

## Level 3 Diploma in Dental Nursing launched by NEBDN

The National Examining Board for Dental Nurses (NEBDN) has announced that it has released a newly regulated qualification – the Level 3 Diploma in Dental Nursing. The qualification is regulated by Ofqual in England, and the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations & Assessment (CCEA) in Northern Ireland, and covers all the Learning Outcomes in the General Dental Council (GDC) Safe Practitioner Framework for Dental Nurses. This makes it a secure option for trainee dental nurses looking to qualify in this field. The qualification attracts UCAS points for those wishing to progress to higher education and is assessed via an online portfolio, knowledge test and professional discussion.

Alongside the launch of their new Diploma product, NEBDN has also revised their Apprenticeship qualification to include requirements from the GDC Safe Practitioner Framework. Trainee dental nurses will be able to register on their

chosen qualification, as of 1 July 2025.

Kate Kerslake, CEO at NEBDN, said: 'This is a huge milestone for NEBDN and we're very proud as a team to reach this point.'

The Level 3 Diploma is a replacement to the former NEBDN National Diploma, although the previous National Diploma will still be delivered and assessed to allow learners to complete this version for anyone registered before 1 July 2025.

NEBDN offering a regulated Diploma enhances the previous product, as the regulated version has additional benefits such as potential funding avenues, attracting UCAS points and being recognised by key regulators such as Ofqual and CCEA. NEBDN offering this product provides an exciting opportunity for the Awarding



Team photo of celebration launch party at NEBDN's Preston Head Office

Organisation as it allows them scope to expand into new regions and attract new training providers, to support the ever-growing workforce of dental nurses and ensuring that they enter the dental profession with the appropriate knowledge and skills.

More information on these updates can be found on NEBDN's website [www.nebdn.org](http://www.nebdn.org).

## Jane Walker retires after 50 years in community dentistry

Community Dental Services CIC (CDS) has been celebrating the remarkable career of Jane Walker, who has retired after 50 years of service to community dentistry. Jane has been an integral part of CDS's referral-only dental service, which provides special and paediatric dental care across the East of England and East Midlands. Her career has been a testament to how community dental services have evolved over half a century.

Jane began her journey in dentistry in 1975, joining the School Dental Service as a dental nurse, aged 17. Over the years, she witnessed and contributed to dramatic changes in community dentistry, from the evolution of the School Dental Service into special needs dentistry to the introduction of advanced equipment such as OPG machines and CBCT scanners. Her career reflects the transformation of patient care, professional roles in dentistry and the progression of dentistry itself, from basic infection control measures and hand-mixed amalgam to today's advanced sedation techniques and specialised dental chairs.

Jane worked across multiple sites, supported paediatric and special care patients, and played a pivotal role in introducing sedation techniques for her patients. She also



Pictured at Jane's retirement party. L-R: Nicola Milner (Chief Operating Officer), Mark O'Hagan (Director of People & OD), Helen Paisley (Chief Executive Officer), Jane Walker (Operations Manager – Nottinghamshire), Adrian Thorp (Clinical Director), Ikbal Mahal (Associate Operations Director – Nottinghamshire)

supported newly qualified dentists through vocational training and worked in prison dentistry.

In 2001, Jane took on her first leadership role as Senior Dental Nurse at Nottingham's urgent care walk-in centre, where she led a team providing emergency dental care to unregistered patients. Her efforts were recognised with awards for Best Team and City Council Team of the Year. Later, Jane became Operations Manager for CDS's Nottinghamshire service, a role she held until

her retirement. Her leadership, expertise, and commitment to dental care for vulnerable patients have left their mark on community dentistry and those she worked with.

Jane's retirement is not just the end of a career; it is the celebration of a legacy and how dentistry has evolved. She leaves behind a wealth of experience and a lasting impact on community dentistry.

*An article about Jane and her career was published in BDJ Team in July: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41407-025-3067-y>.*