



## **BRITISH ACCREDITATION COUNCIL INSPECTION REPORT**

### **INTERIM INSPECTION (College)**

**INSTITUTION:** Sterling Dental College

**ADDRESS:** 89-91 South Road Southall  
Middlesex UB1

**HEAD OF INSTITUTION:** Dr Amarjit Khambay

**Accreditation status:** Accredited

**Date of inspection:** 23 September 2015

**ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE DECISION ON ACCREDITATION:** 26 November 2015

## **PART A – INTRODUCTION**

### **1. Background to the institution**

Sterling Dental College (the College, or SDC) was established in May 2014. It developed from two adjacent dental practices, both owned by the College's CEO who is a qualified dentist. Whitehouse Dental Practice, a general practice established in 1980, holds one of the largest NHS contracts in West London. Sterling Dental Centre, established in 1994, a specialist practice, provides services including periodontics, oral surgery, dental implants and maxillofacial surgery. Both practices are members of the British Dental Association (BDA) Good Practice Scheme, which is the leading quality assurance programme for UK dental practices, as well as being Care Quality Commission (CQC) compliant.

SDC provides continuing professional development (CPD) short courses to meet mandatory learning requirements set by the General Dental Council (GDC) over a set time period, and is an "outreach centre" providing clinical training for Warwick University level 7 master's dental programme. Since it was established SDC has aimed to expand its range of CPD courses further, with a greater emphasis on the core CPD that all dentists require and introduce specialised short courses for international postgraduate students and to expand its level 7 provision to UK and overseas students.

In autumn of 2014 SDC implemented a new agreement with BPP University to act as an outreach centre providing clinical training for the University's Masters programme. The first courses started in September 2014 with 20 part-time time students attending for a variety of modules that ranged in duration from 3 hours to 4 days. For BPP postgraduates, most of the educational content is taught at its campuses in Waterloo and Abington, and this is developed through hands-on practical experience under specialists at Sterling, which with over 13 dental chairs available for teaching is uniquely placed to offer high-class, up-to-date training. A senior BPP lecturer is permanently based at Sterling to foster continuous collaboration. Sterling's clinicians are honorary BPP tutors.

SDC has been a continuous state of development from its inception in 2014 and has highly ambitious and achievable plans to develop provision for both home and international undergraduate and postgraduate students.

### **2. Brief description of the current provision**

As was the case at the full inspection, the College is currently offering a full programme of CPD courses, with increased coverage since 2014. Some programmes now focus more on the business and marketing aspects of dentistry and SDC is currently entering a new collaborative agreement with Healthcare Smile-On, a prestigious national on-line education provider for healthcare learning. The contents of the programmes are used by many of the UK undergraduate and postgraduate dental teaching schools in Universities and is recognised by the GDC, which continuously ratifies the quality of the teaching and learning provided. This content meets requirements for Part 1 of the overseas registration exam (ORE) which overseas qualified dentists (regarding by the GDC as 'undergraduates' in the UK) have to pass in order to register with the General Dental Council (GDC) and practise in the UK. SDC plans to run a sixth-month course for Part 1, which will include a mock examination, early in 2016. For Part 2, dentists will require hands-on practical training of the type already run by SDC, and this will be expanded using the extensive Sterling resources. The proposed collaboration covers five programmes in association with Baba Farid University in Faridkot, Punjab, India.

### 3. Inspection process

The inspection was carried out over half a day by one inspector who met the CEO, College Principal, College Manager, Director of Quality Assurance, Student Welfare Manager and administrative and training staff. The inspector had sight of documentation covering all aspects of the areas inspected.

### 4. Inspection history

Full inspection: 28 and 30 June 2014

## PART B – JUDGEMENTS AND EVIDENCE

The following judgements and comments are based upon evidence seen by the inspector(s) during the inspection and from documentation provided by the institution

### 1. Significant changes since the last inspection

None

### 2. Response to actions points in last report

*The policies and procedures which are in place for annual staff appraisal and annual formal course review need to be implemented and demonstrated in practice.*

These have now been fully implemented and discussion and documentation confirms demonstration in practice. The inspector viewed an impressive annual course review for 2014-5 based on observation, and feedback from tutors and students. Policies have been subject to annual review, recent staff appraisal reports (June, July 2015) were seen, including agreed targets and proposed training, demonstrating that staff appraisals have taken place.

*It was recommended that all documents produced by the College should carry a unique document number, issue number and issue date.*

This has now been implemented.

### 3. Compliance with BAC accreditation requirements – spot check

#### 3.1 Management, Staffing and Administration

	Met	Partially met	Not met	NA
The standards are judged to be	✓			
<b>Comments</b> Seamless operation between the College and the two Sterling dental practices. As the College expands its courses more specialist educational staff will be employed. The appraisal system has been fully implemented and expanded, with job descriptions reviewed. The appraisal system is outstanding.				

### 3.2 Teaching, Learning and Assessment

	Met	Partially met	Not met	NA
The standards are judged to be	✓			
<p><b>Comments</b>            The Head of QA and Examinations has begun a postgraduate teaching qualification at BPP University. Tutors on all programmes are highly specialised in their field of dentistry. Increasing development of the range of courses such as ORE involving collaboration with a number of UK dental schools and universities – continuous improvement of teaching and learning indicated. An excellent peer review system is used by BPP tutors to continually improve classroom practice. The calibre of teaching appears to be high, giving Sterling an excellent reputation.</p>				

### 3.3 Student Welfare

	Met	Partially met	Not met	NA
The standards are judged to be	✓			
<p><b>Comments</b>            SDC has very good policies in place and comprehensive student handbooks and information packs are being prepared for proposed new courses, particularly detailed for overseas students on the ORE courses. A prepared social programme will be implemented when full-time courses begin, proposed for early 2016.</p>				

### 3.4 Premises and Facilities

	Met	Partially met	Not met	NA
The standards are judged to be	✓			
<p><b>Comments</b>            No changes are indicated from the last (full) inspection. The facilities are impressive and of outstanding quality, particularly the range of up to date equipment, lecture facilities and highly specialist teaching staff who are all current practitioners, as is the Head of QA.</p>				

**PART C – SUMMARY OF STRENGTHS AND ACTION POINTS**

**Institution’s strengths**

The College employs tutors who, as current practitioners in dentistry, are very well qualified and respected within the profession. The high standard of teaching was evidenced by student verbal feedback. The College has an excellent clinical training room with up-to-date equipment and facilities. The inter-connected dental practices provide facilities for continuous clinical training so that theory and practice are a seamless operation. The premises are of a very high standard in keeping with the professionalism of the College and associated dental practices. The College has a very professional ethos and staff are receptive to innovation.

<b>Actions required</b>	<b>Priority H/M/L</b>
The College must implement the peer review process used to quality assure the BPP course to all other courses offered.	M

**COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS**

Declaration of compliance has been signed and dated.	YES
Further comments, if applicable  Excellent practice.	