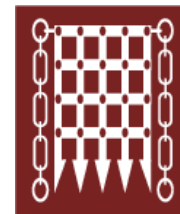


**Westminster Health Forum policy conference:
Next steps for dentistry in England - access, prevention and reform**

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
Dr Deborah Reed, Reader and Lead, Faculty Development, Faculty of Life Sciences and Medicine, King's College London
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**
Jo Tomkinson, Associate Director, Pharmacy, Optometry and Dentistry, NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight
- 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, dental practice
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