

Press release

ADG welcomes direction of NHS 10 Year Health Plan Whilst awaiting detail on how dentistry will fit into Neighbourhood Health Services

The Association of Dental Groups (ADG), the trade association representing NHS, Private and Community-Based services, welcomes today's NHS 10 Year Health Plan announcement, noting that the broad direction is positive. However, much of the detail regarding how the new plan will impact dentistry specifically is still to be revealed, and the ADG looks forward to learning more in due course.

Neil Carmichael, Executive Chair, Association of Dental Groups said:

“The ADG warmly welcomes the general direction of the NHS 10 year plan announced. On the whole the principles of bringing health care and treatments closer to patients’ homes is a positive one. However, our members will be keen to know where dentistry will fit into these Neighbourhood Health Services. It is crucial to understand how we can work towards a joined up system that includes dental services. In due course, we expect to receive more detail about how the whole dental team, and by that, I mean dentists, dental therapists, hygienists and nurses, can play their part in supporting patients locally. And of course, key to enabling this will be a keen focus on shoring up the massive gap in the dental workforce which is missing over 3,000 dentists across NHS and Private services currently. The impact of the 10 year plan for dentistry will be in the detail - and as ever, the ADG is here to engage and support progress.”

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About the ADG:

[The Association of Dental Groups \(ADG\)](#) is the trade association for groups of dental health and care practices and organisations working with and on behalf of members, representing their view and progressing improvements in the working environment for groups of dental providers of oral health care.

- The ADG has 28 members including some of the largest groups of dental practices in the country, but the Association also represents smaller providers with fewer than 5 practices. Of the 2,000 practices which members operate, approximately 1,800 are in England with the balance spread across the devolved nations.
- Across ADG's members there are approximately 10,000 clinicians delivering NHS, community and private dentistry to more than 10 million patients every year.
- ADG members adopt and share best practice to enable their peers to deliver the highest quality service to patients.
- The leadership of ADG members are often experienced dentists themselves, with involvement in professional and vocational training, enabling them to provide expertise as trainers and advisers.
- Areas of focus include working on sector improvements for dental groups, including sharing consistent best practice, supporting innovation, and encouraging the investment and skills development of all dental professionals. The ADG aims to do this by shaping policy, raising awareness and influencing key stakeholders.
- The ADG is involved in policy development, encouraging policy makers to make evidence-based decisions.
- The ADG takes a solutions-focused approach to create the most supportive environment for dental groups where teams feel valued and are able to provide the highest quality dental care for patients.
- The ADG supports, promotes and encourages a prevention approach to improve oral health.
- Workforce support includes campaigning for more dentists to be trained in the UK, identifying key strategies to improve recruitment and the retention of dental professionals from the UK and abroad, including streamlining onboarding processes.
- The ADG works with key stakeholders to contribute to undergraduate, foundation and DCP training and provide opportunities to create a learning and supportive environment for dental teams.

- When it comes to commissioning, the ADG influences in key areas to ensure both private and NHS dentistry are developed in a financially sustainable way.