

**Report To:** City of York Council Health Scrutiny Committee -  
 February 2010

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

**Report Subject:** Dental Services

### 1. Introduction

This paper updates the previous quarterly report 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.

### 2. Numbers Of New Patients Seen

Table 1: New capacity for patients across NHS NYY in 2009/10 by quarter

Impact of new commissioning 09/10	UDAs	Capacity (patients)
Q1		
Q2	15,000	5,019
Q3	40,000	13,383
Q4	153,000	51,223
TOTAL	208,000	69,625

### 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 – 6 January 2010;

Locality	Q1 2009	Q2	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Selby & York	1,533	1,471	362	636	248	4,250

#### 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 – 6 January 2010;

Locality	Q1 2009	Q2	Oct	Nov	Dec
Selby & York	4,536	4,054	1,132	757	857

#### 5. Waiting times

As at 6 January 2010 the total number of patients registered on the dental database awaiting allocation to an NHS dentist within the NYYPCT area is 11,856.

The table below highlights the waiting times of patients awaiting a NHS dentist as at Jan 2010:

Number of patients assigned in  
January 10 230

1 Month	1
1 to 2 Months	0
2 to 3 Months	3
3 to 4 Months	0
4 to 5 Months	0
5 to 6 Months	2
6 to 12 Months	0
Over 12 Months	224
<b>Total Waiting</b>	<b>230</b>
Median waiting time for those assigned (days)	226
Median waiting time for those still waiting (days)	138

#### 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.

#### 7. Future plans

The Oral Health Strategic Commissioning group has undertaken a review of the impact of previous procurements from 2008/9 to inform future commissioning plans. Within these plans various priorities were identified including;

- Access to NHS dental care to meet the Vital Signs target monitored by the SHA – 66% of patients must have accessed an NHS dentist in the previous 24 months
- Access to services in areas where practitioners have decided not to continue to provide NHS dental care
- Access for patients in areas that have traditionally been underserved.

With reference to the Vital Signs target, NHS NYY is currently achieving 51%. To address this significant work has been undertaken last year, and further procurement plans for 2010/11 have been developed.

The recent paper submitted to the NYY internal commissioning committee (ICE) to outline these plans was agreed. This plan outlines a further procurement covering both general dental care and Orthodontics.

To establish priority areas for this procurement the Oral Health group have analysed coverage of UDAs across each locality and head of population, waiting list size, length of wait and areas of deprivation. This has provided a picture of need versus demand.

However, the Oral Health group is keen to ensure that a collaborative approach is taken to build on access in areas felt locally to be underserved before this procurement is started. The group is therefore keen to learn from OSC where their own priority areas for NHS dental access across York, and ensure that this is fed into the procurement project. This will establish a plan to focus resources on the areas agreed by both parties.