

## Andrew Dickenson

BChD(Hons), MBBS(Hons), PGDipEd, FDSRCS, FRCSEd, FRCS, FDTFEd, FAcadMED, FInstLM  
Chief Dental Officer, Welsh Government



Andrew is a graduate in Dentistry from Leeds University and Medicine at Newcastle University. Over a 30-year career in the NHS he has worked across primary, community and secondary care settings as both a dentist and a doctor. Following higher training in both general and head and neck surgery he was appointed as a Consultant in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, delivering a busy regional secondary and tertiary referral service.

Andrew developed a broad healthcare management and education interest, working at Trust Board level to implement innovative workforce recruitment and development programmes. He was appointed as a Postgraduate Dean at the inception of Health Education England to lead on the review and implementation of a new dental education and training system. He subsequently oversaw the unification of dental education into regionalised structures, aligning undergraduate and postgraduate programmes to meet specific future workforce needs. This contributed part of the pilot evidence for the NHSE Advancing Dental Care report, the roadmap for future dental provision in England, of which he was an author and workstream lead.

Andrew held an extensive national portfolio for HEE. In addition to statutory responsibilities, he was Lead Dean for Dental Core Training, Public Health, and the Associated Dental Specialities, as well as representing dentistry on steering boards developing simulation-based education, using immersive technology in clinical practice, digital education, and e-learning. He is involved with Sustainability in healthcare, sits on the national Children's Oral Health Improvement Programme Board and previously worked on innovative workforce transformation programmes for the Chief Dental Officer in England.

On a personal level Andrew has a particular interest in rural health and has collaborated closely with NHSE&I to deliver unique training programmes within rural and coastal communities, encouraged and commissioned research aimed at improving understanding in inequality, vulnerability, and social exclusion and supported an All-Party Parliamentary Enquiry into rural health. He was appointed a Visiting Professorship in Health & Social Care at the University of Chester in recognition of his contribution to the field of rural education.

Andrew joined Welsh Government on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.

The primary role and responsibilities of the Office of the Chief Dental Officer include:

- providing leadership to all dental practitioners and dental care professionals, through professional input into workforce planning and contractual arrangements to support their professional role
- providing advice, guidance, and support to Ministers on all matters relating to dental services and oral health
- monitoring and promoting quality of dental healthcare services, patient-related outcomes, and strategies to address oral health inequalities
- oral health regulation, education, training, performance, and implementation of evidence-based standards to achieve, and maintain, high quality dental services
- developing policy and strategy to promote and improve the health of the population and ensure timely access to dental services.

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