



Debra Worthington

INTRODUCING DEBRA WORTHINGTON, BADN PRESIDENT 2022-2024

At the British Association of Dental Nurses' (BADN's) AGM (to be held on 22 November in Central London and on Zoom), President Jacqui Elsdon will hand over the chain of office to Debra Worthington.

Debra has been a dental nurse for 43 years, working in general dental practice, the community dental service and secondary care. Debra holds post registration qualifications in conscious sedation, radiography, oral health and orthodontics. She also has qualifications in leadership and management and recently completed the NHS Senior Leadership qualification.

She joined Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust in March 2021, and is the Head of Dental Service for the North East sector of Greater Manchester. To have a dental care professional (DCP) as a head of a service is a fantastic achievement. Debra has 80 staff working across Oldham, Rochdale and Bury, providing paediatric dentistry, special care dentistry, general anaesthesia, treatment with inhalation sedation and oral health promotion. Debra is a member of the Managed Clinical Networks

in Greater Manchester, for both paediatric and special care dentistry.

Prior to this she was the Maxillofacial Unit Manager at Salford Royal Hospital, a busy unit comprising of maxillofacial surgery, oral surgery, orthodontics and community dentistry. She successfully implemented the Mouth Care Matters programme within the acute trust and was successful in acquiring transformation funding to implement the programme in the care homes in Salford.

Debra has been a member of the Orthodontic National Group (ONG) since its inception in 1994 and has been a committee member for 21 years, serving as Chairman for nine years and president for three years, a term which ended in 2021. During her term Debra was successful in working closely with the British Orthodontic Society (BOS). In 2008 she oversaw the official affiliation of ONG with the BOS.

Debra was an active member of the working group which saw the introduction of orthodontic therapists, work included writing the syllabus for course and working with the General Dental Council (GDC) to write and implement the *Scope of practice*. Debra is a past examiner for the Royal College of Surgeons (Edin) for the orthodontic therapy examination.

She works tirelessly at both a local and national level representing dental nurses at stakeholder meetings which include the GDC, the Royal College of Surgeons (Edin), and the English Surveillance Programme for Antimicrobial Utilisation and Resistance (ESPAUR) task group. Prior to GDC registration Debra was part of the working party which implemented the first *Scope of practice* for dental nurses and has been involved in the last two reviews.

Debra has recently been a member of the Advancing Dental Care review group. The document to support this work has recently been published.¹ This was a three-year review looking at dental education and the training infrastructure to best support patient and population needs. Debra has received two national awards, one presented by the BOS and one by the British Dental Association (BDA), for Outstanding Contribution to Dentistry and Orthodontics.

Reference

1. NHS Health Education England. Advancing Dental Care Review: Final Report. 2021. Available at: <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/advancing-dental-care> (accessed October 2022).

EUROPEAN STAKEHOLDERS SUPPORT A NEW VISION FOR DENTAL EDUCATION

'O-Health-Edu' has announced that eight European stakeholders have actively been consulted and co-signed a Charter to support a Vision for Oral Health Professionals' education. O-Health-Edu is an Erasmus+ funded project that brings together partner universities and the Association for Dental Education in Europe (ADEE) with a wide variety of stakeholders. The aims are to better understand how oral health professionals' education is delivered across Europe and to facilitate implementation of a new Vision for Oral Health Professionals' education.

Oral Health Professionals' education has entered an era of change – illustrated by these key policy documents:

- The on-going Resolution, Strategy and draft Action Plan of the WHO for Oral Health Promotion

- The O-Health-Edu Vision for Oral Health Professionals' education in Europe (2022)
- ADEE's Graduating European Dentist Curriculum (2017).

To enable the delivery of the ambitious targets presented in such documents, European stakeholders must continue to work together on the approach and delivery of education, in a way that addresses anticipated changes in the oral health workforce.

Eight European stakeholders including the Council of European Dentists and the Platform for Better Oral Health in Europe have committed to:

- Improved inter-stakeholder collaboration
- Being respectful of each stakeholder's autonomy, expertise and professions
- Ensuring that patients and students are at

- the core of the person-centred framework
- Promoting a holistic vision of oral health
- Developing sustainable healthcare and education models in society's best interests.

O-Health-Edu has announced that a ninth stakeholder, the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) – Pan European region, will also co-sign the Charter to enable delivery of this vision for change.

The ADEE are confident that a collaborative approach to implementing the Vision for Oral Health Professionals' Education in Europe will ensure that the future needs of the population are addressed.

This important project will be overseen by ADEE, whose mission since 1975 has been to promote quality in dental education. For more information, visit <https://o-health-edu.org/>.