Dear Colleague,

I want to take the opportunity to write to you individually about dental services across North Wales and how you can be involved in developing how, where and when services are commissioned the future.

My role as Assistant Director, is to take a view on how we design future services so that we meet the needs of our local communities. Effective commissioning can only take place with good data (an oral needs health assessment), an effective well trained and enthusiastic workforce and opportunities for people like yourself to have a stake in the service with prospects for continuing professional development and career enhancement.

I appreciate it is challenging as an Associate, to plan your career so that you develop clinically and educationally and to identify opportunities to start your own business. Whilst I don’t have a magic wand to solve these issues, I can assure you that the Health Board will work actively support as many initiatives as possible to meet these needs.

We have plans to work more closely with your Local Dental Committee so that we are transparent about the procurement of new contracts and alternative models of commissioning, potential joint working opportunities with the Community Dental Service to improve your skillset, dental strategy input, contract reform (this list is not exhaustive).

I am keen to hear from you. Your thoughts about dentistry in North Wales, what attracted you to come here but more importantly, what is needed to make you make roots and grow with us over the coming years.

I would therefore like to invite you to a meeting on xxxxxday xxth July/August/September at xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx which will start at 7.00pm for a couple of hours to tease out your thoughts to see if we can transform them into tangible outputs that will align the Health Board’s dental strategy.

You’re probably thinking, this is unusual and it is but I want to overtly demonstrate this is the start of a symbiotic relationship with the Health Board, where we will both try to develop services that are beneficial for patients but also beneficial for practitioners and contract holders.

I genuinely value you as a professional who has committed to dental training to help people who need public services and I’m sure you would want to commit to working with me to improve the lives of our local communities so that they live longer, more healthily and are dentally fit.

I believe this is an opportunity for us both to redefine our relationship moving forward, how we can work together to improve oral health and how we can develop opportunities for professional development working with or independently of the Health Board.

I look forward to seeing you on xxxxxxxxxday xxth July/August/September

Yours sincerely,

Mike Buckle

Assistant Director for North Wales Dental Services