

3rd May 2011

**To: LDC Conference Representatives and Observers
General Dental Practice Committee Members**

Dear Colleagues

I am looking forward to welcoming you to the Grand Connaught Rooms on Friday 10th June 2011 for the **60th Annual Conference of Local Dental Committees**.

I hope this will be both an informative and stimulating conference which will energise LDCs to continue to raise their profile and increase their influence over the commissioning of dental services locally.

As PCTs "cluster" there will no doubt be the same old issues to consider but there will be new challenges for us in trying to forge links with the new bodies responsible for primary and secondary dental services. This year in the afternoon there will be a forum and Q&A session which will cover this subject and I am sure you will find this informative.

This may be a major opportunity to have the voice of general dental practice heard loud and clear and Conference and LDCs must grasp this. The high profile of LDCs within the new commissioning structure is vital and we must work hard to establish ourselves.

Pilot contracts will be underway and we will receive an early update on their progress as we will also receive updates on CQC and the progress of the Health Service White Paper or not as the case may be, as at the time of writing the DoH are pausing and "listening". Earl Howe has been invited to share with us the Government's vision for the future of dentistry. Due to the interestingly frantic activity around the Health Bill, however, I am unable to confirm that he will attend. I do hope that he finds the time to come and talk to the profession.

I was also disappointed with the number of motions received, but I am sure that, even though few in number, they will provide some quality debate. All our speakers have agreed to question and answer sessions and those too will give Conference a chance to offer their opinion and give an opportunity for debate.

With these sessions particularly in mind, we have again arranged to have the electronic voting system, but this needs to be set up to reflect delegates' voting entitlements. If you have registered for the conference as a GDPC member but are also an LDC representative, please contact Denise Kenny on 01633 860400 or denise.kenny@carpedeem.co.uk so that the handset may be configured correctly.

The eve of Conference dinner will be held at the Hotel Russell which is a short walk from the conference venue on Thursday 9th June at 7.30 for 8.00 pm. This year the after dinner speaker will be Dr Kevin Lewis who will be well known to many of you from his regular and engaging columns in dental publications and I am sure he will provide us with food for thought in a most entertaining way.

Dress for the dinner is black tie. If you have not yet booked tickets please call Denise Kenny on 01633 860400. Please note that we are sending out dinner tickets in advance this year and if you could please bring these with you on the evening it will greatly assist the organisers. If you have not yet made accommodation arrangements, you may wish to contact Fresh Reservations, the appointed agents, on 0845 310 3333.

We are sponsored this year by an impressive array of companies, with Denplan agreeing to be our Platinum sponsor and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our sponsors for their support in these tight financial times.

Although we are mailing all the Conference papers to pre-registered delegates this year, we will also be posting papers on the LDC Conference website at www.ldcuk.org and the BDA site at www.bda.org/ldc. Any relevant updates will also be available on the site along with a report of the Conference after the event. The 2010 Conference report is not being posted out this year due to the size of the document. However, it can be downloaded from either of the above websites. If you would like a hard copy for your LDC please contact Denise Kenny at denise.kenny@carpedeem.co.uk.

Finally, this year the Conference is eligible for three hours of verifiable CPD – certificates will be handed out at the end of the Conference in return for your completed evaluation forms.

I look forward to meeting you in London.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. C. Armstrong". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a long, sweeping underline.

Mick Armstrong
LDC Conference Chair