide care in an NHS that delivers for patients and professionals.

**Our mission:**

To provide an environment for dentists to be able to provide the best care for their patients under the NHS contract by building collaborative local partnerships and a supportive network of peers.

The Vision and Mission are supported by three pillars:

**Communication:** We will listen to our constituents and take forward your concerns. We will also be clear and transparent about what we are doing on your behalf.

**Proactivity:** We will not wait for problems to arise or projects to start without the dental profession but will seek out ways to influence and encourage stakeholders to engage with dental services.

**Relationships:** We will build long term partnerships with key stakeholders based on honesty and credibility. Our network will help local practitioners by providing conduits of information and resolution. We will keep strong and open dialogue with our members so they know who we are, what we are doing and how to be involved.

We know that there is a recruitment crisis throughout the dental team placing enormous strain on practices and contractual obligations. We will provide support on this issue by working through the LDC Confederation, dental commissioners and local stakeholders who are also affected by our challenges. We will work with the Council and local Healthwatch who represent patients and the public to raise awareness of how these issues affect the public. We will use this awareness to press for improvements to our way of working.

The future of dental commissioning is through Integrated Care Boards and Local Care Partnerships. We will engage with these bodies to ensure that the value of dentistry is understood and barriers to effective use of our service are removed.

Over the last three years the Board has worked hard to build good relationships with the South West London Integrated Care Board and raise the profile of dentistry. We have also worked with colleagues from the Local Pharmaceutical Committee and Local Optical Committee to ensure that primary care is well represented and able to speak with a coordinated voice. Towards the end of 2025 there was a short pilot operating in south west London to boost access for children and help build relationships with GPs. While not as successful as hoped this does at least pave the way for further engagement and shows the interest the ICB has in dental care.

## Operation of the Board

The SWL 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
Croydon	01 January - 31 March 2026	Jan 2026	Feb 2026	Mar 2026
Kingston	01 April - 30 June 2026	Apr 2026	May 2026	Jun 2026
Merton	01 July - 30 September 2026	Jul 2026	Aug 2026	Sept 2026
Richmond	01 October - 31 December	Oct 2026	Nov 2026	December 2026 (AGM)

## Integrated Care Board Engagement

The SWL LDC has successfully engaged with the SWL ICB and has a regular dental meeting with them.

Engagement with the ICB is central to the LDC's vision to support local dentists in the delivery of their care to patients. 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 as seen in the recent dental pilots. The ICB has already held one dentistry day bringing together a range of local stakeholders to better understand how they want NHS dentistry to work, and we look forward to another being held and this information being fed up to NHS England/Department of Health.

We have also been engaging with the Training Hub to make sure that they have access to dental knowledge and information as required.

Meeting	Frequency	Member
Dental Liaison Group	Quarterly	To be agreed at the AGM
SWL Training Hub	Ad Hoc	Nabeel Muneer

# Local Engagement

In the coming 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.

Engaging with local stakeholders 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. We present this information through policies and articles agreed by the LDC Confederation Policy Committee.

We want to show local stakeholders 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.

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.

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

Stakeholder	Frequency	Member
Local Healthwatch	bi-monthly	1 volunteer per borough
Local Authority	bi-monthly	1 volunteer per borough
Integrated Neighbourhood Team leads	quarterly	
Ad hoc working groups	Ad hoc	As required

# Communication with members

Communication with the wider membership is conducted through monthly email newsletters. In general our newsletters have an open rate of 69.7 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 continue to hold bi-monthly stakeholder meets which we will write up. So far we have held these meets with the pilot practices and IMOS providers.

This year we have published 11 articles on SWL 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.

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# South West London LDC

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