Dear colleagues

Welcome to the Spring 2015 newsletter and calendar.

It’s time to book on our courses again to make sure you keep up to date with CPD. The GDC will be publishing guidance for an enhanced CPD scheme later this year to include the requirement to link CPD to GDC standards. Only verifiable CPD will count in future and there will be a higher minimum level of this each year. Practitioners will also need to ensure they have a written CPD plan and that the CPD has been quality assured.

Have you ever wondered how to choose CPD so that you can be sure it will be both effective and value for money? COPDEND (The UK Committee of Postgraduate Dental Deans) has published a booklet called ‘Quality Assurance Framework for Dental CPD’ which can be downloaded from their website to help with making decisions and an app will be launched later this year.


Helen Falcon, Postgraduate Dental Dean

GDP Appraisal

Peer appraisal scheme supports dentists’ professional development

Health Education Thames Valley and Wessex has been piloting peer appraisal to support the professional development of local General Dental Practitioners (GDPs) for some years. The programme offers a unique opportunity for general dental practitioners to reflect on the quality and impact of their work in a protected learning environment. It also helps dentists to improve the quality of their dentistry, share best practice and ultimately improve care for patients.

Whilst peer appraisal was introduced for General Medical Practitioners in 2001, Health Education Thames Valley and Wessex is one of only a few areas in the UK to run this type of scheme for dentists.

Across Thames Valley and Wessex, over 150 dentists have already taken part and feedback has been very positive, with colleagues finding the process to be a constructive and helpful experience. In particular, individuals being appraised appreciated the structured opportunity to reflect on all areas of their work, recognising appraisal as a valuable tool in the process of professional development. In addition, effective appraisals can clarify appropriate standards of behaviour and care and inform an individual’s Personal Development Plan, including CPD plans.

Appraisal is a requirement of both the National Performers List Regulations and the General Dental Services Contract, so if you are offered an appraisal, participation will allow you to meet your contractual obligations. Appraisal is not currently a GDC requirement, but is recommended. This is a confidential process and only one summary sheet is kept showing actions agreed.

Dr Martin Colley, a GDP appraiser from Portsmouth says

“I enjoy being an appraiser as the process allows colleagues to express concerns to a like-minded person. I have lots of experience so can empathise, as similar situations may have happened to me.”
Focus on dementia

The ‘CHIN approach’

Over 800,000 people in the UK currently suffer from dementia, and in the next 30 years, the number of people with dementia is expected to double, with care costs trebling to over £50 billion a year. Whether individuals are cared for at home or in a residential home, their oral health may well be, and at present often is, neglected.

Dementia is just one of the reasons vulnerable and older adults may lose capacity to carry out basic oral care and hence need extra support.

We have commissioned an e-learning, interactive package designed as a practical tool to enable carers of vulnerable adults to support them with maintaining oral health.

The package has three levels. It is primarily designed to support those entering training to become a general nurse, since oral health is not something that is fully covered in all training programmes. There is also a manual for nurse tutors and care worker tutors. Certificates are awarded for those who reach an 85% pass rate. When complete, the package will be available through Health Education England.

What is CHIN?

| C | Check their patients’ mouths |
| H | Help |
| I | Inform patients and professionals |
| N | Note their findings. |

We are grateful to Southampton University and Oxford Brookes University for helping us to create and test the programme.

Dementia Awareness Film

“The Appointment”

That’s the working title of a new short film that Health Education Thames Valley (Dental Deanery) has commissioned about the issues faced by adults with dementia requiring a visit to a general dental practice. We are working with an award winning TV film company who have produced a number of educational films for the NHS.

The film is intended to raise awareness of the issues affecting patients and their carers who have dementia – diagnosed or otherwise, by showing the patient perspective. The aim is to communicate key messages about dementia and dental care and this resource will be available to all practices and the general public from summer 2015.

We are grateful to Dr Satnam Moonga, General Dental Practitioner and Thames Valley Local Dental Professional Network Chair for allowing us to film at his surgery in Princes Risborough.

Eastleigh College and Health Education Thames Valley Dental Nurse Awards 2014

Congratulations to the following award winners

- Stephanie Rey: Apprentice of the Year – Buckinghamshire
- Jenna Burton: Apprentice of the Year – Oxfordshire
- Busby House Dental Centre, Didcot: Best Dental Nurse Training Practice - Oxfordshire
- Cresssex Dental Practice, High Wycombe: Best Dental Nurse Training Practice - Buckinghamshire

Health Education Thames Valley Educator Awards

Congratulations to Dr Janine Brookes (Associate Dental Dean) who won the ‘Contribution to Learning Environment’ category and David Slattery, Consultant Orthodontist and Specialty Training Committee Chair – who won the ‘Significant and Sustained Contribution in Dental Education and Development’ category at the annual Health Education Thames Valley Educator & Trainer Awards.

The awards are to recognise the work, achievements and efforts made by educators and trainees throughout the Thames Valley, highlighting the exceptional contribution made by both individuals and teams. This year, nominations were accepted from across all health professions, celebrating the successes of individuals and teams across the multi-professional workforce.

Deanery Goodbyes

Chris Evans

All the staff at the Deanery were sad to see our colleague Chris Evans retire after many years as Dental Tutor for Oxfordshire.

Chris was a general dental practitioner in Oxford for many years, and he became Tutor for the Oxford Region in 2004. He organised and ran many dental courses over the years at the John Radcliffe Hospital and several other local postgraduate centres. He got to know many dentists and practice staff throughout Oxfordshire and was very well respected by his peers. His confident efficient manner ensured his courses ran smoothly and there was continued excellent attendance by local delegates.

Chris was also well known for his role of Dental Adviser at Oxfordshire PCT.

Chris was a frequent volunteer for Mercy Ships, providing dental treatment in several remote parts of the world.

We will miss Chris’s enthusiasm and his wit, as he always enjoyed what he did and passed that enjoyment on to those around him.

We send our best wishes and good luck for the future.

Angela Evans

Angela Evans was involved with therapist foundation training at the very start of the programme in 2007. At this point the scheme was in the planning and development stages and Angela has continued to support the scheme, as well as the Oxfordshire Dental Foundation training scheme for the last two years.

Angela has been a sounding board for new ideas, has been a great source of support and has faithfully kept us all on track so that we all end up in the right place at the right time, which in itself is no mean feat!

Angela’s kind and professional manner is highly regarded by trainers and trainees.

We wish Angela all the very best for her retirement and the future.

Welcome

Karen Brogan
Dental Programme Support Officer

Karen looks after the Coach Mentor Programme, Dentists in Difficulty and quality management visits to training practices and trusts.
My wife Angela and I were bound for Fiji not for an exotic beach holiday but to join a medical team whose aim was to help alleviate some of the health needs of some of the poorest villagers on the main island of Viti Levu. The trip was organised by Marine Reach Fiji, operating since 1990 to bring humanitarian aid and training initiatives to isolated communities in the Pacific Ocean. The team of doctors, dentists, nurses and support staff had been invited to visit two villages up in the western hills of Viti Levu but Mother Nature prevented us visiting the second village as floods had washed out a connecting bridge.

After the official welcoming ceremony (where we all wore skirts!) we set up the clinic in the local community hall. Two local village homes were to be our living quarters as well as the annex of the community hall. A lovely Fijian couple did our catering and produced meals. We lived as a close knit community - eating, sleeping and working together as one unit. Bathroom facilities were basic and with a water shortage, the buckets were well used!

Being one of the dentists, I worked at one of the three mobile dental units ably helped by Angela. There was decay and broken teeth galore as people couldn’t afford to go to the dental clinic in Lautoka. During the ten days we worked we saw 339 patients and extracted 622 teeth and performed 133 fillings. I was asked one day if I could help a guy who had fallen off a horse five years previously and had lost his speech and use of the right side of his body. The nails of his right hand were digging into the palm of his hand and the nurses could not cut them as they were so long, thick and tough. Over a couple of sessions we managed to reduce these nails to a manageable size using my high speed drill! The patient was delighted and as a spin off we managed to convince him to exercise his hand so that at least he could partially use it in future.

478 patients came to see the visiting nurses and doctors with mainly skeletal, skin and gastrointestinal problems. Impetigo and scabies (highly infectious skin conditions) were common and in one young lad’s case the infection had spread into the bones of his hands and the possibility of losing his hand was high.

We also visited the local school where we were invited into each classroom to give a talk on tooth care and general hygiene. The children listened attentively and showed their appreciation by singing us a song. Each child was then given a bag with toothpaste, toothbrush, stickers and colouring sheet.

It was not all work so on the Saturday we had a day off and we were taken to a tourist attraction where we spent the day zip lining, bathing in natural pools, walking, relaxing and visiting a local waterfall.

Did we have a good time?
The answer is an emphatic “yes”. Angela who had done very little nursing thought that working with her dentist husband was the best experience of the trip!

Chris Evans