



Newsletter: July 2009

Without much of a fanfare, Dentistry is only news when its bad news, the Steele report was published on 21st June.

Since I have been wittering on about this report now for several months in these newsletters, you can imagine I am quite relieved it does focus on the issues and does not smudge or look away from difficult questions.

The contract introduced in 2006 has been unpopular with the profession, has cost much more money to administer, has treated 1 million fewer patients each year and delivered half the number of treatments involving laboratory work. It has not solved any of the underlying problems with NHS dentistry, replaced some over treatment with an extensive under treatment and all but decimated the dental laboratory industry with not a penny saved by the NHS.

- Fundamentally, at its core, is the patient understanding the NHS offer and being able to make choices.
- The need to contract differently for most of band 3 treatments as with orthodontics -specialists- leading to engagement with PCTs and the end of the one tooth denture.
- A patient pathway but with the need to be engaged to receive complex treatment and a guarantee of quality backed by replacement for failure.
- 'Imaginative' possibilities and piloting of the major suggestions before implementation.

I just hope we can all survive the 2 year wait for the pilots to run and the changes to make a difference so we can all resume providing appropriate, quality dental care that's paid for.

There is a rumour that the builder and fitters will be finished on the new lab in the next week or so hopefully some good news next month.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

David Smith



REGISTERED MEMBER