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## Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

7 July 2010

Report of the Head of Civic, Legal & Democratic Services

### Update on Dental Services in York

#### Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the provision of dental services in York.

#### Background Information

2. Members of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee have been receiving regular updates from NHS North Yorkshire & York regarding dental services in York for some time now.
3. At a meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010 the Committee received further information from NHS North Yorkshire & York on the provision of dental services in the area; this included:
  - The number of new patients seen in 2009/2010 by quarter
  - Access – new patients assigned to a dentist
  - Demand for NHS Primary Care Dentistry
  - Waiting times
  - Supply of Primary Dental Services
  - Future Plans
4. At the March meeting the Assistant Director – Primary Care informed Members that the Primary Care Trust would shortly be procuring further NHS dentists for the area. Since this time the dental procurement due to take place has had to be rescheduled to start in September (due to legal reasons), therefore the new services will not start until April next year. However the Assistant Director – Primary Care would like to reassure the Committee that the York area is one of the key target areas expected to benefit from the procurement.
5. The Committee had also requested further information be provided to their May 2010 meeting (subsequently cancelled) showing comparative data and overall trend information in relation to the provision of dental services. The Assistant Director – Primary Care has had difficulty obtaining any meaningful data on historic trends for the dental waiting lists and allocations for the City of York area. The data available, where York is separated from other regions,

only gives 2009 as a complete year, prior to this the individual patient postcode was not recorded and information reverts to the old Primary Care Trust area of Selby & York.

6. The most recent information is attached at Annexes A & B to this report for Members consideration. The Assistant Director – Primary Care will be in attendance at the meeting to answer any questions that Members might have.

## **Consultation**

7. This report is part of ongoing consultation between Members and NHS North Yorkshire & York in relation to the provision of dental services in York.

## **Options**

8. Members have the following options:

**Option A** Continue receiving quarterly updates regarding dental provision from NHS North Yorkshire & York

**Option B** Consider receiving regular updates in relation to dental provision on a six monthly or annual basis

**Option C** Consider receiving information on dental services as part of a more comprehensive regular update from NHS North Yorkshire & York (paragraph 11 refers)

**Option D** Stop receiving updates regarding dental provision from NHS North Yorkshire & York

## **Analysis**

9. At meetings of the Health Scrutiny Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2009 and 11<sup>th</sup> May 2009 the Committee considered a possible scrutiny topic submitted by Councillor Moore in relation to 'Access to Dental Services in the York Area'. After due consideration of the matter and of additional information the Committee decided not to undertake a review on this topic but to continue monitoring dental provision on a quarterly basis.
10. Although receiving regular updates is invaluable in keeping Members informed of progress concerning dental provision in the area Members may wish to consider whether this will have an impact on other work scheduled on their work plan.
11. Members may like to consider receiving information on dental provision on a six-monthly or annual basis. Alternatively, as identified in the report on the work plan item of this agenda, Members may like to consider receiving regular updates on the key priorities of NHS North Yorkshire & York and this could incorporate some data on dental provision within the City.

12. If Members still choose to continue receiving quarterly updates then it is unlikely that there will be any significant change in the statistics until the new NHS dentists have been appointed in April next year (paragraph 4 of this report refers).
13. However, at a meeting of the Committee held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010 the Assistant Director – Primary Care asked Members where any additionally procured dentists should be placed within the City. Brief discussions led to there being a possible under provision in the Acomb area of the City but statistics were not available at the meeting to confirm this. NHS North Yorkshire & York have now undertaken work, as part of the procurement process, to identify those parts of the city where dental provision is required.
14. However the procurement and evaluation process is ongoing and NHS North Yorkshire & York have indicated that it may be useful if a representative of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee takes part in this process. In light of this NHS North Yorkshire & York have asked if any Member of the Committee would like to act as a 'lay person' on the 'Evaluation Committee'. The Assistant Director – Primary Care will be able to provide more information regarding this offer at today's meeting.

### **Corporate Strategy 2009/2012**

15. This report relates to the 'Healthy City' theme of the Corporate Strategy 2009/2012

### **Implications**

16. There are no known financial, human resources, legal, crime & disorder or other implications associated with the recommendations within this report.

### **Risk Management**

17. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy there are no known risks associated with the recommendations in this report.

### **Recommendations**

18. Members are asked to:

- i. Note the contents of this report and its associated annexes
- ii. Consider using the method set out in Option C as a means to obtaining information on dental services in the future.
- iii. Consider whether they would like to nominate a Member of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee as a 'lay person' on the 'Evaluation Committee'.

Reason: In order to carry out their duty to promote the health needs of the people they represent.

## Contact Details

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**Specialist Implications Officer(s)** None

**Wards Affected:**

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

**Background Papers:**

None

**Annexes**

**Annex A** City of York Dental Waiting List Data - May 2010

**Annex B** Dentistry Waiting List