

Population Health Directorate

Chief Dental Officer & Dentistry Division

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To:

Clinical Directors in Dentistry
Consultants in Dental Public Health,
Dental Practice Advisors3rd July 2018

Dear Colleague

Re Interim Directors of Dentistry

My purpose in writing is to update you in relation to the establishment of the Directors of Dentistry, Action 20 of the Oral Health Improvement Plan. I know that this has been subject to much discussion and speculation.

I have now written to the Chief Executives advocating that as a first step we establish the function on an interim basis by re-energising membership of the pre-existing Dental Lead Officers' Group. Given the raft of recommendations and service improvements, this will allow us to arrange some early meetings and discussions and to build momentum.

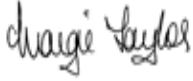
In the longer term, the substantive office-holders will be appointed by the relevant NHS Board, according to local structures and existing job descriptions. Further information for Boards will be provided to Chief Executives for their consideration and discussion. It is worth noting that some Boards already have a named Director of Dentistry.

The Directors of Dentistry will work with each other as a peer group, with dental health professionals and other key stakeholders (clinical and non-clinical) in your health community, with the Chief Dental Officer and other Scottish Government colleagues, to provide leadership and advice on clinical service provision.

It is expected that the function will form part of the role of an existing senior dental clinician, likely to be one of the Clinical Directors, Consultants in Dental Public Health, or Dental Practice Advisors. The Director of Dentistry will need to form a 'guiding coalition' to ensure joint stewardship for your Board area, so that all of you involved can work closely together to deliver the key concepts and actions captured in the Oral Health improvement Plan.

I have provided each Board Chief Executive with membership as appropriate of the previous Clinical Lead Officers' Group. We expect to convene an early first meeting of the Interim Directors of Dentistry during the summer.

Kind Regards



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