

Report To: City of York Council Health Scrutiny Committee - 11th May 2009

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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.

At the last meeting members asked that the information provided related 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.

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 commencing 1st April 2008

Patients seen in 24 months	Total
Quarter ending March 2008	89,536
Quarter ending June 2008	92,566
Quarter ending September 2008	95,725
Quarter ending December 2008	98,666
Quarter ending March 2009	100,840
Variance since March 2008	12.6%

Explanation:

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.

This information relates to patients who have been seen and treated by a dentist based in the City of York for the first time under NHS contract either for dental or orthodontic treatment during the previous 24 months where the dentist has submitted a claim for payment. This information is derived from information provided by the Dental Business Service to practices since April 2008 and related to dental practices in the York area, the patients may reside outside York.

3. Residents Who Do Not See A Dentist

The OSC have asked for information on the number of residents who do not see a dentist at all. Under the NHS dental contract the public can seek treatment from any NHS dentist and information is not collected the area of residence of patients.

For planning purposes based on historic trends approximately 40% of the population do not use NHS dental services on a regular basis. This may be because they prefer to use emergency dental services on an ad hoc basis, or they are not exempt from treatment but cannot afford NHS charges, or they are receiving treatment privately and prefer to stay with a private dentist that they know.

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 2008 – 31st March 2009

Locality	April - June	July - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar	TOTAL
Selby & York	1,789	5,684	4219	3221	14,913

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 2008 – 31st March 2009

Locality	April - June	July - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar	Total

Selby & York	2,044	2,368	3,308	3889	11,609
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Table 4: The number of patients on the database waiting to be assigned to a dentist for period 1 April 2008 – 31st March 2009

Locality	April - June	July - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan-Mar	Total
Selby & York	4759	1443	1250	3482	10,934

Explanation-Table 4 indicates the number of patients on the data base when the count was undertaken. April to June includes patients who were already on the list.

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.

Table 5: Waiting Times for Patients for patients who were on the access data base between January and March 09

Waiting times for patients on the waiting list: Jan-March 2009	Average no of patients
<1 month	677
1-2 months	353
2-3 months	24
3-4 months	18
4-5 months	16
5-6 months	6
6-7 months	7
Over 7 months	58

Explanation-Table 5 shows the average number of patients by months waited for patients who have been on the data base between January and March.

The PCT suggests that as the waiting time is relatively short and the waiting list is affected by additions to the list encouraged by promotion of the opportunity to join the list and assignments to dentists that a more accurate picture of trends in waiting times can be obtained by reporting monthly information recorded at a point in time, usually at monthly intervals.

The PCT welcomes the opportunity to discuss the information with the OSC at the next meeting to ensure the data meets the OSC's requirements.

6. Supply of Primary Dental Services

There are currently 18 NHS Practices in the City of York area. The PCT has no commissioning relationship with private dentists. There are approximately 5 fully private practices.

Workforce information is not required under the contract which is commissioned on activity.

The PCT maintains a list of dental performers who are required to meet regulatory requirements before practising in the area. However their sessional commitment and place of work may vary and cannot be regarded as an indicator of workforce in the area.

The PCT has discussed with the Local Dental Committee undertaking a workforce survey and will share the information with the OSC.