

**Report To:** City of York Council Health Scrutiny Committee - Nov 2009

**Report From:** Assistant Director of Commissioning and Service Development

**Report Subject:** Dental Services

## 1. Introduction

This paper provides updated information to the OSC about the numbers of patients accessing NHS dental services and the length of time patients are on the dental access database before they are allocated to a dentist.

The information provided relates to the Selby & York area only and information on the number of dentists in the area providing NHS services.

The information is derived from nationally negotiated dental contracts and in the case of the access database records, which are kept by the PCT.

- **The number of dentists in the York area**
- **The number of new dentists in the York area**
- **The number of dentists providing NHS treatment in the York area**
- **Information on the number of residents who do not see a dentist**
- **To investigate the possibility of showing the information on 'waiting times for patients still on the list' as a mean average over a length of time rather than at a specific point in time**

## 2. Numbers Of New Patients Seen

Table 1: The number of new patients seen by NHS dentists in the City of York area during the in the previous 24 months by quarter ending 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008;

<b>Patients seen in 24 months</b>	<b>Total</b>
Quarter ending June 2008	82,268
Quarter ending September 2008	90,046
Quarter ending December 2008	95,227
Quarter ending March 2009	98,627
Quarter ending June 2009	100,444
Quarter ending September 2009	101,824
Variance since June 2008	24%

Explanation – (as per previous report):

The Department of Health has set performance targets for each PCT on the number of new patients who have seen a dentist in the previous 2 years. Targets are not set by localities within the PCT as patients can be seen by any dentist.

**3. Residents Who Do Not See A Dentist**

For planning purposes, this remains an estimated 40% of the population do not use NHS dental services on a regular basis.

The City of York population 2006 mid year estimate was 191,800 if we take off a small number for people without dentition, 40% is the equivalent of 75,920 people, some of whom who may be accessing dental care either through the emergency dental service, the NHS salaried service, private dentists or not at all.

**3. Access – New Patients Assigned to a Dentist**

Table 2: The numbers of patients assigned to a dentist from the database for the period 1 April 2009 – 10 November 2009;

Locality	April 2009	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	TOTAL
Selby & York	685	348	500	424	100	947	362	2,057

**4. Demand for NHS Primary Care Dentistry**

Table 3: The numbers of patients who have been added to the database for the period 1 April 2009 – 10 November 2009;

Locality	April 2009	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	TOTAL
Selby & York	1,349	1,705	1,482	1,222	1,539	1,293	1,132	9,722

**5. Waiting times**

The OSC requested the information as provision of a mean average over a length of time for patients still on the list.

The table below highlights the waiting times of patients awaiting a NHS dentist as at 10 November 2009;

<b>Waiting Time</b>	<b>1 month</b>	<b>1 to 2 Months</b>	<b>2 to 3 Months</b>	<b>3 to 4 Months</b>	<b>4 to 5 Months</b>	<b>5 to 6 Months</b>	<b>6 to 7 Months</b>	<b>Over 7 Months</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Selby &amp; York</b>	986	1,296	1,474	1,316	1,477	1,491	194	65	<b>8,299</b>

NHS NYY recognises that due to recent promotion of NHS dental services after procurements undertaken across the patch, an increase in additions to the list has been seen. While patients have been assigned soon after contracts are awarded, a stepped start to some contracts will affect patient allocation in the early stages.

NHS NYY acknowledges that as new contracts mature, practitioners will receive their full allocation.

**6. Supply of Primary Dental Services**

There are currently 17 NHS Practices in the City of York area, and these are commissioned on the basis of UDA activity.

The PCT has no commissioning relationship with private dentists.

There are approximately 5 fully private practices.

NHS NYY has undertaken a workforce survey with the Local Dental Committee and will share the information with the OSC once results are analysed.