

The last issue of DCR News touched on the engagement events that were held with the current prototype practices and gave more detail about the preventative clinical pathway at the heart of the dental contract reform programme.

This issue will pay tribute to Professor Jimmy Steele CBE and set out what the extension of the prototype agreement scheme means for 2018/19.

## **Professor Jimmy Steele CBE**

The dental contract reform team would like to pay tribute to the work of Professor Jimmy Steele CBE who was a prominent and respected figure in the contract reform agenda. Sadly Jimmy passed away on 16 November 2017 after being diagnosed with a glioblastoma, a form of brain cancer, in December 2015.

Jimmy was a professor of oral health services at Newcastle University, becoming Head of the School of Dental Sciences at Newcastle in 2009. He was a leading expert in his field both at home and internationally and was an outstanding and inspirational teacher for generations of dental students.

His strong background in research and education led him to take on a number of national leadership roles which were pivotal in shaping dental services across the UK to enable the best care for patients.

This background and his outstanding reputation led him to be invited by HM Government to lead the Independent Review of NHS Dentistry, which was published in 2009 – now often referred to as the Steele Review. Jimmy was subsequently awarded a CBE by the Queen in 2012 for services to Dentistry and Oral Health.

His report was both scientific and highly readable, and marked the launch of the commitment to reform the current dental contract. It continues to underpin the



contract reform programme, supported by successive Governments. Jimmy remained passionately committed to the need to improve dentistry to ensure patients receive the best and most effective care possible.

Those of us who had the privilege of working with Jimmy were impressed with his drive and enthusiasm for dental contract reform. He had a unique ability to bring diverse groups together for a shared common purpose and was skilled with making complex issues intelligible to a lay audience.

He will be missed by his many friends and colleagues across the dental contract reform programme and the wider dental community.

### **Prototype Scheme during 2018/19**

Regulations to extend the prototype agreement scheme until 31 March 2020 came into force on 1 December 2017.

Following this extension, contract variation documents for the current cohort of prototype practices have been prepared. As the underlying GDS contract / PDS agreement remains between NHS England and the practice, extension documents have been prepared for commissioners to agree with their prototype practices. Extension documentation will allow practices to continue under prototype arrangements for up to a further two years, until March 2020.

Whilst the extension is for a two year period it does not prevent the programme during that time from progressing towards, or even commencing, a wider roll out. This two year extension will, however, provide current prototype practices and commissioners with stability and allow any discussions to take place with more confidence.

### **Invitation for expressions of interest for further prototypes**

With the extension of the prototype regulations, the Department of Health and Social Care and NHS England were pleased to invite dental practices in England to submit their expression of interest to become a prototype practice. The expressions of interest opened on Thursday 15 February and practices have until Friday 9 March at 9am to provide their expression of interest.

The aim in taking on additional sites is both to increase the overall learning, while simultaneously focussing on the practical learning that will be gained to manage any subsequent rollout effectively.

Practices are supported through the process with policy information on the dental contract reform programme and completion guidance documents for the online form.

Practices can also submit queries to the programme via:  
[prototypeapplications@pcc.nhs.uk](mailto:prototypeapplications@pcc.nhs.uk).

Further information on the launch can be found at the following link: <https://www.pcc-cic.org.uk/article/dental-contract-reform>

### **Up Next..**

In the next issue practices will share their experiences of working in the prototype scheme.

For further information about the prototype scheme please visit [www.pcc-cic.org.uk/resources/dental-contract-reform](http://www.pcc-cic.org.uk/resources/dental-contract-reform).