Scottish dental access crisis

MPs are calling on the Scottish Health Secretary to deal with the lack of NHS dentists in Scotland.

Orkney, Grampian and Caithness have the lowest level of NHS dental cover, according to MSPs.

Orkney MSP Liam McArthur claims that the situation on the islands had reached crisis level.

Dental Tribune moves ‘leaps and bounds’

Dental professionals from small practices are choosing to read Dental Tribune, over any other dental publication according to a recent survey by the British Dental Trade Association (BDTA).

The Dentist Readershhip Survey by the BDTA, found that a total of 66 per cent of DT readers are from small practices and half of the dental professionals who read Dental Tribune (DT) say they read it regularly.

While 57 per cent of DT readers look at the news first.

More than half of DT’s readers are aged between 55 and 44. This makes DT, the second preferred choice for people in this age group.

Penny Palmer, editor of DTUK said: ‘We have only been in the market for two years and are already moving leaps and bounds compared to other stalwarts in the market that have been around for years.’

The survey found that BDJ and BDA News are the dental publications that attract the highest number of readers.

A total of 96 per cent of dental professionals believe that dental publications enable them to keep abreast of what is happening in the dental industry. While 77 per cent read dental publications to gain information on the newest techniques.

Credit crunch hits ADP

The credit crunch has forced the company ADP to cancel its plans to run a new NHS dental surgery in Tynemouth.

NHS West Kent, the regional primary care trust (PCT), revealed back in June that a new £500,000 deal had been signed with ADP to provide dental care to 6,000 patients in the town.

However the PCT has now revealed that the company has been forced to pull out.

A spokesperson for the PCT, said it was ‘clearly disappointed’ that the company had withdrawn and that staff were doing ‘everything possible’ to help affected patients.

He added: ‘As soon as NHS West Kent became aware of this potential issue we took steps to alleviate the inconvenience that this will cause.’

The PCT has temporarily awarded contracts to a range of local dentists in the short term to ensure patients have access to treatment while the formal tendering process is completed.

That process will now begin again next month and the PCT hopes a successful bidder will be selected by June next year.

Fluoridation rage gains momentum

She pointed to ‘reports by the Royal College of Physicians in 1976, the University of York in 2000, the US Task Force on Community Preventive Services in 2002 and the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council in 2007’ that found evidence that fluoridation reduces tooth decay.

She added: ‘Importantly, children in fluoridated areas have fewer fillings and extractions and are less likely to need a general anaesthetic for decayed teeth to be removed. Equally important is the fact that they experience less pain, discomfort and anxiety.’

Commenting on concerns posed by anti-fluoride campaigners over the safety of water fluoridation, Lord Hunt said: ‘When the debate about whether or not to fluoridate Birmingham’s water was taking place in the early 1960s, there were dire predictions from anti-fluoridation campaign groups that people would be seriously harmed, that teeth would turn brown and that no teeth would be saved from decay.

However, he claimed none of these ‘scare stories’ actually came to pass in reality.

The public consultation, on whether to add fluoride to water in parts of Southamptom and South West Hampshire, will close on Friday 19 December.