

# GDPC Chair's update

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# Context

- NHS dentistry at a crossroads
- Workforce pressures intensifying
- Expenses rising faster than uplifts
- Access demands increasing

# Progress made



11 million extra UDAs delivered as a result of the 2022 contract changes.



We've gone from no minimum UDA value to some ICBs setting theirs at £36 per UDA.



Commissioning taking place at £40 per UDA.



Public Accounts Committee called for Government to conduct and publish analysis of the actual costs of providing NHS dental care.



DHSC ran survey over the summer and is currently analysing the results.

# Consultation on interim contract changes



Long process – we started to speak to NHS England about these changes in autumn 2022



A range of proposals on:

High needs patients  
Prevention  
Urgent care  
Quality improvement



Improvements to the UDA contract, but they are **not** the final destination

# Consultation on interim contract changes

- Our aims for these interim changes:
  - Address some of the worst aspects of the UDA contract
  - Make the NHS a more attractive and sustainable working environment by better matching payments to treatment costs
  - Payments in pounds not UDAs to address the inequities of UDA value and to help move us away from the UDA

# Consultation on interim contract changes

There are improvements to payments for treatment for some patients with high needs

There are improvements to payments for preventive treatment

A number of payments will no longer be denominated in UDAs

There is recognition that urgent care has been underfunded

There is protected and funded time for appraisals

There is protected and funded time for clinical audit and peer review

# Consultation on interim contract changes



Government to confirm final proposals imminently



Working hard with NHS England now to get the implementation details right



Intention is for these changes to be implemented from April 2026

# Fundamental contract reform

A reformed  
“contract needs to  
be in place and up  
and running by the  
end of this  
Parliament”

*Stephen Kinnock MP,  
Dental Minister*





# Fundamental contract reform



Meetings with DHSC since the summer looking in depth at the key issues in reforming the contract



Expecting a consultation on the overall principles of reforming the contract early next year



Expecting negotiations to follow later next year



Need to maintain pace and hold Government to this timeline, because time is running out

# Fundamental reform



Our aims



We need your input



Challenges ahead – especially designing a better contract within the same financial envelope

# Challenges remain



## Urgent care

Government struggling to deliver 700,000 extra appointments

Failure to implement national sessional scheme  
New £50 national scheme poorly designed



## New Patient Premium

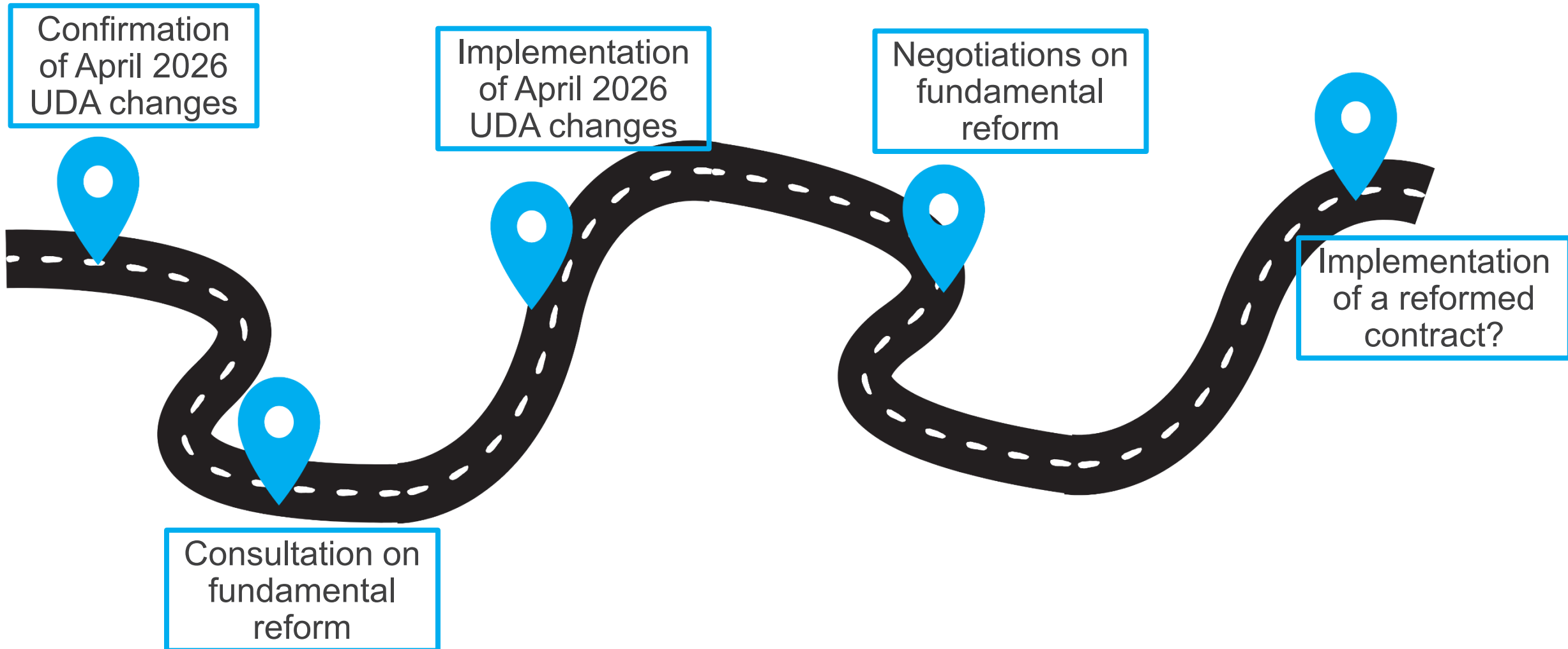
Audit conducted over some payments

Outcome still unknown, we're pressing for no further action



**Clear lesson: Involve dentists in designing schemes and contracts if you want them to succeed.**

# The path ahead...?



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- Engage fully, but firmly
  - Reform must be evidence-based and must properly recognise and fund operating costs
  - System must be financially viable
  - Move beyond UDAs-but what comes next must be better than what we have
  - Support modernisation and capital investment
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**LDCs feedback will influence final shape**