

Dentist Paul's £100k investment in town



AT WORK: Dr Paul Averley at work at his Queensway Dental Clinic in Billingham

Pictures by PETER REIMANN

SARAH DALE talks to Billingham dentist Dr Paul Averley who cut his teeth in dentistry in the North-east and has made the area his home.

Name: Dr Paul Averley
Age: 44

Lives: Gosforth in Newcastle with his wife, Lucy, and their daughters, Martha, 18, Alice, 16, and Madeleine, 13.

Grew up: Born in Mombasa in Africa and lived there until he was nine. Following his mum's death, Paul, his three sisters and his dad moved to Oxford then Northern Ireland. He came to the North-east to continue his education.

FACTFILE

Job: Partner of Queensway Dental Clinic in Billingham.

Qualifications include: Dental Surgery degree, Diploma in Conscious Sedation, Doctorate of Philosophy, Master of Science in Implant Dentistry.

Downtime: Racing on his own sailing boat and planting trees with his dad in Northumberland.

DENTIST Dr Paul Averley could have become a designer or even a dancer if the UCAS book he was reading had fallen open just a page or so before or after.

The 44-year-old recalls flicking through a UCAS book as an A-Level student deciding which course to do when he landed on dentistry.

"I thought, yeah that'll do," he says with a laugh.

Already studying A-Levels in science and maths, he had the required subjects to pursue a career as a dentist. "And I wasn't squeamish!" he adds. But don't let that little anecdote make you underestimate him.

Just four years after qualifying as a dental surgeon from Newcastle University - where he met his wife Lucy who was studying French with German - he spotted a dentist practice up for sale in Teesside.

"I always wanted to run my own

show really," says Paul, who lives in Gosforth in Newcastle with Lucy and their three daughters, Martha, 18, Alice, 16, and Madeleine, 13.

"While I was happy at each of the places I worked I grew out of them and wanted to be more in charge."

He took the Billingham practice over on January 4, 1994, and Queensway Dental Clinic was born, starting with four surgeries, expanding to eight, then 12, and since 2009 it has had 23 surgeries.

"I wanted to work in Teesside," says Paul. "At the time there was a huge demand on our services and one of the areas I noticed was a lot of children needed general anaesthesia for dental treatment. I became very interested in looking at alternatives for children and for adults with phobias. That set me on the pathway to see if we could change the way services

were being delivered."

Since 1997, Paul has been involved in establishing conscious sedation services in primary care to reduce dependency on hospital based general anaesthesia. This involvement led him to develop the evidence base for new conscious sedation techniques resulting in him achieving a Master of Philosophy in 2003 followed by a Doctorate of Philosophy in 2005 from Newcastle University.

Following his PhD, Paul was invited to become a visiting academic for the university where he regularly contributes to the training of postgraduates in the Diploma and Conscious Sedation. In 2006 Paul took on two partners, Ian Lane and Uzma Olbich.

Two years later, Paul completed his extended training in implant dentistry at the University of War-

wick Medical School, where he gained a Master of Science in implant dentistry. The following year Paul was invited to become a regional tutor of implant dentistry for the University of Warwick.

As a result of his pioneering primary care based research in paediatric conscious sedation, Paul has been involved with drawing up national guidance on conscious sedation, working with the Standing Dental Advisory Committee on Conscious Sedation producing guidelines. In 2010 Paul has been involved with a national guidance development group for the NICE producing guidelines for the use of sedation in children for therapeutic and diagnostic procedures.

"We now have 450 dentists referring patients to us, 8,000 referrals a year, because of our experience in conscious sedation," adds Paul.

Queensway has also recently opened a new Education Centre. Housed in its own building located close to the practice, the centre can accommodate 30 delegates and is equipped to cater for a diverse range of courses and lectures.

The practice will work closely with several industry experts, including Warwick University with whom they will deliver courses such as the General Implant Forum and Training (GIFT) as part of the university's MSc in Implant Dentistry, as well as Nobel

Biocare with Dr Ian Lane from Queensway delivering their training days in the North-east. The clinic is also certified to deliver the National Accreditation Board for Dental Nurses (NEBDN) qualifications for Dental Sedation Nursing, Dental Radiography and Oral Health Education, which is open to all Dental Nurses across the region.

Numerous courses have already been confirmed for the year, including the first event, which is being held to update dentists in the region of current concepts in primary care sedation. A Queensway lecture series will be launched later in the year, with a number of lectures running throughout 2012 on topics including oral surgery, orthodontics (dealing with teeth alignment etc), endodontics (root canal surgery) and periodontics (gum disease etc).

The Education Centre follows a year of development into the clinic, which included the investment of £100,000 for a new laboratory, as well as the introduction of new treatments including periodontics, endodontics, facial aesthetics and same day dental implants, among other services.

"Not only is the new centre a great investment and resource for the dental industry, it also reinforces our commitment to the ongoing re-generation of Billingham and the growth of the business community in the town," adds Paul.