

General Dental Council

Working with the dental team for public safety and confidence

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General Dental Council

1. Role and responsibilities of the GDC
2. Reflections and strategic priorities
3. Challenges and opportunities
4. Discussion



Our purpose, role and responsibilities

- Dentists Act 1984, as amended by the Health and Social Care (Safety and Quality) Act 2015:
 - to protect, promote and maintain the health, safety and wellbeing of the public
 - to promote and maintain public confidence in regulated dental professions, and
 - to promote and maintain proper professional standards and conduct.
- Very broad remit, but some things we must do



GDC statutory functions



Strategic direction

- Corporate Strategy 2020-2022:
 - Consultation on plans and forecasted costs in the summer
 - Costs of delivery linked with new ARF levels
 - Published by year end, with costed corporate plan 2020
- Builds on Patients, Professionals, Partners, Performance:
 - Provided strategic direction 2016 – 2019
 - Focused on improved engagement
 - Policy iteration outlined in Shifting the balance

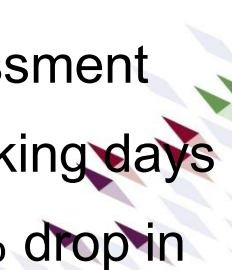


Shifting the balance 2017

- Stb: a better, fairer, system of dental regulation:
 - More proportionate, efficient and effective system of regulation
 - Focuses on preventative action to secure public safety and confidence i.e. moves regulation 'upstream'
- Four pillars where our activity is focused:
 - Promoting the positive features of professionalism
 - Improve first-tier handling of concerns
 - Working with others to improve agility and proportionality
 - Refocusing fitness to practice on serious incidents

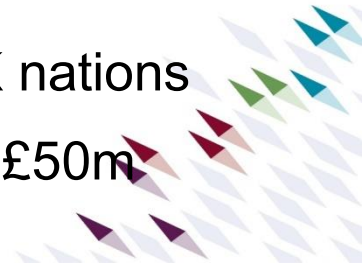


Shifting the balance 2017

- Developed our approach to ‘upstream’ regulation
 - Embedding professionalism through student engagement
 - Began further development of lifelong learning
 - Working collaboratively on complaint handling
 - Refocused our enforcement activity:
 - Drop in concerns, improved signposting and initial assessment
 - Processing for initial decisions down to four from 12 working days
 - Reviewed how DCS interacts with GDC FtP with an 80% drop in
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Reflections on 2016-2018

- Other progress during the period:
 - Understanding needs and expectations of the public and patients
 - Prioritised listening and engaging with the registrants, students and trainees across the professions
 - Introduced improved Enhanced CPD scheme
 - Case Examiners now able to offer undertakings
 - Improved communications and engagement across UK nations
 - Implemented estates strategy, forecasted to save over £50m over the life of the 15-year lease in Birmingham




Our vision 2020

- A system of regulation which:
 - Supports the provision of safe and effective oral healthcare
 - Embeds and promotes clear standards of clinical competence and ethical conduct
 - Embodies the principles of right-touch regulation
- Is guided by our values:
 - Fairness
 - Transparency (our work and decisions)
 - Responsiveness (listen and adapt)



What are 2020 priorities?

Upstream

- Principles of professionalism and review of standards
 - Full rollout risk-based inspections of education and training
 - Continue scoping future model for lifelong learning and looking for meaningful reforms to Enhanced CPD
 - Understanding the influence of human factors and the relationship to risk
 - Insights from fitness to practise
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What are 2020 priorities?

Downstream

- Developing principles of regulatory decision-making
- Regulatory changes to improve fitness to practise processes (DHSC Promoting Professionalism S60)
- Focus capacity on serious issues
- Alternative dispute resolution
- Intelligence driven approach to illegal practice
- Divergence of adjudication function



What are 2020 priorities?

Working with others

- Resolving and routing concerns between organisations
- Review the role of the DCS within the system
- Profession-wide complaint handling initiative:
 - Promoting the value of good complaint handling and inviting feedback
 - Improved patient-facing information
 - Roll-out in Scotland



Challenges and opportunities

- Technology, including remote or online consultations. What will it mean to be a dental professional?
- Demographic change, our aging population
- Change in the market and rise of corporates
- How to make the most of the dental team
- Commissioning and the dental contract



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