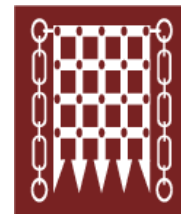


**Westminster Health Forum policy conference:
Next steps for dentistry in England - access, prevention and reform**

Timing: Morning, Monday, 16th November 2026

*****Taking place online*****

Draft agenda subject to change



**WESTMINSTER
HEALTH FORUM**

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Assessing the current state of dentistry in England - policy, access and tackling inequalities**
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Priorities for patient access to dental care and improving patient experience**
William Pett, Interim Director, Policy and External Affairs, Healthwatch England
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.40 **The future of dentistry delivery - managing operational pressures, clinical quality and innovation**
Dr Nyree Whitley, Chief Clinical Officer, mydentist
- 9.50 **Market conditions, funding and service sustainability in dentistry**
pressures on NHS delivery and capacity | assessing what differing costs from NHS and private care means for patient choice | contract reform, activity expectations and operational impact | funding constraints, cross-subsidisation and practice viability | workforce shortages and recruitment challenges | regional variation in access and affordability | commissioning approaches and local flexibility | market competition and provider behaviour | patient experience, unmet need and delayed care | long-term sustainability of dental services within wider system pressures
Dr Matthew Nolan, Head Dental Officer, Denplan
Senior representative, NHS
Senior representative, advocacy
Senior academic
- 10.10 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.35 **Competition, access and market reform in dentistry**
Senior speaker confirmed from the **Competition and Markets Authority**
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.50 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.55 Break
- 11.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.10 **Next steps for developing a sustainable dentistry profession and opportunities for innovation in care delivery**
recruitment and retention pressures | supporting newly qualified dentists into NHS practice | career development and professional support | workforce planning across the wider dental team | AI-enabled diagnostics, digital tools and new models of care delivery | safe adoption of emerging technologies, clinical oversight and accountability | data governance, patient trust and workforce skills for innovation | research and evaluation of new approaches
Senior representative, workforce
Senior representative, research
Senior representative, innovation
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 **Priorities for dentistry in local commissioning, capacity planning and neighbourhood health services**
Senior representative, commissioning
- 11.55 **Opportunities for community based delivery of dental care in areas of social deprivation**
Professor Zoe Brookes, Professor, Integrated Dental Healthcare, University of Plymouth; and Chair, Admissions Committee, UK Dental Schools Council
- 12.05 **Prevention-led dentistry - community models, inequalities and the 10 Year Health Plan**
fluoride varnish, sealants and targeted preventive interventions | supervised brushing, early-years and school-based programmes | community dental services and outreach models | prevention-linked commissioning, incentives and pathways | tackling oral health inequalities across local populations | integration into neighbourhood health services and multidisciplinary teams | data, surveillance and population-level oral health improvement | workforce skills and training for prevention focused delivery | local system planning and alignment with wider health priorities | embedding prevention within long-term service models and the 10 Year Health Plan
Senior representative, public health
Senior representative, commissioning
Senior representative, community
Senior representative, children
Senior representative, research
- 12.30 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Health Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Jessica Lear, Westminster Health Forum